



JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Committee on the Status of Women Conference

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JAMAICA PEGASUS HOTEL
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

THEME: Accelerate Progress in Women: Invest in Her in 2024

Jamaica

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JAMAICA TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION

Committee on the Status of Women Conference

Theme:
**ACCELERATE
PROGRESS IN
WOMEN:
INVEST IN HER
IN 2024**



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MESSAGE

Leighton Johnson, JP

PRESIDENT

JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

"I wasn't just born to teach, I was born to inspire others, to change people and never give up, even when faced with challenges that seem impossible" This quote embodies strength, character, perseverance and patience, characteristics that personify a phenomenal woman. It is against that back ground that I congratulate the Committee on the Status of Women for hosting this conference.

The theme of this conference, ***"Accelerate Progress in Women: Invest in Her in 2024,"*** resonates deeply with the values we uphold and the vision we share for a more inclusive and equitable society.

As educators, we understand the transformative power of education and the pivotal role it plays in shaping the future of our nation. Investing in women is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic necessity for societal advancement. When we invest in women, we invest in the well-being of families, communities, and the nation as a whole. It is imperative that we prioritize the empowerment of women by providing them with equal opportunities in education, professional growth, and leadership roles.

Undoubtedly the education sector is dominated by women. Therefore, our female teachers contribute significantly in the shaping young minds and fostering a culture of equality. As the President of the Jamaica Teachers' Association, I am committed to promoting an

educational environment that empowers girls and women, ensuring they have the tools and resources to reach their full potential.

Let us collectively work towards creating an environment where every woman is encouraged to dream big, pursue her aspirations, and contribute meaningfully to the progress of our society. It is through collaborative efforts, advocacy, and genuine support that we can break down barriers and pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

As you engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences, and explore strategies during this conference, I encourage you to consider how we, as educators, can contribute to the acceleration of progress for women. Let us be catalysts for change within our classrooms, schools, and communities.

May this conference serve as a platform for inspiration, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas that will propel us towards a future where every woman is empowered to thrive. Together, let us invest in her success and accelerate progress in 2024.

Thank you for your dedication to the cause of women's empowerment.



JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

*Committee on the
Status of Women Conference*

MESSAGE

Dr. Mark Nicely, JP

SECRETARY GENERAL

JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



A woman effortlessly fulfils the roles of a mother, wife, sister, daughter, and daughter-in-law contributing invaluable to the sustainable improvement of a man's life and the overall sustainability of societies.

I am the husband of a woman, Tifhany Nicely; I am father to two girls, Abbigel and Amiya Nicely and I am the son of a woman, Jennie Webb-Connor.

Indeed, my day unfolds beginning and concluding with the influence of women. And admittedly, while our society is considered male-centric, my life is intricately woven with relationships with women. ***"Women being the architects of our societal fabric."***

The words of Napoleon, the revered ruler of France, resonate: "Give me good mothers, and I will give you the best nation."

Beyond these roles, however, the world has had powerful and dynamic female leadership that demonstrates a strong sense of vision and purpose. All while healthily balancing family life and work. The Jamaica Teachers' Association has benefitted from similar affiliations through its partnering with global associations.

The America Federal of Teachers (AFT) is a powerful and indomitable woman-led organization. The National Education Association (NEA) is led by Becky Pringle, a champion of the working class and an influencer of immense impact both domestically throughout the Americas and across the globe. The Association also maintains strong relationship with The Canadian Federation of Teachers headed by a woman, Heidi Yetman, a woman of influence in the cause for teacher welfare, growth and development. The Secretary General of the Caribbean Union of Teachers

is Vern Charles, a clinical union administrator adept at forging partnership among member units while expanding network for strategic collaboration. The global umbrella organization for teachers' union is headed by a woman, Susan Hopgood, a symbol of strength and resilience. A woman of unwavering commitment to the wholistic development of education on a global level.

"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform." Diane Mariechild.

The role of women is multifaceted and necessary for cohesion, not only in family life and work but also in society. The world is a stage for women's voices, and today's significance resonates with the stories of modern women who share their stories of overcoming adversity and challenges as a source of inspiration, empowerment and upliftment.

