



## Letter of Cooperation on joint work combating child trafficking in Jamaica and the United States

The **Jamaica Teachers Association (JTA)** and **American Federation of Teachers (AFT)** are dedicated to protecting the safety and wellbeing of children. We are alarmed at estimates by the International Labour Organization that 5.5 million children around the world are victims of human trafficking, and acknowledge that this problem extends into communities around the globe, including our own. We further realize that, as education unions, our members are in contact with the children affected by this terrible crime and are well-positioned to prevent and mitigate it among children at risk.

**We believe that together** we have the power to combat this atrocity head-on by combining leadership, education and training, and awareness and outreach efforts. We pledge to take the following steps to address child trafficking in our schools and communities:

1. Build connections with community allies already working on this issue to harness existing resources and strengthen capacity within our organizations.
2. Develop materials for our members that inform them about child trafficking, help members identify warning signs, lead them to resources and services within their communities, and enable them to address the issue with the children they serve.
3. Utilize existing communication, leadership and professional development networks to raise awareness about child trafficking and mobilize our members to combat it.
4. Advocate on behalf of trafficking survivors in schools, government agencies, legislative bodies and other applicable venues.

**Our intention** is that these union-driven solutions to child trafficking will not only strengthen our schools, communities and unions, but serve as a model throughout the region and for our affiliate partners in Education International.

**Signed this day, August 19, 2013, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica:**

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**Clayton Hall**  
**President**  
**Jamaica Teachers' Association**

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**Randi Weingarten**  
**President**  
**American Federation of Teachers**