

YOUTH DECLARATION FOR ROAD SAFETY

Saint Lucia 2013

We, youth leaders representing the young people of Saint Lucia have undergone a road safety training and have adopted this Saint Lucia Youth Declaration; to create awareness and urge decision makers to take action to improve road safety for young people in Saint Lucia and in the Caribbean region at large.

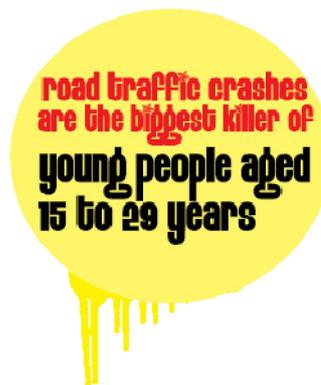
> Background:

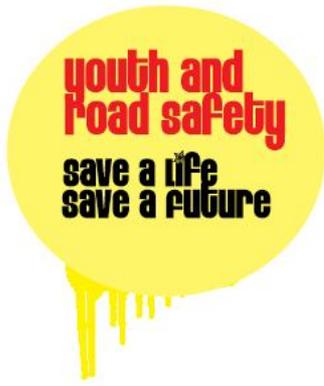
Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people (15-29 year olds) and kills more young people than HIV/AIDS or malaria. Road users most likely to be involved in a road crash are pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and passengers. Road crashes cost US \$65 billion in low and middle-income countries, exceeding the total amount received in development assistance. In Saint Lucia road crashes have a significant impact on the country's economy. Between 15 and 18 people, especially young males, die per 100.000 citizens and hundreds more are injured every year.

Against this background, we the youth of Saint Lucia and potential victims of road traffic crashes stand up for each other and ourselves. We deserve the right to safe roads and to travel safely to attend school, go to work and to visit friends and family.

> Our commitment:

We have respect for our lives and for the lives of our peers. We acknowledge that life is fragile and therefore have to do our utmost to live safely and also encourage our peers do so too. We realize that road safety has as much to do with a safe road environment and a safe vehicle as it does with safe road user behavior and access to quality post-crash trauma-care. We fully acknowledge the importance of active youth participation in road safety and call upon all Saint Lucian youth to serve as role models on the road and to promote road safety among their friends and families. Furthermore we encourage youth to unite and develop partnerships with all stakeholders and contribute to the development of youth road safety policies. It is our responsibility to strengthen our efforts, share knowledge and good practices among the youth of Saint Lucia and throughout the Caribbean region. We have an obligation to help each other!





> We recommend:

Governments – policy makers and the Board of Governors at the Caribbean Development Bank to acknowledge road traffic injuries as a major public health and developmental problem. We urge you to place road safety higher on political agendas because you have the power to impact the lives that are affected by your policy. We implore you to:

- subscribe to and support the international movement proclaimed by the United Nations; the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020;
- invest in safe and forgiving roads. Provide safe footpaths, cycle-ways and crossing points, on streets with lower speed limits, particularly around schools and take immediate action on crash hotspots;
- include a comprehensive road safety strategy with a good data collection system in place to measure its impact and allocate adequate funds towards its implementation;
- enact and enforce road traffic laws on the use of seatbelts and helmets, set speed-limits, and a zero tolerance for distracted driving, alcohol- and drug use in traffic and boost your investment of financial resources to make safer roads;
- acknowledge the importance of the involvement of youth in road safety by: investing to empower youth to become a greater force for positive change in road safety including consistent and quality driver education;
- invest in quality post-crash care for (young) road victims and their reinstatement in society;
- ensure safe and affordable public transportation options. Protect drivers and passengers with the use of maintained buses, which are not overcrowded and which are regulated to ensure safety.

