

International Women's Day (IWD) is a time to celebrate women's achievements, reflecting on how far we have come and the accomplishments of women's rights. It is also a time to raise awareness about the issue of gender inequality and committing to redouble efforts towards creating a world where women and girls are not disadvantaged because of their gender.

This year's IWD theme: Choose to Challenge, petitions everyone to call out gender bias and inequality, in seeking a more inclusive society. This theme is quite fitting as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic which research has shown has disproportionately affected women and children.

As an Agency with a high percentage of women, today I salute you. You have not been spared the effects of the disease as you each manage your own mental, physical, financial home and childcare issues predicated by the pandemic. Yet, even amidst this strain you have continued to selflessly serve our clients - the majority of whom are women. In our own way, we have also chosen to challenge our community as we work towards making Jamaica safer for children.

I commend your efforts and implore you to continue to challenge our world in creating a society that is safe and advantageous for our children to thrive.