The reach and impact of women cannot be over stated or over emphasised. They form a critical part of the fabric of society and is the canvas on which successive civil rights victories have been fought and won.

Women represent on average over 90 of on the ground educators worldwide. Consequently, a significant portion of the successes in education has to be attributed to their hard work, dedication commitment and sacrificial efforts. The worldwide Education System owes the women educators of the world a debt of gratitude. Their work and worth have served to create the modern and succeeding work force and their contribution untainted.

I celebrate women, 'today and every day'.

MESSAGE

Dr. Margaret Chin

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL,
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the Jamaica Teachers' Association Committee on the Status of Women Conference which is being held under the theme: ***"Accelerate Progress in Women: Invest in Her in 2024"***. It is always such a great pleasure to be with you to celebrate the wonderful occasion. While International Women's Day was officially celebrated on March 8, 2024, this conference serves a fitting tribute to all the women who give of their time and talent to serve the Association.

Reflecting on this year's theme highlights the importance of gender equality, women empowerment, and their rights to healthy and wealthy life. This Conference therefore designed to empower women in unionism and promises to be a day filled with sessions that will energize and invigorate you. The topics were carefully selected, led by internationally- respected speakers and talented professional women. These women are trail-blazers in their own right and I trust that you will benefit from their experiences as you continue on your professional journey.

We are pleased to have as our Keynote Speaker, Ms. Rebecca (Becky) Pringle, President of the 3 million-member

strong National Education Association (NEA), the largest professional employee organization and labour union in the United States. It is also an honour to have in our midst, our very special sisters and women in leadership from the Caribbean Union of Teachers (CUT). I am confident that the knowledge shared, will be of long-term benefit to the JTA as we seek to uplift our female leaders.

I wish to thank our President, Mr. Leighton Johnson for his support of this conference. I also wish to thank the President Elect, Mr. Mark Smith, Immediate Past President, Mrs. La Sonja Harrison, and our Secretary General, Dr. Mark Nicely, as well as the staff of the JTA for their commitment to this activity. Special commendations to the executives of the JTA National Committee on the Status of Women, led by Chairman, Ms. Nadine Molloy, for their hard work in the planning of the day's programme.

I encourage you all to enjoy the Conference. Network and fellowship with your sisters and make today a memorable one. Thank you all for your continued support as we continue to ***Unite and Serve***.



JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

*Committee on the
Status of Women Conference*

MESSAGE

Ms. Nadine Molloy, JP



CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

This year we celebrate International Women's Day, albeit a few days later, by acknowledging the sacrifices of women and in particular those of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA). Age-old sacrifices that have been made so that today we are here as a testimony of the agency and voice that they have bequeath to us. This important occasion serves as a moving reminder of the progress we have made in promoting equality and equity for women, while also acknowledging the challenges that still lie ahead. As we gather and fellowship at this conference, let us reaffirm our commitment to empowering the women of the JTA. And indeed, continue to contribute to the worldwide movement of building increasingly a more inclusive and equitable future for our girls.

The theme for this year's JTA's Committee on the Status of International Women's Day conference, ***"Accelerate Progress in Women: Invest in Her in 2024,"*** resonates deeply with the global movement towards gender equality and equity. This is the fifth such conference we have held at the JTA. We are committing to ensuring that this event becomes a calendar event for our Association. Today, we find ourselves at a crucial juncture, where the actions we take have the potential to shape a more just and balanced world for generations to come. It is a call to action, urging us to keep the fight alive in dismantling the barriers that hinder women's progress and to construct bridges that foster collaboration and understanding. Let us heed that call with intentionality and deep focus.

To break these barriers, we must first acknowledge and address the systemic inequalities that persist in our

societies, no matter how seemingly innocuous or subtle. In our Jamaican and larger Caribbean context, it is essential to challenge stereotypes, dismantle discriminatory policies, and foster environments that embrace the voice of women and agency for our unique needs. Our women's contributions to all facets of life – be it in the workplace, academia, public service, or our homes – must be recognized, valued, and rewarded on par with our male counterparts.

