

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**  
**24<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP**

**Statement by**  
**Miss Cherryl Gordon, Minister/Deputy Permanent Representative,**  
**Permanent Mission of Jamaica**  
**to the**  
**Universal Periodic Review of**  
**LATVIA**

**Geneva, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Jamaica welcomes the Delegation of Latvia, and thanks them for the update on the situation of human rights in that country.

We note that, since its last review in 2011, Latvia has made strides in several areas, such as human rights promotion, gender equality, societal integration, and protection of persons with disabilities.

We commend Latvia for the ongoing work of the Ombudsman's Office; for special attention paid to the plight of male human trafficking victims; increased promulgation of sign language in mainstream radio and television; and state funding of minority education programmes.

Jamaica is interested in understanding how the Government of Latvia ensures that there is a balance between the promotion of societal integration through increased use of the Latvian language by national minorities, and respect for the preservation of minority languages, as well as the ability of the minorities to obtain employment on par with their ethnic Latvians.

Jamaica notes that incidence of poverty is still relatively high, especially in some regions, and requests information on what measures the Government is taking to reduce poverty and improve access to healthcare services.

We recommend that Latvia increase access to technical services for persons with disabilities, with appropriate support from regional institutions.

We wish Latvia all the best in this current review.