



Jamaican Association for Debating and Empowerment (JADE) Limited

57 University Crescent, Kingston 6, Jamaica W.I.
(876) 781-0630 | (876) 630-0333
info@myjade.org | www.myjade.org



JAMAICA TOPPLES ROLLINS COLLEGE IN GREAT DEBATE 2022



L – R: Germaine Barrett, Rushana Jarrett, Ronaldhino McLean, Jacey Henry & Natalia Burton

Jamaican highschool debaters, Ronaldhino McLean and Jacey Henry of Campion College and Titchfield High School respectively, ended as champions of the Rollins College Great Debate 2022, held at the institution's campus in Orlando, Florida. The seventeen-year-olds fought off a ferocious challenge from the more experienced and equipped Rollins College team of Enrique Alberti and Anna Haber. The resolution contested was "the US government should impose a federal law to protect the right to abortion." The presentations elicited sustained and energetic audience reactions with members voicing their support and objection to the slew of arguments, with deafening bouts of "Here! Here!" and "Shame!".



Jamaican Association for Debating and Empowerment (JADE) Limited

57 University Crescent, Kingston 6, Jamaica W.I.
(876) 781-0630 | (876) 630-0333
info@myjade.org | www.myjade.org



The tenacity, wit, and infectious charisma of the debaters were a sight to behold, as Rollins (proposition) and Jamaica (opposition) engaged in intense verbal exchanges.

Rollins opened with a thunderous presentation, from Enrique Alberti, arguing that adherence to principles of human rights, amongst other factors, demand that the federal government of the United States impose a nationwide law enabling women to perform abortions up to the second trimester. Jamaica's Ronalrhino McLean came next with an equally mesmerising response, laying out their justification against the proposition's (Rollins College) stance. Team Jamaica signalled their vehement opposition, arguing that, given the lack of sufficient consensus among the respective states of the US to meet the constitutional requirement for amendment to the US constitution, allowing for the codification of a law by congress, such a move would be grossly improper. They further argued that given the current political instability and frequent gridlocks within the United States, evidenced by the rise of radical disruptive groups, the actualization of a federalized abortion mandate would widen the political divide and intensify the polarization. This, they contended, would lead to a further weakening of the United States domestically and internationally.

The proposition's second speaker, Anna Haber, argued that a zygote does not yet have specialized cells and therefore is not deserving of the right to life. She stated further that this right should only be afforded to humans who possess a brain and consciousness. Closing out the substantive case for Jamaica, Jacey Henry launched a series of strong rebuttals aimed at the Rollins team. She then went on to expound on the separation of powers between the federal government and the states as is envisioned by the 10th Amendment of the US constitution. She also provided additional evidence and analysis of the impacts of the destabilization on America, and outlined that this destruction is exacerbated through the proposition's policy of federally mandated abortion support.

Both Jamaican debaters received consistent high level training from the Jamaican Association for Debating and Empowerment (JADE) Limited through the organization's Secondary-Level Gold Club. The Gold Club was established in 2020, and currently boasts some of the country's best and brightest high school debaters. These students routinely represent Jamaica in international debate tournaments and have made significant progress in putting the country on the map as it relates to global debating.

The Rollins College Great Debate 2022 was a part of a larger US-Jamaica debate and cultural exchange that commenced with a visit to the University of West Georgia on September 20, 2022. The Jamaican delegation comprised two debate administrators, Germaine Barrett and Rushana Jarret, with Natalia Burton, student at the University of the



Jamaican Association for Debating and Empowerment (JADE) Limited

57 University Crescent, Kingston 6, Jamaica W.I.
(876) 781-0630 | (876) 630-0333
info@myjade.org | www.myjade.org



Commonwealth Caribbean, joining Jacey Henry and Ronaldhino McLean as the three debaters. This exchange featured several exciting debates on issues such as the environmental harms and economic benefits of cruise ship tourism, online anonymity, pre-trial detention, and standardized testing in schools, to name a few.

This exchange was facilitated by the Jamaican Association of Debating and Empowerment (JADE) Limited, with the kind support of the JN Foundation. JADE is the national umbrella organisation for the advancement of debating, public speaking and critical thinking in Jamaica. This Non-Governmental Organization was formed in 2014, and has consistently created opportunities for youth and societal advancement through various programmes and projects, all aimed at enhancing critical thinking and effective communication.