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PRESS RELEASE

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Introducing the UN Trust Fund Project to End Violence against Women, as we celebrate Mother's Day (May 11) and International Day of the Family (May 15)

This [#MothersDay](https://twitter.com/MothersDay) 2014, well over **3,000** women worldwide will become infected with HIV. Maternal mortality and HIV are the two primary causes of death among women of reproductive age (15-49) and **nearly one in every five** maternal deaths is linked to HIV.

Women who have been abused are at a greater risk of becoming infected with HIV. In a global environment where **70 per cent** of women are at risk of gender based violence and in a country where **one in every three** women will experience gender-based violence at some point in her life, targeted interventions become necessary.

Despite the fact that victims of violence are more susceptible to HIV, this abuse is in direct violation of their human rights. Violence against women is a hidden hindrance to development, and may very much hamper Jamaica's Vision 2030.

As International Day of the Family approaches, families across the island suffer from the effects of gender-based violence; as Mother's Day approaches scores of children have no one to celebrate. The Jamaica AIDS Support for Life is seeking to break the cycle through the UN Trust Fund Project to End Violence against Women.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) is the product of a global understanding that violence against women and girls is neither inevitable nor acceptable. The fund supports initiatives that demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be systematically addressed, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated. This project undertaken by the **Jamaica AIDS Support for Life** has a strong advocacy component and the aim is to successfully accomplish the objectives set by UN Trust Fund and more. It will seek to implement multiple interventions to empower and support

“LOVE, ACTION & SUPPORT”

women who are victims and survivors of gender based violence as well as other types of violence.

Janae is a 21 year old mother of 4 who has been a sex worker since her teenage years; this resulted in her first pregnancy at 15 years old. Having no other means of income she, "...went back to the streets, where I spent more time doing sex work to barely take care of the both of us. One night while working the street I was approached by a man who wanted to do business, he drove me to an undisclosed location where he hit me in the face and raped me. I was so frightened and scared, I told no one. I was too scared to continue sex work so I paused for a while". Janae* soon returned to sex work. A string of violent relationships and more babies followed.*

Stand with us as we empower women like Janae*. The scars are not just physical. [#stopGBV2014](#)



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