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Hanna calls for abortion law review

Published: Wednesday | June 19, 2013 [26 Comments](#)



Hanna

Daraine Luton, Senior Staff Reporter

REFERENCING A reported decline in crime with the legalisation of abortion in some American states during the 1970s, Lisa Hanna, Jamaica's minister with responsibility for youth, has suggested that the time has come for the country to review the illegality of abortion.

In making her contribution to the Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives yesterday, Hanna noted that the discussion about abortion has been taking place for decades.

"Abortion is still illegal in this country and a woman's right to choose whether or not to keep her pregnancy is, in effect, exercised only by those who can afford a private doctor," the minister said.

She noted that the law which prohibits abortion is old "but we have been debating whether we are to change it for the past 38 years".

Currently, the law makes abortion illegal, except in some cases of medical emergency. According to Section 72 of the Offences Against the Person Act, anyone found guilty of having or facilitating an abortion could be sentenced to life in prison, with or without hard labour.

Yesterday, Hanna told legislators it was time to "drill down and turn our attention to changing the mindset of persons who are still having children without the thought of how they will take care of them".

NEED TO FACE REALITY

She told parliamentarians that Jamaica needs to face the reality that many persons having children are themselves children with no parenting skills.

"While we have made some gains in dealing with population growth in general terms and now have a lower average birth rate of approximately 2.4 children born to women 15 to 49 years, we have not yet solved the problem of still too many of those women and men having children, not providing care, the love, the nurturing and the guidance that those children need," Hanna said.

In 2005, the Abortion Policy Review Advisory Group was set up by Jamaica's health ministry to examine the impact of the country's abortion laws.

The group found that most of the women seeking illegal abortions in Jamaica were "young, poor, unemployed and live in economically and socially deprived communities".

The group recommended that abortion be legalised under certain conditions in the country, but the legislation has remained unchanged.

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Voos de Boa Vista para Riode Jane...



Gol



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mwhip • a year ago

We need to stop follow and be leaders. Not because other counties are doing so we have to follow.

17  |  • Share ›



niceladyjam → mwhip • a year ago

Amen. As I said, I want Lisa Hanna to adopt a couple of wards of the state and put her money where her mouth is.

2  |  • Share ›



Jean Williams • a year ago

Do not go there Lisa, Jamaicans are still Godfearing. Do not follow in the footsteps of who you may think is right. You grew up hearing ,THOU SHALT NOT KILL, nothing has changed. Do not get on the bandwaggon that is going to teach young girls to go compromise themselves and if they get pregnant they can dash weh di belly. Instead try to teach them how to become assets to the society by assisting them to decently manage their little lives.

9  |  • Share ›



junepalum • a year ago

No Ms. Hanna you wrong there. The state must NOT sanction murder of the unborn in anyway shape or form because it is costing the government billions of dollars to fund CDA and run the government sponsored children homes.

In the bible that is called shedding of innocent blood. We have enough murders and blood shedding already. We cannot be adding sin to sin..... What! is the govt running short of ideas.

5  |  • Share ›



TrueJamaican → junepalum • a year ago

The bible governs the church!!! NOT civil society! A ball of tissue is not a human life! If the fetus is at a stage where it is capable of surviving outside of the womb then that's a different case...but a few weeks after pregnancy is not murder! Your religion constantly needs more militant followers to preach and teach is hatred throughout the world so for you it's better to have a child and make it suffer all it's life than to not have it! Less sufferers =

less people for god to help right? Silly!

7 ^ | v • Share ›



Honesty & Truth • a year ago

Many of you cheering on the Minister would never have had the opportunity to if your mother had aborted you because it was her choice.

The best choice perhaps is to sterilize some of these men and women who have no regard for life and the care of children, yet want to proverbially "have out their lot".

5 ^ | v • Share ›



allyofisrael • a year ago

How could advocating the murder of innocent, unborn children be a righteous act, while suspending the execution of murderers and mass murderers who have been found guilty and sentenced to hang? In short, the innocent must die but the wicked must live?

6 ^ | v • Share ›



TrueJamaican → allyofisrael • a year ago

I'd vote for giving Christians a country...a land mass where only Christians occupy and there laws are the laws of the land...righteous etc etc would flourish there (cos you guys are perfect)...until then...stop imposing your religion on secular society...christians performing abortions are unrighteous, normal Jamaicans aren't!

4 ^ | v • Share ›



sech71 • a year ago

Listen she did say for medical reason too. i agree with her. But Lisa the medical reason part is already legal, somebody correct me if i am wrong.

Regarding the under aged children getting unwanted children, what you need to do is to implement programs in school to prevent this.

I have suggested this before,

SINCE WE LOVE TO FOLLOW.

MAKE FAMILY LIFE A APART OF THEIR CURRICULUM WITH A COMPUTERIZED DOLL AND SEE HOW THEY HANDLE THAT, INSTEAD OF GIVING OUT IPODS AND IPADS

5 ^ | v • Share ›



niceladyjam → sech71 • a year ago

Educate our girls! Stop telling them that every time they get pregnant they can kill the baby and move on.

2 ^ | v • Share ›



Pat • a year ago

We can agree with Hanna because we are already here. But what about those unborn children who will not if the abortion laws should be reviewed?

