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PRESS RELEASE

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CHILDREN OF JAMAICA FOR 2021

Dear Children,

Happy New Year to you all!

It is with pleasure that I write to you to express our deep and sincere love for each and every one of you, and our combined commitment to make sure that you are well and protected from harm.

We know that 2020 was a very hard year for you. It was for us too as grownups. The Covid-19 pandemic came as a surprise to all of us and caught the country unplanned and unprepared.

To protect your lives and the lives of your parents, grandparents and guardians, your schools were closed leaving many of you confused. This was a sudden, dramatic change in your daily life, and kept you away from the friends you used to see face to face almost every day.

We understand that many of you are struggling to adjust to remote learning, and may not have the equipment necessary for keeping up with your lessons.

That must be corrected. For our part, we, along with other child advocates here and abroad, intend to do everything in our power to work with you and your families to solve those educational challenges you may be having.

As we start the New Year 2021, we want to make sure that you are safe by giving you some important life-saving tips:

- If you need help, Dial 119 or 1-888-PROTECT (1-888-776-8328)
- Don't leave home without your parents' consent.
- Never leave home when it's dark, and don't walk in dark places
- Make sure the adults your parents trust and the adults you trust have your phone number
- Do not make friends with strangers in person or on the internet
- Never share photographs of yourself with strangers on the internet
- Do not accept gifts or promises of any kind from strangers
- Most importantly, say your prayers every day.

On behalf of all of us at Hear The Children's Cry, I wish for you and your families, a safe and happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Betty Ann Blaine

Founder,

Hear The Children's Cry