

## NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF BILLS

Notice is hereby given that the Criminal Code (Amendment) Bill 2023 which seeks to amend Chapter VIII of the Criminal Code, Chapter 171 of the Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Revised Edition, 2009 is published for comments. The Bill was presented to the Parliament by Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 and was put before a select committee of the House of Assembly.

- The Bill contains 19 clauses including the short title. Clauses 2 to 19 will amend the Act to increase the maximum penalties for offences set out in sections 125 to 144 of the Act. The lowest maximum penalty for offences contained in sections 125 to 144 will now be set at five years and the highest maximum penalty set at twenty years.
- The table of offences below is provided to guide the reader's understanding of the proposed amendments. The Table sets out under Column 1 the offences and the existing penalties; and under column 2 the new penalties proposed by the Bill.
- Members of the public are advised that all written comments on the Bill may be forwarded to the Clerk of the House of Assembly:

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### Table of Offences

	<b>COLUMN 1</b>		<b>COLUMN 2</b>
	<i>Offences by Section</i>	<i>Existing penalty</i>	<i>Proposed penalty (years)</i>
1.	125(1) Intercourse with a girl under fifteen	imprisonment for five years	15
2.	126(1) Intercourse with a defective	imprisonment for five years	15
3.	127(1) Indecent assault	(a) if on a child under the age of fifteen, to imprisonment for five	10

		years; and	
		(b) in any other case to imprisonment for two years	5
4.	128	Indecency with a child	imprisonment for one year
5.	129	Permitting girl under fifteen to use premises for intercourse	imprisonment—
		(a) for fourteen years if the girl is under the age of thirteen; and	15
		(b) for seven years if the girl is of or over the age of thirteen and under the age of fifteen	10
6.	130(1)	Causing or encouraging prostitution, etc., of a girl under fifteen	imprisonment for seven years
7.	131	Causing prostitution of a woman	imprisonment for fourteen years
8.	132(1)	Detention in a brothel	imprisonment for fourteen years
9.	133(1)	Man living on earnings of prostitution	imprisonment for fourteen years
10.	134	Woman exercising control over prostitute	imprisonment for fourteen years
11.	135	Living on earnings of male prostitute	to imprisonment for fourteen years
12.	136(1)	Keeping, etc., a brothel	imprisonment for fourteen years
13.	137.	Letting premises for use as a brothel	imprisonment for
		- seven years; and	10
		- subsequent offence	
		fourteen years	15
14.	138	Procurement of a woman by threats	to imprisonment for two years
15.	139	Procurement of a woman	to imprisonment for two
			7

	by false pretences	years	
16.	140(1) Administering drugs to facilitate intercourse	imprisonment for five years	10
17.	142 Incest by a man	imprisonment for fourteen years	20
18.	144 Incest by a woman	imprisonment for seven years	20