



*Premier of Bermuda*

## **Interpol Welcome**

**The Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP**  
*Premier & Minister of National Security*

**September 30, 2014**

Your Excellency, Commissioner... Good morning.

And to our special guests, welcome to Bermuda.

As hosts for this 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Interpol Specialists Group on Crimes against Children, Bermuda is proud to be the venue for discussions on a matter that all our communities care deeply about.

I have looked through the various subjects you will be discussing over the next four days, and I just want to commend you for what you are doing.

There can be nothing more important than protecting the safety and lives of our children. If we succeed in that, we are doing much to make this a better world.

The fight against child trafficking, the search for a global approach to missing children, the focus on understanding sexual offenders, the pitfalls within international cooperation, the need to support for sex crime investigators – all these agenda items and more speak to the broad and complex challenge you face.

I was particularly interested in the many cybercrime subjects scheduled for discussion. Clearly the advent of the Internet has added to the complexity of preventing crimes against children, and the potential scale of those crimes.

It seems to me that vigilance, understanding and cooperation are essential to your success and that why this gathering is so important – sharing experience, sharing insights, reporting new developments. It is all about building relationships and joining together for common cause – the only way we can succeed going forward.

Bermuda is not immune to crimes against children.

To prevent them, we are working to expand vigilance, understanding and cooperation. In that regard let me take this opportunity to thank all the helping agencies, including the Department of Child and Family Services, the Coalition for the Protection of Children, the Women's Resource Centre, the Centre Against Abuse, SCARS and the Family Centre.

The Government has joined with community organizations, urging parents to get interested in the online activities of their children. We're doing that because we see parents as the first line of defense against online predators.

Through the courage of complainants and the commitment of our own Bermuda Police Service, increasing numbers of these cases have been exposed and successfully prosecuted.

We are also working to educate parents and children on appropriate behaviors and what can be done in cases where offences are committed.

The Ministry of National Security is also responsible for the Department of Corrections and is charged with ensuring that sex offenders receive the psychological intervention required to reduce the risk of re-offending.

Locally, we have long had challenges maintaining an appropriate complement of psychologists within the Corrections system, but I am pleased to report that progress has been made.

We now we have two psychologists on staff and they are fully engaged in this critical aspect of rehabilitation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to close by saying you are involved in something very important, something that is good. Your work can make the difference in many lives, across many communities. On behalf of Bermuda, I wish you well in your deliberations.

Thank you.

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