

Boat Loads Of Young Females Come For Abortions – USVI Clinic Tells Local Officials

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Photo Credit: BVI Platinum News

There is an alarming number of young females who travel to neighbouring St. Thomas to voluntarily terminate their pregnancy, according to Mrs. Noelene Clarke, National Aids Programme Coordinator.

Clarke, who was addressing stakeholders at a two-day meeting on the the Youth Health and Sexuality Survey findings, said the nurse at the clinic in St. Thomas has raised concerns.

"I know the nurse at one of the abortion clinics in St. Thomas said we need to do something in the BVI because our boats are loaded with young people from the BVI coming to have an abortion. So we are capturing those in secondary schools, but we do not know about those outside...And I think it is raising a red flag that we need to pay attention," she stated.

Clarke said there are cases where young girls are now buying the pills "on the block" to terminate their pregnancy.

"We know of young persons who go on the block, purchase the pill, take it, start to bleed and some parts of the pregnancy are still left behind and at the Peebles Hospital doctors have to scrape the womb. So that is another issue, they do it either way. Some people drink bush..beer etc.," she lamented.

Under the laws of the Virgin Islands, abortion is permissible, but only in certain instances where medical opinion is sought.

Section 139 of the Criminal Code of 1997 states that being with child, with intent to procure her own miscarriage, unlawfully administers to herself any poison or other noxious thing, or unlawfully uses any instrument or other means whatsoever with the like intent, or (b) with intent to procure the miscarriage of any woman whether or not she is with child, unlawfully administers to her, or causes her to take, any poison or other noxious thing, or unlawfully uses any instrument or other means whatsoever with the like intent, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years.

Under the law, a person shall not be convicted of an offence when a pregnancy is terminated in a hospital, or other establishment approved for the purposes by the Director of Health Services, by a medical practitioner if two medical practitioners are of the opinion, formed in good faith, that the continuance if the pregnancy would involve risk of life of the pregnant woman, or injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman greater than if the pregnancy was terminated.

Additionally, a person shall not be convicted if there is a substantial risk if the child was born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormality as to be seriously handicapped.

Section 141 of the Criminal Code states that any person who, with intent to destroy the life of a child capable of being born alive, by any wilful act or omission causes a child to die before it has an existence independent of its mother, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for life.



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The Youth Health and Sexuality Survey was conducted in 2012 and released to the public in July of this year. It shows that 81 percent of those polled were confident about discussing ways to prevent pregnancy or HIV with their partner.

"12 percent of our young persons have been pregnant or have gotten someone pregnant and 6 percent of our females have had an abortion...Most young girls when they get to college age, got out of high school, most got pregnant. Majority of teenage

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pregnancies were in the upper age bracket...It is something that we need to pay attention to," Clarke stressed.

When asked about how they intend to approach the cases where the young girls are going to St. Thomas to abort their child, Clarke said, "That is the reason for this meeting for us as stakeholders to come together and find a way forward. We cannot do it alone in the health sector, in education; everyone need to pool together and find a way forward."

In the report it shows that the average age of sexual debut for youth in the Territory is 12.8 years. The report indicated that students polled in February 2012 within the age group of 12 and 19 revealed that the earliest starting age is 6.

The 2012 study was completed under the project, "Strengthening the Integration of British and Dutch OCTs in the Regional Response To HIV" and financed by the European Commission (EU). A total of 1609 adolescents, 52 percent females and 48 percent males participated in the survey.

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I thought the boat loard of young female use to come to Stt to shop. Stop tell lies on the people.

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And truck loads are having babies at 17 because their parents did not talk to them about the importance of using birth control esp condoms.

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Just imagine if the choice of these young ladies were taken away? let's suppose like the lashing dogs and say that USVI turn this practice illegal!...1) St. Thomas population rate wud sky rocket (yea that nurse needs to be sending her island's statistics as well, let's take a look at those) [more](#)

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And what the article fails to tell us is that within a relative period of time, a young lady who has an abortion has a high probability to become pregnant again...

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You people are too ignorant all the woman is saying is there are TOO MANY {YOUNG} Girls comming over there burr the aborting children that's all and the health issues behind it she never said that you can't do it she just looking at the fact that young girls are continuing to come over there and... [more](#)

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Well glad to see its not the entire population thats dense...

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Sharing information one agency to another is "not" putting folks business (as it is so written) on the streets..I see nothing wrong with sharing information across the board to a make a point. If this information seems to have ruffle the roosters or hens in the barnyard well I say "let them... [more](#)

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HERE HERE!!!! let some one who is educated finally speak

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No Comprende | [Report Abuse](#)

So what is the problem
this is the new version of the BVI.
is it any different than the other Caibbean Islands

Geez!

The BVI chose to make itself into one big up de island island and now becoming concerned,, sometimes alarmed about the daily burglaries, the babies making and killing babies,... [more](#)

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I understand we are in 2013 and I also understand that having sex is as natural for the unmarried populous as drinking a cool glass of water on a hot, sunny day, but I think it is time for us to preach abstinence to these young people. Our churches are packed every Saturday and Sunday and we are... [more](#)

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I called him but the call got dropped!

God and your holy bible gives no rites to children and banishes them to hell – until they are baptized. Is that really the right example?

Instead focus should be made on teaching these young people how to protect their bodies and be responsible.

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If we have 5 murders a year, the last days are amongst us, an outbreak in robberies we're truly in the last days, my question is this, when black people were being murdered by bible thumbing crackers generations ago, why weren't those the last days? When Hitler murdered 13 million Jews, why... [more](#)

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The BVI laws are the most hypocritical...They want to have abortion as illegal yet still when these 'illegitimate' children are born the law cannot even protect them! The laws does not force a man to look after his child (and child support alone is not taking care of a child), children with no... [more](#)

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BVI, you sound like a real fool. With all that you outlined above, my question would be, why have an illegitimate child then with all that knowledge? Those young ladies having those abortions are going to wish they had those children one day because they may be unable to have others.

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Yes, pro life indeed. We must all be prepared to face the consequence. Its just a matter of time. If you were aborted my your mother, you wont be alive today. A society that chose to harden its conscience to kill a babies in the womb will eventually become heartless and destructive. You wonder... [more](#)

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Not sure what you expect when we live in a society where approximately 75% to 80% of children are born out of wedlock.

If you think this is not so, then go to a primary school graduation.

Not to mention that both Parents and grandparents are so young today and are highly sexually... [more](#)

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This is soo true! Back in the day, grandmothers were married and took care of their grand kids. Now the G Mamas, their daughters, their sons, their dogs and their cats all having sex and getting children. And too, they all end up in the club together.

Hell no, I don't want no child of mine... [more](#)

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