



14 July 2025

## **The UWP Calls for Measures to Tackle the Rise of Gun Violence in Dominica**

Fellow Dominicans

1. It is with a heavy heart that I address you today on the alarming rise in gun violence that has shaken our beloved nation. To the families who have lost loved ones, to the communities living in fear, and to every citizen touched by this tragedy, I on behalf of the United Workers Party – Team Dominica extends deepest condolences and unwavering solidarity. No family should endure the pain of losing a loved one to senseless violence, and no child should grow up in the shadow of fear. Your grief is our grief, and your call for safety and justice is our shared mission.
2. This surge in gun violence is a stark reminder of the urgent challenges we face as a nation. While we mourn, we must also act with resolve to address the root causes fueling this crisis. Too many of our young people are caught in a cycle of despair, here economic hardship and lack of opportunity leave them vulnerable to the lure of violence. As a nation, we must do better for our youth. They are our future, and their potential must be nurtured, not lost to the streets.
3. As a Party in the Opposition, we call for a comprehensive approach to tackle this crisis and bring an immediate end to the pain and suffering, which have been caused. We must prioritize creating a vibrant economic environment that offers our young people meaningful opportunities for gainful employment. By investing in education, skills training, and job creation, we can empower our youth to build brighter futures, steering them away from the path of violence. We need policies that foster hope, provide purpose, and ensure that every young Dominican has a stake in our nation's progress and development.
4. We also urge the government to strengthen community policing, enhance public safety measures, and work collaboratively with all stakeholders to address the proliferation of illegal firearms. Violence thrives where opportunity falters, and we cannot afford to delay action.

5. To the families grieving, we see you, we hear you, and we stand with you. Let us unite as a nation to honor those we have lost by building a safer, more prosperous Dominica for all. Together, we can forge a future where our youth choose hope over harm and where every citizen can live without fear.

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END