

FACTSHEET – UPR 2017, GHANA

3rd CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS UPR CYCLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

Ghana received and accepted eleven (11) recommendations to address trafficking in persons during the second cycle UPR in 2012. Most of the recommendations encouraged Ghana to take all necessary measures for the prevention and combating of internal and cross-border trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labour.

Ghana committed to step up efforts to protect victims and ensure their access to medical, social, legal and counselling services. Ghana further committed to provide favourable conditions for the victims to make complaints as well as conduct investigations and punish perpetrators.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Ghana's legal foundation, the 1992 Constitution, promotes the protection of the human rights of the citizenry, including women and children. To address human trafficking / trafficking in persons, Ghana enacted the Human Trafficking Act 2005, (Act 694) with a legislative instrument adopted by Parliament in 2015.

In 2007, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) set up an Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) within the Ghana Police Service to rescue victims, arrest, and prosecute perpetrators. A Human Trafficking Management Board to oversee implementation of the Human Trafficking Act 2005, (Act 694) is supported by a Secretariat hosted by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGSCP).

With support and input from stakeholders, the government drafted a National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana, 2017-2021 which is still pending final approval. The Plan covers four objectives aligned with the 4Ps paradigm; Prosecution, Protection, Prevention, and Partnership.

In addition, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire have signed a cooperation agreement on the fight against cross-border child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor. Ghana is implementing the Child Protection Compact Agreement to combat child trafficking and a number of children have been rescued.

In 2014, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service (AHTU) in collaboration with some NGOs rescued 33 trafficked and at-risk children while 41 child slaves were rescued in the Lake Volta area in 2015. Twenty one (21) minors who had been trafficked to South Africa were recently rescued by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the AHTU.

However, there are still no shelters and other resources to cater for rescued victims and though Ghana has nine regional Anti-Human Trafficking Units, very few cases of trafficking are prosecuted each year. There are currently close to 190,000 suspected cases that have not been investigated and prosecuted.

CHALLENGES

1. Ghana remains a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.



IMPACT

1. Although efforts are being made to address Human Trafficking/Trafficking in Persons, there are still high numbers of cases of trafficking in Ghana. More women are being trafficked to the Middle East, other West African countries and Europe for forced labor and commercial sex work.

Very little sensitization has been done to prevent young women from being trafficked especially to the Middle East and young women continue to be enticed with false promises of high paying jobs by local agents who recruit them for their counterparts in the Middle East.



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The 2017 Trafficking in Person Report identified that the Government of Ghana does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Ghana has remained on Tier 2 Watch List for the third consecutive year.

2. Inadequate funding for critical state actors



2. State actors with the mandate to oversee the implementation of the Human Trafficking Act 2005, (Act 694) continue to be under resourced and do not have the right tools and equipment to carry out their responsibilities as set out in the law.

The State’s failure to investigate and prosecute the suspected 190,000 cases of trafficking in Ghana has been attributed to inadequate funding for the AHTU, DOVVSU and Social Welfare.

3. Lack of shelters and inadequate resources to cater for rescued victim

3. There is no operational state shelter to assist the rehabilitation of rescued victims and programs for re-integrating victims back into society are largely undertaken by CSOs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Commit funding to the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana, 2017-2021, publish, and increase awareness of the Plan.
2. Construct and furnish shelters for rescued trafficked persons
3. Implement recommendation 125.52 which requires Ghana to Fully implement the Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System and link these efforts with programmes to promote remediation and ensure adequate resources for the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit for the pursuit of prosecutions (United States of America).
4. Increase the number of traffickers held accountable for their crimes by providing sufficient support for police and immigration service investigators and prosecutors, and state prosecutors to effectively investigate and prosecute sex trafficking and labor trafficking offenses using the anti-trafficking act.
5. Commit to the realization of recommendation 125.47 which encourages Ghana to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, by protecting victims and ensuring their access to medical, social, legal and counselling services; by ensuring adequate conditions for the victims to make complaints; and by conducting investigations and punishing those responsible
6. Ratify the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC), and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC)

ABOUT THIS FACT SHEET

REFERENCES:

This fact sheet is presented under the auspices of the Ghana Human Rights NGOs Forum by the following organizations:

Women’s Initiative for Self-Empowerment/ Legal Resources Centre/Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Africa/Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability/ Restoration of Hope Foundation/ POS Foundation/ KASA Initiative Ghana/ Amnesty International/ IUCN Ghana/ Gender Violence Survivors Support Network Ghana/ Network of Women in Growth

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