

# Close Up

Committee

on

Youth Issues

# Greetings

- Good Day to all and Welcome to the Close Up Committee's hearing.
  - Name : Isiah Smith
  - School: Charlotte Amalie High School
    - Island: St. Thomas U.S.V.I

# The Need for Leaders.

- Issue Statement:
- Lack of guidance and counseling is a problem for the youths of the Virgin Island. Simply because of the fact that many issues that are hindering the productivity of youths can be minimized and addressed through counseling and with someone or a higher authority to serve as a leader.
- Legislative Proposal:
- Little to no leaders and/or guidance is available on behalf of younger individuals (Youths). We humbly request that the Legislative Government adopt new forms of programs made up of inspiration speaker, leaders, and people to set examples for younger individuals to help with all the issues the younger generation face such as, but not limited to: Underage Drinking, Teen Pregnancy, Drug Use, Bullying, Stress, etc.
- We call upon the Legislature of United States Virgin Islands to adopt and pass a new law; The Youth Issue Counseling Act in the current legislative session.



# The Need for Uplifting things to do (Extra Curricular activities)

- Issue Statement:
- Lack of productive activities is a problem for teenagers because teens tend to do things that harm them in life opposing to acts that can uplift them. By teens being involved in extracurricular activities it will offer an opportunity that let students engage in academic curricular activities.. We believe that the United States Virgin Islands government must act to address this issue.
- Legislative Proposal:
- Adopt a new law for creating extracurricular activities that will interest the well being of adolescents. This law is to be ensured for the leisure time of adolescents that will promote academic success. In 2015, the Crime Prevention Act through extracurricular activities would have kept the youths of the U.S.V.I. busy within the community. By this bill being passed, it will decrease underage drinking, drug use and abuse, teenage pregnancy, and violence to a minimum. As teenagers are in need of productive things to do.
- We call upon the Legislature of United States Virgin Islands to adopt and pass a new law; The Youth Productive Act in the current legislative session.



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# The Need for Comfort

- Issue Statement:
- Abuse is a problem that affect teens. Physical, emotional and substance abuse has been a growing problem affecting teens in today's society. Abuse affects the teen's self-esteem, confidence, and performance in school, often times victims do not know and cannot cope with those issues at hand.
- Legislative Proposal:
- Abuse is an on-going issue due to the fact that victims do not voice themselves and seek help. Many factors can also prevent victims from seeking the desired help such as threats and lack of knowledge.
- Bill NO .31-0075 provides help to the females for the following issues: Teen Pregnancy, Substance Abuse, Gang Involvement, Physical Abuse and Education.
- Bill NO. 31-0110 provides help for young men facing the following issues: School Dropouts, Gang Involvement and a combination of others.
- However, these organization are located in one area. We propose that multiple buildings and organization to be established throughout the community in multiple neighborhoods. Substance abuse should receive counseling. Sexual abuse victims should also receive special care and attention: need to feel secure and comforted. There feelings should be able to be respected in a stereotypical free zone.
- We call upon the Legislature of United States Virgin Islands to adopt and pass a new law; The Youth Abuse Prevention Act in the current legislative session.

