



Global Monitoring

status of action against commercial
sexual exploitation of children

GHANA



2nd EDITION

This publication has been produced with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), The Oak Foundation and Irish Aid. The views expressed herein are solely those of ECPAT International. The support from these donors does not constitute endorsement of the opinions expressed.

This publication was compiled by Sephra Smith with the assistance of Francois-Xavier Souchet, Anjan Bose, Jade Menson and Rebecca Rittenhouse. This report was also developed in collaboration with the Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC).



Extracts from this publication may be reproduced only with permission from ECPAT International and acknowledgment of the source and ECPAT International. A copy of the relevant publication using extracted material must be provided to ECPAT.

Copyright © 2014, ECPAT International (2nd Edition)

Design by: Manida Naebklang

ECPAT International
(End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes)
328/1 Phayathai Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
www.ecpat.net
info@ecpat.net

CONTENTS

Glossary	4
Foreword	6
Methodology	8
Ghana: Introduction	10
National Plan of Action	18
Coordination and Cooperation	22
Prevention	27
Protection	33
Child and Youth Participation	45
Priority Actions Required	48
Annex	50
Endnotes	60

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

- **ACRWC:** African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **AHDP:** Adolescent Health Development Program
- **AHTU:** Anti-Human Trafficking Units
- **AIDS:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- **CCI:** Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative
- **CHRAJ:** Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice
- **CLMS:** Child Labour Monitoring System
- **CLU:** Child and Labour Unit
- **CPT:** Child Protection Team
- **CRC:** Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **CSEC:** The commercial sexual exploitation of children consists of criminal practices that demean, degrade and threaten the physical and psychosocial integrity of children. There are three primary and interrelated forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children: prostitution, pornography and trafficking for sexual purposes. Commercial sexual exploitation of children comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or in kind to the child or a third person or persons.
- **CSO:** Civil Society Organisation
- **DOC:** Department of Children
- **DOVVSU:** Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
- **DSW:** Department of Social Welfare
- **ECOWAS:** Economic Community of West African States
- **ECPAT:** End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
- **EOCO:** Economic and Organised Crime Office
- **ESP:** Education Strategy Plan
- **GIS:** Ghana Immigration Service
- **GNCC:** Ghana National Commission on Children
- **GNCRC:** Ghanaian NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child
- **GPS:** Ghana Police Service
- **GSGDA:** Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
- **HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- **HTMB:** Human Trafficking Management Board
- **ICT:** Information and Communications Technology
- **ICT4AD:** Information and Communications Technology for Accelerated Development
- **ILO:** International Labour Organization
- **ING:** International Needs Ghana
- **INHOPE:** International Association of Internet Hotlines

- **IOM:** International Organization for Migration
- **IPEC:** International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
- **IRAD:** Information Research and Advocacy Division
- **IWF:** Internet Watch Foundation
- **LEAP:** Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
- **MDAs:** Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- **MESW:** Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare
- **MMDAs:** Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
- **MoU:** Memorandum of Understanding
- **MOWAC:** Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
- **NAPTIP:** [Nigeria] National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters
- **NGO:** Non-Governmental Organisation
- **NPA:** National Plan of Action
- **OPSC:** Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- **OVC:** Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- **TIP:** Trafficking in Persons
- **UN:** United Nations
- **UNESCO:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- **UNFPA:** United Nations Population Fund
- **UNICEF:** United Nations Children's Fund
- **UPR:** Universal Periodic Review
- **VAC:** Violence Against Children
- **WFCL:** Worst Forms of Child Labour
- **WHO:** World Health Organization

FOREWORD

At the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) held in Stockholm in 1996, governments from around the world first gave recognition that commercial sexual exploitation of children is a global crime of epidemic proportions. The Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action - a strategic framework for actions against CSEC - was adopted by the 122 governments participating in the Congress in order to guide a systematic global response against the sexual exploitation of children.

The outcome document of the First World Congress was soon followed by the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC). Adopted in 2000 as a legally binding treaty of the United Nations, the Optional Protocol (and other relevant international treaties) reaffirms the urgent need for political will and concrete actions from governments to ensure that children in their countries can live free from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

In 2001, high-level delegates from 136 governments, local and international non-governmental organisations and children and young people, convened in Yokohama for the Second World Congress to review the achievements and challenges in combating CSEC as well as to identify new priorities needed to bolster and enhance action. Seven years later, the World Congress III in Rio de Janeiro provided the largest global platform to date for delegates from 137 governments to renew their state's commitment to protect

children from commercial sexual exploitation. The Rio Declaration and Call for Action strongly urges all stakeholders, including the private sector, to continue their due diligence in taking the necessary follow-up actions to eliminate CSEC. The Rio Call for Action emphasises the obligation to uphold the rights of the child as identified in existing international human rights and child rights instruments. It also offers a framework for the accountability of all duty-bearers of children's rights, particularly governments, in the fight against sexual exploitation of children and re-affirms the continuing relevance of the Agenda for Action, first agreed to in Stockholm twelve years earlier.

This report, as part of the Second Edition series of country monitoring reports produced by ECPAT International, provides a comprehensive baseline of information on all manifestations of CSEC in the country and an assessment of achievements and challenges in implementing counteractions (including the participation of children and young people themselves) to eliminate CSEC. The report, which follows the framework of the Stockholm Agenda for Action, serves as an instrument for the sharing of information and experiences among various stakeholders and duty-bearers within the country as well as internationally. It also suggests concrete priority actions urgently needed to proactively advance the national fight against CSEC. Furthermore, this report enables the monitoring of the implementation of international instruments on child rights, related to commercial sexual exploitation that have been ratified by the concerned state.

The production of this report is achieved through extensive collaboration within the ECPAT global network. ECPAT International would like to thank ECPAT member groups in the countries assessed, local and global experts and other organisations for their invaluable inputs to this report. ECPAT International would also like to express its profound appreciation of all the hard work of its dedicated team from

within the Secretariat and for the generous support of its donors that helped make the finalisation of this report possible. The contributions of all involved have greatly strengthened the monitoring of the Agenda for Action and the heightened collaboration needed to fight the new and evolving complex manifestations of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

METHODOLOGY

The Agenda for Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children provides a detailed framework and categories of actions to be taken by governments in partnership with civil society organizations and other relevant actors for combating commercial sexual crimes against children. Broadly, these actions are focused on: 1) Coordination and Cooperation; 2) Prevention; 3) Protection; 4) Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration; and 5) Child Participation. The Agenda for Action is thus the formal and guiding structure used by governments that have adopted it and committed to work against CSEC. As such, the Agenda for Action is also the main organising framework for reporting on the status of implementation of the Agenda as seen in the World Congress II of 2001, the Mid-Term Review meetings held between 2004 and 2005 and the World Congress III in 2008. It has been used in the same way to structure and guide the research, analysis and preparation of information presented in these reports on the status of implementation of the Agenda in the individual countries.

Preparatory work for this 2nd Edition report involved a review of the literature available on sexual exploitation for each of the countries where ECPAT works. A number of tools were prepared, such as a detailed glossary of CSEC terms, explanatory literature on more difficult themes and concepts and a guide to relevant CSEC-related research tools, to assist researchers in their work and to ensure consistency in the gathering, interpreting and analysing of information from different

sources and parts of the world.

Desktop research has shown a continuing lack of information in the areas of Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. After extensive efforts to collect information relevant to these areas for each of the countries covered, it was decided that as this information was not consistently available, the reports thus focus only on those areas of the Agenda for Action where verifiable information can be obtained. Thus, the report covers: Coordination and Cooperation; Prevention; Protection and Child and Youth Participation, and where information on recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration, was available, it has been included under the country overview. These 2nd Edition Reports also reflect a greater focus on integrated and inter-sector collaboration for the realisation of the right of the child to protection from sexual exploitation, including the need nationally for comprehensive child protection systems.

Research of secondary sources, including CRC country and alternative reports, OPSC country and alternative reports, the reports of the Special Rapporteurs, as well as research and field studies of ECPAT, governmental and non-governmental organizations, regional bodies and UN agencies, provided the initial information for each report. This information was compiled, reviewed and used to produce first draft reports. In-house and consultant specialists undertook a similar process of review to generate information on specialised areas of the reports, such as the legal sections. Nevertheless, researchers often encountered

a lack of information. While sources also included unpublished reports and field and case reports of ECPAT and other partners, many countries lacked up-to-date data and information on areas relevant to this report.

Despite these limitations, sufficient information was gathered to provide a broad overview of the situation in each country. Subsequently, first drafts were prepared and shared with ECPAT groups, which then supplemented the information with other local sources and analysis (taking care to identify them and source appropriately). Upon receipt of these inputs, a series of questions were generated by the ECPAT International team for deeper discussion, which involved ECPAT groups and specialists invited by them. The information from these discussions was used to finalise inputs to each of the reports. These consultations proved to be invaluable for analysis of the country situation. They also served as a measure for triangulating and validating information as

different actors offered their perspective and analysis based on their direct work.

As previously noted, the information of each country report is organised to correspond to the structure of the Agenda for Action. Thus all the 2nd Edition reports feature updated information in relation to: (i) an overview of the main CSEC manifestations affecting the country; (ii) analysis of the country's National Plan of Action (NPA) against CSEC and its implementation (or the absence of an NPA); (iii) overview and analysis of coordination and cooperation efforts during the period under review; (iv) overview and analysis of prevention efforts; (v) overview and analysis of protection efforts, which includes detailed information on national legislation related to CSEC (see www.ecpat.net for further details); (vi) overview and analysis of country's efforts incorporate participation of children in youth in the development and implementation of efforts to combat CSEC and (vii) priority actions required.

GHANA



INTRODUCTION

Background

In 1957, Ghana became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve independence¹ and has long since enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most politically stable and democratic nations on the continent. This stability is reflected in the 2011 World Wide Governance Indicators report,² which places Ghana between the 50th and 75th percentile in key dimensions of governance, including political stability, government effectiveness, and rule of law.³ Ghana has a general population of approximately 25.37 million people,⁴ and its age structure reflects a youthful population; the national census cites approximately 40% of the population as younger than 15 years of age.⁵ This suggests a significant responsibility of the Ghanaian government towards Ghanaian children as well as the important role that young people will undoubtedly play in shaping the future prosperity of the country.

Notably, a thriving economy over the past few years has led to a significant reduction in the national poverty level of Ghana. In 2009, Ghana attained lower middle-income status.⁶ The country's economy is strong, ahead of the average for the African region, with a growth rate of approximately 7.9% in 2012, higher

than that of the Sub-Saharan African growth rate of 4.8%.⁷ This prosperity is reportedly due to an increasingly strong service sector, higher national oil production, and recovering construction, industry, and manufacturing sectors.⁸ Currently, the country is said to have one of the fastest growing economies in the world. However, it has been reported that "...continuous rapid population growth is threatening the economic progress achieved and has implications for the development of the country."⁹

The most recent World Bank statistics indicate that an estimated 28.5% of Ghanaians live below the national poverty line.¹⁰ While there are various socio-economic reasons that force children to engage in Ghana's labour market, poverty remains a major underlying cause. Due to factors such as widespread poverty and large family sizes, many parents and caregivers, particularly those in rural areas, are unable to support their children.¹¹ As a result, a significant number of children are forced to migrate to larger towns and urban centres in an attempt to earn an income and provide resources for their families. These children reportedly take on menial labour jobs such as kayayes (female head porters), truck pushers, shoe shiners/cobblers, street hawkers, and fishing

hands. As a result of their employment, these children become extremely vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and forced servitude. Often inadequate education, skills and family support force many of these children to end up living on the streets.¹² In recent years, there have been considerable improvements in Ghana's overarching efforts to create strategies and policies to protect children. Despite these efforts, however, certain principal barriers to the prevention of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) remain.

A 2011 UNICEF report on Ghana estimates that there are approximately 33,000 street children in the country.¹³ Without adequate familiar support and consistent sources of accommodation and food, these street children are vulnerable to CSEC. From the UNICEF report it is evident that female street children in Ghana are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and sexual exploitation.¹⁴ Currently, CSEC is a significant concern in Ghana due to the high number of children living on the streets; there is also a concern of very limited reliable data on the scope and extent of the issue due to the clandestine nature of sexual exploitation.¹⁵ This suggests that the true extent of the problem is unknown, and therefore, is inadequately addressed at both local and national levels. The relative silence surrounding CSEC in the National Plan of Action (NPA) adopted by the National Steering Committee on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour also means that many exploited children are unable to come forward due to the social shame and stigma related to sexual exploitation and abuse.

In Ghana, a large and growing demand exists for cheap child labour in urban centres.¹⁶ Enforcement agencies remain largely under-resourced in child rights related issues.¹⁷ There

is very limited evidence available on successful convictions under CSEC-related legislation, which suggests, among other things, that enforcement of these laws remains a challenge. Furthermore, accessible resources and support services for children who have been sexually exploited are extremely inadequate.¹⁸

Despite some level of a legal framework as well as policies and social programs in place to counter CSEC, the lack of enforcement and inconsistent or weak application of the law has led to gaps in child protection.¹⁹ In particular, inadequate funding severely hampers child labour elimination and law enforcement capacity.²⁰ Ultimately, addressing CSEC in Ghana requires efforts towards the eradication of the underlying causes of child vulnerability in the country, including poor enforcement of laws, poor targeting of resources, harmful traditional practices, income poverty, inadequate parental guidance and education, limited forms of social security, unclear roles of ministerial responsibility, weak complaint and response mechanisms, and inadequate referral systems in place to guarantee security and assistance (medical, legal and psychosocial) to victims of sexual violence.²¹

Following the 1996 Stockholm and the 2001 Yokohama global forums on CSEC, Ghana reaffirmed its commitments at the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in November 2008 in Brazil.²² The World Congress III renewed global commitment and galvanised international resolve to combat sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. In total, more than 3000 people took part in the three-day gathering, including representatives from government, the private sector and civil society as well as 300 children and adolescents from around the world.²³

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

CHILD PROSTITUTION

A 2009 UNICEF Report Card on Child Protection states that in Ghana, despite child prostitution being illegal under Ghanaian law, there has been an increase in the number of children exploited in the commercial sex trade.²⁴ Ghanaian girls as well as boys are subjected to prostitution in Ghana. The exact number of children exploited by this form of CSEC is unknown due to lack of empirical data. This makes it difficult not only to accurately convey the scope of child prostitution in Ghana, but also hinders adequate protection, intervention and support. Inadequate data also prevents an assessment of the effectiveness of child protection legislation, policies and programmes in place to protect Ghanaian children from prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation.

The little available evidence on child prostitution in Ghana indicates that urban centres, such as Accra and Kumasi, are major hubs for child prostitution.²⁵ One report indicates that there are more than 120 brothels in Accra alone, where young children, predominantly young girls, are forced into prostitution.²⁶ In five communities in Accra, International Needs, a non-governmental organisation based in Accra, identified 143 vulnerable children in the first quarter of 2012, of which 129 children were at risk of sexual exploitation and 14 were actual victims.²⁷ In Accra, there are reportedly

high numbers of children who have been spotted in and around the areas of Osu, La, Nima, Maamobi, Bubiashie, New Town, Mallam Atta, Lapaz and Madina, either working in the sex trade or at high risk of sexual exploitation.²⁸ With the increase in urbanisation, in part due to a booming oil industry in the Western region, the numbers of children involved in child prostitution are reportedly increasing in those areas as well.²⁹ Media reports indicate that child prostitution is flourishing at Sekondi landing beaches and other suburbs of the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis.³⁰

A study conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) found young females are engaged in prostitution at various locations in Accra, including busy commercial centres such as the Agbogbloshie and Chorkor markets as well as popular tourist destinations like the Labadi Pleasure Beach and the Coco Beach Resort.³¹ The study noted the context of female child prostitution; most girls worked independently, operating from the street, drinking bars, market areas, restaurants and nightclubs. At some of these locations, the girls had organized themselves into groups of 5 to 10 members (prostitution rings). Their ages varied from 12 to 20 years.³² Given the lack of decisive data on child prostitution, these studies highlight that it remains a very real phenomenon in Ghana.

The Kayaye Phenomenon and CSEC

In Ghana, there are certain social structures that create a culture of acceptance for children working, thus heightening their vulnerability to exploitation. For example, in lower socio-economic groups, it is likely that children, particularly girls, will be expected to help support the family. Thus, it is culturally acceptable for girls, particularly from the North, to work as kayayes (female porters) to alleviate financial constraints, including the pressure to acquire marital accessories for their future married life.³³ As a result, many young girls migrate from the North to the capital city Accra and other urban centres to work as child porters or engage in petty trading. A 2006 situational analysis of vulnerable

children in Ghana uncovered that many migrants and kayaye girls engage in commercial sexual activity as a secondary source of income. Also, "...a high number of kayaye girls are at one time or another forced to have sex with customers against their will. With no real shelter at night, these migrant girls are extremely vulnerable to sexual abuse and prostitution."³⁴ The study revealed that approximately 20% of Ghanaian kayaye respondents³⁵ had been forced at one time or another to have sex against their will.³⁶

The demand for sex services from children comes from both foreigners and locals. The domestic demand, however, seems to receive a degree of social tolerance due to a variety of contributing factors, including local constructions of gender norms and a lack

of confidence in the authorities to act upon the issue. This suggests the complexity of the issue in Ghana and highlights the need to address underlying social structures in order to increase community protection of children from sexual exploitation.

TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

Ghana is reported as a source, transit and destination country for the trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour.³⁷ According to the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs' National Database on Human Trafficking, in 2010, 70% of the trafficking victims in Ghana were children.³⁸ This underlines the severity of the issue of child trafficking in Ghana. Victims of trafficking are primarily from the Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Brong Ahafo Regions.³⁹ Anti-trafficking NGOs in the country have identified poverty, lack of opportunities and education, and poor law enforcement as central reasons behind the perpetuation of child trafficking and forced labour in the country.⁴⁰ Due to a lack of employment opportunities and social support programmes in the country, many victims live below the country's poverty line and are vulnerable to the "machinations of traffickers."⁴¹ One report on the state of trafficking in Ghana indicates that some child trafficking stems from a modern abuse of the traditional Ghanaian system of parents sending their children to live with extended family members to "strengthen familial ties and enhance their children's education or skills development."⁴² In recent years, children living with relatives have often been exploited for labour.⁴³

There is a lack of systematically gathered

quantitative information on trafficking in persons generally in Ghana, and thus, also child trafficking for sexual purposes. This remains a major obstacle to accurate assessment of the magnitude of the problem across the country. The limited available evidence indicates that women and girls, and a growing number of boys, are trafficked specifically for the purpose of sexual exploitation throughout the country. NGOs and the media report that a large number of Ghana's children are trafficked into the business of "selling sex on the streets, in brothels and around mining sites, as well as being trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation in neighbouring countries or internally."⁴⁴

Internally, children are trafficked (a) across rural and impoverished areas in Ghana, primarily from the Northern regions and the Central region, areas characterized by high levels of poverty, lack of social facilities and unemployment, and/or (b) from rural areas to urban centres such as Accra, Kumasi and Sunyani as well as to the viable fishing communities along the banks of Lake Volta to work in portage, begging, street vending, domestic labour and the commercial sex trade.⁴⁵ Use of children on the Volta basin for labour and fishing is common,⁴⁶ which increases their vulnerability to exploitation and sexual abuse. Despite limited information

on the matter, available reports estimate that the number of children trafficked is in the thousands.⁴⁷

Internationally, the 2013 US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report indicates that Ghanaian children are recruited and transported to Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, South Africa, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States for forced labour and forced prostitution.⁴⁸ Regionally, there is concern about the possibility of an increase in child trafficking into Ghana from surrounding countries, as Nigerian traffickers have shifted their focus from Nigeria to neighbouring countries due to increased pressure from Nigerian anti-trafficking authorities.⁴⁹ It has been reported by some NGOs that girls who have been trafficked from Ghana, especially those who are trafficked to Cote D'Ivoire, are forced into prostitution or are used as sex slaves.⁵⁰ Also, Ghanaian children are taken from the Western Region (via border towns such as Half Assini and Elubo) to Abidjan in Cote D'Ivoire.⁵¹ Children from the Volta Region are also trafficked to Togo.⁵²

The 2013 TIP Report states that during the reporting period, the government initiated 75 investigations, conducted five prosecutions, and secured three convictions of trafficking offenders.⁵³ The government is also said to have drafted a new five-year national action plan to prevent trafficking and conducted information and education campaigns throughout the country. However, the TIP report states that the government did not deliver specialised anti-trafficking training to law enforcement officials and failed to provide sufficient funding to adequately sustain government-operated shelters.⁵⁴

There is evidence to suggest that there has been an increase in child-trafficking awareness campaigns and sensitisation efforts on television and other media in Ghana.⁵⁵ This has enhanced the understanding of the general public that those who are trafficked are not criminals and do not have a choice, advancing away from victim-blaming.⁵⁶ Despite this improvement, there is still much to be done in terms of educating and sensitising the population about trafficking issues and child vulnerability.

