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PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Public Service Launches 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Belmopan, November 25, 2024.

This morning, the Ministry of the Public Service marked the official start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence with an opening ceremony held at the roundabout entering Belmopan. The event brought together leaders, advocates, and community members in a unified effort to raise awareness, show solidarity, and reaffirm their commitment to ending gender-based violence in Belize.

The Mayor of Belmopan, Pablo Cawich, delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing this critical issue, while President of the National Women's Commission, Thea Garcia Ramirez, underscored the urgency of immediate and sustained efforts to prevent violence, support survivors, and challenge societal norms that perpetuate gender inequality.

A highlight of the ceremony was the symbolic raising of the orange flag, representing hope, resilience, and a unified commitment to a violence-free Belize. Attendees proudly wore orange, amplifying the campaign's theme: #NOEXCUSE. The ceremony also featured a musical performance by Ms. Kelsie Parham, whose song echoed the resilience and strength of survivors.

The event concluded with a solidarity march into the city, with participants united in advocating for justice, equality, and safety for all.

The 16 Days of Activism is a global campaign observed annually from November 25 to December 10. Over the next two weeks, events and activities will be held across the country, including educational workshops, community discussions, and creative initiatives aimed at fostering change.

The Ministry of the Public Service extends its gratitude to all participants, partners, and supporters for making this morning's opening ceremony a success. Together, we can break the silence, support survivors, and build a safer future for everyone.

Ends.