

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 61 OF 2018

WHEREAS a public opinion survey conducted by Hope Enterprise in 2006 found about 60% of Jamaicans support the legalisation of termination of pregnancy under "special conditions", such as "incest, endangerment of the woman's physical, or mental health and/or life";

AND WHEREAS a 2018 poll conducted by Johnson Survey Research Limited on "A Woman's Right to Choose", which was sponsored by The Gleaner, the Ministry of Health, and the National Health Fund, found that 67% of men and 82% of women believe the Government has no place in determining if or when a woman ends her pregnancy;

AND WHEREAS research conducted in 2014 found that 43 per cent of expectant mothers who were admitted with complications at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital had attempted abortion;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Jamaica has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Sustainable Development Goals, which require the Government to take the necessary steps to reduce maternal mortality by addressing the surrounding factors which contribute to it, including unsafe abortions;

AND WHEREAS sections 72 and 73 of the *Offences Against the Person Act* criminalise abortions and the provision of support to any woman who is about to have an abortion, while health facilities across the country, including the Victoria Jubilee Hospital, provide support to women who present with complications from unsafe abortions, effectively and contradictorily being an accessory to a crime after the fact;

AND WHEREAS all parliamentarians in this Honourable House have a moral obligation to ensure women can enjoy their personhood without interference;

AND WHEREAS the Government has an obligation to give women who need to procure an abortion with access to safe and affordable services for the termination of pregnancies:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House consider the recommendations of the Abortion Policy Group, which was established to provide guidance to allow women the right to choose;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House take steps to repeal sections 72 and 73 of the *Offences Against the Persons Act*, and substitute therewith a civil law titled "*Termination of Pregnancy Act*", as recommended by the Abortion Policy Review Group in 2007.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be referred to the Human Resource and Social Development Committee of the House of Representatives for consideration and report.