

## **STOP AMERICAN MURDER-PREACHER SPREADING HATE IN JAMAICA**

January 25, 2018

### **To the government of Jamaica:**

We, the undersigned, are members of the Jamaican diaspora and organizations and individuals working with local partners to help Jamaica realize its domestic and international human rights obligations.

We are deeply concerned about a planned “mission trip” to Jamaica (January 28 to February 3, 2018) by designated hate-preacher Steven Anderson, an American citizen who heads the Faithful Word Baptist Church (FWBC). Since 2010, the US-based Southern Poverty Law Center has listed FWBC as a hate group because of their “beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics.”

Specifically, Anderson has:

- referred to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people as disease-spreading pedophiles who should be killed;
- engaged in anti-Semitic rhetoric, such as denying the Holocaust; and
- advocated for the complete subjugation of women.

Anderson’s virulent hate and murderous rhetoric has resulted in him being barred or deported from Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Canada.

We urge the government of Jamaica to deny Anderson entry on the grounds that his visit would violate Jamaican law, undermine the human rights of vulnerable Jamaicans, and represent an immediate threat to the peace, order and good governance of the state. At a time when Jamaica is grappling with an exceedingly high number of murders, allowing a hate-preacher to incite violence within the country is a dangerous precedent to set.

### **Violation of Jamaica’s *Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms***

Jamaica’s 2011 *Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms* provides that the state has an obligation to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms (s. 13(1)(a)).

The rights and freedoms enumerated under the Charter include life (s. 13(3)(a)), freedom of conscience (religion) (s. 13(3)(b)), freedom from discrimination on the grounds of being male or female (s. 13(3)(i)(i)), and protection from torture or inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment (s. 13(3)(0)).

All these rights—and many more—are now threatened by an alien American with no permit to work in Jamaica, and we urge the Jamaican government to act immediately to protect its citizens.

### **Threats to LGBT Jamaicans**

Section 6(e) of Jamaica's *Aliens Act* authorizes an Immigration Officer to deny entry to anyone who is sentenced in a foreign country for an extradition offence. Section 5 of the *Extradition Act* defines an extradition offence as one that would carry a minimum of two years imprisonment and also be an offence in Jamaica. Based on these criteria, Steven Anderson should be barred from entering Jamaica.

Anderson has been denied entry into South Africa, the United Kingdom, Malawi and Canada for uttering hate speech calling for the death of LGBT people. He has also been deported from Botswana for stating on public radio that gay people should be killed. All of these Commonwealth states have laws similar to Section 8 of Jamaica's *Offences Against the Person Act* (OAPA) that criminalize advocating for murder.

Specifically, Section 8 of the OAPA states:

All persons who shall conspire, confederate, and agree to murder any person, whether he be a subject of Her Majesty or not, and *whosoever shall solicit, encourage, persuade, or endeavour to persuade, or shall propose to any person to murder any other person, whether he be a subject of Her Majesty or not, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour*, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding ten years, with or without hard labour [emphasis added].

Anderson has continually sermonized and made pronouncements that demonize and denigrate LGBT people, and called for the execution of LGBT people:

- A. In 2009, Anderson declared his support for imposing the death penalty on LGBT people. (<http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/god-commands-you-kill-gays> and <http://crooksandliars.com/david-neiwert/gospel-hate-arizona-pastor-steve-and>)
- B. In 2013, Anderson went on Irish radio and said that the government should use the death penalty on homosexuals. [<http://www.christianpost.com/news/bible-says-gays-should-be-executed-and-i-believe-every-word-says-arizona-pastor-99583/> (direct YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4kO-rxuSfc&feature=youtu.be>)]
- C. In 2014, Anderson called for the death of all LGBT people to put a stop to the spread of HIV and AIDS. (<http://www.towleroad.com/2014/12/sanderson/>)
- D. In a 2014 sermon, Anderson called for the “execution of gay people by stoning.”
- E. In 2016, Anderson went on public radio in Botswana stating that gay people should be stoned to death. Human Rights Campaign in the U.S. reports that Anderson was subsequently deported from Botswana for his hate speech. (<https://www.hrc.org/blog/botswana-to-deport-anti-lgbtq-american-pastor-american-anti-lgbtq-group-to>)
- F. Most recently, Anderson applauded the massacre of nightclub patrons in Orlando, Florida, claiming, “There’s (sic) 50 less pedophiles in the world” and “These

homosexuals are a bunch of perverts and pedophiles, that's who was a victim here, a bunch of disgusting homosexuals at a gay bar ... The good news is that at least 50 of these pedophiles are not going to be harming children anymore. The bad news is that a lot of the homos in the bar are still alive, so they're going to continue to molest children and recruit people into their filthy homosexual lifestyle."