The US Department of State annually releases a *Trafficking in Persons Report* which categorises countries into different "tiers" based on the extent of government action to combat human trafficking. Countries that have the highest level of compliance with the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act's* minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking are placed in **Tier 1**. Those that have made "significant efforts" to meet the standards are placed in **Tier 2**, and countries that are not making significant efforts to combat human trafficking are placed in **Tier 3**.

In the 2013 report, Ghana was placed in **Tier 2**.⁵⁷ In 2012, Ghana was also placed in **Tier 2**.⁵⁸

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Ghana is considered one of the most popular child sex tourism destination countries in Africa.⁵⁹ Despite national and international legislation in place to protect children from CSEC, media reports indicate that there has been an increase in child sex tourism in the country in recent years.⁶⁰ This has been due to factors such as the development of Ghana's tourism industry and the country's relatively

strong economy, which have served to attract more tourists.⁶¹ Ghana, along with many African countries, has encouraged tourism in order to attract "foreign investment and to fund infrastructure development. While this, coupled with a renewed focus on Africa from tourist-sending countries, has sparked tourism growth [...], this growth has, predictably, been accompanied

by an increase in CST.”⁶² Although some media reports highlighted an increase of this phenomenon, sex tourism is not given sufficient attention in government policy and legislation, and updated research on this specific manifestation of CSEC is lacking. Determining how often child sex tourists are arrested in Ghana is difficult given the lack of specific criminalisation, and thus arrests for the practice. This suggests that the true extent of the phenomenon is unknown.

The issue of child sex tourism is considered particularly popular in tourist areas in Ghana such as Labadi Beach in Accra as well as parts of Cape Coast and Elmina.⁶³ The 2013 TIP Report states that child prostitution and possibly child sex tourism are prevalent in the Volta region and increasing in the oil-producing Western regions of the country.⁶⁴ The limited available data indicates that child sex tourists still consider Ghana an “ideal destination”⁶⁵ for child sexual exploitation due to a lack of reporting mechanisms and poor enforcement of child protection legislation; the weak legal and social protection of children in the country enable predators to have greater access to vulnerable children.⁶⁶ This was corroborated in a 2008 ECPAT report on child sex tourism.⁶⁷

In 2006, a study conducted by the Ghanaian NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) revealed that German, British, American and other Western tourists were reported to engage in child sex tourism in Ghana.⁶⁸ The media has also reported that

tourists from the Netherlands have engaged in child sex tourism and that Ghanaian children suffer sexual abuse from expatriates and international tourists in exchange for the payment of school fees.⁶⁹ Significant issues remain concerning children obtaining justice in these matters since cases of sexual exploitation are rarely brought before Ghanaian courts, as evidenced by the very limited information regarding arrests of child sex tourists.⁷⁰

It is important to note that this issue does not exclusively impact girls as some foreign tourists exclusively seek sexual relations with boys. UNICEF reports that there are recorded cases of boys being targeted as victims of child sex tourism.⁷¹ Male prostitution remains taboo in Ghana, particularly as it concerns homosexual relations, potentially preventing boy victims from seeking out assistance.

Furthermore, the use of children by foreign offenders is not limited to the procurement of sexual services but may also involve additional exploitative acts, including the production of child pornography as some offenders may also film their child victims. In addition, sex tourism involving children and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes are closely connected; both stem from the demand for sexual relations with children and use of the tourism industry, including the transport sector, popular tourist destinations, bars and nightclubs.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY/CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIALS

The growth of the Internet and new technologies is creating new avenues of sexual exploitation as these technologies facilitate organised sexual exploitation of children and “extend the reach of distribution networks.”⁷² This is due to the fact that child pornography is often produced and distributed using information and communications technology (ICT). Increased access and exposure to the Internet opens up higher risks of contact

with potential child sex offenders, unless preventative and proactive measures are put in place.

Recent years have seen a significant increase in the use of computers and reliance on technology in Ghana. This is evident in the increase in the number of Internet cafes, both in urban centres and more rural areas across Ghana. As the population of Internet

users in Ghana increases, so do the potential threats and vulnerabilities associated with the use of technology, which can have far-reaching implications for child safety. Reports indicate that there is a corresponding increase in the prevalence of cybercrimes within and beyond national boundaries, including the dissemination of child pornography.⁷³ A 2011 report in the Journal of Information Technology Impact indicates that while awareness of cybercrime is on the increase, the crimes mostly go unreported.⁷⁴ Further, it reports that the Ghana Police Service, the primary group responsible for arresting and prosecuting cyber criminals in Ghana, is handicapped in terms of technical training and legal support to effectively counter cybercrime in its various forms, including child pornography.⁷⁵ Cyber-fraud in Ghana has reportedly led to the abduction of teenagers and the Internet has been used to solicit young Ghanaian girls for sexual exploitation abroad.⁷⁶

Research by NGOs such as Plan Ghana indicates that exposure to pornography has

become an increasingly prevalent and serious issue for Ghanaian children.⁷⁷ Exposing children to pornographic material is not only a form of sexual abuse, but can also serve as a means of “grooming”⁷⁸ for further sexual exploitation. It can also affect the psychological development of a child.

As a positive step toward the development of comprehensive online child protection tools and mechanisms, Ghana recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative (CCI).⁷⁹ The CCI is an initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat designed to assist member countries “build the requisite capacity to address cybercrime by building legislative, technical, institutional and human capacity through a holistic and sustainable approach.”⁸⁰ The MoU, which is focused, *inter alia*, on child protection and cyber security schemes,⁸¹ underlines the government’s commitment to developing its cyber security capabilities, particularly in the area of online child protection.

Other Factors Contributing to CSEC

Sexual exploitation in schools

A number of recent studies have reported on the issue of sexual exploitation or sexual blackmailing of school children by teachers in school settings across Ghana.⁸² Reports indicate that female children appear to be particularly vulnerable to this form of sexual abuse due to local constructions of gender norms. “Forms of [this] transaction include ‘sexually transmittable grades,’ in which sexual favours are given by students to teachers in “exchange for good grades”, as well as ‘sexually transmittable means,’ which describes sexual acts in exchange for school materials, food or tuition support.”⁸³ The Child Research and Resource Centre reports that within certain Ghanaian schools there is pressure on girls to perform sexual favours for teachers out of fear that they may fail their courses.⁸⁴

There is lack of reporting on this issue due to stigma and shame associated with sexual exploitation. Due to cultural values, such as the importance placed on purity, girls feel ashamed, and these threats often go unreported.⁸⁵ It is also reported that there is a lack of accessible reporting procedures. Evidence from Ghanaian schools appears to show that adolescent girls are more vulnerable than pre-adolescents.⁸⁶ Researchers suggest that in the context of Ghana, girls are seen as women as soon as they reach puberty, which makes them highly vulnerable to sexual violence perpetrated by adults.⁸⁷ It is important to note, however, that this form of abuse also affects boys in schools.

Experiences of sexual exploitation in West Africa are considered entrenched in the often authoritarian and highly gendered school management systems and curricula.⁸⁸ This highlights the need to bring attention and efforts to counter the exploitation of vulnerable children in the school setting and beyond the confines of the classroom.

Trokosi continues despite legislative efforts: a traditional practice leading to the commercial sexual exploitation of children

The traditional customary Ghanaian practice of Trokosi, or ritual servitude, has endured in the Volta Region of Ghana for centuries. If a person commits a serious crime or social infraction, traditional leaders order that a young girl from that person's family be sent to the shrine as a form of atonement. The girl is generally expected to serve the priest for three to five years.⁸⁹ Section 314A of Ghana's Criminal Code Amendment Act 1998 (Act 554) criminalises the practice of Trokosi and outlines a minimum three-year sentence for those found guilty.⁹⁰ Despite this, reports indicate that this practice is deeply-rooted in cultural and religious traditions within certain sectors of Ghanaian society and is thus difficult to eradicate through legislation.⁹¹ This suggests the importance of understanding why the practice endures instead of simply implementing laws to criminalise the ritual.⁹² Otherwise, this ritual may continue in another form or underground.⁹³ The 22nd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session report states that "Ghana is committed to continuing the extensive educational campaigns and consultations already in progress to change the mind-sets of persons who indulge in these practices."⁹⁴

The government reports that the practice of Trokosi has declined in recent years due to the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and human rights NGOs. Despite these efforts, ritual servitude in Ghana, which very often leads to the sexual exploitation of young girls, still endures in certain areas of the country.⁹⁵ There is lack of credible statistics on the number of girls and women being held at the various shrines across the country. This is due in part to the great stigma attached to Trokosi and the clandestine nature of the phenomenon.

CHILD MARRIAGE

A United Nations Ghana press release marking the first Day of the Girl Child in Ghana in 2012 stated that the country has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world.⁹⁶ On average, one out of four girls will be married before their 18th birthday.⁹⁷ The 2011 Ghanaian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey revealed that approximately 27% of the women aged 20-24 were married or in unions before the age of 18, and overall, 6% of women were married before age 15.⁹⁸ These marriages tended to be higher in rural areas (8%) than in urban areas (4%).⁹⁹

The minimum age of marriage for girls in Ghana is 18, as set out in Section 14

of Ghana's Children's Act 1998,¹⁰⁰ but variances have been noted under customary law. There are other challenges relating to the age of sexuality, which is 16 years. This allows for people to abuse children (most commonly, girls between 16-18 years).¹⁰¹ Moreover, despite Ghana's recent child protection and education policies which have been implemented across the country, data shows only a 1% decline in child marriage since 2003.¹⁰² Child marriage is thus still considered relatively common in Ghana. In terms of child marriage prevalence, the Upper East region has the highest occurrence (39.2%), followed by Western region (36.7%), Upper West (36.3%), Central (31.2%), Ashanti (30.5%), Volta (29.3%), Brong Ahafo

(29.1%), Northern (27.4%), Eastern (27.2%), and Greater Accra (12.2%).¹⁰³ A UNICEF report on early marriages indicated that in Ghana, “poor women were much more likely to be married as children than their wealthier counterparts.”¹⁰⁴

Many factors interact to place a child at risk of early/forced marriage, including poverty, family honour and the provision of stability during unstable social periods.¹⁰⁵ Child marriage deprives girls of education and thus opportunities for social mobility and financial independence and often adversely affects their reproductive health.¹⁰⁶ Considerations that impact child marriage rates include an adequate legislative framework, and an accompanying enforcement mechanism.¹⁰⁷ This latter consideration is of particular importance in the context of Ghana, where there are often insufficient resources to adequately enforce legislation, leading to a continuation of the problem.

Importantly, it appears that Ghanaian society

has begun to recognise and take action against this harmful phenomenon. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reports that Ghana observed the first ever “International Day of the Girl Child” on October 11, 2012. The 2012 International Day of the Girl Child celebration in Ghana was held under the theme: *Too Young to Marry: End Child Marriage Now*, and the event included guest speakers, prominent members of Ghanaian society including Queen Mothers, UN Agency officials from Africa and the Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union.¹⁰⁸ At this event, speakers outlined the important role that education, basic health, and social support systems play in preventing child marriage and also emphasised the key role that traditional authorities play in this regard, as they are “the custodians of the communities and are tasked with safeguarding” them.¹⁰⁹ This is an important step in the right direction, as it acknowledges some of the cultural and traditional factors that lead to the perpetuation of child marriage.

NATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION

Each government should develop and implement specific policies and National Plans of Action (NPAs) to protect children, which tackle all forms of CSEC in order to establish a comprehensive framework for intervention in the following five key areas: coordination and cooperation, prevention, protection, recovery and reintegration, and child participation.

A 2011 UNICEF Mapping and Analysis report on the Child Protection System in Ghana reveals that Ghana does not have a single overarching NPA that expressly

addresses a framework for child and family welfare services.¹¹⁰ Instead, the child protection system is guided largely by a series of issue-specific NPAs, which are considered “overlapping and duplicative both in terms of the target group covered and the types of activities that are to be undertaken.”¹¹¹ The high number of NPAs suggests that the government has attempted to establish plans to reduce child vulnerability. However, until an NPA that focuses on CSEC is implemented, these plans may be limited in terms of effectiveness due to inefficient resource allocation and follow-up procedures.

NPA for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana (WFCL)

Ghana's NPA on WFCL (2009-2015) was developed after a careful consultative process involving key institutions and stakeholders,¹¹² including international partners such as ILO/IPEC and UNICEF.¹¹³ The main objective of the NPA is to reduce the worst forms of child labour to their barest minimum by 2015, and the nine prioritised areas under the NPA include child trafficking, customary or ritual servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation.¹¹⁴

The NPA is intended as a comprehensive framework for the harmonisation as well as effective implementation of all child labour interventions in the country.¹¹⁵

The NPA makes a provision for a Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS), which has subsequently been established.¹¹⁶ Among other things, the CLMS aims to “obtain comprehensive information on all children in or at risk of the WFCL [and] institute timely, adequate, sustainable and appropriate response at all levels to eliminate the WFCL.”¹¹⁷ The CLMS, however, has a special focus on the elimination of child labour in the cocoa sector due to the involvement of the Cocoa Board and the international market (those who buy cocoa from Ghana). However, other interventions have not been effective and thus the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, which is responsible for implementation, should expend more resources to address CSEC issues.

The NPA on WFCL is an integrated and multi-sectoral framework that requires the design and implementation of child labour interventions at all levels (community, district, regional and national).¹¹⁸ As such, three types of agencies are expected to take lead roles in its implementation: (i) Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at the central level; (ii) Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs or

“district assemblies”); and (iii) civil society organisations (CSOs).¹¹⁹ Overall coordination and supervision of the NPA is under the auspices of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (MELR) via its Child Labour Unit (CLU). The NPA commendably “requires that children directly or indirectly involved in or affected by the WFCL are to be consulted in the design and implementation of interventions.”¹²⁰

Although the NPA is not solely focussed on CSEC, it does acknowledge the problem and puts forward measures to address it, as it is designated as a priority area for action. For instance, a major objective of the NPA is to ensure that “clear institutional arrangements are in place to identify, withdraw, rehabilitate and socially integrate children engaged in unconditional WFCL and to prevent others from becoming involved.”¹²¹ According to the NPA, “unconditional WFCL” includes, *inter alia*, “the use, procuring and offering of a child for prostitution or pornography, [...] the use of children in illicit activities [as well as] the trafficking of children.”¹²² The NPA further acknowledges that CSEC cases (a majority of which involve girl victims) require urgent attention as they tend to be characterised by low public visibility and, therefore, may not receive adequate attention.¹²³ There is, however, a general lack of data on actual implementation practices and overall success of child labour interventions with regard to this NPA. The ILO has noted that although Ghana has a good legal and policy framework on child labour, “significant gaps remain between policy and practice...incentives for tackling child labour are hampered by limited technical and financial resources.”¹²⁴ The organisation has called for better statistics on the incidences of child labour in the country and the inclusion of the priority areas identified in the NPA in the national budget.

NPA on Violence Against Children (VAC)

Ghana developed an action plan on violence against children (VAC) for the period of 2008–2012. The 5-year plan was a comprehensive strategy for suppressing violence against children and included measurable targets and indicators. The aim of the plan was to create a safe environment that protects children from all forms of violence in homes, schools, institutions, work places and communities in which children engaged.¹²⁵ The Information Research and Advocacy Division (IRAD) within the Department of

Children (DOC) of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) and the Child Protection Unit of UNICEF initiated the 5-year action plan in 2005.¹²⁶ A draft of the Action Plan that was provided to the media stated that “Ghana has reformed its legislations extensively to cover areas that relate to violence against children.”¹²⁷ While the plan of action expired at the end of 2012, there is no reliable information on the current status or outcome of the plan, in terms of measurable impact of efforts.

NPA against Trafficking in Persons

The US TIP Report states that the Human Trafficking Management Board (HTMB), which is an entity chaired by the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection and comprised of government agencies and NGOs, has drafted a five-year anti-trafficking NPA. The 2012 TIP report states that the

original 2006 action plan against trafficking was never implemented.¹²⁸ The newly drafted anti-trafficking plan is reported to address anti-trafficking activities for the period of 2013 through 2018.¹²⁹ This NPA does not target the exploitation of children for sexual purposes.

