



Rights of the Child Commission

**Annual Report
January – December
2017 & 2018**

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA	-	Administrative Assistant
ERC	-	Ethnic Relations Commission
IO	-	Investigative Officer
IPC	-	Indigenous Peoples' Commission
MHSS	-	Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
RCC	-	Rights of the Child Commission
UNICEF	-	United Nations Children's Fund
UN	-	United Nations
W&GEC	-	Women & Gender Equality Commission

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INTRODUCTION

Chairperson's Remarks

The Rights of the Child Commission has always embraced and cherished its constitutional mandate of advancing the rights and interests of Guyana's children. It is a mandate that is moreover inspired by the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In the years 2017 and 2018, the RCC has diligently pursued the materialization of this mandate. It has done so by vehemently engaging the national, regional and community stakeholders whose professional and leadership responsibilities entail the fruition of child rights. This engagement has brokered a viable partnership that is currently working in the interest of Guyana's children. This endeavour has seen sustained capacity building trainings provided to stakeholders in the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Social Protection.

The Commission has moreover sought to make material its mandate by directly engaging the children and youth of Guyana by availing their participation and development rights. This endeavour has seen the birthing of the RCC's Youth Ambassadorship programme and the making of the Special Statement in the National Assembly.

The RCC is encouraged by the results of this work programme and is conscious of the prodigious efforts that remain outstanding. The RCC remains committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure that Guyana honours all of its treaty obligations under the UNCRC and in so doing, protect, educate and empower our children.

Aleema Nasir

Chairperson

Rights of the Child Commission

The following persons served on the Rights of the Child Commission

Representatives of Religion



Aleema Nasir– Chairperson, RCC

Ms. Nasir is a formally qualified and trained counselor and social worker of many years' experience. She is the current President of the women's Organisation of the Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana (C.I.O.G.), (NACOSA) and a member of the Central Executive of the Central Islamic organization (CIOG). She serves as the main counselor for CIOG.

currently employed as Senior Probation and Social Services Officer at the Ministry of Labour Human Services and Social Security, License Marriage Officer.

Rev Clarke-Anthony is a graduate of the Wesleyan Bible College (Bachelors Degree in Christian Ministry), graduate of the University of Guyana (B.Sc.SocialWork)



Sarojanie Rambaran – Member

Mrs. Rambaran represents the Hindu religion. She is a counselor and educator of many years' experience. She is also a member of the Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha and has served for many years as a member of Mahela Mandele, its women's arm.



Colleen Anthony – Member

(Rev) Colleen Clarke-Anthony, Deputy Superintendent and Pastor of the Guyana Missionary Baptist Church,

Representatives of women



Rosemary Benjamin-Noble - Deputy Chairperson

Mrs. Benjamin - Noble is a West - Indian trained Attorney - at - Law and has worked for many years on women's and children's issues primarily through her membership of the Guyana Association of Women Lawyers and association with other women's organisations. She holds a Master's Degree in International Education. She also served several years ago as the co - ordinator of the Children's Bills Project (in collaboration with MLHSS) which resulted in five new pieces of children's legislation.



Sandra Hooper - Member

Mrs. Hooper is a formally qualified social worker of over forty years' experience. She worked as a Government Youth Officer for sixteen years, followed by

seventeen years as Director of the Municipal Daycare Service. She has held principal positions in various social organizations and in the Anglican community serves on the Diocesan Council and chairs the Family Life Commission. Mrs. Hooper was also a member for several years of the precursor to the RCC i.e. the National Commission on the Rights of the Child - Presidential commission (now defunct).

Representatives of service



Yvonne Fox - Member

Mrs. Fox is a trained educator, having been a teacher and later principal for many years. A graduate of the George Meany Labour College, USA, Mrs. Fox also has given yeoman service representing the Guyana Teacher's Union (GTU) including as President of its women's arm. Throughout the years Mrs. Fox served as Co - ordinator of the Teachers upgrading classes in the Georgetown District for years, and is a former Vice - Chairperson of the Legal Aid Clinic of Guyana. She is a member of the Education sub - committee of the Rights of the Child Commission and was honored by the Women and Gender Equality Commission in August, 2011.