Empowering our women by investing to accelerate our progress means building bridges and requires collaborative efforts from individuals, communities, and nations. We are an important part of that legacy building effort. Of necessity, we must create safe spaces for meaningful dialogue, where diverse voices are heard and respected. By fostering ongoing mentorship and supporting our women in leadership roles, we can pave the way for future generations of our young women to thrive. It is through collaboration that we commit to bridge the gap between different outmoded cultures, perspectives, and backgrounds, fostering a fertile environment where women are empowered to reach potentials beyond our mere imaginations.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women and more particularly the women of the union movement who have broken barriers and blazed trails. Their resilience and determination serve as an inspiration to us all. By highlighting their stories, we not only honour their contributions but also encourage others to follow in their footsteps. As we applaud the achievements of

women, let us also commit to providing mentorship and support to those who are on their journey to breaking barriers.

Education plays a pivotal role in breaking barriers and building bridges. Empowering girls and women through education is an investment in the future. By providing equal opportunities for education, we equip women with the knowledge and skills to overcome challenges and contribute meaningfully to the development of education in our collective spaces.

We have crafted a programme for today which we believe you will find meaningful on this journey of empowerment

that we walk daily. We thank our partners for joining us today. We especially welcome Mrs. Rebecca 'Becky' Pringle, the president of the National Education Association of the United States, for joining us as our keynote speaker. Becky being with us is a strong indication of the unity that exists amongst the sisterhood in our unions in the region. Together, we are championing the cause of gender equality and are working towards a future where the achievements of women are celebrated every day.

Thank you for your commitment to this vital cause. We continue to stand, literally and figuratively for those who are no longer able to, united in our pursuit of a more equitable and just world for all.



JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

*Committee on the
Status of Women Conference*

OVERVIEW

Committee on the Status of Women Conference

Welcome to the Jamaica Teachers' Association's International Women's Day Conference. The central aim of this conference is to encourage women's participation in the leadership of the Association. This will be achieved through mentoring, coaching and honing the skills of women while fostering collaboration and exchange of knowledge and experience.

This one-day, interactive conference is designed to enlighten, engage and challenge women in unionism to seek more within their professional and personal lives. The purposeful theme "**Accelerate Progress in Women: Invest in Her in 2024**" will inspire our women to pursue excellence as well as provide tools that can be utilized for success.

Conference Objectives

The objectives of the programme are to:

- Empower women to aspire for Leadership at the highest level of the JTA
- Create and maintain a strong network of female leaders within the JTA
- Create a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on issues related to women in unionism, especially at the leadership level

This conference is expected to contribute to a better understanding of gender perspectives in trade unionism and sets the stage for improving women's empowerment within the JTA and the wider society. A variety of topics have been carefully chosen to build the capacity of the attendees, from taking their leadership to the next level to learning more about wealth creation and self-branding.

We believe that after attending this women-focused leadership conference, the ladies in attendance will be more equipped to handle the challenges of leadership. At the end of the conference, our women will leave feeling empowered, energized and ready to accelerate progress.



JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Committee on the Status of Women Conference

2024

Jamaica Pegasus Hotel
Monday, March 18, 2024

Theme: Accelerate Progress in Women: Invest in Her in 2024

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration, Coffee Break on Arrival

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Opening Session

Call to Order:

Chairman

Mrs. Anniona Jones

*Chairman, Professional Advancement &
Teacher Welfare Committee*

Devotional Exercise:

Dr. Janette Williams

*Director of Communications
Shortwood Teachers' College*

**Welcome &
Opening Remarks:**

Chairman

Greetings:

Hon. Fayval Williams, MP

Minister of Education and Youth

Hon. Olivia Grange, CD, MP

*Minister of Culture, Gender,
Entertainment & Sports*

Mrs. Patricia Duncan-Sutherland

*Opposition Spokesperson on Gender,
Culture & Social Transformation*

Dr. Mark Nicely, JP

Secretary General, JTA



Conference Overview:	Dr. Margaret Chin <i>Assistant Secretary General, JTA</i>
Remarks:	Mr. Leighton Johnson, JP <i>President, JTA</i>
Cultural Item:	Ardenne High School Choir
Introduction of Keynote Speaker:	Ms. Nadine Molloy, JP <i>Chairman, Committee on the Status of Women, JTA</i>

