

# GUN VIOLENCE GRAPHIC DESIGN & THEME



**MS. KAVYA MIRWANI OF BRITISH WEST  
INDIES COLLEGIATE**

**2025 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY  
GRAPHIC DESIGN & THEME COMPETITION  
WINNER**



Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission



TCIHRC



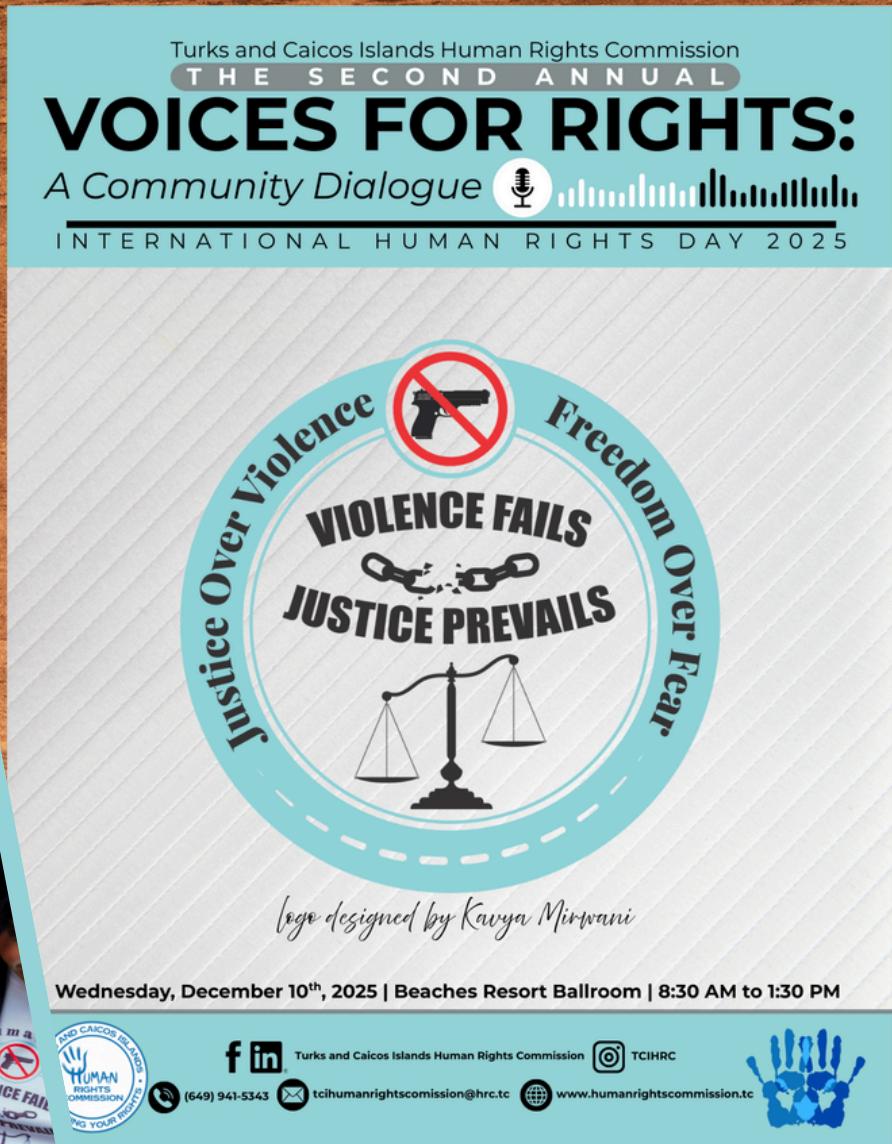
(649) 941-5343



tcihumanrightscomission@hrc.tc



[www.humanrightscommission.tc](http://www.humanrightscommission.tc)



*The graphic design and theme for 2025 Voices for Rights panel discussion was displayed on t-shirts, mugs, and the programs.*



# GUN VIOLENCE ESSAY



**MS. PARIS BASSETT OF THELMA  
LIGHTBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**2025 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY  
ESSAY COMPETITION WINNER**



Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission



TCIHRC



(649) 941-5343



tcihumanrightscomission@hrc.tc



[www.humanrightscommission.tc](http://www.humanrightscommission.tc)



# ESSAY

## GUN VIOLENCE— TCI

Gun violence is a serious problem that effects many people in our world today. Gun violence in the Turks and Caicos Islands is a significant and escalating issue, regularly driven by gang activity, international crime, and the continuous use of illegal firearms. The territory has faced a marked increase in homicides in recent years, prompting substantial local and international responses. Gun violence destroys families and puts our right to live at risk. Despite the challenges the TCI has faced, gun-related crimes have risen sharply, resulting in 48 homicides in 2024.

