



20 Years of Child Protection

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN, GHANA**

**Theme: Protecting the rights of boys and girls**  
**1996-2016**



## **DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INT.** **GHANA SECTION (DCI – GHANA)**

**Brief History:** Formed by a group of people concerned with the deplorable situation of children in Ghana as part of the global movement for children's rights headquartered in Geneva with sections in some 45 countries worldwide.

**Aims/Objectives:** To promote and protect children's rights in Ghana as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Ghanaian laws on children and other International Instruments.

**Membership:** Open to everyone interested in Children's Rights irrespective of Sex, Age, Religion or Tribe. The general membership constitutes the General Assembly which is the supreme body of the organisation.

**Executive Committee (EC):** A Committee of 8 makes policies and decisions for the organisation.

**General Assembly:** The overall membership approves decisions and recommendations by the EC, discusses and review programmes/projects.

**Secretariat:** Headed by an Executive Secretary assisted by Programmes Manager Social worker, field workers and Volunteers, implements programmes and projects approved by the EC and General Assembly.

**Retainee Lawyer:** Provides legal advice and aids to clients, and represents Children in conflict/contact with the law.

**Operational Offices:** Headquarters in Kumasi with branch offices in Obuasi and Accra, Ghana.

**Strategies/Activities:** Socio-legal Defence Centre called “Child Rights Centre” around which all activities centre, for the promotion and protection of children's rights in Ghana. It provides child-friendly services including mobilisation, outreach, information, training, education, investigation, mediation, counselling, Legal aids, referrals, advocacy, follow ups, networking/collaboration, monitoring and assessment on children's rights.

**Experience:** Rights-based innovative approaches in child rights promotion and protection. Themes include worst forms of child labour, street children, child trafficking, domestic violence and juvenile justice.

**Collaborators:** Commission on human rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of Police, Department of Children, Department of Gender, National Commission on Civic Education, Department of Labour, Legal Aid Board, Prisons, Ghana Education Service, Children and NGOs. A member of Defence for Children International global movement, and Child Rights Information Network.

**Sources of Funds:** Local and International Fund Raising. Sponsors have included DCI–Geneva, DCI–Netherlands, SKN of Holland, UN Commission on Human Rights, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Agir Ensemble and Fondation Pour Les Droits Humains.

**Projects implemented and collaborated on:**

- Socio-legal Assistance project for Illegally Adopted Children and Child Domestic Labourers in Accra, Kumasi, and Akrokerri from 2000–2001.
- Promotion of Children's Rights in custody in Ghana from 2002–2004.
- Child participation in awareness-raising on children's rights and child labour in Kumasi in 2003
- Sustainable rehabilitation of street youth in Kumasi, Ghana from 2003–2005.
- Elimination of child domestic servitude in Kumasi, Ghana from 2001–2003.
- Progressive elimination of child labour in stone quarrying and illegal mining in Ablekuma and Obuasi respectively from 2004–2006
- HIV mitigation for People Living with HIV/AIDS, their families and communities in Kumasi from 2003–2006.
- Combating child trafficking through awareness raising tools in Kumasi, Ghana from 2007–2008
- Follow up on General Comment No. 10 on Children's Rights in Juvenile Justice in 2008 to 2009



- Girl Power: Promoting Equal Rights and Opportunities for Girls and Young Women in Kumasi Metropolis and Obuasi Municipality in Ghana from 2011 to 2015
- Combating child trafficking in the Kumasi Metropolis since 2013 to date.
- Reducing Violence against Children in the Kumasi Metropolis and Asokore Mampong Municipality in Ghana
- Advocating for Girls Rights: Equal rights and opportunities for girls and young women in Ghana from 2016 to 2021

#### **SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Contributed to the first NGO complementary report on the Ghana report to the UN committee on the Rights of the Child in 1996. Most of the issues raised were included in the concluding observations by the UN Committee.
- Founder council member of the Ghana NGO coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) in 1996. GNCRC is now a giant umbrella organisation of child rights organisations in Ghana.
- Operating socio-legal centres in Kumasi and Obuasi for the promotion and protection of the rights of abused children in Ghana since 1998 to date. Some 8,108 children, 31 communities, 50,000 households, 257



community leaders, 12 government institutions, 46 government officials, 44 CSOs and 3 child protection networks were reached with various services in the past 5 years.

