



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA
MINISTRY OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR, AND GENDER AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF GENDER AFFAIRS

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Press Release

Minister for Gender Affairs Champions Men's Health on International Men's Day

November 19, 2024-Today, Saint Lucia joins the global community in celebrating **International Men's Day (IMD)** under the 2024 theme, "*Men's Health Champions.*" This year, the focus is on recognizing the critical role men play in promoting healthier communities, not just for themselves but for their families and society at large.

Hon. Dr. Virginia Albert Poyotte, Minister for Gender Affairs, extends her warmest greetings to her male Cabinet colleagues, and the men and boys of Saint Lucia on this important occasion. In her message, the Minister underscores the importance of prioritizing men's health as a national and global imperative:

"This International Men's Day, we shine a spotlight on men as health champions—leaders and advocates for healthier lifestyles, workplaces, and communities. By taking care of their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, men can inspire others and build a foundation for a stronger Saint Lucia."

While specific data on the overall prevalence of cancer in Saint Lucian men is limited, 2018-2020 epidemiology data indicate that certain types of cancer significantly impact men in Saint Lucia. Prostate cancer, for instance, had an adjusted mortality rate of 46.1 per 100,000 men in 2019. Other prevalent types include lung and colorectal cancers, with mortality rates of 14.7 and 10.3 per 100,000 men, respectively. These rates underscore the significant health burden posed by cancer on Saint Lucian men.

Dr. Albert Poyotte reaffirmed her Ministry's commitment to tackling these challenges through targeted initiatives and strategic partnerships. As part of the IMD 2024 observance, the Department of Gender Affairs is Promoting open dialogue on mental health, encouraging men to speak openly about their challenges and access the support they need.

The Minister also called on all men to become proactive health advocates in their homes and communities:

"Health is wealth, and we must all play our part to ensure that men have the resources, education, and support to lead healthy, productive lives. To the men of Saint Lucia: we need you to be role models for healthy living, to your sons, your peers, and the nation. Together, we can build a culture where wellness is a priority for all."

The Gender Affairs Minister extended her gratitude to healthcare professionals, community leaders, and organizations that continue to support men's health initiatives. She encouraged citizens to participate in planned activities, celebrate the contributions of men, and recommit to fostering a supportive environment where men's health is prioritized.

Let us honor the men who champion health, resilience, and progress in every corner of Saint Lucia.

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