This year 24 killings have been recorded so far, which was heightened by our first mass shooting in July, leaving four dead and nine injured. Once known for its beautiful beaches and luxury hotels, the TCI's reputation has been affected by the recent rise in gun violence. I believe the following can be done to solve the effects of gun violence within the Turks and Caicos Islands:

- Proper education: Children should engage more in activities that help to stabilize their attitudes and behaviors, learn to work together in groups, and gain knowledge the greatest way possible.
- More job opportunities: Residents of the TCI, especially young men struggle to find jobs and may not be able to afford the day to day living which can result in them stealing and caught up in illegal activities which can both result in negative consequences and loss of life.
- Background checks: We can ensure that only safe, responsible people are allowed to Purchase guns. A background check looks into the individuals past to see if they have committed any previous violent crimes.



# ESSAY

- Mental health: A person's thoughts and emotions to make positive decisions affect how they handle stress and conflict. When someone is struggling mentally without support, they may have trouble thinking clearly or managing strong feelings. This is why it is important for communities to provide counseling, support, and safe places for people to talk about their problems.

We can positively move forward as a nation by teaching everyone about safety and kindness. When people learn to solve problems by communicating instead of violence our communities becomes safer.

GUN violence is an increasing issue worldwide, but if we work together we can create a future where everyone feels protected by the law and one another. Every small act of kindness and responsibility helps to make our communities stronger.

END

# GUN VOILENCE POEM



**MR. MARC SMITH**

**2025 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY  
POETRY COMPETITION WINNER**



Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission



TCIHRC



(649) 941-5343



tcihumanrightscomission@hrc.tc



[www.humanrightscommission.tc](http://www.humanrightscommission.tc)



# POEM

## **“We Bend, We Rise” by Marc Smith**

The waves wash our blinding white sand,  
but peace no longer walks our Beautiful by Nature land.

Gunfire hums out where the sea breeze sighs,  
the same salty wind cools our skin, yet mothers cry.

Through Blue Hills night, the echoes soar high,  
As shattered dreams and sorrows light up the sky.

Another Weekly News headline,  
Another name we know too well, that flatlined.  
Sons buried younger than dreams, laid before their time,  
their picture plastered on shirts, their youth a crime.  
and we speak in hush tones of “who gone next.”  
Our paradise now prays for protection, not joy.

This isn’t just violence; this is a human right denied.  
The right to live in peace, to walk without fear, not run or hide,  
To grow old beneath our own golden sunlight.  
To see our futures, not lose each one,  
How many voices must echo before justice is done?

But we are Turks and Caicos: salt, sea, survival, and soul,  
Resilient like the Caicos Pines, we sway, but remain whole.  
Our ancestors braved storms fiercer than this and prevailed,  
Through trials and tribulations, our strong island spirit will never be frail.  
We come from rhythm of Rake & Scrap, from rise and resistance,  
Our unity will forever be our power, resolute in our existence.



# POEM

Let us rebuild peace in every settlement and school.  
Let our youth find purpose beyond the barrel and what's cruel.  
Let leaders stand not for power, but for what's right.  
Let neighbours protect instead of turning away.  
Let unity be the weapon that shields us each day.

Let it be known that one day, Five Cays will echo laughter once more.  
Grand Turk will rest easy under the moonlit shore.  
Caicos Islands: North and to the South, peace will soar like an eagle.  
On the island of Providenciales, harmony will be ever so regal.  
Our turquoise sea will heal, the wounds will mend,  
And peace... I mean real peace, will call these islands home again.

END