Ms. Yvonne Fox received the Guyana Teacher’s Union “Jean Persico Award” in 1990 and the “Presidential Award” in 1992.



Kaloutie (Pamela)Nauth – Member

Ms. Nauth is a professional social worker and court – appointed mediator. She is the current President of the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (GRPA) and Director of Help and Shelter Inc.

Pamela Nauth is a Professional Social Worker /Counsellor and Consultant.

Ms. Nauth is one of the founding members of the Mediation Institute of Guyana and served in the capacity as Company Secretary and Vice – President for the past three terms.

Commissioner of the National Commission of the Family and Past Secretary of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Advisory Board.

Rich in her experience she has been devoting her time in promoting the development and capacity

Representatives of youth



Marissa Massiah– member

Ms. Massiah is an undergraduate in International Relations, and is currently reading for a Masters Degree in Project Management. She is a certified Community Facilitator. Her work experience includes servicing as Volunteer Relations Co – ordinator with Habitat for Humanity in Guyana (Poverty Housing Reduction).

Marissa Massiah has worked and volunteered with various youth groups and initiatives nationally and regionally.



Suelle Findlay – Williams – Member

Suelle Findlay-Williams is the Youth Representative on the Rights of the Child Commission. She enjoys working with young people and believes that every child and youth deserves to be loved, respected and accepted. At every opportunity, Mrs. Williams encourages young people to adopt principles that will help them to live a pure, loving and industrious life. Suelle Williams holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Public Communication from the University of Guyana and is currently reading for a Master Degree in Public Administration. She has also had training in Cognitive Behavioural Intervention for Trauma in Schools, Suicide Prevention, and School Health Programmes.

Representatives of Human services



Kwame McCoy – Member

Mr. McCoy is one of two nominated representatives of the Ministry of

Human Services and Social Security. He is formally trained in public communications and has served in several capacities related to public relations within the state and government structure within the past fifteen years.

Representatives of other (related) interests



Hyacinth (Cynthia) Massay - Member

Ms Massay has worked in the area of disability for almost four decades and as former Director of Rehabilitation Services in the Ministry of Health was responsible for the development of Guyana's first National Policy for Persons with Disability which was laid in Parliament in 1997. She is a member of the Board of the Step by Step model school for children with autism and the board of the recently formed Guyana Epilepsy Foundation

Ex – officio Commissioners



Nicole Cole – Rep. of the Women & Gender Equality Commission (WG&EC)

I am a graduate of the University of Guyana-Class of 2007 (BSc Credit) I am a clinically trained Social Work Practitioner who is officially gazetted; Ms. Cole is currently enrolled @ Stanford University completing a Course in International Women's Health and Human Rights, she is also a student of the Confucius Institute-University of Guyana and the Venezuelan Institute of Culture and Cooperation.



Marco De Souza – Rep. of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission (IPA)

Mr. DeSouza is an active leader and counselor in the Moruca community. He has served for several years as toshau (leader) of the Moruca Amerindian Village Council.



Mr. Amarnauth Panday BA,MA

Chief Executive Officer/Secretary

Amarnauth Panday, CEO of the Rights of the Child Commission, has a Bachelors Degree in History and English from the University of Guyana, a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management from the University of the West Indies and has also served in the Guyana Defence Force. Mr. Panday is also a motivational Speaker and the founder of the Empower Guyana consultancy.

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1. Engagement with RDCs

In the first quarter of the year, the RCC commenced its engagement with the Regional Democratic Councils of Guyana. In January of 2017, the RCC provided critical capacity building training to the councilors of the Region 5 RDC.

Such Capacity Building Training was aimed at equipping councilors with an understanding and appreciation of the salience of the UNCRC and the importance of such human rights being factored into the work of the RDC. Councilors proved very receptive to the message of the RCC.

Subsequently, the RCC engaged the Region 4 RDC with a similar capacity building engagement. Such engagement is premised on an appreciation of the crucial role of the RDCs in the process of local and regional governance and the need for the spirit and intent of child rights to be included in such local and regional governance.

