

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

The preceding year many dubbed as “pikney time” and quite frankly I must admit, (in most sense of the phrase), it was. The year saw young people being highlighted in both a positive and negative light, but sadly the negative appeared to be far more profound than the positive.

Many young people realizing the danger and pernicious trends that had evolved sought to detach themselves from such associations while others (very much misguided) pursued negativity, which in their eyes seemed appealing. In the case of such individuals an irksome question mark hovers in the back of our minds; what really is it that attracts them to such behavior that to others is utterly repulsive? One such issue, which attracts, not only a question mark but also insurmountable exclamation marks, is that of sexual misconduct among young people.

Sexual misconduct can be defined as the improper relations between sexes (genders). Sex is exciting and normal when done under the right conditions, specifically within the confines of a healthy relationship (preferably marriage), at the right age and — dear I say in the truancy of public viewing. Undoubtedly this was a problem; many wanting to sweep the issue under the rug and hoard the skeletons in the closet have simply ignored the situation (though it made every effort to be seen). The NSSC however, refuses to be numbered among the apathetic crowd. We believe ignoring the problem only gives it more room to fester and ooze.

The problem with this particular issue is that its roots are diverse and ubiquitous; from the lack of communication in the home to its endorsement in music. Sexual misconduct has proven to be quite popular among secondary students between the ages of 12- 18. During this period, when it’s needed most, the parent-child relationship often withers. At this time young people tend to be most confused and impressionable, hormones and sexual desires rise and their fulfillment seem first priority. Parents tend to shy away from such conversations with their children and the sermons of abstinence by motivational speakers may not be as welcomed as the subtle advice of a parent. Next, 2 misguided or merely curious youngsters are experimenting whenever and wherever, and (with the advent of technology) are able to capture the picture perfect moment. The clip, which is nothing short of pornography, (“accidentally” or intentionally) is posted on the internet and it is way too late when its realized that such acts are humiliating, degrading and not to mention harmful.

Sadly many people become addicted to these child porn videos. What with people’s curiosity, the sale of these videos become a small scale business, giving rise to involuntary porn stars. Such exploitation of our fellow “schoolers” is indeed heart rending. What is more hurtful however is the fact other youngsters have taken up the practice, defiling not only each other but their schools and fellow school mates who fall victim to stereotypy. It should not be forgotten that some of these students who indulge in such acts are themselves victims; victims of negligence and complacency on the part of those adults who remain satisfied with the obvious and not look beyond the surface and not sense that which is right under their nose. For how is it that 2 students (to add salt to an open wound-under the age of consent) can copulate on school grounds in clear site of passing students and nothing is done about this. If such indifference and ignorance is

allowed to continue, future generation will see sex as a mere carnal act to be enjoyed whenever and wherever one please' and soon what was once "sexual misconduct" will be the norm.

Most people enjoy music. Like any other enforced speeches or references music is internalized, it tugs at our heartstrings, tap into our emotions and influence our actions. The praise and embellishment of sexual immorality by the music we listen to also contribute to sexually misconduct among our young people. Why is it that we conform to this whole idea that "sex sells". No longer are abrasive sexual content respectfully censored with clever euphemisms. Instead pornography in the music is there for all to see. The lyrical content of some music entails detailed description of locations and explicit positions for sexual activity. Females are encouraged to flaunt their bodies and indulge in sexual activities for material compensation. What more do we expect in a society where young men are dissuaded from being virgins and encouraged to "dagga dat"????????????? Sure enough being the victim of unyielding torment and teasing is no bed of roses, if you fail to meet the standards of those around you.

What then can be done to mitigate the instances of sexual misconduct among young people? In all honesty it really boils down to personal choice and character, luckily both of which are malleable. So it is therefore up to us as a nation and one people to encourage positivity among our young people and make a concerted effort to see a bout there whole wellbeing by paying more attention to our youth and shun immorality. Teach our youth to value themselves and not settle for the substandard goals set for them.

In conjunction with our job description the councilors of the National Secondary Students' Council (NSSC) will tirelessly advocate the rights of students across Jamaica, we will not sit idly as the issue of sexual misconduct among young people is passed as just another bump in the road, for surely if we do, those who follow will fall into the pothole, worst yet the entire infrastructure may collapse. Let's avoid the drama and impertinent possibilities and patch up the issue as best as possible. Surely we do not want a recurrence of this in '09' we will however come together and foster the safe and healthy growth of our young people and help them to shine, as responsible students making the difference by shaping the future today.

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