National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

The three-year National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, launched in October 2010, was aimed at strengthening the country's commitment to the care and protection of children by specifically addressing “gaps that exist in the implementation of existing laws and their enforcement, weak institutional capacities, resource constraints, both human and material, and lack of co-ordination among agencies providing child welfare services.”¹³⁰ This plan was primarily aimed at assisting at-risk children without parents and those disproportionately impacted by poverty. The Department of Social Welfare (DSW), under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, had oversight of this NPA.¹³¹

The NPA set out a three-pronged strategy for the protection of OVC in the country: (i) Preventive – keeping the family unit intact as much as possible by making available social protection interventions like social cash transfers as well as housing, health and education services to at-risk families, (ii) Protective – using social interventions including social work to support separated and/or exploited children to reunite them with their families or other family options, and (iii) Transformative – capacity building for the state and other stakeholders to strengthen programs for OVC in the country.¹³² Under this organised framework, the NPA “set out time-bound goals and objectives [ranging 1–3 years] and outline[d] key activities and indicators for measuring progress towards addressing vulnerabilities

faced by children”¹³³ which render them susceptible to exploitation, abuse and the contraction of HIV/AIDS. The NPA also appropriately identified the most vulnerable children as “those who, for whatever reason, face a high risk of neglect and discrimination, emotional, physical or sexual abuse and violence and/or economic and sexual exploitation.” According to the NPA, this specifically includes trafficked children and those affected by WFCL.¹³⁴

As de-institutionalisation and the provision of integrated social services for OVC are principal focuses of the DSW,¹³⁵ the Department, under its Care Reform Initiative supported by this NPA, has closed down numerous sub-standard orphanages. To date, the DSW has closed down 48 orphanages and children’s homes without appropriate licences to operate.¹³⁶

Seven Year (2009-2015) National Strategic Plan for the Health and Development of Adolescents and Young People

This plan emphasises factors that lead to healthy child development. Media reports indicate that this includes: the child’s right to information and education, life and livelihood skills, leadership skills, youth friendly services and counselling, safe and supportive physical, psychological and social environments as well as opportunities to participate in meaningful child development programmes.¹³⁷

Establishment of youth corners and youth-friendly services are considered crucial in this regard. A report by the Adolescent Health Development Program (AHDP) in 2009 revealed that 129 youth corners became operational nationwide; however, the number of centres functioning and available to children and youth depends on the region.¹³⁸

Conclusion regarding current NPAs

NGO reports indicate that these NPAs, importantly, set clear objectives, outline the actions needed to achieve goals, assign responsibilities to specific agencies, and seek to promote inter-agency coordination.¹³⁹ However, these same NPAs have been criticised for overlapping in terms of both the target groups and the activities that they address. For example, “the NPA on OVCs defines vulnerable children broadly to include those experiencing all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation, including child trafficking and child labour. This overlaps with the target groups of the NPA on trafficking in persons and the NPA on the worst forms of child labour.”¹⁴⁰ A UNICEF report mapping the child protection system in Ghana asserts that numerous initiatives, such as those geared toward procedural development for the handling of cases pertaining to child abuse and exploitation, are duplicated under each

of the NPAs.¹⁴¹ Overlaps and lack of a single overarching plan suggests an inefficient use of resources and redundancies, which could impact the long-term developments and progress of each plan.

Legal provisions and NPAs do not always translate into significant sustainable actions with meaningful impacts,¹⁴² particularly in a system with limited resources. In the case of Ghana, evidence on the successful implementation and final outcomes of the country’s NPAs is difficult to obtain. Whereas there appears to be a number of NPA measures and advancements on paper, it is difficult to assess the measurable outcomes of these plans. This emphasises the need for investment in and efforts toward data collection and monitoring of NPAs to determine the effectiveness of initiatives as well as obtain information on best practices

to pursue in the future. Going forward, the development of an NPA solely focussed on CSEC issues would be a major step towards

combating CSEC in the country; such an NPA should include monitoring mechanisms to ensure progress.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Coordination and cooperation are crucial for an efficient and effective fight against CSEC. In accordance with the Stockholm Declaration, close interaction and cooperation between government and non-government sectors are necessary to effectively plan, implement and evaluate measures to combat CSEC.

Coordinating bodies should also include clear structures, processes, authority and accountability for the management and delivery of child protection and justice services from the national level down through the regional, district and community level, in order to effectively counter child exploitation.

At an international level, effective cooperation is required between countries and international organisations, including regional organisations, to ensure that a concerted and coordinated approach is taken in eliminating CSEC.¹⁴³

The Rio Declaration and Call for Action, which is the outcome of the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents hosted by the Brazilian government in collaboration with ECPAT International, UNICEF and other agencies working against CSEC in 2008, highlighted the need for effective cooperation between the various government agencies responsible for protecting children from CSEC.

Coordination at the local and national level

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has the overall responsibility for monitoring, coordination and policy development in relation to children in Ghana.¹⁴⁴ Its mandate is to “formulate gender and child specific development policies, guidelines, advocacy tools, strategies, and plans for implementation by [ministries, departments and agencies], District Assemblies, private sector agencies, NGOs, and others.”¹⁴⁵ It is charged with the preparation of national development plans and programmes for women and children and ensures that these programmes effectively implemented through monitoring and evaluation.¹⁴⁶ The Department of Children also helps to coordinate the training of officials and police forces that engage with children. This highlights the important role that the Department of Children can play in terms of sensitising and educating

those who work to help children that have been exploited. Furthermore, the Child Labour NPA tasked the Department of Children with promoting children's rights and establishing a mechanism for collecting data, information sharing, coordination and policy monitoring across agencies.¹⁴⁷ At the national level, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection reportedly has a Department of Children¹⁴⁸ with offices and officers in all 10 regions and 16 districts of the country.¹⁴⁹

UNICEF reports indicate that, at the national and regional levels, Ghana has several sectoral and issue-specific coordinating committees with a child protection mandate.¹⁵⁰ These committees provide a forum for representatives from both government and non-governmental agencies to meet and discuss policy and planning

issues.¹⁵¹ There is limited information regarding the outcomes of these planning sessions, however, and there is a need to establish a specific body mandated with the prevention of CSEC and training of those who assist children that have suffered abuse. Additionally, state agencies mandated by the law to handle aspects of child rights protection, such as DOVVSU, are reportedly under-resourced and thus do not provide services anywhere near levels that are adequate, given the widespread abuse of children.¹⁵²

While there is no centralised organisation or committee expressly dedicated to CSEC prevention, Ghana's Child Protection Network is a network that brings partners together to address child protection issues in Ghana. The Network is made up of

government departments, ministries and civil society organisations, and has the aim of advocating for the rights and welfare of the Ghanaian child.¹⁵³

At the local level, District Assemblies have direct responsibility for promoting the welfare and protecting the rights of children.¹⁵⁴ To enhance the welfare of children in Ghana, the government and its partners have initiated several mechanisms including the establishment of a Child Labour Unit in 2000, a Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs in 2001, the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police in 2000, the Social Services Sub-Committee of Parliament, Child Panels in the District Assemblies, and Child Labour Monitoring Systems in some child labour-prone districts.

Example of good practice relating to coordination and cooperation

The Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) collaborates with different Ghanaian agencies and ministries, including the Ministry for Women and Children's Affairs, to prevent harm to children. GNCRC has organised workshops aimed at combating all forms of violence against children and encouraged the formation of Child Panels responsible for the protection of children's rights in Ghanaian communities.¹⁵⁵ The media reports that they have also encouraged children's participation in these panels, so as to effect a more profound change in community understanding of CSEC.¹⁵⁶ Currently, in regard to programme implementation, the Coalition has been able to establish community child protection committees in over 230 communities in collaboration with Plan Ghana and Defence for Children in Eastern Ashanti and Upper West regions, respectively. To ensure child participation and empowerment of girls at the community level, girls' panels have also been formed to liaise between their peers and the community child protection committees.

At the community level in Ghana, there appears to be no formal government social welfare and child protection structures, and it is reported that social welfare officers have very limited capacity in terms of resources for outreach within their districts.¹⁵⁷ To help address this issue, a variety of community child protection models have been established with the support of international organisations such as UNICEF, World Vision, ActionAid, Plan International, GNCRC and ILO/IPEC.¹⁵⁸ These structures are informal and tend to primarily rely on volunteers from the community.

Teams such as the Child Protection Teams (CPT) supported by UNICEF have a "broad mandate for monitoring the rights of children in the community, promoting positive childcare practices, preventing violence, abuse and exploitation, and referring serious cases of abuse to local authorities."¹⁵⁹ Reports indicate that committees have been created with a mandate to address specific child protection concerns, including child trafficking and labour.

Effective coordination and cooperation at the local and national levels is an important

part of CSEC prevention, and there is a need for continued development of coordination mechanisms. An assessment of the UNICEF-supported Child Protection Teams noted weak inter-agency linkages and the reduction of child protection activities due to waning enthusiasm and volunteer

fatigue.¹⁶⁰ Another issue centres around the fact that these initiatives often focus on non-controversial issues such as birth registration and school enrolment monitoring, rather than the more sensitive issues of child abuse and exploitation, which means there continues to be gaps in child protection.¹⁶¹

Coordination in regard to Human Trafficking

A 2011 Report on the Worst Forms of Child Labour states that the Human Trafficking Secretariat under the then Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) coordinates anti-trafficking activities across the country.¹⁶² The Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Ghana Police Service is responsible for enforcing anti-trafficking laws. As part of its enforcement efforts against trafficking, the Government of Ghana maintains regional Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) in nine regions. 232 AHTU investigators and prosecutors were trained in investigating trafficking in persons in 2011.¹⁶³ Following this training, the AHTU reportedly rescued 116 children in the Lake Volta area in conjunction with INTERPOL.¹⁶⁴

Although the DSW is not officially

assigned victim protection responsibilities under Ghana's Human Trafficking Act, the Department works with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Children Protection to perform some of the required protection duties.¹⁶⁵ Reports indicate that more efforts and resources should be geared towards ensuring "the removal, recovery and reintegration of [...] children whose rights have been compromised."¹⁶⁶ There have been some positive developments in this regard; during 2011, the AHTU reportedly prosecuted at least 19 cases of trafficking and assisted 671 children by rescuing them from trafficking or by providing recovery services to them. Additionally, the Ghana Police Service rescued at least three children working in the cocoa sector and 65 minors from sexual exploitation and prostitution.¹⁶⁷

Coordination at the regional and international level

At the regional level, Ghana participated in the Africa-EU Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development (2006), which resulted in, among other things, the adoption of the *Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children*. The Action Plan is a statement of joint intent by African States (under the auspices of the African Union) and the European Union to strengthen anti-trafficking legislation, policy and law enforcement, in addition to cooperation and coordination, across the two continents. Recommendations to States are organised

under four strategic areas: prevention and awareness-raising; victim protection and assistance; legislative framework, policy development and law enforcement; and cooperation and coordination. The Action Plan recognises the particular vulnerability of women and children, especially in Africa, to trafficking as well as "the increasing phenomenon of sex tourism and other sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children [as] a scourge to humankind."¹⁶⁸ In the area of victim protection and assistance, States are asked to "find the most appropriate measures to ensure protection and assistance

to victims of trafficking, especially for children and their families, taking into account, in particular, the rural and urban divide,” and to adopt child-friendly judicial and administrative systems.¹⁶⁹

Within the sub-region, Ghana, as a member state of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), has committed to the ECOWAS Declaration and Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children since 2001. The Action Plan has been renewed each triennium, with the last noted period being 2008–2011.¹⁷⁰ Much like the Ouagadougou Action Plan, the ECOWAS Action Plan pays special consideration to the issue of trafficked children by stressing the development of child-and-gender sensitive measures in the areas of protection and victim support, prevention and awareness-raising, training, and data collection. For example, States, in partnership with civil society as well as private and public media, are asked to conduct public awareness campaigns on trafficking that “target vulnerable groups, particularly children [who are] likely to be trafficked within the sub-region for labour exploitation, and women and children [who are] likely to be trafficked for sexual exploitation internationally.”¹⁷¹ It is also commendable that the Action Plan

recommends that States “initiate or expand” efforts at data collection and analysis on trafficking in persons, particularly of women and children, since comprehensive and up-to-date data and statistics are essential for the development of effective domestic plans of action.

Additionally, Ghana is one of 24 countries to adopt the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Joint Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children in West and Central African Regions (2006). Participating States, including Ghana, have agreed to develop appropriate measures for the investigation and prosecution of trafficking offenders and for the assistance of victims.¹⁷²

It is unclear to what extent these action plans have been made into actionable policies in the Ghanaian context. It has been noted, however, that implementation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action has been generally slow and uneven among member states due to limited resources and the varied economic development of countries in the region. There is also a need for regional coordination in other areas of CSEC apart from trafficking.¹⁷³

Conclusion regarding coordination and cooperation in Ghana

While it is positive that so many different coordinating bodies are involved in child protection in Ghana, reports indicate that coordination among government ministries, departments and agencies is considered an enduring challenge.¹⁷⁴ A lack of effective coordination has hampered success in the reduction of CSEC and related challenges. Identified challenges include, *inter alia*, weak leadership, funding constraints, lack of commitment from stakeholders, an absence of clearly defined tasks and priorities, weak or inconsistent representation of participating agencies, infrequent meetings to discuss child

protection issues and lack of commitment to move from discussions to actions.¹⁷⁵

Furthermore, according to the Government of Ghana’s Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework: Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) 2010–2013, the implementation of child protection initiatives continue to suffer from “overlapping mandates and weak coordination among sectors; weak enforcement of legal provisions; inadequate budgets; and weak institutional capacity for monitoring and evaluation.”¹⁷⁶

This may suggest a need for a centralised coordinating body to counter child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism and child sex trafficking. This body should be specifically mandated to prevent CSEC at all levels as well as increase awareness and avenues for protection and

support. Until this occurs, the overlapping mandates will continue to limit CSEC prevention and child protection in the country. Direct focus on CSEC issues is vital, including shifting research and programme development efforts from less controversial to sensitive issues such as child exploitation.

Coordination and cooperation in relation to data collection

Data collection on CSEC in Ghana is scarce. NGOs suggest that this is because the necessary systems have not yet been established to collect and collate information regarding child exploitation.¹⁷⁷ Consequently, it is hard to analyse trends regarding whether sexual abuse of children is increasing or awareness-raising has contributed to higher reporting of cases to the police, for example.¹⁷⁸ The GNCRC reports that data disaggregated by sex, age, socio-economic circumstances and ethnicity is almost non-existent in areas such as justice, migration, and social welfare, which impacts response measures.¹⁷⁹ It was recommended during the last review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child that Ghana strengthen its data collection procedures.¹⁸⁰ This would allow for a more accurate assessment of the human rights situation in the country and targeted response measures.

The National Human Trafficking Operations Centres are responsible for collecting data on trafficking. The United States Department of Labour's Bureau of International Labour Affairs reports that the Ghanaian government has been working to develop a database on trafficking cases, but at this time, no comprehensive statistics are maintained and there is no detailed information about prosecutions or sentencing for convicted violators of the Trafficking Act.¹⁸¹ It appears that there is no similar body responsible for collecting data on CSEC and child vulnerability. Although Ghana has made significant efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation initiatives involved in child protection, there is a dearth of reliable statistics and data relating to the number of children impacted by exploitation as well as the number of children assisted by existing programmes.

Example of challenges related to CSEC data collection

MOWAC reported that the Department of Children (DOC) has carried out a study on the use of Internet by children as well as Internet abuse in the country and disseminated study findings in a few schools in Accra.¹⁸² These results could help to outline the scope of child pornography and child "grooming" in the country and increase awareness about exploitation on the Internet. MOWAC, however, reports that there was a call for more funds because the DOC was unable to share their findings and carry out public education on child Internet abuse in the country due to a lack of resources.¹⁸³ This example highlights the issue of insufficient government funding allocated toward issues that are considered "controversial" or sensitive in nature, such as CSEC.

PREVENTION

The effective prevention of CSEC requires multi-faceted strategies and policies that simultaneously address the different elements of the problem. These strategies should target both vulnerable children and those who engage in sexual activities with children, while also addressing the root causes of CSEC such as poverty and lack of education.

Long-term prevention strategies include improving the status of children who are most vulnerable to CSEC by implementing policies to reduce poverty and social inequality and improving access to education, health and social services. Effective short-to medium-term strategies include awareness-raising campaigns and education and training initiatives for the general public, vulnerable groups and government officials.

The resources, expertise and influence of the private sector, particularly the tourism and IT industries, should also be engaged in prevention measures, in particular in

awareness-raising activities.

Furthermore education and outreach programmes should be directed at those engaging in the commercial sexual exploitation of children (e.g. exploiters of children forced into prostitution) as well as various communities and the wider public to promote changes in social norms and behaviour and reduce the demand for child victims of CSEC.

Factors such as the lack of birth registration and perspectives on gender and masculinity that sometimes maintain social tolerance for demands for sex involving children also render children even more vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. Ghanaian prevention efforts should address these factors. Prevention measures must address and reduce the demand for sex with children generated by both local and foreign sex exploiters and ensure sustainability through allocation of adequate resources.

The important role of the media in preventing CSEC

The media plays an important role in providing information to the public about child exploitation. Furthermore, the media can help to “ensure improvement in the quality and frequency of public sensitisation and awareness on child labour issues”¹⁸⁴ in the country. Importantly, Ghanaian media, including different national and regional newspapers,¹⁸⁵ have reported on specific cases of child exploitation in various areas of the country in recent years. These efforts can be enhanced, however. Going forward, the media in Ghana can work to strengthen their role as society “watchdogs” by providing timely reports and information about CSEC to the public and compelling government accountability in relation to child protection measures.

Awareness-raising

According to the Ghanaian government, efforts are being made to inform the public, especially children, about the CRC through school curricula and outreach, although limited evidence exists on awareness-raising initiatives in Ghana regarding CSEC. One report indicates that current prevention efforts are geared towards information dissemination regarding children's rights and child protection issues in a general fashion.¹⁸⁶ Additionally, in Ghana, "the lack of an overarching behaviour change [in] communications strategy has resulted in duplication of awareness efforts in some districts."¹⁸⁷

Organisations such as International Needs Ghana (ING) have played important roles in helping to spread awareness about CSEC and child protection. The organisation reports

that it has implemented informative child protection and health educational sessions in schools and youth-based groups and that 572 children have attended their sessions.¹⁸⁸ These educational talks highlighted the role of Ghana Police Service's Domestic Violence and Victim Support Units (DOVVSU) and the importance of child rights. Also, through community awareness-raising programmes, ING reports that over 2600 Ghanaians have been informed about CSEC.¹⁸⁹ Furthermore, NGO CAMA in Ghana has reportedly deployed trained members to work in schools and communities to raise awareness about legal rights and commercial sexual exploitation, specifically to help break the silence surrounding abuse and enlist the support of community members in confronting the problem.¹⁹⁰

IOM's "Free to Be Me" campaign

IOM developed a "Free to Be Me" campaign and information toolkit designed to help build local capacity in the Lake Volta region to prevent child trafficking and address child protection concerns.¹⁹¹ This campaign promotes a community-driven approach, where members of the campaign discuss child protection and sign a commitment to community self-empowerment. In cooperation with national, regional and local authorities, and with UNICEF's support, the new toolkit is being tested in six communities in the region's Ketu South, North and South Tongu districts to combat trafficking and protect children from exploitation.¹⁹²

It is important for Ghana to initiate awareness-raising campaigns related to child pornography, particularly containing advice on how to lodge reports. The use of Internet cafes has increased significantly in recent years,¹⁹³ making the cooperation of Internet café owners of vital importance in spreading awareness about the harms associated with accessing child pornography online. There is no evidence of website or download restrictions that prevent children from accessing harmful material or prevent adults from accessing child pornography online. In 2011, the GNCRC called for a planned and

sustained effort to protect children against the misuse of the Internet in an initiative aimed at educating children and spreading awareness about the potential dangers of Internet use.¹⁹⁴ At a stakeholders' meeting (themed the "Make IT Safe Campaign") with Internet café operators at Tema Manhean, attended by teachers and school children drawn from six schools in Manhean, the Coalition spoke out against the lack of protective mechanisms for children.¹⁹⁵

In 2010, the Ghana Media Advocacy Programme, which is a child-rights non-

governmental organisation, collaborated with Ghanaian media to ensure that the government ratified the International Cyber Crime protocol to accelerate the call for legislation on cyber crime in Ghana.¹⁹⁶

While Ghana acknowledges the need for IT legislation reform,¹⁹⁷ it is important that this legislation has a specific focus on CSEC issues to enhance child protection across the country.