2. Child Rights and Community Development Workshop in Micobie/ Tumatumari, Region 8.

In the second quarter of 2017, the RCC conducted its Child Rights and Community Development workshop in Micobie/ Tumatumari, Region 8. The main participants of this engagement included the village council, health workers, teachers, youth leaders etc.

Such sessions in Hinterland and Amerindian villages are intended to engender and foster within such communities, an appreciation for the rights and interests of children.

The workshop in Micobie/ Tumatumari raised several issues relating to the involvement of children in the extractive sector. The RCC has raised these issues with several of the relevant stakeholders.

Other Amerindian Villages engaged include:

Region One

1. Yarakita
2. Kwebanna
3. Santa Rosa

Region two

1. St Monica
2. Kabakaburi
3. St. Deny's Mission

Region three

1. Santa Mission

Region Four

1. St. Cuthbert's Mission

Region 5

1. Moraikobai

Region 6

1. Orealla/ Siparuta

Region 7

1. Waramadong

Region 8

1. Kato
2. Monkey Mountain
3. Paramkatoi
4. Campbell town
5. Micobie

Region 9

1. St. Ignatius

Region ten

1. Muritario
2. Malali
3. Calcuni
4. Sandhills
5. Kimbia
6. Wiruni
7. Hururu

3. Art Expression Workshop at the NOC

In the second quarter of 2017, the RCC conducted its second Art Expression Workshop at the New Opportunity Corps. The objective of this endeavour was to expose the students resident at the NOC to the usage of art as an avenue of therapy and catharsis.

The RCC has remained committed to supporting the rehabilitative and reformatory work at the NOC to effect the reintegration of such students into their respective communities.

The Art Expression Workshop was hosted in collaboration with UNICEF and was hosted previously at the St. Ignatius Secondary School in Region 9.

4. Youth Empowerment Workshop at the MOE's STEAM Fair

In the second quarter of 2017, the RCC partnered with the Ministry of Education in hosting a Youth Empowerment workshop with students hailing from all Administrative Regions who attended the MOE's Science Fair and Exhibition held in Georgetown.

The RCC has sought to engage the Ministry of Education with a view of establishing the school setting as a conducive place for the process of education to take occur.

5. RCC/ UNICEF Prayer Breakfast

The RCC, in the second quarter of 2017, hosted in partnership with UNICEF, a Prayer Breakfast which had as its objective the mobilizing of the Religious Community in availing the protection rights of the children of Guyana.

The Prayer breakfast initiative has become an annual activity in the calendar of the RCC in engaging an important stakeholder in the protection and empowerment of Guyana's children. At the 2017 Prayer Breakfast, the Stakeholders signed and adopted the Marriot Declaration for Child Rights in Guyana.

The Declaration sought to express and proclaim a common understanding and approach within the faith based community to protect the children of Guyana. It sought to posit, inter alia, that the religious community and the RCC would work together to achieve the following outcomes and objectives:

1. To always act in the best interest of the child as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other Human Rights Charters to which Guyana is a signatory. Such best interest may be interpreted to mean the treatment of Guyana's children in ways which affirm and confirm their fundamental dignity and worth.

2. To commit to work together to provide redress and healing by adhering to lawful procedures and best practices in relation to particular cases of child abuse and neglect that may occur within particular religious congregations. Such is necessary in safeguarding Guyana's children in all settings from violations of their inalienable right to a childhood free from hurt in body and mind.

3. (A) To encourage each group to liaise with the other to enable advocacy to preserve the rights and interests of Guyana's children, and to find and implement solutions to the problems which affect them.

(B) To ensure that children's participation rights are upheld in the governance and decision making process of the congregation.

4. To commit to the inclusion of child rights and interests into the regular religious discourses/ sermons delivered by Pastors, Pandits, Imams and all other religious leaders, thus further raising awareness of the range of child rights issues.

6. Engagement of the Guyana Police Force D Division (West Demerara)

In the second quarter of 2017, the RCC effected its capacity building engagement with Police officers and ranks in the D Division at the Leonora Police Station.