Keynote Speaker:	Ms. Rebecca 'Becky' Pringle <i>President, National Education Association (NEA)</i>
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Expression of Gratitude:	Ms Jean Brown <i>Executive Member, JTA CSW</i>
Vote of Thanks:	Mrs. La Sonja Harrison <i>Immediate Past President, JTA</i>

10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. **Plenary 1**
*Topic: **Elevate Your Leadership***

Presenter	Mrs. Erica McKenzie Dunkley <i>CEO, Live2Lead</i>
Moderator:	Mrs. Estell Davis Wright <i>Executive Member, JTA CSW</i>
Expression of Gratitude:	Ms. Itena Williams <i>Executive Member, JTA CSW</i>

10:45 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. **Plenary 2**
*Topic: **Investing in Wealth Creation: Securing Your Future***

Presenter:	Ms. Wendy Wallace <i>Executive Financial Advisor, Sagikor Life</i>
Moderator:	Dr. Carlene Miller Thompson <i>Executive Member, JTA CSW</i>
Expression of Gratitude:	Mrs. Rowena Newman - Ridley <i>Executive Member, JTA CSW</i>

11:30 am – 12:25 p.m.

Plenary 3

Topic: Nurturing the Healthy & Well Woman

Presenter:

Dr. Chris-Ann Simpson Harley

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist

Moderator:

Ms. Lavern Johnson

Past Chairman, JTA CSW

Expression of Gratitude:

Dr. Latoya Reeves

Executive Member, JTA CSW

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **LUNCH**

(Entertainment by the Ardenne High School Steel Band)

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 pm

Plenary 4

Topic: Empowering the Media Savvy Female Leader

Presenter:

Emprezz Golding

Radio & TV Host

Moderator:

Mrs. Tanya Lynch Davis

Executive Member, JTA CSW

Expression of Gratitude:

Ms. Michelle Barnes

Executive Member, JTA CSW

2:15 p.m – 3:30 p.m.

CLOSING SESSION

TESTIMONIALS and CLOSING REMARKS



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PRESENTERS' PROFILES



Keynote Speaker

Rebecca "Becky" Pringle

PRESIDENT, NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA)

NEA President Becky Pringle is a fierce social justice warrior, defender of educator rights, an unrelenting advocate for all students and communities of color, and a valued and respected voice in the education arena. A middle school science teacher with 31 years of classroom experience, Becky is singularly focused on using her intellect, passion, and purpose to unite the members of the largest labor union with the entire nation, and using that collective power to transform public education into a racially and socially just and equitable system that is designed to prepare every student to succeed in a diverse and interdependent world.

Becky's passion for students and educators, combined with her first-hand classroom experience, equip her to lead the movement to reclaim public education as a common good. Becky was elected in 2020 as COVID-19 ravaged Black, Brown, and indigenous communities nationwide.

Before assuming NEA's top post, Becky served as NEA vice president and before that as NEA secretary-treasurer. She directed NEA's work to combat institutional racism, and spotlight systemic patterns of racism and educational injustice that impact students. Under Becky's guidance, NEA works to widen access and opportunity by demanding changes to policies, programs, and practices. The Association's goal is to ensure the systemic, fair treatment of people of all races so that equitable opportunities and outcomes are within reach for every student. This is why Becky is a staunch advocate for students who have disabilities, identify as LGBTQ+, are immigrants, or English Language Learners.

Those who know Becky best know that she is also a passionate Philadelphia Eagles fan, loves anything purple, and for two special someones holds the coveted title of "Best Nana B" in the world.



Erica McKenzie

FORBES BUSINESS COACH & TRAINER

"I am a beacon of hope for others."

