

# Press Release

## HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

### PRESS RELEASE

For Release

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## Making Children a Priority in Haiti in the National Response to Violence Against Children

PETION-VILLE, Haiti—“Let the children of Haiti be our only priority” (« Faisons des enfants d’Haïti notre seule priorité » ) said the Minister of Social Affairs and Work (Ministre des Affaires Sociales et du Travail), Charles Jean Jacques, as he officially launched the national plan to address violence against children in Haiti, an effort to strengthen national monitoring and reporting systems for cases of child abuse.

The October 14 event was hosted by the multisectoral committee in charge of the development of the *National Response Plan Against Violence Against Children*. Participants included the honorable Ambassador of United States in Haiti, Pamela A. White, representatives from different agencies from the United Nations, international organizations, and other representatives who work in the Haitian civil society. Ambassador White noted that Haiti made “significant progress” to strengthen the legal framework for child protection in Haiti, notably with the passages of the laws on human trafficking, adoption, and responsible parenthood. She also took the opportunity to “congratulate the Haitian parliamentarians for this remarkable work.”

In 2014, UNICEF listed Haiti as one of 10 countries with the highest homicide rates among children aged 0-19 (UNICEF 2014). The same *Violence Against Children* report also stated that more than half of children in Haiti aged 18-24 years experienced physical violence before the age of 18 (INURED 2013). The multisectoral committee in charge of the *National Response Plan Against Violence Against Children* stated that in May 2015 it will present the plan to the public to gather input for consideration during the finalization of the response plan. The committee consists of five key ministries: The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the Ministry for the Status and Rights of Women, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, and the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

Mr. Philippe Cantave, director of the USAID-funded HPP AKSE project, emphasized its “commitment to continue to support the Haitian authorities and the civil society organizations working for the protection of human rights, especially state institutions focusing on the welfare of women and children.”

The Health Policy Project (HPP), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), contributes to improved health through strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of health systems. HPP focuses on the policy aspects of family planning and reproductive health, HIV, and maternal health.

[www.healthpolicyproject.com](http://www.healthpolicyproject.com)

## References

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