Such training is part of a comprehensive engagement with the Guyana Police Force intended to raise the professional level of the Force especially in relation to how it handles cases involving children. Such trainings have also been conducted at Police Stations at:

1. Suddie
2. Bartica
3. Georgetown
4. Linden
5. Lethem
6. New Amsterdam
7. Cove and John

This engagement with the Guyana Police Force has seen trainings been provided to the Police in all their Divisions.

7.Capacity building workshop with the teachers of the West Demerara Secondary School, Region 3.

The RCC, in the second quarter of 2017, conducted its capacity building with the teachers of the West Demerara Secondary School. Such capacity building being a feature of the RCC's intervention in the education sector.

Such training being aimed at elevating the quality of professionalism and leadership included in the delivery of education in Guyana. Such is in keeping with the spirit and intent of the education articles of the UNCRC.

Such training has been provided to teachers in the education sector in all Administrative Regions of Guyana.

8.Engagement of the Linden, Kwakwani and Wismar hospitals.

The RCC, in the second quarter of 2017, conducted its capacity building trainings with the Doctors and Nurses of the Linden, Kwakwani and Wismar Hospitals. The training was conducted at the Linden Hospital.

The provision of such training is part of an engagement with the health sector aimed to enlivening the articles of the UNCRC relating to the right of children to optimal health care. The RCC has thus engaged Regional and District in all Administrative Regions of Guyana.

9. Youth Camp

In the third quarter of the year, the RCC launched its inaugural Youth Camp which formalized its Youth Ambassadorship Programme.

The Youth Camp sought to activate Article 12 and the other participation oriented articles of the CRC which accord and avail to the Guyanese child and youth the right to be a meaningful participants in the different settings in which they are active

The **Concept Notes** prepared prior to the hosting of the camp recognized that the undergirding philosophical and psychological premise of those participation rights is grounded in the notion that participation is integral to the child's educational and psycho social development. Moreover, the propensity, regularity and sustainability of children's participation is invariably an indicator of the child friendliness and safety of the respective settings.

The **Concept Notes** also noted that the latest UNICEF research into the multi-dimensional components of child poverty has established that the lack of opportunities for voice and expression is actually an indicator and feature of child poverty that requires specific and tailored responses.

Charter and Declaration

The child Ambassadors , at the conclusion of the camp, were required to sign a charter and declaration committing themselves to a code of conduct and body of ideals in consonance with what RCC expects from its corps of child ambassadors. Such code of conduct and body of ideals may be rooted in inter alia:

- **Non Discrimination**
- **A Repugnance for racism and xenophobia**
- **Tolerance for Dissent**
- **Exemplary Conduct**
- **Teamwork**
- **A commitment to competence and excellence**
- **A commitment to service**
- **Rule of law**
- **Generosity of Spirit**
- **A commitment to Child Rights**

10. Special Statement to the National Assembly

In the third quarter of 2017, the Youth Ambassadors of the RCC presented to the National Assembly a Special Statement of Entreaty.

The Statement noted “The children of Guyana are entitled to a society fashioned in a manner conducive to the materialization of their rights and interests. We are entitled to have our law makers and decision makers take cognizance of how your actions impact on our wellbeing and welfare. And we are entitled to be a meaningful participant in the fashioning of such a society.”

The Statement sought to encapsulate the special submissions to the National Assembly in the areas of Education, Health, Social Protection, Social Cohesion and Hinterland Development. Such Special Statement will be made in the National Assembly on an annual basis.

The Youth Ambassadors’ Special Statement to the National Assembly is a concerted initiative intended to enliven and activate article 12 and the other participation oriented articles of the UNCRC.

11. Youth Parliament

In the third quarter of 2017, the RCC partnered with the Parliament to host its annual Youth Parliament.

Objectives of the Youth Parliament

1. To realise Article 12 (1) and Article 13 (1) of the Convention of the Rights of the Child which consolidates the child’s right to the freedom of expression and seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice including the right to seek advice and impart knowledge;
2. To train children in democratic practices, negotiation and conflict resolution;
3. To educate children about the core functions of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana (legislative, financial, scrutiny and appointive);
4. To nurture leadership skills;
5. To promote a broader awareness amongst children of community issues and the process of government through which those issues can be addressed; and
6. To promote national unity.

