



MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grieving Families and Fractured Communities: Stacey Knight Demands Safety and Support After Barbican-Grants Pen Tragedy

Kingston, Jamaica. December 6, 2024: The gruesome daylight attack that claimed two lives and left another man critically injured on Thursday, December 5, has rocked the Barbican/Grants Pen community to its core. Among the deceased is a woman affectionately known as "Mumma," who was still mourning the tragic shooting death of her son just weeks ago. Her son was to be laid to rest this weekend. Now, her surviving children are plunged into unfathomable grief, mourning both a sibling and a mother.

As the PNP Candidate for North East St. Andrew, I recently interacted with Mumma during one of my visits to the community. She spoke with raw pain about the loss of her son. Today, her voice is silenced, leaving behind another shattered family and a community struggling to cope with yet another senseless act of violence.

The relentless destruction of families is ripping apart the very fabric of our society. The perpetual cycle of mourning is wearing us down, and the crisis of violent crime has reached catastrophic proportions. Our children, forced to numb their emotions to survive, risk becoming the next generation of perpetrators, locked in a cycle of violence that offers no resolution to the disputes at its root.

Police are theorising that this attack is a reprisal connected to an earlier murder in a nearby community. However, this chain of retaliatory killings is no solution—it only breeds fear and further destabilises the area.

I am calling on the authorities to take immediate, decisive action to restore peace and provide meaningful support to the community. This must include:

1. Heightened police presence to prevent further attacks and protect residents.
2. Counselling services for grieving families and those traumatised by this tragedy.



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3. Community-based programmes focused on conflict resolution, values, and attitudes to rebuild trust and strengthen family life.

Our young people need hope. They need to see a path to happiness, success, and a better future. Where are the opportunities? Where are the investments in economic development and programmes that instil values and build community resilience?

This is not just about preventing the next attack. It is about addressing the systemic issues that make violence seem like an option. The community of Barbican/Grants Pen deserves better. Together, we must break this cycle of violence and restore safety, dignity, and hope to every family.

Let us honour the lives lost by committing to meaningful change.

For more information, contact:

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