



## **Olivia Grange**

The Honourable Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport of Jamaica

Ms Olivia Grange has had a long, productive and inspiring career as a cultural activist, working at the grass roots level in developing and managing talent. She is an artist, director, event planner and an ardent supporter and promoter of Jamaica's creative and cultural industries. She is also a pioneer contributor to the development of the Reggae and Dancehall Music Industry in Jamaica, Canada and the United States. As a founding member and Director of the Jamaica Association of Composers, Artistes and Producers (JACAP), Minister Grange has been instrumental in introducing policy initiatives in Jamaica to support the development of the cultural industries and advance "brand Jamaica" in the international market.

She has been a member of the Jamaican Parliament since 1997 and was appointed Minister of Youth, Sports & Culture, with responsibility for Women and Gender Affairs, Entertainment, Community Development and Special Projects in 2007. In June 2009, she had the distinction of being appointed as the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) first Champion for Culture, with responsibility for advocating, among other things, capacity building for cultural industries, cultural institutions and individual artists.

Ms Grange is a graduate of Ryerson University in Canada, where she got her first taste of politics and co-founded Contrast, Canada's first black community newspaper. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer for Entertainment Promotions Company with a talent and flair for film, television and music production. She has managed a number of reggae acts such as Carlene Davis and Leroy Sibbles as well as platinum selling artists Shabba Rank, Lady Patra and Damian Marley (Junior Gong). She has also assisted in the development of the Jamaican Copyright Act (1995).

She also has a long career as a community activist / politician committed to the promotion of youth and women's affairs with a particular focus on job creation and better health care.