Erica McKenzie is purpose driven, results oriented and lives to inspire others. She leads a life of significance that encourages others to max out their full potential. She is passionate about developing and nurturing people skills in the areas of leadership, sales, personal growth, and communication. She has a giant size mission to impact 5 million people on every continent in the next 2 years or less through her work. Her daily mantra states:

"We are created to live a life of significance, therefore make a banging impact by leaving your space 10X better than you found it".

Driven by her passion for people success, she transitioned her 25 years corporate career in sales and marketing to focus on upskilling talent through training and global learning events. She is currently CEO for two leading international corporations, Creative Brands & Concepts Limited in Jamaica and Intentional Growth LLC, New York. She also recently launched her own clothing line McNel Collection, New York.

Erica McKenzie is high energy and is known for helping business executives lead exceptional teams and creating unforgettable brands. Erica's persistence and determination has reaped significant business and personal success. Some of her accolades include:

- Top Forbes Business Coach & Expert writer on Forbes.com
- Impacting over 4,000 leaders through Live2Lead leadership event the #1 leadership event held in 30+ countries globally.
- MBA from the prestigious Heriot Watt University, Scotland England
- Executive Director, John Maxwell Team
- Member John Maxwell President Advisory Council

As a true servant leader, Erica founded the Creative Brands Caring Hands Foundation, a non-profit created to serve parents and children with autism. She also served as a mentor at the Global Africa Project, Lasco Foundation and DIATrust for the Americas.

Erica is the mother of two lovely children Tatyana and Dominic. She enjoys working, reading, traveling, and spending time with her children.

Erica McKenzie is described as #BOLD#CREATIVE# INSPIRING# DETERMINED#UNSTOPPABLE!



Wendy Wallace

EXECUTIVE FINANCIAL ADVISOR, SAGICOR LIFE

Wendy Wallace popularly known as Wealthy Wendy is a past student of the Convent of Mercy Academy Alpha. After graduating Alpha she went on to University of the West Indies where she graduated with a first degree in Accounts Major and Economics and Management Studies Minor. She then went on to the Mona School of Business where she earned an MBA in Marketing and Finance. She also holds a certificate in Project Management.

Miss Wallace Professional career started in Banking, then went on to Air Jamaica in the capacity of Budget Coordinator. She then went onto Facey Commodity as a Brand Manager where she became the number one in this category. She then went on to Sol Petroleum as a Sales Executive where she was the number one sales executive upon leaving to join the Sagicor Family.

Miss Wallace joined Sagicor in September 2017 in the Corporate Circle Branch. In just 4 months she was the company's rookie of the year 2017, something that has never been achieved in the history of the company. She also qualified for MDRT and Century Club in that same year.

In October 2019 Miss Wallace was the breakout speaker at Sagicor Motivational Seminar (SMS) where she spoke on the same stage as Steve Harvey. She is currently an Executive Financial Advisor, a 7-time Million Dollar Round Table qualifier, 7-time Century Club qualifier, Convention Qualifier and a High Flyer qualifier. She is also a Financial Services Certified Professional. Also, a girl crush Tuesday guest on Smile Jamaica in 2019 and Agent of the Year for 2022 for her Branch Corporate Circle where she copped 10 Awards.

She is also a Motivational Speaker and a Relationship Selling Sales Coach. A past National Basketball Player and National Netball player for Jamaica, her hobbies are listening to music, reading, meeting new people, and spending time with family and friends. She is also a lover of life and believes in having a balanced life and she is also a beast in the gym.

Wendy Wallace's aim in life is to be the best me and to give back to as many as she can to have a better life.



Dr. Chrisann Simpson-Harley

OBSTETRICIAN AND GYNAECOLOGIST

Dr. Chrisann Simpson-Harley is an established and highly skilled physician with over seventeen (17) years of experience in medical practices. She was born in Kingston, Jamaica and is a graduate of both Campion College and the Ardenne High School. Chrisann obtained her Bachelor's in Medicine and Bachelor's in Surgery at the University of the West in Jamaica and also did her residency at the University Hospital of the West Indies where she completed her training.

Dr. Simpson-Harley has fifteen (17) years' experience in Obstetrics and Gynaecology surgery. She is the owner and medical director of West Trade Medical Centre in St Catherine Jamaica as well as a practicing consultant at the Andrews Memorial Hospital, and the Healing Gynaecology both in Kingston, Jamaica.

