

**MESSAGE FROM
THE MOST HON. PORTIA SIMPSON MILLER ON, MP
PRIME MINISTER
FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUG ABUSE**

I commend the National Council on Drug Abuse for the excellent work it has been doing in the fight against the use of illicit drug. The observance of Drug Awareness Month during November of each year provides the Council with an opportunity to focus the attention of the nation on this important issue.

The Government and the country in general, place a high premium on the fight against the scourge of drug abuse, especially given its adverse impact on family life, community development and our youth. It is therefore important that there exists an organization such as the National Council on Drug Abuse that is charged with bringing together all the critical elements needed to rid this evil from our midst.

I note with pleasure that this year's activities will focus on the theme '**Drug Abuse Prevention: Engaging Communities Transforming Lives**'. I have already started my commitment to community development and helping residents make a positive turnaround in the quality of life that they lead. Successfully tackling the problem of drug abuse will go a far way in helping individual and families especially those already affected, in overcoming the challenges and transforming their lives.

I applaud the Council for its efforts. I commend you for the prevention programmes that have been developed and the support you continue to give to persons already affected by this illness. I am particularly encouraged by the emphasis being placed on educating our youth and young adults about the dangers of engaging in drug use.

I thank the many Jamaicans, service clubs and organizations that have added their voice and resources to the cause and have also contributed to and supported the work of the National Council on Drug Abuse. I also commend our corporate sponsors and international partners.

Together, and with your support, we can look forward to a reduction in the levels of drug abuse and the further promotion of health lifestyles among all Jamaicans.

**Portia Simpson Miller
Prime Minister**