

GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

PRESS RELEASE

**FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT JUVENILE
JUSTICE BILL 2015 AT THE PEGASUS HOTEL, KINGSTON,
GEORGETOWN, APRIL 27, 2016**

The first public consultation on the draft Juvenile Justice Bill 2015, led by the Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, Vice President and Minister of Public Security was held today- with the support of UNICEF. The process for the creation of a new approach for justice for children- whether as victims, witnesses or crime, actual or suspected offenders, began in 2004 and represents a positive step for Guyana's international human rights obligation under the convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties and norms. Note should be made that some of the current pieces of legislation for children- especially in the area of Juvenile Justice- were created in the 1930s which does not support the new philosophy of Juvenile Justice.

The consultations are expected to strengthen the existing draft and spur action for reforms/discussions in areas such as alternative to sentences, the removal of status offences- such as wandering,

increasing the age of criminal responsibility and greater accountability and action across all sectors for the prevention, treatment and response for children in contact with the law.

The Bill will also play a pivotal part in ensuring that detention is used as an absolute last resort and that there are programmes which promote prevention of children in contact with the law.

Copies of the Bill can be found on the Ministry of Public Security-Guyana Facebook page.

The public is reminded to submit their comments to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Security, Brickdam, Georgetown or via email to jjb@moha.gov.gy

Individuals can also share their views and comments on the Ministry Facebook page.

Please send your comments on or before May 17, 2016

Ministry of Public Security

April 27, 2016