



# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

OPEN CAMPUS

## **FEATURE**

*Note to Editor: Please visit our website: <http://www.open.uwi.edu> . For more information please contact The Marketing & Communications Department at 876-927-1201.*

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### **Inside the CCDC Child Rights Training Project for Juvenile Correctional Services in Jamaica**

The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) of the UWI Open Campus, with support from the UNICEF Jamaica Office, recently completed the Child Rights Training Sustainability Initiative (CRTSI). This special project was implemented in association with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in Jamaica under the Ministry of National Security. Coordinated by Ms. Heather Gallimore, Child Rights Associate of CCDC, the project aim was building staff capacity to infuse child rights into multi-level training programmes and rehabilitation programming in DCS Juvenile Services.

Over the past three years, UNICEF has provided funding and technical assistance for CCDC's Child Rights Education Project. The CRTSI project, which ran from November 2011 through August 2012, built on the recent training of 21 DCS personnel in CCDC's Child Rights and Responsibilities Course. Ms. Gallimore, who also served as the Master Trainer, consulted DCS staff and wards to ensure the training content was contextually relevant. Seventeen DCS staff members were trained to serve as Departmental Child Rights Trainers focused on respecting, protecting and fulfilling child rights in DCS Juvenile Services.

In addition, the project team, including four dedicated DCS Lead Child Rights Trainers, delivered training to 149 recruits of the 71<sup>st</sup> Intake at Carl Rattray Staff College; 198 staff members of Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre; 27 staff members of Ft. Augusta Female Correctional Centre (which housed approximately 80 girls); 172 boys at Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre; and 30 girls at Fort Augusta Female Correctional Centre.

The staff workshops included 18 girls and boys, aged from 13 to 17 years, who served as panelists. The interactive training sessions with all groups were characterised by high levels of participation, interest, openness, acceptance of concepts, rich exchanges and learning, several admissions and confessions, and identification of issues to be addressed.

Other project outcomes included:

- Presentations at the 2012 Pre-Caribbean Child Research Conference workshop co-hosted by CCDC and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES). Heather Gallimore delivered the child rights education session, and Joan Thomas, Research Fellow at CCDC delivered the session on research methodologies. Twenty-seven teachers and 42 students representing 24 Secondary Schools participated in the workshop which was delivered via teleconference through the UWI Open Campus sites in Mona, Montego Bay and Port Antonio in Jamaica.
- Training Guidelines were developed for the DCS to help ensure child rights training is sustained within the Department.
- A donation of 45 books was presented to three juvenile correctional facilities (Metcalf Street, Fort Augusta and Rio Cobre) as a token of appreciation for the contribution of wards of the state to the project.

Close to 700 persons benefitted from the CRTSI as they gained practical knowledge of child rights and responsibilities and acquired useful tools for implementation. Senior DCS representatives have since indicated the training significantly impacted operations as there has been a reduction in the number of incidents between staff and wards. The DCS is expected to sustain the child rights training programme, to strengthen its rehabilitation efforts for wards and thus reduce the number of violations that occur within its facilities.

As a part of the CCDC's efforts to sustain child rights education and training in the UWI Open Campus, Ms. Gallimore recently developed the "Child Rights and Protection Issues" course for the new Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Development and Family Studies Programme being offered by UWI Open Campus.

More information on the CCDC's current and past outreach and research projects may be sourced at [www.open.uwi.edu/ccdc](http://www.open.uwi.edu/ccdc).

## CRTSI Pictorial Highlights



*CRTSI DCS Staff Workshop participants being energised at CCDC, February 2012*



*CRTSI first DCS staff group at CCDC, Dec 2011*



*CRTSI DCS staff attentively listening to one of the boys from Metcalfe St. Secure Juvenile Centre, at CCDC, February 2012*



