



The latest unrest in Haiti has given some of our team members concern. It is common to have concerns about traveling overseas.

The US State Department has placed Haiti on a “Level 4: Do Not Travel” list. However, The US State Department has not increased their travel advisory level for the Dominican Republic in response to the Haiti situation; the Dominican Republic remains on a “Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution” list concerning travel. Further, the Dominican government has increased its presence and police activity in the tourist areas in response.

GO Ministries and its staff are committed to the safety of those involved in the trips we host as well as the ministries we are involved with. We are constantly working with our local leaders, who have extensive knowledge of Dominican culture, to strive to understand what places are particularly unsafe at any time. While we have itineraries for our teams set several weeks in advance, we may have to make last minute changes if it appears that a certain community may be unsafe.

Much of the time, when tourists find themselves in unsafe situations, it is because of a lack of caution or awareness of the dangers that surround them when they wander away from a secure resort or tourist location. As such, for the safety of those participating as part of a mission trip, GO Ministries requires those participating on mission trips to comply with the guidelines and agenda we have set out. These measures take into consideration the inherent dangers of being in a foreign country and unknown areas such as:

- Being aware of your surroundings,
- Only going into areas that your team facilitator has approved and directed,
- Staying with the group when possible, but never wandering alone,
- Not wearing expensive jewelry or showing off other valuable items,
- Being aware of the climate and remoteness of the area you are working in, and
- Only performing tasks asked of you with the tools provided.

GO Ministries endeavors to keep everyone safe on the trips we plan. However, serving on a mission trip may be inherently dangerous depending on the area and type of trip you are participating on.

If you have specific questions regarding issues that you may encounter while on one of our mission trips, you may direct those questions to us through your team leader.