The RCC was critically involved in the training and preparation of the Youth Parliamentarians in order to satisfy the objectives of the Youth Parliament. The RCC has previously partnered with UNICEF to produce a handbook dealing with the hosting of the Youth Parliament.

12. Visit to the Hararununi Children's Home

The RCC, in the fourth quarter of 2017, continued its monitoring and engagement with children in alternative care. The Commission visited and monitored the Hararununi Girls Home located on the Linden Soesdyke Highway.

The objective of this engagement is to ensure that alternative care centres conform to Best Practices and Minimum Standards enabling the children in such settings to access a quality of life conducive to their protection, education and empowerment.

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1. Prayer Breakfast

In the first quarter of 2018, the RCC in collaboration with UNICEF, held its annual Prayer Breakfast. The objective of this engagement entails mobilizing the religious community to avail and activate the Protection Rights of Guyana's Children.

The Prayer Breakfast held at the Guyana Marriot included presentations from the RCC Chairperson Ms Aleema Nasir, Resident Representative of UNICEF Ms. Sylvie Fouet, the Honourable Minister of Social Protection Ms. Amna Ally, Mrs. Sita Nagamootoo- wife of the Prime Minister and also a presentation on the new Juvenile Justice Law by Attorney at Law Ms. Emily Dodson.

The Prayer Breakfast Initiative entailed an essay competition in the schools and newspaper ads seeking to solicit a societal involvement in prayers for the children of Guyana.

The RCC has used such fora and initiative to make accessible its Complaint Mechanism which is an important function in activating the constitutional mandate of the Commission. This mechanism aims to provide redress for children who have endured levels of abuse and neglect. The Investigative Department being guided by the Investigative Sub Committee and CEO is moreover tasked with advancing policy recommendations to improve the dispensation of Child Protection in Guyana.

2. Availing the Complaint Mechanism

In the second quarter of 2018, the RCC through a series of community outreach and response to complainants sought to avail the Complaint Mechanism to all communities in the Administrative Regions of Guyana. In the second quarter,

considerable work was done in the Essequibo Islands of Leguan, Wakenaam and Hogg Island to ensure that community stakeholders were apprised of the Mechanism and moreover have a viable channel of communication with the RCC.

3. One Day Caucus of the Youth Ambassadors

In the second quarter of 2018, the RCC in collaboration with UNICEF, conducted a one-day Leadership training for the Youth Ambassadors.

The Youth Ambassadorship programme being designed to activate the participation rights of Guyana's children contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Such training is part of a regime of orientation the ambassadors receive to play leadership roles in their communities.

3. Independence Anniversary Workshop

In the second quarter of 2018, the RCC held its annual Child Rights and Independence Workshop in Commemoration of Guyana's Independence.

The objective of this engagement is to expose the children and youth of Guyana to the history of Guyana's independence and moreover the significance of Guyana's independence and the role of Guyana's children and youth in activating the imperative deliverables of such significance. Another feature and function of such workshops to introduce and discuss the RCC's Youth Ambassadorship Programme with the children and Youth of Guyana.

Other related themes examined in the day's deliberations include, inter alia:

1. Leadership
2. Youth Empowerment
3. Models of Child Poverty
4. Community Development
5. Children in Public Policy

This workshop is usually attended by secondary school children from all regions and moreover the youth Ambassadors of the RCC.

4. Refreshing Engagement with the Guyana Legal Aid

In the second quarter of 2018, the RCC refreshed relations with the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic. The RCC had previously advocated for the channeling of funds from the United Nations Children’s Fund to support the work of the Legal Aid Clinic particularly to represent juveniles in contact with the law at the Sophia Holding Centre, the Timehri Prison and the New Opportunity Corps.

It was in the activating of the work programme of the RCC in the above mentioned institutions that it was diagnosed that Guyana’s children in contact with the law were not being availed their right to legal representation in consonance with Guyana’s treaty obligations under the UNCRC and other human rights conventions.

The RCC subsequently lobbied both UNICEF and the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic for the representation of Guyana’s Children in contact with the law. Such representation produced the freeing of Eion Henry- a juvenile who was held for seven years on remand being denied his constitutional right to a fair and timely trial.

