



*Together for progress.*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**United Progressive Party Condemns Recent Fatal Shooting, Calls for Urgent Action to Address Gun Violence and Support for Men in Crisis**

**Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica – December 13, 2025**

The United Progressive Party (UPP) extends its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones devastated by the recent shooting in Savanne Paille that tragically claimed two lives. While we mourn, we must also confront a harsh and unacceptable reality: this tragedy represents the 20th killing incident in Dominica for the year, a grim statistic that exposes a growing national crisis and a failure of leadership.

The continued rise in gun violence is not accidental. It is the direct result of years of neglect, weak enforcement, limited economic opportunities, and the absence of meaningful social intervention. The UPP unequivocally condemns the illegal possession and use of firearms and denounces the culture of violence that has been allowed to take root in our communities under the watch of the current administration.

“We cannot continue with business as usual while our communities bleed,” said Joshua Francis, Leader of the United Progressive Party. “Too many of our young men are unemployed, marginalized, and drawn into the dangerous nexus of drugs, guns, and despair. This is not simply a crime issues, it is a social, economic, and governance failure that demands bold and immediate action.”

The United Progressive Party rejects the government’s reactive, enforcement-only approach which has failed to curb violence or address its underlying causes. As part of a comprehensive crime prevention strategy, the UPP is committed to initiating Men’s Wellness Forums across Dominica, focused on intervention, rehabilitation, and empowerment. These forums will provide structured support through mentorship, job readiness and skills training, mental health services, substance abuse counseling, and community engagement—tools proven to reduce violence and restore hope.

In addition, the UPP formally calls on the Government of Dominica to establish a National Men’s Bureau, housed within an appropriate ministry, with a clear mandate, dedicated funding, and measurable outcomes. This bureau must develop and coordinate targeted policies addressing male unemployment, mental health, education retention, family stability, and crime prevention areas that have been ignored for far too long.





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Gun violence is not inevitable. It is the consequence of choices made by those in power. The UPP believes that with decisive leadership, social investment, and genuine community partnership, Dominica can reverse this dangerous trajectory.

We call on the government to move beyond rhetoric and take responsibility. We also urge civil society, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and families to join in a national effort to reclaim our communities, protect our citizens, and secure a safer future for the next generation especially our young men.

Dominica deserves better. The time for action is now. The UPP urges all stakeholders — government, civil society, religious organizations, businesses, and families — to come together in a unified effort to end gun violence and create pathways to hope for all Dominicans, particularly our young men. Mr. Joshua Francis offers himself to the Government and people of Commonwealth of Dominica to address this matter-it is urgent!

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