



## Grenada Child Protection Agency Launches First National Child Protocol in the Region

**ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA, November 1, 2013** – The first national child protection protocol in the region has been launched in Grenada.

Over a hundred persons defied inclement weather and turned out at the St. Patrick's Anglican School yard on Thursday to witness the Child Protection Authority's (CPA) launch of the National Protocol for the Reporting, Investigation and Management of Child Abuse in Grenada.



The protocol, which was launched in collaborating

with the Ministry of Social Development and Housing, is the first of its kind to be finalized in the Region. Among other objectives, the document seeks to define the professional roles and responsibilities of child abuse response agencies, as well as strengthen and clarify their relationships, for a more effective approach to handling child protection cases.

Kallan Simon, Director of the CPA said that the protocol is a long-anticipated document that is necessary for the proper and effective implementation of the Child Protection and Adoption Act that came into effect back in May 2011. He refers to the protocol as the missing link between the existence of the Act and its actual implementation.

“Although the Act provides the broad-based guidelines, it does not, however, give the terms of reference for how key stakeholders should engage each other from the reporting aspect to the completion of the case; this protocol is about that. The protocol is about a collaborative approach to investigative work to minimize the trauma of children experiencing child abuse,” Mr. Simon said.

“Once this protocol is launched and under the provision of our Act, the Child Protection Authority will be in a perfect position to receive reports from all the parties concerned,” said Chairman of the Board of Directors of the CPA, Shireen Wilkinson.

“We can conduct investigation and assessments of the circumstances of when and where reports are made; where necessary, we can ask the Courts to assist us and make emergency protection orders, as well as provide emergency protection for our children where we believe that children are in need of care and emergency placement...”.

Heather Stewart of UNICEF was in high praise for Grenada's initiative. She said that with the protocol, Grenada has marked yet another milestone on the social development landscape of the Eastern Caribbean, since many similar protocols have been developed in other Caribbean countries, only to remain in the draft form. She said that Grenada will lead by example.

"With our financial support this protocol was developed, and today UNICEF will pledge additional financial support to make sure that it is implemented, so that sometime in the near future we can use Grenada as a demonstration site to other countries in the Caribbean as to how it is done," the UNICEF representative said.

The Hon. Anthony Boatswain, speaking in the capacity of Minister for Education and Human Resource Development and Parliamentary Representative for St. Patrick's West, said that he was honoured that the launch took place in his constituency. He said that he hopes the protocol will serve both as a reactive and a proactive measure against child abuse.

"We at the Ministry of Education have a very important role to play because those who are abused and subject to abuse are our school children and we have the responsibility to protect them," said the Education Minister, who also signed on to the protocol.

"We have a lot of laws, we have a lot of regulations and protocols but unless we learn to implement them, they will be useless".

Among those present at the launch were Ministry officials, staff and members of the Board of Directors of the CPA, members of the Royal Grenada Police Force, the Clergy, staff and students from Primary and Secondary schools and other relevant stakeholders.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Minister for Social Development and Housing, the Hon. Delma Thomas was unable to attend the event.

Government Information Service  
Grenada  
Ministerial Complex, Botanical Gardens  
Tanteen, St. George.  
Telephone: 1 473 440 2061  
Emails: [gisgrenada@yahoo.com](mailto:gisgrenada@yahoo.com), [gis10grenada@gmail.com](mailto:gis10grenada@gmail.com)  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Government-Information-Service-Grenada/124679667715950?ref=hl>