The service being provided by the Legal Aid Clinic is ongoing and is currently providing representation for children and youth in contact with the law and in need of legal representation.

5. Youth Camp

In the third quarter of 2018, the RCC hosted its second annual Youth Camp at the Iwokrama River Lodge, Region 8. The Youth Camp being the main training ground of the Youth Ambassadors.

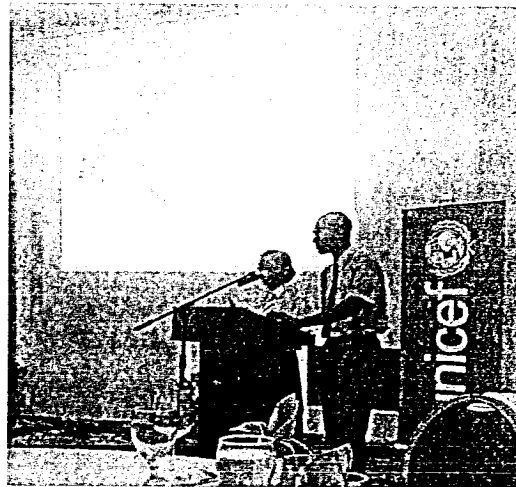
At the second annual Youth Camp, the Youth Ambassadors were exposed to a curriculum that is expected to foster leadership roles in their communities. At the Iwokrama camp, the Youth Ambassadors also conducted a development session with the students of the Fairview Primary School. Such engagement is intended to enable the ambassadors to make manifest their training in preparation for their leadership roles in the community.

Benefits and Outcomes of the Youth Ambassadorship Programme

The benefits and outcomes of the contemplated wider corps of child ambassadors working in their respective communities includes, inter alia:

1. (a) The corps will represent an expanding group of children empowered with the requisite levels of personal development capable of dealing with the psycho socio challenges of adolescent development and thus capable of engaging in peer education with a view of empowering other children.

(b) This corps will serve in the RCC's vital engagement of Guyana's children in contact with the law at the Sophia Holding Centre, New Opportunity Corps and Timehri Prison as role models and peer educators.



2. The corps will represent an expanding group of children who will receive a grounding in what the framers of the CRC contemplated as the components of a holistic education.

2. The corps will represent an expanding group of children knowledgeable of their rights as enshrined in the CRC with the requisite training to engage other segments of the community pursuant to the fruition of the spirit and intent of the CRC.

3. The corps will represent an expanding group of child ambassadors who will be able to exert a leadership role pursuant to the objectives of poverty alleviation, community development, gender equality, indigenous peoples' rights and interests and literacy and education.

4. The corps will represent an expanding group of child ambassadors who will be able to engage the adult stakeholders in the community pursuant to the materialization of their mandate. For example, in the RCC's engagement of village councils, RDCs, Police, Regional and District Hospitals, Municipalities etc. the corps will be encouraged and equipped to exercise meaningful participation.

6. Engagement of Amerindian Communities in the Berbice River

In the third quarter of 2018, the RCC engaged the indigenous communities of the Berbice River namely Sandhills, Kimbia, Ebeni, Wiruni and Calcuni with the message and service of Child Rights. This engagement is a feature of the RCC's nationwide engagement of hinterland and Amerindian communities pursuant to the protection, education and empowerment of Amerindian children.

Commissioners who attended these workshops provided favourable reviews of the sessions citing the gravity and urgency of the issues affecting the communities principally in the areas of education, opportunities for youth empowerment, strengthening of village administration, addressing multi-dimensional poverty and engendering security.

The RCC continues to engage these communities as part of its work programme to avail the articles of the UNCRC to all the children of Guyana.

7. Youth Empowerment Sessions at the Sophia Holding Centre and the Timehri Prison

In the third quarter of 2018, the RCC hosted another Youth Empowerment session with the young offenders held at the Timehri Prison. The objective of these engagements have been to introduce the youth in contact with the law to ideas and concepts of personal development and leadership that may contribute to their reformation and reintegration in their communities.

