



## PRESS RELEASE

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Attention: All News Editors/Reporters

### **Jamaica to Host Global Leaders for Congress on Adolescent Health**

**Kingston, Jamaica: Friday May 1, 2026:** The International Association for Adolescent Health (IAAH), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Wellness, will host part two of the 13<sup>th</sup> IAAH World Congress on Adolescent Health from May 13–15, 2026.

Building on the successful virtual delivery of part one last November, the in-person Congress will bring together global experts, youth advocates, policymakers, and practitioners to address urgent issues impacting adolescents. Under the theme *“Beyond Awareness: Resilience, Reimagining, and Responding,”* discussions will focus on mental health, digital wellness, climate change, education, parenting, poverty, and youth engagement.

*“We are excited to welcome delegates from across the globe to Jamaica as we advance solutions for adolescent health and wellbeing. The aim is to build and strengthen partnerships beyond the Congress, while sharing the latest research, innovations, and lessons in adolescent health,”* said Dr. Abigail Harrison, President of the Caribbean Association for Adolescent Health.

The Congress will also feature an exhibition showcase highlighting innovative solutions in adolescent health, oral presentations, workshops, and poster presentations from Youth advocates, adolescent health experts, professionals, climate change experts, health providers and researchers. Interested persons are invited to visit the International Association of Adolescent Health or its Caribbean chapter’s website at [www.caribbeanaah.org](http://www.caribbeanaah.org) or [www.iaah.org](http://www.iaah.org).

The Ministry’s investment in the Congress underscores its strategic focus on strengthening adolescent health systems and promoting Jamaica’s leadership in this area on the global stage. Additionally, the Congress will showcase Jamaica’s national efforts in child and adolescent health through organized tours of local health facilities for international delegates, further positioning the country as a regional leader in healthcare innovation and service delivery.

Dr. Harrison noted that several key speakers from across the globe will be present: *“I know attendees will be excited and stimulated by the game-changing thought leaders including Dr. Maria del Carmen Calle Dávila, Peru, Specialist in Adolescent Health and Development and President of IAAH; Dr. Sonja Caffè, PAHO Regional Adolescent Health Advisor, Washington, DC; Miss Paige Watson, Jamaica’s Youngest Climate Change Youth Advocate along with other youth*

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*advocates from Sweden, Botswana, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Nigeria and France,” added Dr. Harrison.*

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