In addition to her surgical practice, she serves on the board of NEPA (The National Environment and Planning Agency), an organization that aims to integrate environmental, planning, and sustainable development policies and programmes. She is also an ordained minister serving on the board of the Court of Praise Apostolic Church.

An avid philanthropist, Chrisann is the founder of the "She Matters to Me Foundation" which aims to assist disenfranchised girls and women who are the victim of abuse and or neglect. She also often partners with various outreach programs such as the Kiwanis Club of Kingston and others looking to positively impact lives.

On the topic of positively impacting lives, in 2018, Dr Simpson-Harley launched Woman's Touch, a line of feminine hygiene and 100% cotton period care products. In an industry currently dominated with products that do more harm than good for women's health, Woman's Touch products provide women with healthier and affordable options and can be found in over 350 retail locations across Jamaica. She has also revolutionized period care with the introduction of a Multipack product that features 4 different flow sizes along with panty liners, a first of its kind.

Dr. Simpson-Harley resides in Kingston, Jamaica with her husband Mark, and enjoys life with her daughter Jessie and son Joshua.



Emprezz Golding

RADIO AND TV HOST

Emprezz Golding, a luminary from Jamaica, epitomizes boundless talents and dedication. She's a modern-day renaissance woman, excelling in media, motivation, and advocacy. Her career spans two decades, evolving into a charismatic Media Personality, Motivational Speaker, and Master of Ceremonies, etching her name in excellence.

Her mastery as a Master of Ceremonies is a symphony of sophistication. With 20+ years of commanding stages, she infuses events with elegance and flawless orchestration. Her eloquence and emotional connection captivate diverse audiences, setting her apart in professionalism and charisma.

As a storyteller, she weaves shared dreams, bridging cultural gaps. She fosters unity and empathy, proving human experiences unite us, regardless of distance or background. A former anchor and radio host, Emprezz's voice resonates globally. Her initiative "Talk Up Yout" empowers youth, fostering dialogue and transformation. Beyond media, she's a beacon of hope, nurturing the next generation.

Emprezz's podcasts enrich countless lives. "**Caribbean Moms**" delves into motherhood, "**This Is Her Story**" extracts wisdom from experts. Her leadership uplifts marginalized communities, showcasing an unwavering commitment to change. Her inspiration, continues shaping narratives, uniting hearts, and leaving an indelible mark globally.

Celebrating JTA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



La Sonja Harrison

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, JTA

Mrs. La Sonja Harrison is the Principal of the St. Faith's Primary School in St. Catherine and the twelfth female President of the Jamaica Teachers' Association. Currently the Immediate Past President of the JTA, she is a knowledgeable, well-read and trained History and Religious Education teacher. She has carved an important place in the robust ideals of advocacy with a devotion to service backed by an unshakable Christian faith.

A proud Shortwoodite Mrs. Harrison served as the JTA Contact Teacher for nearly a decade at the Holy Childhood High School. She was also president of the JTA St. Andrew Central District for 2011-2012 and served on several committees. She is a strong advocate for the nation's teachers and is adamant that there must be sincere attention to their welfare. During her presidency, she closely monitored the impact of the teachers' compensation review and the Jamaica Teaching Council Bill. She vows to continue advocating on behalf of all teachers as she champions her belief that, *"Education is a social good. One that I do not think we can ever spend too much on to facilitate the growth and empowerment of the greatest asset of this nation; our human capital."*

While championing the cause of teachers, Mrs. Harrison is a devoted mother and a committed wife.

Celebrating JTA FEMALE PAST PRESIDENTS



**JUDITH SPENCER
JARRETT**

2000-2001

Lorraine Spencer Jarrett has been described as a “multifaceted woman who has always been a leader”. Whether it was at school, church, the Jaycees or the JTA, she was always prepared to passionately take on the mantle of leadership.

The eighth National female President of the JTA firmly believes that “once you agree to do something, you should commit yourself to it”. It does not make sense to hold a title and you don’t put in your all. Her first position in the JTA was as Secretary of the St. Jago District Association. She later became President of her District and later the Parish Association. She has served. She is the recipient of numerous local, regional and international awards.