These sessions are also conducted at the New Opportunity Corps and the New Amsterdam Prison. These sessions have been on going and are a feature of the work programme of the RCC. Such sessions also serve to identify the children and youth who are still to receive their right to legal representation so that the necessary referrals can be made to the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic.

8. Capacity Building Session with the Teachers of President's College

In the third quarter of 2018, the RCC conducted a Capacity Building Workshop with the teachers of President's College.

Such sessions reflect the positive and salutary relationship engendered with the MOE intended to refresh and infuse into the institutional culture of Guyana's teaching profession, concepts and ideas relevant to an elevation of the standards of education delivery in Guyana. Standards of education delivery cognizant and inclusive of the necessity to avail and enliven the protection and development rights of Guyana's children as enshrined in the UNCRC.

Such sessions are ongoing and are part of the work programme of the RCC.

9. Youth Parliament hosted in Partnership with the Parliament Office

In the third quarter of 2018, the RCC partnered with the Parliament Office to host the annual Youth Parliament. The objective of the Youth Parliament is to equip prospective youth leaders from all Regions of Guyana with particular capacities and skills to serve as youth leaders in their respective schools and communities.

The Youth Parliament is an ongoing initiative contained in the annual work programme of the RCC. The Youth Parliament is also a training and recruiting ground for the Youth Ambassadorship programme of the RCC.

10. Engagement of the New Opportunity Corps

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the RCC engaged the staff and students of the New Opportunity Corps. The objective of this engagement is to augment and enhance a culture of rehabilitation and reformation at the NOC.

The engagement of the staff involved a capacity building workshop focusing on professionalism and leadership. Such capacity building training is intended to elevate the quality of service delivered to the children held at the Corps in keeping with the best interest principle espoused in the UNCRC.

The engagement with the students focused on youth empowerment to equip the children held at the Corps with the values, capacities and skills to return to their communities as productive and law abiding citizens. This aspect of the RCC's work programme is ongoing.

11. Capacity Building Training at C Division of the Guyana Police Force

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the RCC conducted its regular capacity building session with Police Officers and ranks of the Guyana Police Force at its C Division. This training is intended to augment the capacity of the force to better handle cases involving children. Such training has invariably focused on leadership, professionalism and the letter and spirit of the new Juvenile Justice Law.

The engagement of the Guyana Police Force in all of its Division is part of the continuous work programme of the RCC. With the engagement of the Police at C Division, the RCC would have engaged the GPF in all of its Divisions.

12. Youth Empowerment Session at the Mackenzie High School -

In the last quarter of 2018, the RCC conducted a Youth Empowerment session with the students of the Mackenzie High School, Region 10. The session focused on personal development and leadership pursuant to the development articles enshrined in the UNCRC and moreover is part of the RCC's engagement with the Ministry of Education.

The engagement is aimed at fostering a holistic dispensation of education. A number of similar sessions have been conducted with secondary schools in Region 10 as this engagement is a feature of the ongoing work programme of the RCC.

.13 Workshop with the Medical Professionals of Region 6.

In the last quarter of 2018, the RCC conducted a capacity building session with the medical professionals inclusive of doctors, nurses, health and social workers practicing in Region 6. The medical professionals were drawn from the New Amsterdam, Port Mourant and Skeldon Hospitals along with other Health Centres in the Region.

The session focused on the letter, spirit and intendment of the UNCRC and moreover the professional and psycho social responsibilities of medical professionals therein. This engagement of Guyana' medical professionals is a product of a partnership with the Ministry of Health wherein the RCC has previously engaged Regional and District Hospitals in Suddie, West Demerara, Fort Wellington, Mahdia, Linden and New Amsterdam.

14. Special Caucus of the Youth Ambassadors Pursuant to the making of the Special Statement in the National Assembly.

In the last quarter of 2018, the RCC hosted the Special Caucus of the Youth Ambassadors convened annually to craft the special statement to the National Assembly. The ambassadors met and came up with the contents for their special statement falling into the thematic areas of Education, Health, Social Protection, Social Cohesion and Hinterland Development.

The Youth Ambassadors also elected their representatives to present the statement in the National Assembly. The presentation of the special statement was denied by events surrounding the passage of the No confidence Motion in the National Assembly.