Training and education

To effectively enforce Ghanaian laws and policies preventing CSEC, it is vital for Ghana to have enforcement officials who are knowledgeable about children's rights and to apply child protection considerations in practice when working with children. This is an especially important consideration in the context of children who have been victims of exploitation in order to prevent re-victimisation and improve support systems.

In Ghana's Second Periodic Report of States Parties submitted in 2005, the government asserted that the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) worked to "create awareness and sensitise both adults and children of the rights provided for in the CRC and [child protection] laws."¹⁹⁸ Thus, for years, the Ghanaian government has made efforts to train and educate those who work with children on the importance of upholding children's rights. Evidence on the effectiveness of these past government initiatives is difficult to locate, however.

A study called "Child Welfare in Ghana: the Relevance of Children's Rights in Practice" assessed how children's rights are understood and applied across operational staff and professionals who work with children in the country. The study found that understanding and application of children's rights in Ghana remained largely at the policy level and those who worked directly with children failed to adequately consider children's rights in practice.¹⁹⁹ This suggests the need for further training and sensitisation efforts to ensure that those involved in child protection, including police officials, do not contribute to the problem of child exploitation due to a lack of sensitivity and understanding.

Research indicates that in recent years, NGOs have been substantially responsible for information dissemination and training sessions on the promotion and protection of children's rights.²⁰⁰ NGOs in Ghana continue to advocate for the training of officials who engage with children on children's legal rights in an aim to create child-friendly procedures, increase confidence in the justice system and reduce child vulnerability.²⁰¹

Positively, in Ghana's 2012 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, the Ghanaian government indicated that a number of sensitisation, training and awareness-raising programmes on discriminatory practices against women and domestic violence were held by DOVVSU for police officials, traditional authorities/queen mothers, the media and other stakeholders.²⁰² In addition, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is said to be developing a comprehensive training module for all sectors that engage with women and children who have been abused. This module is expected to identify the roles of various law enforcement and protection agencies and improve response measures²⁰³

Furthermore, the Anti-Trafficking Unit in Ghana has reportedly conducted periodic in-service training programmes for its staff, with emphasis on child-sensitive procedures.²⁰⁴ UNICEF indicates that efforts have also been underway to add introductory courses on child labour, domestic violence and trafficking into the standard induction training programmes offered by the police colleges.²⁰⁵ MOWAC reports that approximately 12, 268 officials and other persons have received some form of training on the prevention and

prosecution of human trafficking cases and the impact of trafficking on individuals and families.²⁰⁶ These training sessions would benefit from an express focus on children's rights and information on how to prevent CSEC.

The Government of Ghana under the ICT for accelerated development (ICT4AD)²⁰⁷ introduced a scheme that would allow students and teachers to purchase computers at a discounted price, and to support and initiate an intranet providing educational

material and tools to all levels of the educational system. Under this objective, the strategy identifies Internet access for all educational institutions as well as promotes ICT awareness and computer literacy campaigns among the greater population. These developments, while very positive, are not coupled with corresponding Internet safety schemes or policies that would suitably equip the population with skills for preparing themselves to face and mitigate the online risks and threats.

Private sector involvement

At this time, there is no evidence of the involvement of Ghana's private sector in the battle against CSEC. This sector is an area that the country should focus on in future prevention strategies, as the tourism industry, IT industry and financial institutions could lead important initiatives to enhance awareness about CSEC and develop prevention efforts within their respective fields.

At the First Digital Family Forum²⁰⁸ held in Accra in March 2014, under the auspices of the Ministry of Communications, child online security was discussed. The objective of the forum was to create a common platform for industry players, Internet service providers, Telecom operators, mobile phone dealers and consumers, to engage in meaningful dialogue, share ideas on successes, failures and challenges and evolve strategies to address these identified challenges. It was identified that the protection of children online is a collective responsibility that should be dealt with by all stakeholders,

including the industry, government and parents.

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism is an increasingly important global tool for involving the tourism sector in the prevention and monitoring of the sexual exploitation of children in tourism. By signing the Code, organisations commit themselves to providing information to customers about child sex tourism and training staff at all levels, including housekeepers and guards, to recognise and report suspicious activity. Currently, there are no national Ghanaian travel and tourism companies or hotels that are signatories to or members of the Code.²⁰⁹ Given the popularity of Ghana as a tourist and vacation destination,²¹⁰ it is important that the Ghanaian tourism industry take part in the initiative and that different tourism-based companies become members of the Code to protect children from sexual tourism in Ghana.

BIRTH REGISTRATION

The registration of births is compulsory in Ghana under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (1965). To facilitate birth registry, Births and Deaths Registry is under the authority of the Ministry of Health, and has offices set up in all of Ghana's 10 regions as well as 168 districts and several communities.²¹¹ In cases where children have been found abandoned, arrangement for birth registration is handled by the relevant institutions involved, such as the Police and Department of Social Welfare.²¹² Parents who fail to register or delay the registration of the birth of a child may be summoned under the Registration Act and compelled to register the child.²¹³ This is important in the context of reducing child vulnerability because the birth registration of children creates a permanent record of existence, which formally provides them with legal rights and the documents needed to attend publically funded schools and obtain health benefits. Commendably, in Ghana, the Registration Act applies to all children born within the Ghanaian territory, regardless of the nationality of the parents.²¹⁴ Thus, "children born to refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers are entitled to birth registration and may claim Ghanaian nationality or that of their parents upon attaining maturity."²¹⁵

Positively, a 2013 World Health Organization

(WHO) report indicates that Ghana has seen considerable improvement in the area of birth registration in recent years, having launched a successful campaign that improved accessibility and shortened distance to registration centres. Survey data shows that registration rates for children younger than 5 rose from 44% in 2003 to 71% in 2008.²¹⁶ The abolition of registration fees is one of the incentives that have encouraged this increase. The government has also named the 1st of September to be an annual day for educating the public on the importance of birth registration of children. Ghana's Children's Act, 1998, in Section 121, charges the District Health Department of a District Assembly with the responsibility for registration of births in a particular district.²¹⁷ Despite improvements, there are still significant numbers of children that go unregistered (approximately 30%). It is primarily children from poor families, children in rural areas, abandoned children, asylum seekers and refugee children who are least likely to be registered and possess a birth certificate.²¹⁸ The last report by the Committee on the Rights of the Child states that, notwithstanding the recent progress of Ghana in terms of birth registration and the extensive use of mobile registration units, it remains concerned about the many challenges remaining in Ghana including poor staffing, inadequate funding and lack of logistics.²¹⁹

ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN GHANA

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) specifies that all children have the right to free, compulsory basic education. Ghana has shown ongoing commitment

to increasing access to and the quality of education for children across the country. The Government of Ghana has shown its commitment towards enhancing children's

right by endeavouring to ensure that, by 2015, all children of primary school age are able to enrol in and complete school.²²⁰ The government has also shown this commitment through various policy directives and interventions like “the Education Strategy Plan (ESP) for 2003-2015, the Growth Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education Programme and the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.”²²¹ In addition, the government has established a Capitation Grant (School Fee Abolition), expanded early childhood development services, and promoted the importance of gender parity in primary schools as well as the introduction of nutrition and school feeding programmes.²²² While there have been some improvements in terms of net enrolment, UNICEF reports that enrolment at the primary level has not been increasing sufficiently.²²³ Enduring challenges reportedly include: a gross inadequacy of teachers in some parts of the country; insufficiency of school infrastructure and unfavourable socio-economic,

geographical and cultural factors.²²⁴

Challenges thus remain in ensuring access to early and secondary education opportunities for the most geographically-isolated and poorest children.

Household economic strengthening efforts have been explicitly linked to child protection objectives via the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) initiative in Ghana.²²⁵ LEAP is described as a cash transfer programme that makes fiscal grants to households. These grants are conditional upon the children attending school and abstaining from engaging in child labour.²²⁶ This programme reached 45,000 households in 83 districts in 2011.²²⁷ This is an important prevention step as social protection interventions and vulnerability reduction efforts are described as relatively new to the region of West Africa.²²⁸ This illustrates the proactive measures taken by Ghana, setting it apart from other Sub-Saharan countries, in terms of reducing child vulnerabilities that can lead to CSEC.

BUDGETING TO REDUCE CHILD VULNERABILITY

While it appears that Ghana has committed budgetary resources towards promoting children's rights in terms of educational programmes²²⁹ and initiatives to help reduce child vulnerability, there is little available evidence to indicate that the Ghanaian government has acknowledged or allocated funds expressly toward the prevention of CSEC. There is, therefore, a need for Ghana to review its budget and prioritise

the full realisation of children's rights by allocating specific resources toward research and programmes specifically mandated to counter CSEC. Furthermore, the Ghanaian government should establish participatory and transparent budgetary frameworks to ensure the efficient use of resources, as lack of resources has been cited as a significant obstacle to the fulfilment of the objectives of child protection and support programmes.²³⁰

Deterrence measures

Beyond vulnerability reduction, it is imperative that Ghana engage in necessarily stringent deterrence measures to illustrate to CSEC offenders that their actions will not be tolerated. Among the different prevention and protection measures that Ghana has

undertaken in recent years, an enduring weakness has been in the area of deterrence measures. Currently, there is no sex offenders' registry in Ghana, and there are no specific measures, which criminalise the making of travel arrangements for a person for the

purpose of engaging in sexual activity at a specific destination. Furthermore, at this time, no specific deterrent measures have

been identified to reduce demand for sex with children, for example through behaviour changing programmes for offenders.

Research on CSEC

According to a 2011 analysis of child protection systems in Africa by UNICEF, Save the Children and Plan International, “the availability of up-to-date, accurate and relevant information is a crucial element of coordinating, planning and strategic thinking”²³¹ involved in protecting children from CSEC. This analysis found that there is no formal system in Ghana in use for “collecting comprehensive statistics and data on the overall situation of children vulnerable to abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation.”²³² While Ghana’s Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit is reported to maintain a national database on child victim cases, the statistics only reflect the cases that have been directly handled by DOVVSU officials and do not include those investigated by the general police force.²³³ This lack of research is a significant hurdle to creating effective protection measures. A lack of reliable quantitative data on child prostitution, child sex trafficking, child pornography and child sex tourism means it is impossible to accurately convey the severity of the issue and mobilise the necessary resources to provide assistance.

Positively, in recent years, there have been several initiatives to develop an information

management system that could inform national strategies for child protection.²³⁴ Among these initiatives is a single registry system being implemented in connection with the LEAP initiative, which provides a promising national information system around child-related vulnerabilities.²³⁵ The Department of Social Welfare is also developing a database on children in residential care and has reportedly begun the process of collecting information on all children in privately run homes.²³⁶

The Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations plans to develop a decentralised registry system integrating community data on children’s age, sex, household status, education, health and labour activities as part of a new national child labour monitoring system.²³⁷ Community registers will reportedly be “consolidated at the district level, and the information used to produce regular child labour monitoring reports submitted to the national level.”²³⁸ Although not currently envisioned as such, these initiatives could serve as a good entry point to develop a broader database on CSEC vulnerabilities and interventions.

PROTECTION

Comprehensive and effective legislation is essential to protect children from CSEC. Specific laws must be developed, implemented and/or strengthened to combat the various manifestations of CSEC. These laws must be reviewed and updated regularly to incorporate evolving forms of CSEC, such as grooming or viewing and accessing child pornography

online, and changes in the international legal framework. As well as enacting legislation that is compliant with international standards and obligations, national laws must be effectively enforced. Policies and procedures to protect child victims and/or witnesses are also essential.

Ghana was the first country in the world to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and has ratified some of the principal international treaties relating to child rights and the prevention of CSEC. This includes the ratification of the CRC, the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the Trafficking Protocol. Ghana has also ratified the African Charter on the

Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Ghana has, however, signed but not ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which is a major legal protection gap in the area of CSEC. To date, Ghana has submitted two reports on the implementation of the CRC to the relevant UN Committees.

International Instruments	
Human Rights bodies related to Child Rights	Comments
Charter-based bodies	
Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review – Human Rights Council Human Rights Council	<p>Last review: 2nd cycle (23/Oct/2012) – Conclusions related to CSEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ratify the two Optional Protocols to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography - Enhance the prevention of and combat trafficking in human beings, including internal and cross-border trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labour by, inter alia, implementing anti-trafficking legislation, protecting victims and offering necessary help and assistance - 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 - Carry out awareness-raising campaigns to promote the birth registration of all children, particularly those living in poverty and adopt necessary measures to guarantee effective access to free birth registrations for new-borns - Abolish all discriminatory legal provisions towards women and increase efforts in combating all forms of violence against women, including marital rape, child and other forced marriages, and female genital mutilation - Implement more effectively the legal framework prohibiting child labour - Protect the rights of the most vulnerable children and ensure their full participation in education <p>Date of Next Review: 2017</p>

Charter-based bodies		
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	No visits to date	
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children	No visits to date	
Treaty-based bodies		
Committee on the Rights of the Child	<p>Last report 2006 – Conclusions related to CSEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Committee is concerned about the very limited information on budget allocations for the implementation of the CRC- While taking note of the efforts made in improving the data collection systems by the different ministries, departments and agencies, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of a permanent system of data collection with expertise in child rights- The Committee is concerned about the information that sexual exploitation, particularly sex tourism is growing in the country and that many girls and boys at a very young age are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation- The Committee recommends that Ghana: (a) Finalise its studies and undertake appropriate legislative measures as well as develop an effective and comprehensive policy addressing the sexual exploitation of children, including the factors that place children at risk of such exploitation; (b) Avoid stigmatising child victims of sexual exploitation; and (c) Implement appropriate policies and programmes for the prevention, recovery and social reintegration of child victims in accordance with the Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Global Commitment adopted at the 1996 and 2001 World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children- The Committee also recommends that Ghana provide adequate programmes of assistance, recovery and reintegration for trafficked children, who should be treated as victims and neither criminalised nor penalised	
Children’s rights instruments	Date of ratification	Date of submitted reports
Convention on the Rights of the Child - 1989	5/Feb/1990	-1995 (due in 1992) -2005 (due in 1997)
Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography - 2000	Signed: 24/Sept/2003 ²³⁹ not ratified	
ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour - 1999 (No. 182)	13/Jun/2000 ²⁴⁰	

Children's rights instruments	Date of ratification	Date of submitted reports
UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime - 2000	21/Aug/2012 ²⁴¹ (Accession)	
UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and children – 2000 (supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime)	21/ Aug/ 2012 ²⁴² (Accession)	
Regional Instruments		
The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)	10/Jun/2005 ²⁴³	10/Jun/2007

Legislation and Legal Framework

Ghana has made progress in strengthening and harmonising its legal framework for the protection of children against CSEC and has developed comprehensive national laws addressing children to conform to the CRC.²⁴⁴ The country, however, has yet to ratify the OPSC. This should be prioritised given the key protections the OPSC provides, particularly in the areas of child prostitution and child pornography.

The main national legal mechanisms to ensure that children are protected from CSEC in accordance with international standards are: the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, which provides legal protection for children's rights, The Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 1998 (Act 554), and the Children's Act 1998 (Act 560), which harmonised Ghana's child protection legislation to conform to the CRC. Ghana also enacted the Human Trafficking Act 2005 (Act 694), and the Juvenile Justice Act 2003 (Act 653). In 2007, Ghana enacted the Domestic Violence Act, which provides protection to victims of domestic violence, particularly women and children. The Domestic Violence Act, although not specifically pertaining to CSEC, offers another avenue of child protection by

comprehensively defining domestic violence, prohibiting domestic violence and illustrating the role of police in the protection of victims, including children.

Starting from a general level, the 1992 Constitution of the Republic has specific provisions targeted at children's rights and welfare issues. For example, the Constitution provides for some of the cardinal principles of children's rights such as the principle of non-discrimination.²⁴⁵ Section 28(5) of Ghana's Constitution defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 years, in compliance with the CRC and the ACRWC.²⁴⁶ The Ghanaian Constitution prohibits forced labour, slavery and servitude and outlines that every child has the right to be protected from engaging in work that could threaten a child's health, education and development, in line with international child protection standards.²⁴⁷ The Children's Act of 1998, which is regarded as the most comprehensive piece of legislation on children's rights in Ghana, builds on the foundation of the Constitution by outlining more detailed provisions on children's rights, providing for child-specific processes and procedures.²⁴⁸ Section 1 of Ghana's Children's Act of 1998 also defines a child as a person below 18 years of age.²⁴⁹

Unfortunately, despite the establishment of national legislation to prevent manifestations of CSEC, many aspects of the child protection system remain unregulated and unimplemented due to a lack of protocols and guidelines for law enforcement officials, social welfare officers and probation officers.²⁵⁰ Furthermore, there is a lack of data regarding the effective implementation and enforcement of child protection legislation. A disconnect between law and practice endures, as does a discrepancy between law and community approaches to dealing with child security issues.²⁵¹ A UNICEF report entitled the “Mapping and Analysis of Ghana’s Child Protection System” indicates that the successful prosecution of those who commit crimes against children is hampered

by the “lack of special procedural protections for child victims and witnesses at all stages of the process.”²⁵² Thus, legal provisions in Ghana have been shown to be insufficient for the prevention of CSEC due to poor implementation, ineffective sanctions for perpetrators, a dearth of child-friendly justice procedures, and a lack of treatment and recovery opportunities for survivors.²⁵³ The difficulties associated with the carrying out of justice have led to a lack of confidence in the judicial system and legal institutions²⁵⁴ as effective mechanisms to protect children from CSEC. Thus, while there have been improvements in Ghanaian legislation, much remains to be done to enforce and enhance child protection, especially regarding CSEC.

PROSTITUTION OF CHILDREN

According to Article 2(b) of the CRC’s Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC), child prostitution is “the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration.”²⁵⁵ This definition covers all acts of offering, obtaining, procuring or providing a child for child prostitution.

While the Ghanaian Criminal Code outlines the offence of prostitution in Ghana, it appears that there is no specific legal definition of child prostitution within the Criminal Code. Section 279 of the Criminal Code defines prostitution as including “the offering by a person of his body commonly for acts of lewdness for payment,”²⁵⁶ with no specific reference to child prostitution.

Despite the lack of a clear definition of what child prostitution includes, Section 108 of the Criminal Code penalises the promotion of prostitution in relation to a child under sixteen. This section states: “(1) Whoever having the custody, charge or care of a child

under the age of sixteen years causes or encourages the seduction, carnal knowledge or unnatural carnal knowledge, prostitution or commission of indecent assault upon the child shall be guilty of a misdemeanour.”²⁵⁷ However, a comprehensive provision against child prostitution is needed as it is important to penalise those who engage in and facilitate child prostitution regardless of whether they have custody, charge or care of the minor(s) in question.

Section 107 of the Criminal Code on Procurement addresses prostitution in general. Although not fully in line with the OPSC, the section prohibits, among others, the procurement of any person for the purpose of prostitution in Ghana or elsewhere, including persons under twenty-one years of age. It is problematic, however, that 107(a) uses a qualification of “not being a prostitute or of known immoral character,” in relation to persons under twenty-one, which could be potentially exploited as a defence by offenders. On the other hand, it is commendable that this section also covers

trafficking in persons for the purpose of prostitution as it prohibits the procurement of any person to become a prostitute in Ghana or elsewhere through threats or intimidation, false pretences or false representations.