SADIE COMRIE

2002-2003

Sadie Comrie has served more than four decades in the education system. On graduating from Bethlehem Moravian College, she served as classroom teacher/librarian and guidance counsellor at various schools; developed literacy programmes; and was also involved in sports, music and the promotion of culture.

The ninth National female President of the JTA has served as liaison officer with responsibility for liaising between the Ministry of Education and the JTA. Mrs. Comrie, a former principal of May Pen Primary school is the recipient of numerous awards including the Prime Ministers’ Medal of Appreciation.



ENA BARCLAY

2007-2008

Having started out as a pre-trained teacher, Ena Barclay’s path to success has been forged with continuous academic and professional development allowing her to move through the ranks. The tenth National female President credits the Jamaica Teachers’ Association as her source of inspiration, training and personal development.

“I was a contact teacher at Lyssons primary school for “donkey” years. Then I became a member of the Study Circle Programme, thereafter I became a Convener and then one of the fourteen Study Circle Parish Trainers. I was a District President and a Parish President; and served on General Council and Central Executive...Because of the training that the JTA gave me I was able to act as a resource person in many areas of education while I was at university”.



NADINE MOLLOY

2010-2011

A trained teacher librarian, Miss Molloy has, as a library student, spent time doing fieldwork at the historic and prestigious Schomburg Centre for Research in Black Culture. She has worked at the Bishop Gibson High School for Girls; the Brown's Town Community College and has been a secondary school principal for over twenty years, having previously served at the Buff Bay High school in Portland. She later moved to the Ardenne High School in September 2012, and currently serves as Interim Principal at the Shortwood Teachers' College.

A certified School Inspector with the National Education Inspectorate (NEI), Miss Molloy is also a member of the Executive Principals' League and was a two-term President of the Jamaica Association of Principals of Secondary Schools (JAPSS). She holds an open seat as an Executive Board member of *Education International*, a global union federation of teachers' trade unions which represents over 32 million educators worldwide.

She is the eleventh National female President of the JTA and was instrumental in the expansion of the Young Professional Association (YPA) in several teacher training institutions. The JTA still hosts the annual Pre-Service Teacher Forum, her brain-child initiative for members of the YPAs. An avid advocate of meaningful use of technology in education, she spearheaded the launch of the JTA's website and the first live stream of a JTA event during her year as president. She has Chaired several committees of the JTA and currently chairs the Board of Trustees.

She is a Director of the Gleaner Company Media Limited having also served on several public sector boards.

The former Principal of the Year, JTA Roll of Honour and Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation recipient, Nadine A Molloy has a simple personal philosophy – ***"leave it a little better than you found it"***.



GEORGIA WAUGH RICHARDS

2017-2018

The society today needs committed leaders. Mrs. Georgia Waugh Richards is a young woman who is sold out to the Lord. A trained Inspector with the National Education Inspectorate (NEI), Mrs. Waugh Richards is currently the Regional Officer of the JTA's South Central Regional Office (serving Manchester, Clarendon & St. Elizabeth). Prior to taking up the post of Regional Officer, Mrs. Richards was the interim Principal of the Cross Keys High School. She also served as Principal for the Harmons Primary and Infant School.

She is a Past President of the Jamaica Teachers' Association, Manchester Chapter and currently a Past President of the Association. She is one of the 2002 recipients of the R.C. Tavares Award and the 2011 recipient of the W.B.C Ben Hawthorne Award for Outstanding Service to Education in Jamaica. Mrs. Waugh Richards has as her mantra, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'.

Celebrating JTA FEMALE PAST PRESIDENTS

THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US



FAY SAUNDERS

2000-2001

Mrs. Fay Saunders will be remembered as a trailblazer who served with distinction as a Trade Unionist and Legislator. She was the first female to serve as president of the Jamaica Teachers' Association, and the first person to serve as president for two terms. Her strident yet measured advocacy, led to her serving for four years as Vice President of the then prestigious World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession now Education International.

