

PRESS RELEASE

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Survivors of Abuse Encouraged to Speak Out and Seek Support

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The Social Development Department is reaffirming its commitment to supporting survivors of abuse and is encouraging the public to speak out and seek assistance.

Recognising the emotional and psychological toll of abuse—especially within the context of small, tightly-knit communities—the department is reminding survivors that they are not alone, and that their experiences matter. Survivors are assured that they are never at fault for the abuse they have endured and are urged to access the services available within the Virgin Islands to help them on their journey to healing.

Programme Director for Children and Family Support Services at the Social Development Department Ms. Laurel Freeman said breaking the silence takes immense courage, strength, and hope.

Ms Freeman said, “Your voice has the power to heal, to protect, and to inspire. When you speak your truth, you help others who are still too afraid to speak out. You help create a world where silence no longer protects those who harm, but instead uplifts those who have survived the unimaginable.”

The programme director added, “The department stands ready to provide support, guidance, and resources to survivors at every stage of their healing process. Individuals are encouraged to reach out when they feel ready, knowing that they will be met with compassion, confidentiality, and respect.”

Your voice can break cycles. Your truth can change lives. Your courage can change the Virgin Islands.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, please contact:

- Social Development Department: 468-9371
- Family & Juvenile Unit – Royal Virgin Islands Police Force: 468-9904 or 911

The Social Development Department stands with all survivors and remains dedicated to creating a safe and supportive environment for everyone in the Virgin Islands.

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