

Jamaica participates in Historic Million Woman March

Jamaica will be participating in the first ever Million Woman March for Endometriosis (Worldwide Endo March). This event will take place in more than 53 cities around the world, including Kingston on March 13, 2014.

Organised by Country Captain Shauna Fuller Clarke, through the Shauna Fuller Clarke's B.A.S.E. Foundation – a non-profit established specifically to create better awareness and support to women with endometriosis, Patron Her Excellency the Most Honourable Lady Allen, will be walking on the day to support approximately 100,000 young girls and women in Jamaica who suffer from endometriosis. She will be joined by the EU Ambassador Paola Amadei and event ambassadors reigning Miss Jamaica World Gina Hargitay, reigning Miss Jamaica Festival Queen Krystal Tomlinson, 5-time Olympian Juliet Cuthbert, Online Brand Manager for the Gleaner Terri-Karelle Reid, and Singer/Songwriter Mario Evon. Fully endorsed by the Ministry of Health, sponsors and partners include the EU Delegation, Kingston Bookshop, Guardian Group, Jamaica Observer, Television Jamaica, Nationwide News Network, Lifespan, the Hugh Wynter Fertility Management Unit, Newstalk 93 and SunCity Radio. The march will involve women, men, families, schools, churches and corporate Jamaica converging at Devon House. At 11: 00 a.m. participants will walk from Devon House to Emancipation Park via Trafalgar Road and Knutsford Boulevard. A rally will follow at Emancipation Park where invited guests will speak on the importance of women's health, highlighting chronic pelvic diseases and participants will be feted by special guest artistes. At the rally, booth holders will also have the opportunity to engage participants about the products and services. A media launch will be held on Tuesday February 25th, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. at the Terra Nova All Suite Hotel, and all media professionals are invited. Though you often don't hear much about it in the news, endometriosis is common; an estimated 1 in 8 women and girls are affected and suffer from mild to severe pain as a result of the disease, that's over an astounding over 200 million women worldwide. Unfortunately, endometriosis often goes undiagnosed for 6-10 years from the initial symptoms because the pain may be mistaken for normal menstrual cramping, and it can mimic other diseases. As a result, preteens and teenagers have particularly high rates of misdiagnosis. You may be aware that endometriosis can damage the uterus, ovaries, and fallopian tubes. But did you know the following about endometriosis? – It is benign but has features similar to some cancers.

– It can spread, invade and cause damage to many organs beyond the reproductive system. If not detected and treated properly, endometriosis can be a serious, painful, and debilitating disease with severe medical consequences. That is why we are marching. Join us for this unprecedented event. Help us end the silence about endometriosis, so millions of women and girls can receive the proper diagnosis, care, and hopefully a cure. Register at www.basejamaica.com.