Mrs. Saunders became the first and only female, to date, to serve in the position of Secretary General of the Jamaica Teachers' Association. This phenomenal woman also served as a Legislator in the Senate and held the position of Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education during the 1970's.



ELLORINE WALKER, O.D.

1975 - 1976

Mrs. Ellorine Walker, O.D., was an outstanding educator in her practice in the classroom, her leadership of schools, her contribution to the growth and development of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) and through her contributions to community and national development.

She was a classroom teacher and later principal of the Central Branch Elementary School. Following the completion of an honors degree at the University of the West Indies, she took up principalship of the Merl Grove High School. Under her leadership, the school grew not only numerically but also in programme offerings.

She held various leadership positions in the Jamaica Union of Teachers and the JTA, becoming President of the JTA in 1975.



DOROTHY RAYMOND

1989 - 1990

Dr. Dorothy Raymond was associated with the Jamaica Teachers' Association for almost Fifty (50) years as an advocate, negotiator and strategist.

Perhaps the happiest day of her JTA life came when, in 1988, she was elected President Elect and, as such, paved the way to her becoming the National President in 1989. She became the 3rd female National President serving from 1989-1990. That for Dorothy was a big thing not so much for her personally but for what it signified - the continued ascendancy and recognition of women within the leadership of the organization.

Celebrating JTA FEMALE PAST PRESIDENTS

THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US



ROSEMARIE VERNON, CD

1991 - 1992

Mrs. Vernon was a very passionate and strong leader who had the outstanding ability, to motivate and inspire others. Her diplomacy, her charisma, her strong belief in the education system, her passion for the children under her care, her belief in God and her humour gave her the winning edge as a distinguished educator in a career spanning 34 years; 27 years as a classroom teacher and 7 years as Principal.

Mrs. Rosemarie Evangeline Vernon became President of the JTA in 1991 while she was a classroom teacher at Alpha Primary School in Kingston.



HELEN RAMSAY STILLS

1995 - 1996

Helen Ramsay Stills became President of the Jamaica Teachers' Association in 1995 and sought in a variety of ways, to promote continuing professional development of teachers. It was for this reason that she conceptualized and implemented, during her presidency, the Professional Development Day to focus on issues related to the professional development of teachers.

The proposal to name the Day "The Helen R. Stills Professional Development Day" was presented to and unanimously accepted by the Annual Conference held in August 2000.



NADINE SCOTT

1999 - 2000

Dr. Nadine Scott was a Trustee and the seventh female President of the Association. She served on many of the standing committees of the Association, chaired the Tertiary Committee and represented the JTA at many international conferences. Before her stint as the third Principal of the Excelsior Community College, she was a lecturer at the Institute of Education, UWI and the Principal Lecturer and Head of the Art Department of St. Joseph's Teachers College.

Dr. Scott was an ardent and committed teacher leader whose contribution to the regional and international teachers' movement has been recognized by several international organizations. Her dedication to teacher development and quality education through the Arts is well-recognized.

2024 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

PLANNING & PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. La Sonja Harrison	- Immediate Past President
Dr. Margaret Chin	- Assistant Secretary General, JTA
Ms. Nadine Molloy	- Chairman, JTA Status of Women Committee & Trustee
Mrs. Estell Davis Wright	- Vice Chairman, JTA Status of Women Committee
Ms. Lavern Johnson	- Former Chairman, JTA Status of Women Committee
Mrs. Andrea Bryan Hughes	- Chairman, Education & Research Committee
Mrs. Anniona Jones	- Chairman, Professional Advancement & Teacher Welfare Committee
Mrs. Michelle Barnes	- Secretary, JTA Status of Women Committee
Dr. Latoya Reeves	- Assistant Secretary, JTA Status of Women Committee
Mrs. Rowena Newman Ridley	- Public Relations Officer, JTA Status of Women Committee
Ms. Itena Williams	- Executive Member, JTA Status of Women Committee
Dr. Carlene Miller Thompson	- Executive Member, JTA Status of Women Committee
Ms. Jean Brown	- Assistant Public Relations Officer to this List



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