(<http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/anti-lgbt-pastor-steven-anderson-applauds-orlando-massacre-theres-fifty-less-pedophiles-worl> and <https://youtu.be/ISysQpFPrhQ>)

Anderson's past statements prove that he will likely *solicit, encourage, persuade, or endeavour to persuade, or shall propose to any person to murder* LGBT Jamaicans.

### **Threats to Jewish Jamaicans**

Anderson also posts anti-Semitic materials that advocate genocide. Section 33(2)(c) of Jamaica's *Offences Against the Person Act* defines genocide as causing bodily or *mental harm* to any national, racial, ethnic or religious group [emphasis added]. Jamaica's Jewish population has played a significant role in national development. Many of their ancestors were among the first European settlers to be expelled during the deadly Spanish Inquisition, which sought to exterminate Jews. Several centuries later they were again the victims of a barbaric Holocaust that murdered more than six million Jews. Yet Anderson blatantly denies the horrors of the Holocaust and promotes hateful views of Jewish people:

- A. Anderson promotes Holocaust denial: <http://blog.adl.org/anti-semitism/anti-semitic-pastor-steve-anderson-promotes-holocaust-denial>
- B. Anderson allegedly duped Rabbis into appearing in his anti-Semitic film: <http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/news/1.631869>

By denying the horrors inflicted upon Jews, Anderson will inflict mental harm on Jamaica's Jewish population.

### **Threats to Women**

Despite visible women in leadership, gender-based violence against women and girls remains a significant contributor to Jamaica's distressing murder rate, fuelled in part by patriarchal arguments about the submissive role of women and male ownership of their bodies.

Anderson has attacked women, saying that they should not work, lead in church, be independent, vote, read books of their choice, or dress how they want. He also emphasizes that "men shouldn't be under the tyranny of women." ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFaoOKk16IQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFaoOKk16IQ))

He is on record describing women as whores, and has also publicly opposed the education of women, stating that "college makes women stupid."

Anderson's messages attack and demean women, reducing them, in his eyes, to second-class citizens who are unequal to men. He refers to women as "home keepers and not office keepers," and views women who work as having loose morals. These statements erase the achievements

that the women's movement in Jamaica has made over the years. These include ground-breaking political leaders such the previous Prime Minister, the current Attorney General, and the current Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

Anderson's backward views on women would only serve to set back the important gains made by Jamaican women after centuries of crushing patriarchy.

## **Conclusion**

Steven Anderson poses a profound threat to vulnerable citizens, the rule of law, constitutional order and Jamaica's societal peace. Anderson preaches violence, and has encouraged his followers to carry out his violent threats.<sup>1</sup> In light of the current murder crisis plaguing Jamaica, with more than 100 murders reported in the first 22 days of 2018, the government would violate its constitutional duty to protect the rights and freedoms of Jamaicans if Anderson were allowed to enter the country. He also condones terrorism, an action that the Government of Jamaica condemned in response to the Orlando massacre.

Clearly Mr. Anderson has no respect for humanity and his messages are counter to Jamaica's democratic and inclusive ideals, as stated in its motto: "Out of many, one people."

We therefore demand that the Jamaican government show leadership and stand as an example to fellow Caribbean countries to denounce terrorism and violence against marginalized groups. Given his well-documented history of advocating violence and hatred, Steven Anderson must not be allowed to enter Jamaica.

Signed:

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<sup>1</sup> [On Aug. 16, 2009, for example, Anderson preached](#) as follows (starting at about 13:45): "God hates Barack Obama. I hate Barack Obama. [I pray that God will deal with him and other evil-doers as King David prayed He would do in Psalm 58.] 'Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth. ... Let them melt away as waters ... Let them be cut in pieces as a snail which melteth. Let every one of them pass away.'" He then said about Obama, ["I'm going to pray that he dies and goes to hell"](#) (at 1:30 on video clip).

The next day, [a member of his congregation showed up with a semi-automatic rifle outside an Obama rally](#).

Another man who listens Steven Anderson [sent death threats to mosques](#).