It is apparent that the existing law is not fully compliant with the international standard set by OPSC. The Criminal Code does not provide a clear definition of child prostitution and does not define which specific acts are prohibited. Furthermore, it is not explicitly stated in the Criminal Code that the

consideration offered in exchange for sexual services from a child may take a variety of forms, including the payment of school fees or offering of food and accommodation. Also, the legislation does not outline that the child will not be sanctioned for his or her involvement in prostitution. Finally, offences under Sections 107 and 108 are deemed misdemeanours, which attract minimum penalties; this fails to ensure that offenders are adequately punished and creates insufficient deterrence for potential offenders.

Dealing with the clandestine nature of child prostitution

Given the often underground nature of child prostitution and exploitation, it is vital for countries to introduce criminal legislation that obliges property holders/owners/managers to prohibit child prostitution on their properties and report suspicious events to authorities. Ghana is a unique and positive example in that it has introduced legislation to this effect. Section 106(1) of Ghana's Criminal Code criminalises a property owner or holder who knowingly allows child defilement upon their property. Upon conviction, a perpetrator is liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than seven years and not more than twenty-five years.²⁵⁸ This is a good example of legislation aimed at preventing the facilitation of child prostitution, although it should be noted that the legislation only protects children up to 16 years of age.

While the promulgation of legislation that specifically references children in need of protection is an important preliminary step in preventing CSEC, there must be proper enforcement through prosecution and conviction of perpetrators in order to adequately protect children from exploitation. The absence of reliable data on enforcement of existing child protection provisions in Ghana makes it difficult to

assess their actual impact on combating CSEC. Furthermore, funding and resource constraints are a fundamental issue. Ghanaian law enforcement officials often face substantial resource challenges,²⁵⁹ and this hinders their ability to carry out comprehensive investigations to support successful prosecutions in areas such as child prostitution.

TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

Under Article 3(a) of the *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children* (UN Trafficking Protocol), trafficking in persons is defined as the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the

giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."²⁶⁰

Ghana's Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694) was enacted in December 2005 to tackle human trafficking within, to and from the country.²⁶¹ This Act reflects Ghana's efforts to domesticate the UN Trafficking Protocol and was amended in 2009 to align its definition of trafficking with the Protocol. The Act addresses three components of counter-trafficking legislation: (1) prevention of human trafficking; (2) protection of trafficked persons; and (3) prosecution of traffickers.

Section 1(1) of the Act defines human trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, trading or receipt of persons within and across national borders by (a) the use of threats, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or exploitation of vulnerability, or (b) giving or receiving payments and benefits to achieve consent."²⁶² Exploitation "shall include at the minimum, induced prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, [slavery] or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs."²⁶³

Within the Act, a child is defined as a person below 18 years of age, consistent with international child protection standards.²⁶⁴ This Act prohibits the trafficking of children, including for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation. Section 1(4) states: "Where children are trafficked, the consent of the child, parents or guardian of the child cannot be used as a defence in prosecution under [the] Act, regardless of whether or not there is evidence of abuse of power, fraud or deception on the part of the trafficker or whether the vulnerability of the child was taken advantage of."²⁶⁵ Importantly, the Act also provides for the rescue and recovery of trafficking victims, including access to counselling services, employment skills and opportunities, temporary basic material support, and family tracing services.²⁶⁶ In line with international protection standards, Section 18(4) of the Act, under Rehabilitation of the Trafficked Person,

states: "The best interest of the child shall be paramount in assistance given to the rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of a trafficked child."²⁶⁷

A 2011 article entitled: "Ghana's Human Trafficking Act: Successes and Shortcomings in Six Years of Implementation" suggests that while on paper the Act appears to address the primary concerns of human trafficking, issues remain in terms of adequate protective measures for trafficking survivors; there have been only a limited number of prosecutions of both domestic and international human trafficking cases since the Act's implementation.²⁶⁸ The enforcement of the laws and prosecution of offenders is one crucial aspect in the fight against child trafficking. There are enduring difficulties in regard to investigating and prosecuting traffickers of children in Ghana, some of which include problems with evidence gathering as well as victim identification and protection.²⁶⁹ Lack of effective collaboration with relevant agencies within the country and regionally also proves to be a hurdle to adequate protection initiatives. Government officials have indicated that police and prosecutors lack the training and resources to prosecute trafficking cases fully; however, according to the US 2013 TIP report, "neither the government nor any outside entities conducted specialised anti-trafficking training for government officials during the reporting period."²⁷⁰ The enactment of a legislative instrument to effectively implement the 2005 Human Trafficking Act is also needed. As of the writing of this report, however, the instrument has not yet been approved by Parliament.²⁷¹

In 2012, the Ghanaian government commenced 75 trafficking investigations, but only secured three convictions.²⁷² All three offenders were convicted of sex trafficking offenses; two received prison sentences of five years and one received a seven-year sentence.²⁷³ Upon release of the 2013 US TIP report, the government had commenced two

prosecutions and 42 investigations remained pending. The US TIP report indicates that these numbers represent a significant reduction in the amount of investigations from the previous reporting period, where 91 investigations were initiated and 29 traffickers convicted.²⁷⁴

In November and December 2012, the Ghana government, in cooperation with the Government of Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP), dismantled a sex trafficking operation, resulting in the rescue of 82 Nigerian and 41 Ghanaian victims and arrest of 10 Nigerians and 6 Ghanaians suspected of trafficking

offences.²⁷⁵

Efforts by the Ghanaian government to protect victims in the same year appear to have decreased. The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit reported identifying 262 victims, but only referring 33 to government and NGO-run facilities that offer protective care.²⁷⁶ Furthermore, the government did not employ formal procedures to identify victims among vulnerable groups, such as children at work sites.²⁷⁷ Reports indicate that the Ghanaian Police Service maintained a 24-hour crime and trafficking reporting hotline. However, officials indicated that the hotline received an "unknown number of trafficking-related calls during the reporting period."²⁷⁸

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIALS

The OPSC defines child pornography as "any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes," and Article 3(1)(c) prohibits the production, distribution, dissemination, importation, exportation, offering, selling or possession of child pornography.²⁷⁹

Importantly, in line with international standards pursuant to the OPSC, Ghanaian law has specific legal provisions that target the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography. Section 136(2) of Ghana's Electronic Transactions Act, 2008 (Act 772) provides a definition of child pornography, which includes materials that "visually depicts (a) a child engaged in sexually explicit conduct; (b) a person who appears to be a child engaged in sexually explicit conduct; (c) images representing a child engaged in sexually explicit conduct; and (d) unauthorised images of nude children."²⁸⁰ For the purposes of this legislation and pursuant to international standards outlined in the OPSC, a child is defined as a person below eighteen years of age. Under section 136(1) of this Act,

a person who intentionally "(a) publishes child pornography through a computer; (b) produces or procures child pornography for the purpose of its publication through a computer system; or (c) possesses child pornography in a computer system or on a computer or electronic record storage medium commits an offence."²⁸¹ It is important to highlight that Electronic Transactions Act (2008) provides for protective measures which go beyond the scope of the OPSC by prohibiting the mere possession of child pornography. Additionally, under section 136(2)(a) of the Act, publish is expansively defined to mean: (a) distribute, transmit, disseminate, circulate, deliver, exhibit, lend for gain, exchange, barter, sell or offer for sale or make child pornography available in any way; (b) have in possession or custody, or under control, for the purpose of doing an act referred to in paragraph (a); and (c) print, photograph, copy or make in any other manner whether of the same or of a different kind or nature to carry out an act referred to in paragraph (a).²⁸² The punishment for offences of this kind includes a fine of up to 5000 penalty units or a term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years or both.²⁸³

However, the Ghanaian legislation does not prohibit the intentional access to child pornography through the use of information and communication technologies, as recommended by the *Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call to Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2008)*.

Currently, there is a lack of arrest and prosecution data related to this child pornography legislation.

Ghana also has a general obscenity law that regulates “obscene” material contained in printed matter, drawings, paintings, pictures, posters, emblems, photographs, cinematograph films, or other indecent objects in section 281(1) of the Criminal Code.²⁸⁴ This section sets out provisions prohibiting the production, distribution, exhibition or possession of obscene materials or performances in general.²⁸⁵ Those who commit any of the above acts are, under section 281 of the Criminal Code, guilty of a misdemeanour. Therefore, although child pornography can be prosecuted as an “offence against public morals,”²⁸⁶ the broad nature of the law, which does not specifically address child pornography, coupled with the lack of a clear definition of “obscene” in the Code, means that it is not the best model for tackling this offense.

Currently, there is no available evidence to indicate reporting obligations imposed on either Internet service providers or credit card companies in relation to child pornography. This is an area where legislation can be developed to enhance child protection.

With regard to the legal protection of children against sexual exploitation online, there are no laws in place to specifically address the solicitation of children for sexual purposes (“grooming”), especially through

the use of information and communication technologies. This legal loophole entails a possible opportunity for child vulnerability.

Furthermore, there are no victim identification or protection provisions pertaining to child pornography and no legal provisions that state that the child victim will not be treated as an offender. A specific institution responsible to coordinate and follow up on strategies and activities to combat child pornography should be established to enhance prevention and protection efforts.

Increasingly, the experts working on child sexual abuse materials are showing their concern about the lack of data related to African children depicted in these materials. Greater and enhanced data collection and analysis from this region would facilitate the actions required to combat such crimes.

There is no evidence of the availability of Internet reporting hotlines in Ghana. With growth and increased access to the ICT medium, a reporting system needs to be made available to the public. In the context of lack of understanding and resources on child sexual exploitation online, a link can be made to the international hotlines, such as INHOPE (International Association of Internet Hotlines) or IWF (Internet Watch Foundation), but the key issue is to make the public and law enforcement more aware of such reporting needs.

The capacity of law enforcement also needs to be developed to investigate online crimes against children and to coordinate and share information with international law enforcement such as INTERPOL. In this regard, the training of law enforcement on victim identification systems and an effective connection to the INTERPOL Internet child sexual exploitation database is crucial.

Article 4(3) of the OPSC states that State parties shall take such measures “as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences [that exploit children] when the alleged offender is present in its territory.”²⁸⁷ As Ghana has territorial jurisdiction over all crimes committed in the country, Ghanaian authorities should be able to prosecute and convict any person who

has committed an offense against a child in Ghana, regardless of the suspect’s nationality. Ghanaian law does not, however, contain specific provisions that define or criminalise tourism for the purpose of sexual exploitation of children. There is also no available evidence to suggest that the production and dissemination of materials advertising child sex tourism have been criminalised in Ghana.

Extraterritoriality and cooperation in the area of CSEC

In a landmark 2006 case, police agencies in Ghana and the UK collaborated together to secure the extradition of a British national to the UK, charged with the sexual abuse of children during his travels to Ghana; the case resulted in the successful conviction of the British national Kilpatrick to an indefinite period with a minimum of 5 years.²⁸⁸

In terms of extra-territorial laws, Ghana’s Extradition Act, 1960 provides for the extradition of a person to or from Ghana accused of an offence committed in or outside of Ghana for the trial of the extradited person.²⁸⁹ This legislation is, therefore, applicable to tourist perpetrators

of child sexual abuse²⁹⁰ and could serve as an important deterrent to offenders. However, the dual criminality requirement²⁹¹ under the Act constitutes a significant obstacle to the prosecution of child sex tourists in Ghana and should be abolished to better protect children.

Child protection units

The Domestic Violence and Victim Support Units (DOVVSU) in Ghana comprise a nationwide network of 11 regional police units and 75 local police units.²⁹² “The units were set up to protect the rights of victims of abuse, investigate all domestic violence cases, investigate all child abuse cases, arrest and prosecute offenders or perpetrators of abuse, and extend support to victims of domestic violence. All activities of the unit are coordinated by a National Secretariat located at the National Headquarters of the Ghana

Police Service in Accra.”²⁹³ There is a problem of a lack of reporting uniformity among units as cases of abuse are recorded using a miscellany of methods and formats.²⁹⁴

The DOVVSU operates in all ten regions in Ghana and works closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, and the courts in order to investigate cases of violence against women and children and provide free medical and psychosocial support to victims.²⁹⁵

Child sexual exploitation has far-reaching emotional and physical implications that can permanently affect both the development and wellbeing of a child. This highlights the need for support services that help with the recovery and reintegration of child survivors of CSEC. Furthermore, research indicates that child victims of exploitation have support needs that are distinctive from adults. For example, “female child victims of trafficking face a double vulnerability due to gender and age[;]”²⁹⁶ ...prostituted children have radically different protection and reintegration needs than adults.”²⁹⁷ Therefore, strategies for the recovery and reintegration of victims of CSEC should contain both immediate and long-term policies for child-specific support in order to enhance child protection and wellbeing. Immediate support services can include medical and psychological care as well as the provision of adequate shelter and legal assistance. Long-term assistance for child victims could include the return to the family or community when possible, reintegration into the education system of the respective region, and concrete plans for social and economic recovery.

A situational overview of support services available to children in Ghana suggests that while there has been a general improvement in accessibility to child welfare services in the past decade, support available to children who have been sexually exploited is highly inadequate.²⁹⁸ Also, a 2011 UNICEF report analysing Ghana’s child protection system revealed that support services for children who have experienced violence, abuse and exploitation in Ghana are very limited and tend to be concentrated in urban centres.²⁹⁹ State agencies, including DOVVSU, that have the mandate to provide such services are under-resourced³⁰⁰ and available NGO services are limited with inadequate capacity

to reach the numbers requiring their assistance.³⁰¹

Due to insufficient resources, staff and transportation, the Department of Social Welfare has limited capacity to provide ongoing counselling, recovery and reintegration services to children and their families who live beyond the district capital.³⁰² Through national child labour projects supported by UNICEF, IOM and ILO/IPEC, there are some family-tracing and recovery and reintegration packages available in certain districts for children rescued from trafficking or removed from the worst forms of child labour. UNICEF’s assessment, however, is that “these initiatives rely primarily on local NGOs for delivering support services, and the number of child victims who benefit is quite small.”³³

A number of NGOs provide recovery, reintegration and legal aid services to children and families in Ghana. Most NGO interventions, however, are concentrated in select districts within the regions where they work.³⁰⁴ Furthermore, NGOs providing response services tend to be concentrated in major urban centres in the southern region, thus leaving a significant proportion of the child population without adequate recourse for support. While progress has been made in improving inter-agency referrals, NGO reports indicate that there is generally limited capacity to provide continued monitoring and support to children and families after the initial “crisis stage.”³⁰⁵

A noted problem in Ghana has been the relatively high reliance on institutionalising children in response to child removal or rescue.³⁰⁶ Furthermore, there has been little regulation of residential centres for children.³⁰⁷ It has been reported that the

DSW plans to intensify the monitoring of children's homes to ensure that they operate satisfactorily, as required by the rules and regulations that govern their operations.³⁰⁸ Reportedly, Ghana finalised its Standards for Residential Homes for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in 2010 and has since been working to inspect and accredit all of the homes to promote child safety and strengthen recovery.³⁰⁹

Hotlines

Although not specifically pertaining to CSEC, it was reported in September 2012 by the Ghana News Agency that the Vodafone Ghana Foundation, in conjunction with the Ark Foundation, developed a 24-hour hotline for victims of abuse and exploitation, including domestic abuse.³¹⁰ The 24-hour hotline is intended to give victims of abuse the opportunity to have access to trained

professionals who can provide them with counselling, police assistance, legal advice and interventions for women and children at risk of abuse.³¹¹

There is also a hotline for the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police Service as reported by the Unit's website.³¹² A 24-hour hotline is maintained by the Ghana Police Force for the reporting of crimes, including trafficking.³¹³ There have been media reports that this hotline has stopped being toll-free and has fallen out of use. There have also been reports that there are efforts underway to reactivate a national helpline helmed by AMPCAN; however, according to GNCRC, this is a project-based pilot which has yet to be tested. GNCRC also reports that the country is initiating a national emergency response line which is also still at the discussion stage.

Training of law enforcement personnel

As previously mentioned, the 2013 US TIP report criticised the government's failure to provide targeted anti-trafficking training to law enforcement officials and sufficient funding for the maintenance of government-run shelters.³¹⁴ The three agencies responsible for the enforcement of anti-trafficking laws in the country are the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Ghana Police Service (GPS), the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) and the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS). The government maintains regional AHTUs in nine regions as part of its anti-trafficking enforcement efforts.³¹⁵ To strengthen law enforcement, more resources are needed to enhance the capacity of all law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges for the effective investigation and prosecution of child trafficking cases in Ghana. This would also include improving

victim identification, especially child victims, child witness protection and collaboration among stakeholders within the country and across borders.

To address current challenges, efforts are underway to provide adequate training and capacity development services. In 2011, as part of an EU and Danish government funded thematic programme on Migration and Asylum, "Countering Human Smuggling and Irregular Migration in Ghana," 27 officials (including those from the Criminal Investigations Department and Ghana Immigration Service) were trained in document fraud detection.³¹⁶ Also, according to the US 2012 TIP Report, "[t]he GIS, with assistance from UNICEF and IOM, conducted several training courses on trafficking for immigration officers throughout the country, including

training 20 GIS staff in data collection as well as verification and management skills for trafficked and migrant people.”³¹⁷ In addition, a number of training exercises on human trafficking, including workshops, were organised as capacity building for EOCO’s anti-trafficking unit, members of the GPS, and some 50 police officers from the AHTU.³¹⁸

Law enforcement training, however, appears to be centred on trafficking issues. While MOWAC and various NGOs have helped to implement educational and outreach initiatives in relation to child rights and protection to a degree, it is important that

relevant law enforcement agencies be trained on all CSEC manifestations and related issues, child-friendly procedures, and legal provisions on witness protection. It is critical that police officials are trained in sensitivity issues and do not treat children who have been sexually exploited as criminals. This training is important so that children are not re-traumatised following rescue. Police officials should also be trained with other professionals that work with children, including social workers, media personnel and NGO workers so as to ensure consistency and cooperation between those working in child protection.

CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Involving victims of CSEC in prevention and protection efforts ensures that these measures take into account the unique concerns and experiences of children who have been impacted by the issues in question. This involvement also serves to aid in the child participants’ recovery by developing their leadership skills, self-confidence, and sense of empowerment.

