



November 19, 2019  
**For Immediate Release**

### **35 Core Civil Society Groups Receives, Juvenile Justice Diversion and Alternative Sentencing Training.**

**Georgetown Guyana** – The Juvenile Justice Department of the Ministry of Public Security in collaboration with The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Community, Family, and Youth Resilience (CYFR) programme, has trained thirty-five (35) Civil Society Core Groups, Non-Governmental Organizations and Government Departments, in Juvenile Justice Diversion and Alternative Sentencing (**JJDAST**). The Training was conducted on the 14 and 15 of November 2019, by consultant Dr. Dianne Williams, a Criminologist and Certified Criminal Justice Specialist. The objective of training was to build the capacity of participants to better implement diversion and alternative sentencing programmes.



**Dr. Dianne Williams (center) During the JJAST**

Key components of the training focused on policies and procedures related to diversion and alternative sentencing, the roles and functions of organizations providing diversion and alternative sentencing support, the organizational framework and related practical guidelines, and protocols and processes for the implementation of approved diversion programmes.

This training is a major step in building a support cohort among civil society groups in all administrative regions of Guyana, who can provide suitable diversion programmes to a child who comes into contact or conflict with the law. The Juvenile Justice Department through the Director, is mandated under section 9 of the Juvenile Justice Act to develop and maintain suitable diversion programmes and to recognize as suitable, diversion programmes offered by Government Departments, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Groups and the Juvenile Justice Committee.

The Civil Society Groups who participated in the training are:

1. Right of a Child Commission
2. Sophia Community Development Association
3. Social Life Issues Guidance & Counselling Service
4. Young Pioneers, District Grand Lodge of Guyana
5. Family Awareness Consciousness togetherness
6. Real Talk
7. reMan Guyana
8. Amerindian Peoples' Association
9. Ministry of Education
10. Merundoi
11. Youth Challenge Guyana
12. Linden Care Foundation
13. Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association GRPA
14. Volunteer Youth Corps
15. National Coordinating Coalition Inc
16. Central Islamic Organization of Guyana
17. Practical Christian Ministries
18. Hope Foundation
19. Hope for All
20. Child Link
21. Monique's Caring Hands
22. Protect Your Peace
23. Board-of-Industrial-Training (BIT)
24. Specialists Sustained Youth Development and Research (SSYDR)
25. Interweave Solutions Guyana
26. The Rainbow Foundation
27. National Parks Commission
28. Guyana Trans United
29. For the Children's Sake Foundation
30. Guyana Community of Persons Living with and Affected by HIV
31. Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SOSOD)
32. Rainbow House
33. Mystique Dance & Empowerment Group
34. United Bricklayers
35. United Bridge Builders



**Participants at the JJDAST**

**End**