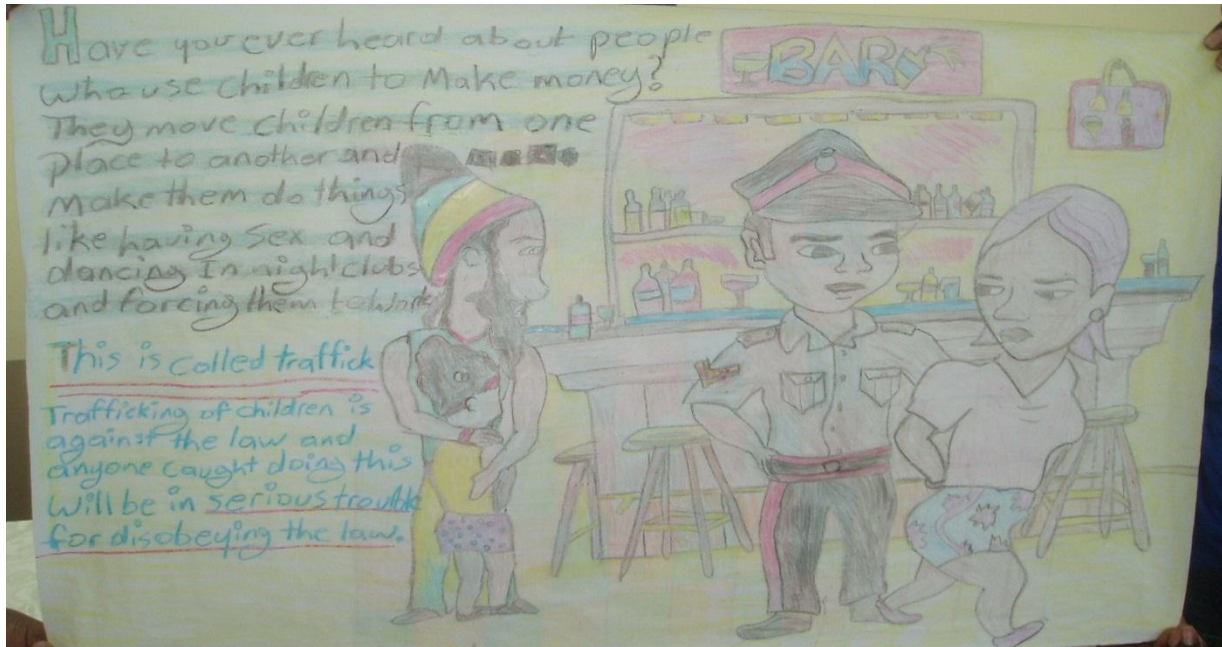
*CRTSI DCS staff workshop at CCDC, March 2012*



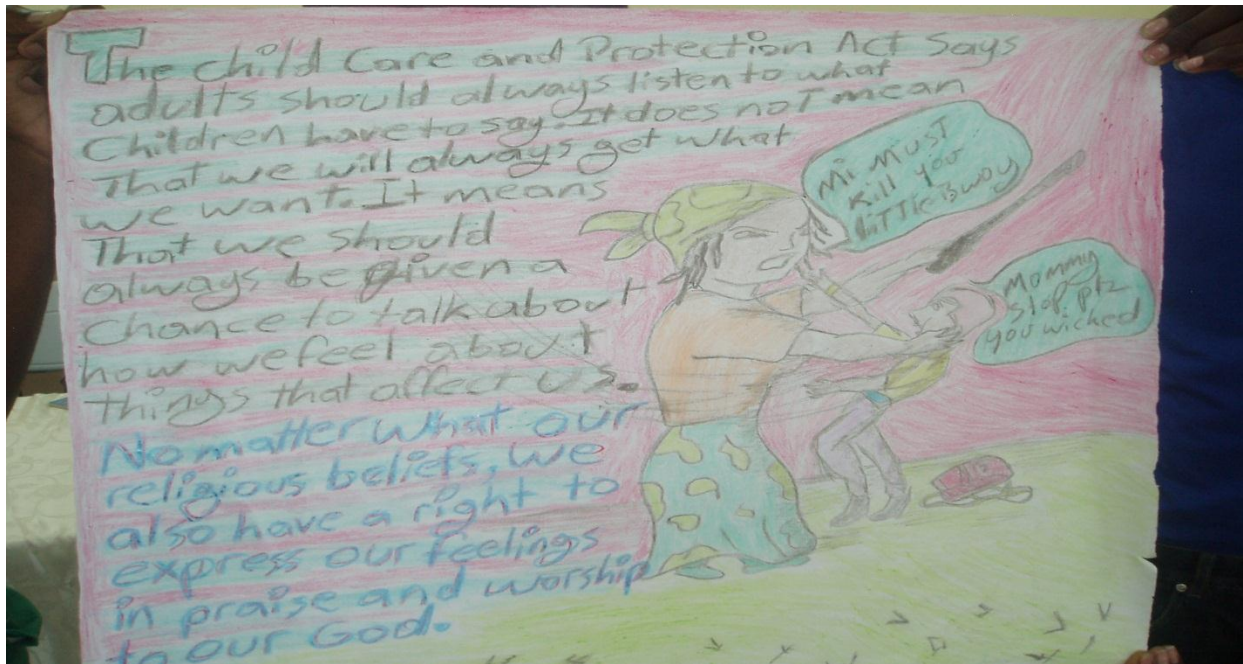
*CRTSI DCS staff workshop at CCDC, March 2012*



*CRTSI session for boys at Metcalf Street Secure Juvenile Centre, March 2012*



(Poster) Boy's interpretations of child rights, created by wards at Metcalfe St. , April



(Poster) Boy's interpretations of child rights, created by wards at Metcalfe St., April



*Heather Gallimore (centre) with DCS recruits at Carl Rattray Staff College, January 2012*



*CRTSI DCS Trainers in training at CCDC, May 2012*