Ghana has increased its efforts to involve children and young people in the promotion and protection of children’s rights. For instance, a key principle of Ghana’s National Youth Policy is youth participation: “The views of the youth and their participation in national development must be sought. The Government and other stakeholders must consciously and consistently involve young people in decision making.” Opportunities for youth participation are, therefore, incorporated in the Policy’s major priority areas and implementation mechanisms, including participation in governance.³¹⁹ The National Youth Bill, which was re-submitted to Parliament in early 2014 as it failed to pass in the previous Parliament, is expected to give

ample legal backing to the country’s youth development agenda, including its National Youth Policy.³²⁰

In 2011, it was reported that Ghana’s Minister of Youth and Sports had launched Ghana’s Youth Consultative Assembly “with a call for the establishment of a district level mechanism to ensure that the youth interacted with their respective Metropolitan Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs).”³²¹ Also in 2011, the Youth Consultative Assembly, as part of Africa’s Youth Day celebration under the theme “Dialogue and Mutual Understanding: Evolving Strategic Forum for Implementation of the National Youth Policy,” worked to create a platform to enable youth to take part in decision-making processes that affect youth development.³²²

These efforts suggest that Ghanaian government officials recognise the importance of including children and youth in the political process so as to foster a politically aware and involved population and reduce child vulnerability. Despite efforts to recognise and support child participation, the actual

level of child participation remains uncertain across the country, thus emphasising the need for continued efforts to engage children and youth in efforts to prevent CSEC.

Both national and international NGOs as well as youth groups have also made efforts to promote the participation of children in public forums and in matters concerning their rights and well-being. A recent positive development in youth participation in children's rights occurred on the 27th and 28th of February 2013, during a UNESCO-supported workshop held in Accra. This workshop centred on how young Ghanaians could become more active in politics, setting the necessary foundation for the creation of a National Youth Parliament that could be up and running by 2014 if the roadmap adopted at the workshop is followed.³²³

At the workshop, representatives of youth organisations and Ghanaian civil society, along with officials of the National Youth Authority, met in Accra to determine how best to establish a National Youth Parliament to engage children across the country. The workshop was organised by the Youth Bridge Foundation (supported by UNESCO) as part of its Strategy for African Youth, which promotes youth participation in political governance.³²⁴ Following a series of working groups and plenary discussions, the workshop participants adopted a roadmap to be implemented between March 2013 and May 2014 in the hopes of formally establishing a National Youth Parliament.

UNICEF's project to tap the youth voice on education was part of a larger campaign to promote quality education in Ghana, emphasising the importance of students completing school. Starting in 2008, this

project enabled "youth reporters" from different communities in Ghana to lead discussions and interviews and report about the challenges, hopes and aspirations of children around the country. This "youth reporting" was promoted to provide a platform for children to express themselves and the opportunity to voice their concerns about access to education (or the lack thereof) and to empower young students by imparting communication and journalism skills.³²⁵

An article in the *Journal of Information Technology Impact* indicates that cybercrime, including the form that sexually exploits children, is often perpetrated by young people in Ghana who possess a sufficient degree of technical competence to commit computer-related crimes.³²⁶ This highlights the need for youth development programmes to specifically channel these technical competencies toward productive enterprises and against criminal activities,³²⁷ including CSEC. Local organisations can play important roles in this regard. For example, an organisation called the Youth Advocacy Programme, founded in Ghana in 2009 by active youth members, engages children in local communities striving for "a community of empowered youth playing a leading role as leaders and law-abiding citizens."³²⁸ This group endeavours, *inter alia*, to promote ICT skills in youth in a way that makes for better and safer use of technology.³²⁹

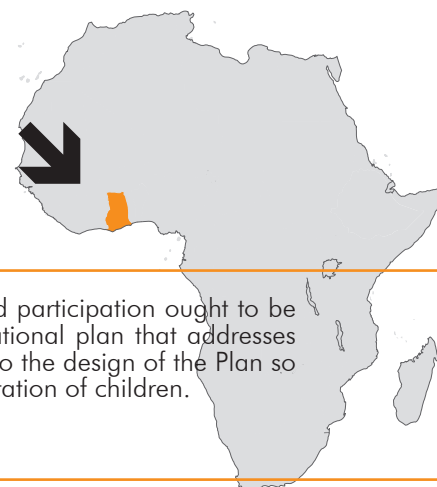
Going forward, it is important that Ghanaian government agencies and non-governmental organisations working in the country specifically create youth initiatives that foster awareness about the different forms of CSEC. They must engage children and youth

community members in the establishment of vulnerability reduction and response strategies and work towards creating a youth population that is aware of their rights and recognises available resources to prevent exploitation.

Considering the various challenges being faced with the involvement of children and youth in decision making, GNCRC and Plan Ghana have started a new model dubbed the National Children and Youth Advisory Board (NCYAB) in all 10 regions of Ghana. Plan Ghana is coordinating the activities in four regions while GNCRC is operating in six regions. The NCYAB has received various training programmes ranging from leadership, advocacy and lobbying skills, and

media training, among others. Successfully, the first batch of leaders has completed their term of office and a new set of executives has been elected. This is highly recognised by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and this group has been engaged by the Ministry on three occasions to represent children from all 10 regions in discussions of a national policy being developed by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. Discussions are planned with the Ministry to ensure that the Ministry facilitates NCYAB activities and recognises it as a national children and youth parliament. Other organisations such as World Vision Ghana are also facilitating a children parliament model but these groups operate in their project districts.

PRIORITY ACTIONS REQUIRED



National Plans of Action

- In accordance with the Rio Declaration and Call for Action, child participation ought to be emphasised in child protection strategies and facilitated in a national plan that addresses CSEC. In addition, children ought to be involved in contributing to the design of the Plan so as to enhance community involvement in the prevention of exploitation of children.

Coordination and Cooperation

- To help with the effective implementation of policies and programmes to protect children from CSEC, objectives, norms and rules applied in countering child exploitation need to be uniform and consistent across sub-units. Further, systems ought to be unitary, with only one line of authority so as to avoid overlap and redundancies.³³⁰
- Efforts should also be made to enhance training and the streamlining of ministries and child protection agencies to improve their level of collaboration and effectiveness.
- Education and awareness-raising campaigns should target community standards regarding the treatment of children and also ensure that children are made aware of the various resources available to them.

Prevention

- Awareness-raising campaigns related to CSEC issues ought to be strengthened; for example, posters and flyers ought to be made visible at airports and other border points.
- CSEC issues ought to be incorporated into education curricula for children in Ghana.
- It is important for Ghana to better allocate resources for research and improve technical support for the detection and prevention of sexual exploitation of children in Ghana. This includes training in computer technology for officials to better track those who exploit children online.
- The ICT policies of Ghana should expressly condemn the sexual exploitation of children online and prohibit child pornography.
- There is a need to conduct research into the locations used by child sex offenders in order to develop strategies to engage relevant community stakeholders (property managers, landlords, brokers etc.) to monitor these venues.
- Although there have been efforts to address the ongoing phenomenon of street children in Ghana, this issue must be made a priority to reduce child vulnerability to exploitation.
- To track foreign child sex offenders and ensure their prosecution, Ghana should establish a child sex offender registry and actively share such information with other countries for prevention and monitoring purposes.
- Strategies must be developed to change societal attitudes towards child sexual exploitation, in order to reduce a sense of tolerance or hopelessness among some communities and reduce demand for sexual services from children.
- All children should be issued birth certificates and other relevant documentation, and immigration status should not prevent children from accessing basic social services or otherwise leave them in a position of vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.
- The Government of Ghana should allocate budgetary resources expressly toward CSEC issues and their prevention.
- The government should promote targeted community and law enforcement education, focusing on the ways in which the traditional practices of some communities can lead to the sexual exploitation of children (e.g. child marriages). Furthermore, there should be enhanced education efforts to ensure that officials do not blame victims of exploitation.

Protection

- It is imperative to enact legislation on child pornography and child prostitution that will be in line with the OPSC. To this end, Ghana should ratify the OPSC in order to bridge major protection gaps in the country's legal framework against CSEC.
- Ghana should also enact adequate legislation to prevent and punish identified emerging trends in the country such as the "grooming" of children for sexual purposes.
- It should be mandatory for ISPs to report suspected child sexual abuse images to the appropriate authorities.
- Because of the lack of reliable statistics on CSEC issues in Ghana, the country should prioritise data collection in relation to all forms of CSEC, not only trafficking in persons. The government should undertake independent research using sound methodology to better understand the causes and prevalence of all manifestations of CSEC. In particular, it is imperative to gather data about local demand for sex with children and the unique enforcement barriers faced in this area.
- Research also ought to be conducted on the effectiveness of services currently available to victims of CSEC to determine weaknesses and areas for improvement. Children must be made aware of the services available to them so that they can benefit from support mechanisms.
- The government should implement systems to ensure that child victims of CSEC are able to reintegrate into mainstream education and develop the skills needed to create careers that allow for social mobility and future income, thus reducing their vulnerability to falling victim to the sex industry.
- Repatriation procedures should be speedy and ensure that foreign victims are housed in rehabilitative environments with an adequate standard of living.
- The dual criminality requirement for extradition should be eliminated to ensure legal protection for victims of CSEC.
- All officials and workers who engage with children that have been exploited in Ghana must be trained in child sensitivity and child rights to prevent re-victimisation.
- It is important to provide technological training (for example, in computer forensics) to the relevant law enforcement and other authorities so that they are able to better respond to and prevent cybercrime that sexually exploits children.

Recovery and Reintegration

- The government should take adequate responsibility for the recovery and reintegration of child victims of sexual exploitation in Ghana, allocate greater budgetary resources towards the matter, and not depend so extensively on NGOs to provide support services.
- Children must be made aware of available support services and counselling opportunities.

Child Participation

- To prevent all forms of CSEC, it is vital that Ghana implement preventive and educational measures that include and involve children. In addition, Ghana should place emphasis on child and youth participation in the development of new national action plans and in the approval of new laws.
- Ghanaian officials should be sensitised towards the benefits of child and youth participation in policy making and informed about the kinds of approaches that can be taken, and other decisions affecting children, so that the contributions of children are utilised in a meaningful and sustainable way.
- Some reports indicate that cybercrime in Ghana, including those that sexually exploit children, is perpetrated to a large extent by young people with a sufficient degree of technical competence to commit computer-related crimes. This highlights the need for youth development programmes to promote responsible Internet use and channel these ICT skills toward productive enterprises and against criminal activities.

ANNEX

The Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents*

Note: This is a condensed version. The full Rio Declaration and Call to Action also contains: Preamble; A. Review of progress and outstanding challenges; and B. Declaration.

C. Call for Action

We call on all States, with the support of international organizations and civil society, including NGOs, the private sector, adolescents and young people to establish and implement robust frameworks for the protection of children and adolescents from all forms of sexual exploitation, and we call upon them to:

I - International and Regional Instruments

- (1) Continue working towards ratification of relevant international instruments, including as appropriate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, ILO Convention 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- (2) Continue working towards ratification of relevant regional instruments, including as appropriate the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the ASEAN Charter,

the Inter-American Conventions on International Traffic in Minors and on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, and the Council of Europe Conventions on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, on Cybercrime and on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, conventions which can be ratified by States that are non-members of the Council of Europe.

- (3) State Parties should take all necessary measures to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, taking into due accounts the conclusions and the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the context of its review of State Parties' reports. All countries are encouraged to use this as an important reference.

II – Forms of Sexual Exploitation and its New Scenarios

Child pornography/child abuse images

- (4) Criminalize the intentional production, distribution, receipt and possession of child pornography, including virtual

* The Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2008), full text available at: http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/PDF/Outcome/WCIII_Outcome_Document_Final.pdf

- images and the sexually exploitative representation of children, as well as the intentional consumption, access and viewing of such materials where there has been no physical contact with a child; legal liability should be extended to entities such as corporations and companies in case the responsibility for or involvement in the production and/or dissemination of materials.
- (5) Undertake specific and targeted actions to prevent and stop child pornography and the use of the Internet and new technologies for the grooming of children into online and off-line abuse and for the production and dissemination of child pornography and other materials. Victim identification, support and care by specialized staff should be made a high priority.
 - (6) Conduct educational and awareness-raising campaigns focusing on children, parents, teachers, youth organizations and others working with and for children with a view to improve their understanding of the risks of sexually exploitative use of the Internet, mobile telephones and other new technologies, including information for children on how to protect themselves, how to get help and to report incidences of child pornography and online sexual exploitation.
 - (7) Take the necessary legislative measures to require Internet service providers, mobile phone companies, search engines and other relevant actors to report and remove child pornography websites and child sexual abuse images, and develop indicators to monitor results and enhance efforts.
 - (8) Call upon Internet service providers, mobile phone companies, Internet cafes and other relevant actors to develop and implement voluntary Codes of Conduct and other corporate social responsibility mechanisms together with the development of legal tools for enabling the adoption of child protection measures in these businesses.
 - (9) Call upon financial institutions to undertake actions to trace and stop the flow of financial transactions undertaken through their services which facilitate access to child pornography.
 - (10) Set up a common list of websites, under the auspices of Interpol, containing sexual abuse images, based on uniform standards, whose access will be blocked; the list has to be continuously updated, exchanged on international level, and be used by the provider to perform the access blocking.
 - (11) Undertake research and development, in the realm of the private sector, of robust technologies to identify images taken with electronic digital devices and trace and retract them to help identify the perpetrators.
 - (12) Promote public/private partnerships to enhance the research and development of robust technologies to investigate and to trace the victims with a view to immediately stop their exploitation and provide them with all the necessary support for full recovery.
 - (13) Make technologies easily available, affordable and usable for parents and other caregivers, including to assist with the use of filters to block inappropriate and harmful images of children.

Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in prostitution

- (14) Address the demand that leads to children being prostituted by making the purchase of sex or any form of transaction to obtain sexual services from a child a criminal transaction under criminal law, even when the adult is unaware of the child's age.
- (15) Provide specialized and appropriate health care for children who have been exploited in prostitution, and support child centered local models of recovery, social work systems, realistic economic alternatives and cooperation among programmes for holistic response.

Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in travel and tourism.

- (16) Encourage and support the tourism, travel and hotel sectors in adopting professional Codes of Conduct, for example by joining and implementing the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism; encourage the use of businesses that put in place appropriate child protection-focused corporate social responsibility strategies; and/or provide other incentives for those participating.
- (17) Ensure that all stakeholders pay specific attention to unregulated tourism to prevent domestic and international travellers from sexually exploiting children and adolescents.
- (18) Cooperate in the establishment of an international travel notification system, such as the Interpol 'green notice' system, in accordance with applicable law and human rights standards.
- (19) Ensure investigation and, where sufficient evidence exists, that appropriate charges are brought and vigorously pursued against the State's

nationals who are reported or alleged to have sexually exploited a child in a foreign country.

- (20) Prohibit the production and dissemination of material advertising the sexual exploitation of children in tourism; and alert travellers to criminal sanctions that will apply in cases of sexual exploitation of children.
- (21) Monitor new and emerging tourist destinations and establish proactive measures to work with private sector partners involved in the development of tourism services on measures to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, including the use of socially and environmentally responsible strategies that promote equitable development.

Trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents

- (22) Mobilize communities, including children and adolescents with a view to engaging them in dialogue on and a critical review of social norms and practices and economic and social conditions that make children vulnerable to trafficking, and establish procedures that involve them in developing strategies and programmes where they participate, where appropriate, in the planning, implementation and monitoring of such programmes.
- (23) Pilot and adapt or replicate successful models of community-based prevention and rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for child victims of trafficking.
- (24) Establish policies and programmes that address not only cross-border but also internal trafficking of children and that include, among other elements, a standard operating procedure for the safe repatriation and return of children based on the child's view and on a

careful assessment of the needs and risks to the child of returning to her/his place of origin to ensure that the best interests of the child are taken into account.

- (25) Continue strengthening cross-border and internal cooperation of law enforcement officials, for example by establishing coordinating units with a mandate to issue clear guidelines for child centered investigation of cases of trafficking of children and for treating trafficked children not as criminals but as victims in need of protection.
- (26) Take legislative and other measures to ensure that a guardian is appointed without delay for every unaccompanied trafficked child, that an effective system of registration and documentation of all trafficked children is established, and that every trafficked child is provided with not only short-term protection but also with the necessary economic and psycho-social support for full and long-lasting recovery and social reintegration (in line with the UNICEF

Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking and UNHCR Guidelines on Formal Determination of the Best Interests of the Child).

- (27) Undertake and/or support, with the involvement of civil society and children, the regular evaluation of programmes and policies to prevent and stop the trafficking of children and of legislation that may have a conducive impact on trafficking, for example laws on marriage, free education, adoption and migration, birth registration, accordance of citizenship, refugee or other status.

III – Legal Frameworks and Enforcement of the Law

- (28) Define, prohibit and criminalize, in accordance with existing international human rights standards, all acts of sexual

exploitation of children and adolescents in their jurisdiction, irrespective of any set age of consent or marriage or cultural practice, even when the adult is unaware of the child's age.

- (29) Establish effective extraterritorial jurisdiction, abolishing the requirement of double criminality for offences of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and facilitate mutual legal assistance, in order to achieve effective prosecution of perpetrators and appropriate sanctions. Make all acts of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents an extraditable offence in existing or newly established extradition treaties.
- (30) Designate a lead law enforcement agency, where appropriate to national circumstances, to proactively enforce extraterritorial laws related to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- (31) Ensure that child victims of sexual exploitation are not criminalized or punished for their acts directly related to their exploitation, but are given the status of victim in law and are treated accordingly.
- (32) Establish special gender sensitive units/ children's desks within police forces, involving when appropriate other professionals like health care and social workers and teachers, to address sexual crimes against children, and provide specialized training to judicial and law enforcement personnel.
- (33) Address corruption in law enforcement and the judiciary, as well as other authorities with a duty of care to children, recognizing corruption as a major obstacle to effective law enforcement and protection for children.
- (34) Establish and implement international, regional and national legal mechanisms and programmes for addressing sex offender behaviour and preventing recidivism, including through risk

assessment and offender management programmes, the provision of voluntary extended and comprehensive rehabilitation services (in addition to but not in lieu of criminal sanctions as appropriate), safe reintegration of convicted offenders and the collection and sharing of good practices and establish where appropriate sex offenders registers.

IV – Integrated Cross-Sectoral Policies and National Plans of Action General

- (35) Develop and implement comprehensive National Plans of Action on the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, or include these in existing relevant planning frameworks, such as National Development Plans and ensure that these Plans are based in a cross-sectoral approach which brings all stakeholders together in a coherent and comprehensive framework for action. These Plans should incorporate gender-sensitive strategies, social protection measures and operational plans, with adequate monitoring and evaluation targeted resources and designated responsible actors, including civil society organizations for implementation of initiatives to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and provide support for child victims of sexual exploitation.
 - (36) Promote and support multi-sectoral policies and programmes, including community-based programmes, within the framework of a comprehensive national child protection system to address phenomena that contribute to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents including, for example, discrimination (including on the basis of sex), harmful traditional practices, child marriage and social norms that condone sexual exploitation.
 - (37) Promote and fund meaningful child and youth participation at all levels in the design, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, in campaigns and through peer-to-peer youth programmes, aimed at raising awareness and preventing the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents.
 - (38) Initiate and support the collection and sharing of reliable information and cross-border cooperation, and contribute to databases on victims and perpetrators, to enhance assistance to children and address the demand for sex with children, in accordance with applicable laws.
- Prevention*
- (39) Ensure that all children born on their territory are registered immediately and for free after their birth and pay special attention to not yet registered children and children at risk and in marginalized situations.
 - (40) Strengthen the role of educational institutions and staff to detect, denounce and help address sexual abuse and exploitation of children in all forms and sources.
 - (41) Emphasize prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, through e.g. awareness raising and educational campaigns, support for parents and eradication of poverty while reinforcing or establishing multi-sectoral referral mechanisms to provide comprehensive support and services to children who have been victimized in sexual exploitation.
 - (42) Support children to gain deeper knowledge of their own rights to be free from sexual exploitation, and the options available to help them to address abuse, so that they are empowered, with the partnership of adults, to end sexual exploitation.

