



Advocacy for
GIRLS' RIGHTS

**Equal Rights and Opportunities for
Girls and Young Women**

**ASHANTI REGIONAL LAUNCHING OF THE GIRLS ADVOCACY PROGRAMME:
EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS &
YOUNG WOMEN IN GHANA**

• GNAT HALL, KUMASI • 8TH NOVEMBER 2016



PROGRAM OUTLINE

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE/ACTOR
9:00am-9:30 am	Arrival, registration seating, documentary show	Debora Asamoah Antwi / Martin Opoku
9:30am- 9:35am	Opening prayer	Mrs. Phylis Owusu (Headmistress)
9:35am-9:45am	Introduction of Guests and Chairperson	Debora Asamoah Antwi
9:45am-9:55am	Chairperson's Response	Mrs. Mercy Larbi (Regional Director of CHRAJ)
9:50am-10:00am	Welcome Statement	Dr. George Oppong (Director, DCI-Ghana)
Statements/Solidarity Messages		
10:00am-10: 10am	Men's Group Leader	Mr. Stephen Amoah (Atonsus Men's Group.)
10:10am-10:20am	Girls' Group Leader	Elizabeth Dwamena (CRC President – Atonsus)
10:20am-10:30am	Traditional Authority	Nana Afia Fobi (Ahinsan Queen mother)
10:30- 10:40am	Traditional Authority	Baffour Aasre Owusu Amankwah Tia VI (Bantama Chief)
10:40am-10:50am	Religious Leader	Rev. Dr. Kofi Amfo Akonor (Ashanti Reg. Christian Council)
10:50am-11:00am	Religious Leader	Sheik Ismael Saeed (Ashanti Regional Chief Imam, Alhasuna)

PROGRAM OUTLINE

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY /ACTOR
11:00am-11:10am	Regional Child Protection Committee	Rev. Stephen Darfour, Regional Director of Dept. of Children
11:10am-11:20am	CSO Leader	Dr. Mrs. Beatrice Wiafe Addai (Director, Breast Care Int.)
11:20am-11:30	Parliamentarian	Hon. Ms. Elizabeth Agyemang Oforikrom MP, Member of Health Comm. & Women Caucus in Parliament
11:30am-11:50am	Drama	Buokrom M/A JHS
11:50am-12:00pm	Overview of the Girls Advocacy Project	Nana Akomanyin Essandoh V, Chief of Gomoa-Odumase
12:00pm-12:10pm	Jingle Interlude	Emmanuel Kumi
12:10pm-12:30pm	Key note address and Official launch of Girls Advocacy Alliance Project	Hon. Alexander Ackon (Ashanti Regional Minister)
12:30pm-12:40pm	Chairperson's closing remarks	Mrs. Mercy Larbi (Regional Director of CHRAJ)
12:40pm-12:45pm	Vote of thanks	Martin Opoku Sekyere
12:45pm-12:50pm	Closing prayer	Ahmed Mohammed (Chief Imam, LAC member Aboabo)
12:50pm-1:00pm	Photography	Kumi Emmanuel
1:00pm-1:30pm	Press interviews	Nana Akomanyin Essandoh V, Chief of Gomoa-Odumase (Angel FM)
1:40pm-2:00pm	Refreshment & Departure	MC: Oduyefo Nana Asare (Otec Fm)

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Themes

- Child marriage;
- Sexual violence and abuse;
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; and
- Access to TVET and decent employment opportunities for girls and young women.

Situation of Gender-Based Violence

- Adolescents and young women in particular experience abuses in the form of violence, rape and sexual assault and sexual exploitation, at home, at school and in the workplace.
- Marriage under 18 years has increased particularly high in Western, Central Regions and the 3 Northern regions.

Barriers/Root Causes

- Persistence of adverse cultural norms, practices and traditions
- Patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society
- Girls and women themselves often lack awareness of their rights and legal literacy (how to claim their rights)
- Very popular cultural belief that women are 'home makers'. Thus, the socialization of females is very different from that of males
- While boys are socialized to fit into the production system, girls are socialized into homemaker roles
- This type of socialization lowers the esteem of girls as compared to their male counterparts, and result in low self-esteem into adulthood

Legislation, policies and the lack of adequate implementation

- Government has signed up to numerous international human rights treaties, including CEDAW, UNCRC, ACRWC and the relevant ILO conventions
- Current institutional and policy framework on elimination of gender based violence and promoting gender equality:
- Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP);
- Ministry of Tourism;
- Children's Act 1998 (Act 560);
- Human Trafficking Act 2005 (Act 694);

- Domestic Violence Act 2007 (Act 732) and the National Policy and Plan of Action (2009-2019);
- Child and Family Welfare Policy (2014);
- National Gender Policy (2015);
- Justice for Children Policy,
- Tourism Act
- Implementation challenges in real safeguarding of girls and young women:
- MoGCSP lack of resources - less than 1% of the national budget
- Lacks capacity - a clear mandate for inter-ministerial coordination
- Lack of data
- Inconsistency between formal and customary laws. E.g. Though the Children's Act (Act 560) and other national legislation prohibits child marriages, there is a loop hole;
 - ▶ The Islamic law CAP 129 permits marriage for girls under 18 years when she is menstruating and/or when reaching age 16, the age of sexual consent so effectively, CM is permitted by Islamic laws in Ghana. Also, the Marriages Act 1884-1985, the Criminal Offences act (1960), Act 29
 - ▶ Access to justice for abused children is impeded as they seldom report abuses
 - ▶ No targeted mechanisms to address their peculiar needs by the state
 - ▶ Child protection system is too weak to prevent, report and handle cases
 - ▶ E.g. Teachers' Code of Conduct to discourage the use of corporal punishment in schools has not been successful due to the absence of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms
 - ▶ Weak enforcement of child protection laws, especially on CSEC

Expected Impact

- Girls and young women are free from all forms of gender based violence
- Girls and young women are economically empowered

Strategic Goals

- Increased public support for EE and the elimination of GBV
- Increased influence of CSOs and networks (in particular GYW organizations) on government and corporate/private sector actors for EE and elimination of GBV
- Multinational, Dutch and national companies increasingly demonstrate a strong commitment for EE and the elimination of GBV

- Governments and regional intergovernmental bodies enforce public policies and programmes for EE and elimination of GBV

Priority Outcomes for 2016-2017

- Mapping and documentation on Child marriage and Sexual Violence and Abuse against children
- Sensitizing and empowering Girls and Young Women on issues of child marriage and Sexual Violence and Abuse
- Engagement of boys and men to be ambassadors of change of negative practices related to child marriage and sexual violence and abuse
- Engaging Key Leaders (Traditional and Religious leaders) and other stakeholders to sensitize them on issues of GBV and abuse, and child marriage
- Building alliance with CSOs
- Strengthening of Inter-ministerial coordination to dialogue on issues on child marriage and sexual violence and abuse to enhance implementation of child protection legislations

Strategies

- Mapping, Data Collection & Documentation
- Sensitization and capacity building/support
- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Networking and linkages

Funders

- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Technical Assistant and Partner

- Defence for Children International/ECPAT – Netherlands

Program Partners

- Defence for Children Int., Ghana
- Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child
- Plan Ghana

For further information contact:

Defence for Children International, Ghana Section

P. O. Box FN 821, Kumasi, Ghana

Tel: 233 3220 48525 | 233 208187127

Email: dcighana@yahoo.com

Website: dci-ghana.org

This leaflet has been made possible with the financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands through Defence for Children - ECPAT The Netherlands.
