



Ministerial Statement

By

Senator, The Hon. Kim Wilkerson, JP

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice

2025 Corrections Week

20th May 2025

Madame President,

I rise today to recognise National Corrections Officers Week 2025 and to pay tribute to the hardworking men and women of the Department of Corrections, whose dedication and service are essential to the safe and fair administration of justice in Bermuda.

Madame President,

Each year, during the first full week of May, we join jurisdictions across the globe in honouring the essential work of corrections professionals. This international observance began on Sunday, 4 May, and was officially marked in Bermuda with a church service at Elliott Primary School. Officers, staff, and their families gathered to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who serve behind the walls of our correctional facilities.

The opening ceremony was followed by a family fun day, recognising the importance of community and the often unseen toll of the job on both officers and their loved ones.

Madame President,

On Monday morning, Department staff gathered at East Broadway roundabout, greeting morning commuters in a visible demonstration of pride and solidarity. That same day, a formal proclamation was read on the steps of City Hall, officially launching a week of celebration.

On Wednesday, I had the honour of attending a tea for retired corrections staff at the Co-Ed Facility in St. George's. It was a privilege to thank these individuals personally for their years of service and to hear firsthand their reflections on the profession's evolution. Their dedication laid the groundwork for the reforms and improvements we continue to pursue.

Madame President,

Corrections Officers and staff are fundamental to the safe and fair functioning of our criminal justice system. They carry out a demanding and often invisible duty with diligence and professionalism. This week is not merely ceremonial—it is a deliberate reaffirmation of our commitment to improving their work environment and ensuring their needs are heard, understood, and acted upon.

Madame President,

This year's activities included a broad mix of community engagement and internal wellness events. On Tuesday, officers visited schools and early childhood centres—including Francis Patton, Lyceum Preschool, Elliott Primary, Happy Valley Day Care, and Lagoon Park Preschool—to read to young students and foster connection with our wider community.

On Thursday, in honour of Mother's Day, female residents at Matilda Smith Home, Lefroy House, and Sylvia Richardson Home were presented with carnations by our officers—a small but heartfelt gesture of respect and community spirit.

On Friday, staff across all correctional facilities participated in a wellness-focused day to promote physical and mental well-being. The week's celebrations will formally conclude later this month with a Staff Appreciation Dinner.

Madame President,

Last week, the Ministry of Justice also met with the Prison Officers Association to discuss matters related to officer wellness and mental health. This dialogue is part of our broader strategy to ensure that the voices of those on the frontline are not only heard but that their needs are addressed. Without corrections officers we simply do not have corrections facilities and their voices must be taken into account as we shape the future of our corrections system. Together, we are working to modernise operations, improve conditions for both officers and inmates, and bolster support mechanisms for all staff.

Madame President,

In a time of reflection and reform within the Department, these events serve as a reminder of the vital role played by corrections professionals. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to every officer, staff member, and retiree of the Department of Corrections for their continued service, professionalism, and care.

Let us all take the time to recognise and appreciate their dedication—not just this week, but throughout the year.

Thank you, Madame President.