

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2012

By LINDSAY THOMPSON
BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES
*Prime Minister applauds work
of the Bahamas Crisis Centre*

NASSAU, The Bahamas – Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, has thrown his support behind the Bahamas Crisis Centre, in an effort to do more to relieve the abuse suffered by victims of domestic violence. He made the pledge as he delivered the keynote address at the Regional Peace Conference hosted by the Bahamas Crisis Centre at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort and Casino on Tuesday, September 19.

The conference is being held in recognition of the Bahamas Crisis Centre 30 years of advocacy and services to victims of violence, under the theme: “Peace at Home, Peace in our Community: Creating Partnerships and Solutions to transform our homes and communities”. Delegates represent countries within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including The Bahamas; the Turks & Caicos Islands, and the United States.

The objectives of the Conference are to:

Deepen understanding of the causes, consequences of, and best practice responses to gender based violence;

Explore culturally appropriate prevention strategies;

Share approaches to sustainable peacemaking and peace building;

Bring together Crisis Centres throughout the Caribbean for networking opportunities; and,

Strengthen partnerships between women's organizations and facilitate partnerships between men and women's organizations for advocacy.

Recognizing the work of the crisis centre, headed by psychologist Dr. Sandra Dean-Patterson, the Prime Minister said that there is something very special about volunteerism - people who have the ability to do something special for someone who cannot help themselves.

“As public figures, we need to recognize that even in our governance, we are not connected as we ought to be. There are things we can do to assist those who are volunteering,” he said.

The Prime Minister said he was happy that the committee members of the Urban Renewal 2.0 programme, through their mandate, are in a position to get into the communities and identify victims of abuse and be able to assist in a more meaningful way.

“The need of the Government of The Bahamas to do more is greater now. There needs to be more focused resources, because we have to do so,” he said.

According to the Prime Minister, the country is very fortunate to have the Bahamas Crisis Centre but more needs to be done to garner the support for the volunteers.

Regarding the level of violence in the country, he said that the Government has undertaken a number of initiatives, one being Urban Renewal to put a dent in crime.

In this vein, he called on the police and social workers to work more closely with the crisis centre to identify social cases, in order to make the work of the volunteers easier.

“Let us get out as a united group and make this work,” the Prime Minister said. “The government has to find a way to protect its people. The state has to find a way through the Crisis Centre to ensure the support is relevant and sustained.”

The photos show: the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, Prime Minister delivering the keynote address at the Bahamas Crisis Centre, Regional Peace Conference at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort and Casino on Tuesday, September 19. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

The Bahamas Crisis Centre, Regional Peace Conference got underway at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort and Casino on Tuesday, September 19. The Bahamas National Children’s Choir performing the National Anthem during the opening ceremony. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith)

The Bahamas Crisis Centre, Regional Peace Conference got underway at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort and Casino on Tuesday, September 19. Pictured are Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, and Dr Sandra Dean-Patterson, director, the Bahamas Crisis Centre. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith and the story is by Lindsay Thompson)