- Established the Child Protection Network of CSOs and government partners in Ashanti Region in Ghana. The network has been adopted by the Department of Children for the Ashanti Regional Child Protection Committee for advocacy on child protection issues in the region.
- Contributed to the development of the Child and Family Welfare Policy 'fit for children in Ghana' launched in 2015 and helping to disseminate the policy and advocating for its implementation.
- Produced a documentary on child protection issues in the Kumasi metropolis in 2015 being used for public sensitization and advocacy.
- Published a study report on violence against children in Kumasi metropolis and Asokore Mampong Municipality in 2016.
- Published report on children's views on child protection in 2016 for inclusion in awareness raising messages and advocacy activities.

## **THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE DCI-GHANA IS 20!**

It is with great pleasure to announce that DCI-Ghana is 20 years old. Today, 5th September 2016 is 20 years since Defence for Children International was formed in Ghana. I take this occasion to thank everyone for being an important part of this milestone.

What started as a small Non-Governmental Organisation has grown to be among the key Child Rights Organisations in Ghana with ten committed staff and offices in Kumasi, Obuasi and Accra. The organisation has countless modest achievements in child rights promotion and protection in the country some of which are listed in the brochure in circulation. Detailed activities and achievements of the organisation can also be found at our website. Currently, DCI-Ghana is at the forefront of CSO's collaboration with the government partners in Ashanti region of Ghana in child protection. Together with Plan Ghana and Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child, DCI-Ghana has also been promoting and advocating for girls' rights in Ghana since 2011.

We are grateful to all our stakeholders – girls, boys, community leaders, volunteers, CSOs and government partners for their invaluable contribution to the accomplishments of the organisation. Special mention is made of the Departments of Children, Gender and Social Welfare; Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service, Ghana Education Service, National Commission on Civic Education and the Social Services Sub-Committee of the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly in Ashanti Region as well as our sister Defence for Children International sections in Netherlands, Sierra Leone and Liberia for their continued collaboration and support.

Our celebration fills us with hope and perseverance. We take inspiration from Philipians 3:13 in the Holy Bible and says that

**“we do forget about the past and  
strive to achieve what is ahead of us”.**

We have a renewed strength and look forward to the next years as our opportunity to continue to make mark in the advocacy for children's rights in

Ghana. Thanks to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Defence for Children International-ECPAT Netherlands, the Advocacy for Girls' Rights Project: Equal Rights and Opportunities for Girls and Young Women in Ghana sets us off on this journey of child rights protection space.

Outline of activities for the celebration include, Launching of the Advocacy for Girls' Rights Project, Community Durbars, Dinner Seminar for the Child Protection Committee in Ashanti region of Ghana, inauguration of new Executive Committee for DCI-Ghana and the opening of the Child Rights Advocacy Office in Accra.

We cannot thank you enough for your contribution to DCI-Ghana. On this memorable occasion, I gladly invite all and sundry to join the staff, members and volunteers of DCI-Ghana to celebrate hard work, determination and success of the organisation.

**Dr. George Oppong Appiagyei Among**

Executive Secretary, DCI-Ghana

Kumasi, 5th September 2016

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Date of Formation:	5th September 1996
Date of Registration:	16th May 2014
Headquarters:	Kumasi, Ghana.
Business Address:	P.O. Box 812, F.N.T. Kumasi, Ghana
Physical Address:	Plot 56 Block A, Atonsu-Agogo, Kumasi, Ghana
Bankers:	Zenith Bank (GH) Ltd
Registration No.:	CG104092014
Social Welfare No.:	D.S.W./1610
Auditors:	E.O Lamptey & Co.



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[www.dci-ghana.org](http://www.dci-ghana.org)