

March 6, 2015

PRESS RELEASE



Jamaica AIDS Support for Life

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 ADVOCACY THEME for JAN - MAR

**GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE**



The Jamaica AIDS Support for Life theme for International Women's Day 2015 is **#LetsMakeItHappen**

The HIV epidemic in Jamaica does not exist in a vacuum; as such a fulsome, coordinated approach needs to be taken to reduce its prevalence. Apart from our work with key populations, including gay men, other men who have sex with men, and sex workers we also work with other vulnerable groups. Among those vulnerable groups is the hearing impaired community and women who are victims of violence.

The organisation believes in the preservation of human rights and justice for all human beings. As such, our recent advocacy efforts to push for reform with the Sexual Offences Act is grounded in a general human rights concern to ensure all Jamaicans are protected equally before the law.

This particular piece of legislation (the Sexual Offences Act) does not adequately protect women, and men, who may become victims of sexual violence. Additionally, we have found that there was a need to focus on issues surrounding domestic and other types of violence as we provide our treatment, care and support services. Therefore, we have expanded support services for women who have been victims of violence.

So **#LetsMakeItHappen** ! Let's create a better environment (free of violence and inequality) for our women, and ultimately our nation.

Support the Jamaica AIDS Support for Life as we empower women and educate men to support Women's Rights ... Human Rights in Jamaica.

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