- (43) Engage children in meaningful and critical examination of changing contemporary values and norms and their potential to increase vulnerability to sexual exploitation; and promote education to enhance children's understanding of these issues in relation to sexual exploitation.
- (44) Undertake research on contemporary patterns of socialization of boys and men across different contexts to identify factors that promote and strengthen boys' and men's respect for the rights of girls and women and engage them in action initiatives that inhibit and discourage them from engaging in sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

Protection of the child

- (45) Increase efforts to address the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents through the development of comprehensive and integrated national child protection systems, including the necessary budget allocations and based on identifications of settings where children are most at risk that aim to protect children from all forms of violence and abuse.
- (46) Establish by 2013 an effective and accessible system for reporting, follow up and support for child victims of suspected or actual incidents of sexual exploitation, for example by instituting mandatory reporting for people in positions of responsibility for the welfare of children.
- (47) Develop or enhance accessibility of existing telephone or web-based help lines, in particular for children in care and justice institutions, to encourage children and require care givers to confidentially report sexual exploitation and seek referral to appropriate services, and ensure that the operators of such reporting mechanisms are adequately trained and supervised.
- (48) Strengthen existing national child protection services or establish new ones in order to provide all child victims of sexual exploitation, girls and boys, without discrimination, with the necessary economic and psycho-social support for their full physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, and when appropriate, family reunification and interventions that support and strengthen families to mitigate the risk of further exploitation; such services to be provided by well trained multi-disciplinary teams of professionals.
- (49) Ensure that these services are accessible, appropriately resourced, comprehensive, child- and gender-sensitive, and reach all children without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex (or orientation), and social origin and including children with disabilities, from ethnic minorities, indigenous or Aboriginal children, refugee or asylum-seeking and children in domestic service or living on the streets and children displaced by conflict or emergency situations.
- (50) Develop programs that provide children of sex workers and children living in brothels with support and protection.
- (51) Promote and defend the privacy of the child victims and child perpetrators of sexual exploitation, taking into account relevant national laws and procedures, to protect their identity in investigatory or court proceedings or from disclosure by the media and ensure that these proceedings are child friendly and allow the child to participate in a meaningful way in the process of bringing the perpetrator to justice.
- (52) Ensure that children and adolescents exhibiting acts of sexual violence harmful to others receive appropriate care and attention as a first option through gender-sensitive and child-focused measures and programmes

that balance their best interest with due regard for the safety of others, and ensure compliance with the principle that depriving children of liberty should be pursued only as a measure of last resort, and ensure that those responsible for the care of such children are equipped with relevant and culturally appropriate training and skills.

V – International Cooperation

- (53) Take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; and for the assistance of child victims in their physical and psychological recovery, social reintegration and, as appropriate, repatriation.
- (54) Establish and/or improve by 2013 concrete mechanisms and/or processes to facilitate coordination at national, regional and international levels for enhanced cooperation among government ministries, funding bodies, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, workers' and employers' organizations, the media, children's organizations and other representatives of civil society with a view to enabling and supporting concrete action to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- (55) Strengthen and improve the effectiveness of existing regional mechanisms for exchange, coordination and monitoring of progress on child protection including against sexual exploitation in order to review progress and strengthen follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made.
- (56) Provide, when in a position to do so, financial, technical and other assistance through existing multilateral, regional, bilateral and other programmes for addressing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; and explore the potential of a fund for child and youth initiatives in this area.
- (57) Develop, where appropriate with the support of UN agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector, workers' and employers' organizations, policies and programmes to promote and support corporate social responsibility of enterprises operating inter alia in tourism, travel, transport and financial services, and of communication, media, Internet services, advertising and entertainment sectors; so that child-rights focused policies, standards and codes of conduct are implemented throughout the supply chain and include an independent monitoring mechanism.
- (58) Support and contribute to the Interpol international child abuse images database and nominate a responsible national focal point person or unit to collect and update promptly national data on sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and systematically share this information with Interpol in order to support cross-border (international) law enforcement action and strengthen its effectiveness, and adopt multilateral agreements especially for police investigation work.

- (59) Undertake national and international coordinated measures to curb and stop the involvement of organized crime in commercial sexual exploitation of children and bring persons and/or legal entities responsible for this form of organized crime to justice.

VI – Social Responsibility Initiatives

We encourage the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations, to proactively engage in all efforts to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and to use their knowhow, human and financial resources, networks, structures and leveraging power to:

- (60) Integrate child protection, including the prevention of sexual exploitation of children, into new or existing corporate social responsibility policies of enterprises operating inter alia in tourism, travel, transport, agriculture and financial services, and of communication, media, Internet services, advertising and entertainment sectors, and ensure appropriate implementation of such policies and widespread public awareness.
- (61) Incorporate the prevention and protection of children from sexual exploitation in human resources policies, such as Codes of Conduct and other corporate social responsibility mechanisms throughout the supply chain.
- (62) Join efforts with Governments, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and other stakeholders to prevent the production and dissemination of child pornography,

including virtual images and the sexually exploitative representation of children, and stop the use of the Internet and new technologies for the grooming of children into online and off-line abuse; undertake actions to trace and stop the flow of financial transactions for sexual exploitation of children through the services of financial institutions; support efforts to address the demand for sexual exploitation of children in prostitution and the strengthening of services for children victims and their families, including the establishment of accessible telephone or web-based help lines; and provide support for educational and awareness-raising campaigns targeting children, parents, teachers, youth organizations and others working with and for children, on the risks of sexual exploitation of children, sexually exploitative use of the Internet, mobile phones and other new technologies as well as on protective measures.

VII – Monitoring

- (63) Establish by 2013 independent children's rights institutions such as children's ombudspersons or equivalents or focal points on children's rights in existing human rights institutions or general ombudsperson offices, highlighting the importance for States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child of General Comment No 2 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; these bodies should play a key role in the independent monitoring of actions taken for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, protection of children from such exploitation and the restoration

of the rights of sexually exploited children, in advocating for effective legal frameworks and enforcement and in ensuring, where necessary, that child victims have effective remedies and redress, including the possibility of filing complaints before these institutions.

We encourage the Committee on the Rights of the Child to:

- (64) Persevere with reviewing progress of States Parties' fulfilment of their obligations to uphold the right of children to protection from sexual exploitation and pay special attention to the recommendations in the Rio Call for Action in its examination of reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.
- (65) Adopt as a matter of priority a General Comment on the right of the child to protection from sexual exploitation, trafficking for sexual purposes, and the abduction and sale of children, including detailed guidance to States on the development, implementation and enforcement of national legislation and policies in this regard.
- (66) Continue to work with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in protecting child rights, and raising awareness of relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms.

We encourage other United Nations human rights treaty bodies, special procedures of the Human Rights Council and special representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General, as well as regional human rights mechanisms, to:

- (67) Pay particular attention to combating the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, within their respective mandates and during their examination of State Parties' reports, country visits, in their thematic work and/or other activities.

We urge the Human Rights Council to:

- (68) Ensure that the Universal Periodic Review process includes rigorous examination of States' fulfilment of their obligations to children, including preventing and stopping the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and to respectfully the rights of child victims of such exploitation.

We urge the yet-to-be-appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially in Women and Children, together with other appropriate mandate holders and in collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to:

- (69) Work together to avoid duplication and to maximise their impact in preventing and stopping the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and, through their work, map experiences in the area of prevention and response to sexual exploitation of children and assess their effectiveness.

We encourage UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions to:

- (70) Support and provide information on the extent of and responses to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents to these bodies.
- (71) Work with the media to enhance their role in education and empowerment, and in protecting children from sexual exploitation, and to mitigate the harmful potential of the media, including through the sexualization of children in advertising.

We call on international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to:

- (72) Review their current macro-economic and poverty reduction strategies with a view to counteracting any negative social impact on children and their families, including loan conditionality which essentially limits social services and access to rights and minimizing the risk for children to sexual exploitation.

We call on religious communities to:

- (73) Reject, in the light of their consensus about the inherent dignity of every person, including children, all forms of violence against children including sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and establish, in that regard, multi-religious cooperation and partnership with other key stakeholders such as governments, children's organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, media and the private sector using their moral authority, social influence and leadership to guide communities in ending sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

C. Call for Action

(1) We commit ourselves to the most effective follow-up to this Call for Action:

- At the national level, inter alia, by biennial public reporting on the measures taken for the implementation of the Rio Declaration and Call for Action and promoting/initiating discussions on the progress made and the remaining challenges to named responsible mechanisms for monitoring implementation while also integrating such requirements into State reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- At the international level, by encouraging and supporting coordinated actions by the relevant human rights treaty bodies, special procedures of the Human Rights Council and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to maintaining awareness of the Rio Declaration and Call for Action and promoting its implementation.

- (2) Encourage the private sector to join the United Nations Global Compact and communicate their implementation progress with regard to addressing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and supporting the realization of this platform for coordinated corporate efforts and sharing of best practices.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ² A World Bank initiative, this is a compilation of aggregate and individual governance indicators for 215 economies covering the period from 1996-2012. Indicators address six key dimensions of governance: voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home>.
- ³ Forum for a New World Governance. World Governance Index – 2011 Report: Why Should World Governance Be Evaluated, and for What Purpose? June 2010. Accessed on April 2014 at: http://www.world-governance.org/IMG/pdf/WGI_short_version_EN_web-2.pdf.
- ⁴ The World Bank. Country at a Glance – Ghana. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ghana>.
- ⁵ National Population Council. Ghana Population Stabilisation Report. October 2011. Accessed on 14 January 2014 at: http://www.populationcommunication.com/Medias/Ghana_report.pdf.
- ⁶ National Population Council. Ghana Population Stabilisation Report. October 2011. Accessed on 14 January 2014 at: http://www.populationcommunication.com/Medias/Ghana_report.pdf.
Each year on July 1, The World Bank revises the classification of the world's economies based on estimates of gross national income (GNI) per capita for the previous year. The updated GNI per capita estimates are also used as input to the Bank's operational classification of economies, which determines their lending eligibility. As of 1 July 2013, the World Bank income classifications by GNI per capita are as follows: Lower middle income: \$1,036 to \$4,085. The World Bank. New Country Classifications. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://data.worldbank.org/news/new-country-classifications>.
- ⁷ European Union. Political and Economic Relations. Accessed on April 2014 at: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ghana/eu_ghana/political_relations/index_en.htm#_ftnref2.
- ⁸ European Union. Political and Economic Relations. Accessed on April 2014 at: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ghana/eu_ghana/political_relations/index_en.htm#_ftnref2.
- ⁹ National Population Council. Ghana Population Stabilisation Report. October 2011. Accessed on 14 January 2014 from: http://www.populationcommunication.com/Medias/Ghana_report.pdf.
- ¹⁰ The World Bank. Ghana. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://data.worldbank.org/country/ghana>.
- ¹¹ Tuakli, Juliette et al. Situational Analysis of Vulnerable Children in Ghana. World Education. 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://ghana.worlded.org/Docs/ghana_vulnerability_study_jun06.pdf.
- ¹² Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Citing to Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWAC) (2009) Children in Ghana.
- ¹³ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁵ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January

2011. Also see: Ghanaweb. CHRAJ Bemoans Child Prostitution. February 2008. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=138920>.
- 16 Tuakli, Juliette et al. Situational Analysis of Vulnerable Children in Ghana. World Education. 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://ghana.worlded.org/Docs/ghana_vulnerability_study_jun06.pdf.
 - 17 Tuakli, Juliette et al. Situational Analysis of Vulnerable Children in Ghana. World Education. 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://ghana.worlded.org/Docs/ghana_vulnerability_study_jun06.pdf.
 - 18 Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
 - 19 US Department of Labor. 2012 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/ghana.htm>.
 - 20 US Department of Labor. 2012 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/ghana.htm>.
 - 21 Tuakli, Juliette et al. Situational Analysis of Vulnerable Children in Ghana. World Education. 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://ghana.worlded.org/Docs/ghana_vulnerability_study_jun06.pdf.
 - 22 III World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. UNICEF Ghana – Good Practices: Fighting the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Ghana. Accessed on 10 July 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/wcaro_WCIII_good_practice_Ghana.pdf.
 - 23 ECPAT International. Report of the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children & Adolescents. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://resources.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/PDF/Publications/ECPATWCIIIReport_FINAL.pdf.
 - 24 UNICEF. Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection. September 2009. Accessed on March 2014 at: [http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN_081309\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN_081309(1).pdf).
 - 25 Refworld. Country Profiles -- Ghana. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4d4a68026.pdf>.
 - 26 Sertich, Manda and Marijn Heemskerk. Ghana's Human Trafficking Act: Successes and Shortcomings in Six Years of Implementation. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/19/1sertich.pdf>. Citing to Donna M. Hughes et. al., Factbook on Global Exploitation, Coalition against Trafficking in Women.
 - 27 Bessey, Bernice. Children Active in Commercial Sex Work in Ghana. The Chronicle. 5 June 2012. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://thechronicle.com.gh/?p=44959>.
 - 28 Bessey, Bernice. Children Active in Commercial Sex Work in Ghana. The Chronicle. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://thechronicle.com.gh/?p=44959>.
 - 29 U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm>.
 - 30 Ghanaweb. Child Prostitution Booming at Sekondi. February 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=264391>.
 - 31 ILO. Girl Child Labour in Agriculture, Domestic Work and Sexual Exploitation: Rapid assessments on the cases of the Philippines, Ghana and Ecuador, 2004.
 - 32 ILO. Girl Child Labour in Agriculture, Domestic Work and Sexual Exploitation: Rapid assessments on the cases of the Philippines, Ghana and Ecuador, 2004.
 - 33 Ibid. See also: Tuakli, Juliette et al. Situational Analysis of Vulnerable Children in Ghana. World Education. 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://ghana.worlded.org/Docs/>

ghana_vulnerability_study_jun06.pdf.

- ³⁴ Tuakli, Juliette et al. Situational Analysis of Vulnerable Children in Ghana. World Education. 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://ghana.worlded.org/Docs/ghana_vulnerability_study_jun06.pdf.
- ³⁵ 363 children living in the Accra metropolis were interviewed with a focus on girls suspected of engaging in commercial sexual work as an ancillary occupation to porter work or petty trading. 3 percent of respondents were less than 10 years of age and one-fifth aged between 10-12 years.
- ³⁶ Tuakli, Juliette et al. Situational Analysis of Vulnerable Children in Ghana. World Education. 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://ghana.worlded.org/Docs/ghana_vulnerability_study_jun06.pdf.
- ³⁷ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm>.
- ³⁸ Ministry of Finance, Ghana. MOWAC Annual Progress Report 2012. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ndpc.gov.gh/GPRS/Dist%20and%20Sec%20APR%202012/SECTOR%202012%20APRs/Ministry%20of%20Gender,%20Children%20&%20Social%20Protection.pdf>.
- ³⁹ Danish Immigration Service. Protection of victims of trafficking in Ghana: Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Accra, Ghana. June 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/EB5BAEDA-0D96-46C2-B2D2-E48BA8911B2C/0/Ghanaffrapport2008.pdf>.
- ⁴⁰ Challenging Heights. Where We Work. Accessed on June 2103 at: <http://challengingheights.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/>. Challenging Heights' mission is to ensure a secured, protected and dignified future and life for children and youth by promoting their rights, education, and health. It delivers social justice interventions to children, women, and underserved communities in the coastal and farming communities of Ghana. This includes rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of children who have been trafficked in the fishing industry, as well as creating community awareness on these issues in order to prevent trafficking and re-trafficking of children. Challenging Heights also contributes to policy and awareness creation and the public discourse on issues affecting Ghanaian children. Additionally, the organisation runs a school for more than 700 children who are survivors of child trafficking or who are at-risk of child trafficking.
- ⁴¹ Protection of victims of Trafficking in Ghana: Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Accra, Ghana. Danish Immigration Service. Copenhagen. June 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/EB5BAEDA-0D96-46C2-B2D2-E48BA8911B2C/0/Ghanaffrapport2008.pdf>. Citing to Dr. Raymond A. Atuguba, Human Trafficking in Ghana: A Review of Legislation, Action Programme against Forced Labour and Trafficking in West Africa, International Labour Office, ILO, Geneva, 2005.
- ⁴² Sertich, Manda and Marijn Heemskerk. Ghana's Human Trafficking Act: Successes and Shortcomings in Six Years of Implementation. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/19/1sertich.pdf>.
- ⁴³ Danish Immigration Service. Protection of victims of Trafficking in Ghana: Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Accra, Ghana. June 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/EB5BAEDA-0D96-46C2-B2D2-E48BA8911B2C/0/Ghanaffrapport2008.pdf>.
- ⁴⁴ About the Ghana Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Coalition. Free the Slaves. Accessed on August 2013 at: <https://www.freetheslaves.net/SSLPage.aspx?pid=676>.
- ⁴⁵ Department of Labour. U.S. Department of Labour's 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2011TDA/ghana.pdf>.
- ⁴⁶ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf. Citing to MoWAC (2007); IOM (2006) Baseline on Child Trafficking in the Northern Region; UNICEF (2008a) Mid-Term Review Report – Child Protection.
- ⁴⁷ Sertich, Manda and Marijn Heemskerk. Ghana's Human Trafficking Act: Successes and

- Shortcomings in Six Years of Implementation. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report, 2006. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/19/1sertich.pdf>.
- ⁴⁸ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm>.
- ⁴⁹ Danish Immigration Service. Protection of victims of Trafficking in Ghana: Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Accra, Ghana. June 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/ronlyres/EB5BAEDA-0D96-46C2-B2D2-E48BA8911B2C/0/Ghanaffrapport2008.pdf>.
- ⁵⁰ Rosemary Agbefu (University of Oslo). Masters Thesis: Upholding the rights of children in developing countries: the case of child labourers in Ghana, 2010. Accessed on April 2014 at: <https://www.duo.uio.no/handle/10852/12988>.
- ⁵¹ Rosemary Agbefu (University of Oslo). Masters Thesis: Upholding the rights of children in developing countries: the case of child labourers in Ghana, 2010. Accessed on April 2014 at: <https://www.duo.uio.no/handle/10852/12988>.
- ⁵² Rosemary Agbefu (University of Oslo). Masters Thesis: Upholding the rights of children in developing countries: the case of child labourers in Ghana, 2010. Accessed on April 2014 at: <https://www.duo.uio.no/handle/10852/12988>.
- ⁵³ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ⁵⁴ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ⁵⁵ Danish Immigration Service. Protection of victims of Trafficking in Ghana: Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Accra, Ghana. June 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/ronlyres/EB5BAEDA-0D96-46C2-B2D2-E48BA8911B2C/0/Ghanaffrapport2008.pdf>.
- ⁵⁶ Danish Immigration Service. Protection of victims of Trafficking in Ghana: Report from Danish Immigration Service's fact-finding mission to Accra, Ghana. June 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/ronlyres/EB5BAEDA-0D96-46C2-B2D2-E48BA8911B2C/0/Ghanaffrapport2008.pdf>.
- ⁵⁷ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/192595.pdf>.
- ⁵⁸ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/192595.pdf>.
- ⁵⁹ Maalla M'Jid, Najat. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in West and Central Africa. UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office. 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/ESEWCAROFinalReport_EN_corrige.pdf. Citing to the African network of ECPAT International.
- ⁶⁰ SOS Children's village (website). Kumasi. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk/sponsor-a-child/africa/ghana/kumasi>. See also: Ghanaweb. Prostitution – A National Menace. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/features/artikel.php?ID=196085>.
- ⁶¹ Euromonitor International. Country Report: Travel and Tourism in Ghana. October 2012. Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.euromonitor.com/travel-and-tourism-in-ghana/report>.
- ⁶² ECPAT International. Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions & Answers, 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/CST/CST_FAQ_ENG.pdf.
- ⁶³ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2011. Accessed online on March 2014 at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/164232.htm>.
- ⁶⁴ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm>.
- ⁶⁵ Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism and Its Implications for

the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Ghana - the boy-child in focus. June 2006

