

Caribbean Umbrella Body For Restorative Behaviour (CURB)

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MEDIA RELEASE

Restorative Justice Week: 13th to 19th November 2011

Theme: "Raising the Standards"

(Port of Spain), (8th November, 2011) --- The period 13th to 19th November 2011 marks Restorative Justice Week in Trinidad and Tobago and around the world.

Coming on the heels of the first Mediation Week in Trinidad and Tobago, Restorative Justice Week has been observed locally during the third week of November each year since 2003.

Caribbean Umbrella Body For Restorative Behaviour (CURB) - a network of NGOs which has spearheaded RJ Week activities since 2005 - has selected the theme, "**Raising the Standards**" to mark this year's national observance.

This year's activities will explore a range of pertinent topics including **Victims' Rights and the Media; What Works in Restoring Offenders; Restoring Communities, Mediating Gang Disputes; and Best Practices in Restoring Crime Survivors** and their loved ones.

Restorative Justice Week 2011 is the result of collaboration among CURB, the University of the West Indies, several non-profit and community-based organisations.

The Agenda for Restorative Justice Week 2011 is attached for your perusal. We wish to highlight the panel discussion to be held at City Hall on Tuesday 15th November, 2011 from 10:30am which will focus on Victims Rights and the Media.

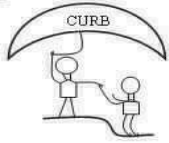
CURB cordially invites your media house to cover all of the City Hall and UWI activities as per the attached Agenda and look forward to your active participation in the open forum following the aforementioned panel discussion on Victims Rights and the Media.

Please contact the persons named at the end of each listed activity on the Agenda for details on each activity, interviews and feature stories.

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Information Package for Restorative Justice Week 2011

Restorative Justice Week is an annual international event which is observed during the third week of the month of November. This year, the period Sunday 13th November to Saturday 19th November, 2011 marks Restorative Justice Week 2011 throughout the world.

Originally called "Prisoner's Sunday", the event began in England in 1975 as a day of compassion for those who are incarcerated. In 1995, the day was extended to a week called, "Prisoner's Week".

In 1996 the name was changed to "Restorative Justice Week" to reflect the need to focus on victims as well as offenders. The scope of the week has also broadened to encompass *all* who are affected by crime - victims and their families, offenders and their families, criminal justice officials and the entire community.

The *theme* selected by Caribbean Umbrella Body For Restorative Behaviour (CURB) for Restorative Justice Week 2011 is: "**Raising the Standards**".

The *main objectives* of Restorative Justice Week 2011 are:

- To promote greater public understanding about restorative justice;
- To examine What Works in the rehabilitation and restoration of Young Offenders and in Mediating Gang Disputes so as to stop the spiralling gang involvement and crime;
- To examine What Works in the restoration of Communities torn apart by crime and offending so as to produce social, economic and familial wholeness and healing;
- To examine What Works in the restoration of Crime Survivors; the need for a Victims Charter to safeguard the rights of crime survivors; and identify Best Practices for the local Media in reporting crime and offending behaviour;
- To encourage further dialogue on criminal justice sentencing reform and to examine the viability of restorative justice "sentences" which may be imposed in criminal justice matters; and
- The showcasing of the various NGOs working to support and restore crime survivors, offenders and communities with a Restorative Justice Exhibition at City Hall.