6 ^ | v • Share ›



Potarick • a year ago

Dear Pretty Hanna: Technically speaking, abortion is legal in the state of Jamaica...so we need not throw fuel on the fire. If abortion was indeed illegal in Jamaica, then our population would by now be competing with China's. [sarcasm aboard]

2 ^ | v • Share ›



TrueJamaican • a year ago

Well church people look like unnu aggo have something else to march bout...Jamaican laws don't seem to respect personal choice...unless it's a choice about whether or not to faas into people's business or discriminate against adults who make choices we don't like....ironically when these people turn out to be criminals and murderers and sexual predators (etc) because we denied their parents the chance to terminate the pregnancy, we call fi the death penalty!!!

5 ^ | v • Share ›



Stefan-Paul Wrekonize Garel → TrueJamaican • a year ago

EVERYONE DESERVES A CHANCE AT LIFE. YOU MADE A CHOICE TO HAVE SEX SO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES. YOU ARE ALIVE AND WELL SO YOU ARE WELL ABLE TO SIT AND WRITE FOOLISHNESS FROM YOUR TYPE WRITER. YOU TALK ABOUT CHOICES, WHAT CHOICE DOES THE UNBORN HAVE IF YOU TAKE LIFE FROM HIM? YOU REALLY NEED TO RETHINK YOUR VALUES.

3 ^ | v • Share ›



TrueJamaican → Stefan-Paul Wrekonize Garel • a year ago

A ball of cells is not "someone"...prayer clearly isn't working to help the many homeless needy children in society so let's drop the delusion and return to provable facts! You don't seem to have a problem with fornication (as your church isn't marching to criminalize it) that results in an unwanted baby but you all of a sudden have a problem with terminating a pregnancy which will likely lead to a child the parent can't take care of! Want to talk about values?...start with your god...he sits there and watches us like high definition TV and does nothing to help despite the millions of prayers he receives...He watches lonely teenage girls get deceived into having babies, watch the babies suffer all their lives and die miserable while he does what again...show his love and mercy toward us! Go preach anti-abortion to your gullible church brothers and sisters...ensure they never get one...and while at it...stop them from fornicating too!

4 ^ | v • Share ›



Stefan-Paul Wrekonize Garel → TrueJamaican • a year ago

PERSONAL CHOICE? I KNOW YOU REFERRING TO HOMOSEXUALITY ALSO, IS NOT WE THINK IT WRONG, GOD SAID IT WAS WRONG. AND WE ARE A CHRISTIAN NATION!!

3 ^ | v • Share ›



TrueJamaican → Stefan-Paul Wrekonize Garel • a year ago

What makes a nation Christian? I am Jamaican (not by choice..I was born here) and I am ABSOLUTELY NOT christian. God said it? or the bible says it? There you go assuming what's in the bible is from God...Fornication is a biblical sin as is adultery but they aren't illegal in your "christian" country...How come? This is a simple case of loud mouthed people claiming to "know" things they can't prove and trying to bully everyone!!

3 ^ | v • Share ›



pinnacle • a year ago

This is not easy, because I agree with the minister's basic position that abortion should be available to women who want that option within a certain time frame after conception. However, the argument that abortion should be allowed because there are too many unwanted and unloved children is not the right basis for allowing abortions. That is too simple. and really

indicates a lack of depth and conviction and scholarship on the subject. In countries where Black people are in the minority, there is the accompanying problem of Blacks being over represented in prisons, on public assistance and in general, needing more government interventions, which cost a lot of money. Now imagine a white politician in those countries saying we ought to allow abortion for the reasons cited by Ms. Hanna. She would be criticized for trying to reduce the burden on society by killing Black babies. An individual woman might include her economic situation, as well as her health and everything else, when she is considering whether to continue a pregnancy. But that is what it is, an individual, personal right to choose. The woman's right to make decisions about her own body. That is how I would have hoped Ms. Hanna would argue it. Not as a state population control necessity.

3 ^ | v • Share ›



seanajo • a year ago

How can she sit there and talk about legalizing MURDER!!!

4 ^ | v • Share ›



Robert Collie • a year ago

Two cheers for you Minister. Hopefully you can see this through and get it done. Our archaic abortion laws need reforming. Another way the former JLP government promised change and delivered nothing.

10 ^ | v • Share ›



Stefan-Paul Wrekonize Garel → Robert Collie • a year ago

ROBERT I BET IF YOUR MOM HAD CHOSEN TO ABORT YOU, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE CONDONING THIS SLACKNESS. WHAT ABOUT GIVING THE UNBORN A CHANCE AT LIFE? PEOPLE HAVE REALLY LOST ALL SENSE OF MORALS AND VALUES IN THIS COUNTRY!

3 ^ | v • Share ›



TrueJamaican → Stefan-Paul Wrekonize Garel • a year ago

If notorious criminals, rapists and gunmen's mothers had aborted them we would probably have less crime and the hundreds of decent citizens who fell at their hands would still be alive today!!!

4 ^ | v • Share ›



Voice of Reason • a year ago

First time I am agreeing with Ms. Hannah

8 ^ | v • Share ›



Stefan-Paul Wrekonize Garel • a year ago

I HAVE LOST ALL RESPECT FOR LISA HANANA! WHEN ARE JAMAICANS GOING TO STAND ON OUR ONLY BELIEFS AND VALUES AND STOP LETTING AMERICAN CULTURE INFLUENCE US?

3 ^ | v • Share ›



TrueJamaican → Stefan-Paul Wrekonize Garel • a year ago

You use the word OUR like all Jamaicans have the same beliefs! Do you know we are a democracy?

4 ^ | v • Share ›



kg13 • a year ago



Lisa, i don't like your birth control method! Use your energy to get your government to create jobs for people so that they are always working and too tired to make babies.

1 ^ | v • Share >

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