



Parliament of the Cayman Islands

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION NO. 13 of 2026-2027

Increasing Penalties for Offences Against Children and Strengthening Child Protection Laws

WHEREAS the Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities established in the Cayman Islands Constitution Order, 2009 and section 17 specifically addresses protection of children;

AND WHEREAS Part 7 of the Penal Code (2026 Revision) addresses offences relating to children and the penalties associated with each offence;

AND WHEREAS the Children (Amendment) Act, 2024, which was passed by Parliament on 16th December 2024, has not yet been brought into force;

AND WHEREAS the abuse in relation to a child is defined in section 2 of the Children Act (2012 Revision);

AND WHEREAS the protection of children from sexual abuse, exploitation, grooming, trafficking, and other forms of sexual harm is a fundamental responsibility of the Government and Parliament of the Cayman Islands;

AND WHEREAS sexual offences committed against children cause profound and often lifelong physical, emotional, and psychological harm;

AND WHEREAS Parliament is mandated to ensure that penalties for offences against children adequately reflect the gravity of such crimes, deter potential offenders, and protect the public;

AND WHEREAS advances in technology have created new opportunities for the online grooming and exploitation of children, requiring stronger legal safeguards and penalties;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the government considers:

1. Conducting a comprehensive review of all legislation relating to sexual offences against children, including relevant provisions of the Penal Code and associated legislation;
2. Increasing the maximum penalties available for sexual offences committed against a child; and
3. Establishing mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment for the most serious child sexual offences, while preserving judicial discretion in exceptional circumstances.

Moved By: Mr. Dwayne S. Seymour
Elected Member for Bodden Town East

Seconded By: Mr. Christopher S. Saunders
Elected Member for Bodden Town West

Received in the Office of the Clerk this 2nd day of September, 2026.

Passed by the Parliament of the Cayman Islands this 5th day of **October, 2026.**

Clerk of the Parliament