- 66 ECPAT International. Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions & Answers, 2008. Accessed on June 2013 at: http://www.ecpat.net/ei/Publications/CST/CST_FAQ_ENG.pdf.
- 67 ECPAT International. CST FAQ. Accessed on June 2013 at: http://resources.ecpat.net/EI/Publications/CST/CST_FAQ_ENG.pdf.
- 68 Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism and Its Implications for the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Ghana - the boy-child in focus. June 2006.
- 69 One World International. Ghana is Becoming a Fast Growing Haven For Paedophiles. 30 December 2012. Accessed on May 2013 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/437627/1/ghana-is-becoming-a-fast-growing-haven-for-paedoph.html>.
- 70 One World International. Ghana is Becoming a Fast Growing Haven For Paedophiles. 30 December 2012. Accessed on May 2013 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/437627/1/ghana-is-becoming-a-fast-growing-haven-for-paedoph.html>.
- 71 Maalla M'Jid, Najat. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in West and Central Africa. UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office. 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/ESEWCAROFinalReport_EN_corrige.pdf.
- 72 ACERWC. In the Best Interests of the Child: Harmonising Laws on Children in West and Central Africa. The African Child Policy Forum. Addis Ababa. 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.acerwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/English-ACERWC-Harmonising-Laws-on-Children-in-west-and-central-Africa.pdf>.
- 73 Boateng. R. et al. 'SAKAWA' - The Forms of Cyber Crime in Ghana, Journal of Information Technology Impact, 11(2), pp. 85-100. 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.jiti.com/v11/jiti.v11n2.085-100.pdf>.
- 74 Boateng. R. et al. 'SAKAWA' - The Forms of Cyber Crime in Ghana, Journal of Information Technology Impact, 11(2), pp. 85-100. 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.jiti.com/v11/jiti.v11n2.085-100.pdf>.
- 75 Boateng. R. et al. 'SAKAWA' - The Forms of Cyber Crime in Ghana, Journal of Information Technology Impact, 11(2), pp. 85-100. 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.jiti.com/v11/jiti.v11n2.085-100.pdf>.
- 76 Agbemabiese, John. Cyberfraud: A new force and threat to Ghana's image and security. Graphic Online. 15 April 2013. Accessed on May 2013 at: <http://graphic.com.gh/features/cyber-fraud-a-new-force-and-threat-to-ghanas-image-and-security.html>.
- 77 Report on the Study of Child Sexual Abuse in Schools. Plan Ghana. Accra. March 2009. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://plan-international.org/apprendresanspeur/files-fr/rapport-ghaneen-integral-anglais>.
- 78 The term "grooming" refers to "actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and influencing a child for the purpose of sexual activity with the child. These actions are designed to establish an emotional connection in order to lower the child's inhibitions and gain access to the intended victim." Child Wise. Child Grooming: Offending all the way through from the start. December 2013. Accessed on January 2014 at: [http://childwise.blob.core.windows.net/assets/uploads/files/Grooming%20-%20Exploring%20the%20call%20for%20law%20reform%20-%20Child%20Wise%20\(Web\).pdf](http://childwise.blob.core.windows.net/assets/uploads/files/Grooming%20-%20Exploring%20the%20call%20for%20law%20reform%20-%20Child%20Wise%20(Web).pdf).
- 79 Modern Ghana. Ghana, Commonwealth sign MoU on Cybercrime. March 2014. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/531128/1/ghana-commonwealth-sign-mou-on-cybercrime.html>.
- 80 CCI. Our Mission. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.commonwealthcybercrimeinitiative.org/about/our-mission/>.
- 81 KAIPTC. KAIPTC Hosts the Launch of Ghana's Cybersecurity Strategy. March 2014. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.kaiptc.org/Media-Room/News/KAIPTC-Hosts-the-Launch-of-Ghana%E2%80%99s-Cybersecurity-S.aspx>.
- 82 Jones, Nicola and Jessica Espey. Increasing visibility and promoting policy action to tackle sexual exploitation in and around schools in Africa: A Briefing Paper with a Focus on West Africa. Plan West Africa. September 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear/files/sexual-exploitation-in-west-africa-english>.
- 83 Jones, Nicola and Jessica Espey. Increasing

- visibility and promoting policy action to tackle sexual exploitation in and around schools in Africa: A Briefing Paper with a Focus on West Africa. Plan West Africa. September 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear/files/sexual-exploitation-in-west-africa-english>.
- ⁸⁴ UNICEF, Plan West Africa, Save the Children Sweden West Africa and ActionAid. Too Often in Silence: A Report on School-based Violence in West and Central Africa. March 2010. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/VAC_Report_english.pdf.
- ⁸⁵ Jones, Nicola and Jessica Espey. Increasing visibility and promoting policy action to tackle sexual exploitation in and around schools in Africa: A Briefing Paper with a Focus on West Africa. Plan West Africa. September 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear/files/sexual-exploitation-in-west-africa-english>.
- ⁸⁶ UNICEF, Plan West Africa, Save the Children Sweden West Africa and ActionAid. Too Often in Silence: A Report on School-based Violence in West and Central Africa. March 2010. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/VAC_Report_english.pdf. Citing to Child Research and Resource Centre (2009). Child Sexual Abuse in Schools. Commissioned by Plan Ghana, Accra.
- ⁸⁷ UNICEF, Plan West Africa, Save the Children Sweden West Africa and ActionAid. Too Often in Silence: A Report on School-based Violence in West and Central Africa. March 2010. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/VAC_Report_english.pdf.
- ⁸⁸ Jones, Nicola and Jessica Espey. Increasing visibility and promoting policy action to tackle sexual exploitation in and around schools in Africa: A Briefing Paper with a Focus on West Africa. Plan West Africa. September 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://plan-international.org/learnwithoutfear/files/sexual-exploitation-in-west-africa-english>.
- ⁸⁹ Ben-Ari, Nirit. Liberating girls from 'trokosi': Campaign against ritual servitude in Ghana. Africa's Children. December 2001. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://www.un.org/en/africarenewal/subjindx/childpdf/childgha.pdf>.
- ⁹⁰ Refworld. Ghana Criminal Code (Consolidated to 1999 and as amended by the Criminal Code [Amendment] Act 2003). Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/44bf823a4.pdf>.
- ⁹¹ Ben-Ari, Nirit. Liberating girls from 'trokosi': Campaign against ritual servitude in Ghana. Africa's Children. December 2001. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://www.un.org/en/africarenewal/subjindx/childpdf/childgha.pdf>.
- ⁹² Ben-Ari, Nirit. Liberating girls from 'trokosi': Campaign against ritual servitude in Ghana. Africa's Children. December 2001. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://www.un.org/en/africarenewal/subjindx/childpdf/childgha.pdf>.
- ⁹³ Ben-Ari, Nirit. Liberating girls from 'trokosi': Campaign against ritual servitude in Ghana. Africa's Children. December 2001. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://www.un.org/en/africarenewal/subjindx/childpdf/childgha.pdf>.
- ⁹⁴ Human Rights Council of United Nations. Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Ghana. 13 December 2012. Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/AHRC226_English.pdf.
- ⁹⁵ Ghana News Agency. CHRAJ is keen to stop Trokosi. August 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/social/chraj-is-keen-to-stop-trokosi-ms-lampitey-32282>.
- ⁹⁶ UN Ghana. Day of Girl Child to be marked in Ghana for the first time. October 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://ghana.unfpa.org/assets/user/file/Final_DayGirl%20Child_pr_11Oct.pdf.
- ⁹⁷ UN Ghana. Day of Girl Child to be marked in Ghana for the first time. October 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://ghana.unfpa.org/assets/user/file/Final_DayGirl%20Child_pr_11Oct.pdf.
- ⁹⁸ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011. Ghana Statistical Service with an Enhanced Malaria Module and Biomarker. December 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/ghana/Ghana_MICS_Final.pdf.
- ⁹⁹ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011. Ghana Statistical Service with an Enhanced Malaria Module and Biomarker. December 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/ghana/Ghana_MICS_Final.pdf.

- ¹⁰⁰ Ghana Children's Act, 1998, Section 14(2). Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WBTEXT/56216/65194/E98GHA01.htm>.
- ¹⁰¹ Child Marriage Factsheet. Equality Now. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://www.equalitynow.org/node/868>. Founded in 1992, Equality Now is an organisation that advocates for the human rights of women and girls around the world by raising international visibility of individual cases of abuse, mobilising public support through global membership, and wielding strategic political pressure to ensure that governments enact or enforce laws and policies that uphold the rights of women and girls. With offices in New York, Nairobi and London and presences in Amman, Jordan and Washington, DC, its areas of focus include Discrimination in Law, Sexual Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Trafficking.
- ¹⁰² UN Ghana. Day of Girl Child to be marked in Ghana for the first time. October 11, 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://ghana.unfpa.org/assets/user/file/Final_DayGirl%20Child_pr_11Oct.pdf.
- ¹⁰³ UN Ghana. Day of Girl Child to be marked in Ghana for the first time. October 11, 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://ghana.unfpa.org/assets/user/file/Final_DayGirl%20Child_pr_11Oct.pdf.
- ¹⁰⁴ UNICEF. Early Marriage: A Harmful Traditional Practice; A Statistical Exploration. United Nations Children's Fund. 2005. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Early_Marriage_12.lo.pdf.
- ¹⁰⁵ UNICEF. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011. Ghana Statistical Service with an Enhanced Malaria Module and Biomarker. Accra, Ghana. December 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/ghana/Ghana_MICS_Final.pdf.
- ¹⁰⁶ UNICEF. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011. Ghana Statistical Service with an Enhanced Malaria Module and Biomarker. Accra, Ghana. December 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/ghana/Ghana_MICS_Final.pdf.
- ¹⁰⁷ UNICEF. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011. Ghana Statistical Service with an Enhanced Malaria Module and Biomarker. Accra, Ghana. December 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/ghana/Ghana_MICS_Final.pdf.
- ¹⁰⁸ UNFPA Ghana. The First Ever International Day of the Girl Child Observed in Ghana. October 2012. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://ghana.unfpa.org/news.php?dd=233>.
- ¹⁰⁹ UNFPA Ghana. The First Ever International Day of the Girl Child Observed in Ghana. October 2012. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://ghana.unfpa.org/news.php?dd=233>.
- ¹¹⁰ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹¹¹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹¹² International Cocoa Initiative. Ghana National Plan of Action for the Elimination of WFCL. November 2009. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.cocoinitiative.org/images/stories/pdf/National_Reports/Ghana/ghana_national_plan_of_action_for_the_elimination_of_wfcl_2009%20_2015.pdf.
- ¹¹³ African Child Forum. Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare (MESW), Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS), 2010. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.africanchildforum.org/clr/policy%20per%20country/ghana/ghana_labour_2010_en.pdf.
- ¹¹⁴ African Child Forum. Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare (MESW), Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS), 2010. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.africanchildforum.org/clr/policy%20per%20country/ghana/ghana_labour_2010_en.pdf.
- ¹¹⁵ African Child Forum. Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare (MESW), Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS), 2010. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.africanchildforum.org/clr/policy%20per%20country/ghana/ghana_labour_2010_en.pdf.
- ¹¹⁶ National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa

- (NPECLC). Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS). Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://npeclc.gov.gh/home/units/gclms/>.
- ¹¹⁷ National Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cocoa (NPECLC). Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS). Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://npeclc.gov.gh/home/units/gclms/>.
- ¹¹⁸ International Cocoa Initiative. Ghana National Plan of Action for the Elimination of WFCL. November 2009. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.cocoainitiative.org/images/stories/pdf/National_Reports/Ghana/ghana_national_plan_of_action_for_the_elimination_of_wfcl_2009%20_2015.pdf.
- ¹¹⁹ International Cocoa Initiative. Ghana National Plan of Action for the Elimination of WFCL. November 2009. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.cocoainitiative.org/images/stories/pdf/National_Reports/Ghana/ghana_national_plan_of_action_for_the_elimination_of_wfcl_2009%20_2015.pdf.
- ¹²⁰ Sahel and West-Africa Club Secretariat – OECD. Emerging Good Practice in Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in West African Cocoa Growing Communities, 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.oecd.org/swac/publications/49069653.pdf>.
- ¹²¹ Sahel and West-Africa Club Secretariat – OECD. Emerging Good Practice in Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in West African Cocoa Growing Communities, 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.oecd.org/swac/publications/49069653.pdf>.
- ¹²² Sahel and West-Africa Club Secretariat – OECD. Emerging Good Practice in Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in West African Cocoa Growing Communities, 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.oecd.org/swac/publications/49069653.pdf>.
- ¹²³ Sahel and West-Africa Club Secretariat – OECD. Emerging Good Practice in Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in West African Cocoa Growing Communities, 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.oecd.org/swac/publications/49069653.pdf>.
- ¹²⁴ ILO. ILO Briefing Note on Child Labour in Ghana. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/afpro/abuja/download/notechildlabourghana.pdf>.
- ¹²⁵ UNICEF Ghana – Good Practices. World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/wcaro_WCIII_good_practice_Ghana.pdf.
- ¹²⁶ GhanaWeb. Ghana Must Stop Violence Against Children. 23 September 2010. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/features/artikel.php?ID=190934>.
- ¹²⁷ GhanaWeb. Ghana Must Stop Violence Against Children. 23 September 2010. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/features/artikel.php?ID=190934>.
- ¹²⁸ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2012. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/192595.pdf>.
- ¹²⁹ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm>.
- ¹³⁰ Joy Online. Ghana launches National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. August 2010. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201010/54878.php>.
- ¹³¹ CRIN. National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.crin.org/docs/GHANA%20OVC%20NPA.pdf>.
- ¹³² CRIN. National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.crin.org/docs/GHANA%20OVC%20NPA.pdf>.
- ¹³³ CRIN. National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.crin.org/docs/GHANA%20OVC%20NPA.pdf>.
- ¹³⁴ CRIN. National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.crin.org/docs/GHANA%20OVC%20NPA.pdf>.
- ¹³⁵ OrphanAid Africa. Protecting Children by Transforming Care Systems. Accessed on April 2014 at: http://www.oafrica.org/front_content.

php?idcat=168.

- ¹³⁶ Joy Online. Social Welfare closes down 48 children's homes. March 2014. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2014/March-16th/social-welfare-closes-down-48-childrens-homes.php>.
- ¹³⁷ National Population Council. Ghana Population Stabilisation Report. October 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.populationcommunication.com/Medias/Ghana_report.pdf. Citing to Standards and Tools for Monitoring Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services in Ghana, 2010.
- ¹³⁸ National Population Council. Ghana Population Stabilisation Report. October 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.populationcommunication.com/Medias/Ghana_report.pdf.
- ¹³⁹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴⁰ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴¹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴² Child Sexual Abuse in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Review of the Literature. East, Central and Southern African Health Community. July 2011.
- ¹⁴³ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴⁴ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴⁵ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴⁶ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴⁷ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁴⁸ MOWAC comprises two implementing departments: Department of Women and Department of Children (DC). DC is responsible for advancement of children's development, protection, welfare, and advocacy in the country. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population/womenrights/ghana.gender.04.pdf>. See also: Modern Ghana. Department of Children Appeals for More Funds. June 2011. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/337430/1/departments-of-children-appeals-for-more-funds.html>.
- ¹⁴⁹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁵⁰ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁵¹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁵² Modern Ghana. Gender Ministry Honours Supt. Patience Quaye and DOVVSU. December 2013. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/>

- news/507326/1/gender-ministry-honours-supt-patience-quaye-and-do.html. See also: Joy Online. DOVVSU lacks attention - Angela Dwamena Aboagye. January 2014. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2014/January-6th/dovvsu-lacks-attention-angela-dwamena-aboagye.php>.
- ¹⁵³ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁵⁴ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁵⁵ Child Protection Network Meeting. Ghana's Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs – Department of Children. Coconut Grove Hotel. 3 February 2011.
- ¹⁵⁶ Modern Ghana. Protect Children Against Violence – GNCRC. 18 July 2011. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/340371/1/protect-children-against-violence-gncrc.html>
- ¹⁵⁷ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁵⁸ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁵⁹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁶⁰ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ¹⁶¹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf. Citing to Apusigah, A. (2007) Child Protection Project in Northern and Upper East Regions: Assessment, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Community Development and UNICEF.
- ¹⁶² US Department of Labour. U.S. Department of Labour's 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2011TDA/ghana.pdf>.
- ¹⁶³ US Department of Labour. U.S. Department of Labour's 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2011TDA/ghana.pdf>.
- ¹⁶⁴ US Department of Labour. U.S. Department of Labour's 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2011TDA/ghana.pdf>.
- ¹⁶⁵ Sertich, Manda and Marijn Heemskerk. Ghana's Human Trafficking Act: Successes and Shortcomings in Six Years of Implementation. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/19/1sertich.pdf>.
- ¹⁶⁶ Smile Ghana Project. Baseline Survey Analytical Report 2012. September 2012. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://cradagroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Child-Labour-Trafficking-Baseline-Survey-Report-20121.pdf>.
- ¹⁶⁷ Department of Labour. U.S. Department of Labour's 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/PROGRAMS/OCFT/2011TDA.PDF>.
- ¹⁶⁸ African Union. Ouagadougou Action Plan To Combat Trafficking In Human Beings, Especially Women And Children As Adopted By The Ministerial Conference On Migration And Development, Tripoli, 22-23 November 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://sa.au.int/en/content/ouagadougou-action-plan-combat-trafficking-human-beings-especially-women-and-children-0>.
- ¹⁶⁹ African Union. Ouagadougou Action Plan To Combat Trafficking In Human Beings,

Especially Women And Children As Adopted By The Ministerial Conference On Migration And Development, Tripoli, 22-23 November 2006. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://sa.au.int/en/content/ouagadougou-action-plan-combat-trafficking-human-beings-especially-women-and-children-0>.

- 170 OHCHR. Summary of Regional and Sub-Regional Structures and Initiatives to Counter Trafficking in Persons December 2010. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Trafficking/Dakar_summary_structures_en.pdf.
- 171 UNODC. Training Manual: Assistance for the Implementation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action against Trafficking in Person (2006). Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/ecowas_training_manual_2006.pdf.
- 172 Refworld. Ghana Country Profile. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4d4a68026.pdf>.
- 173 Victoria Nwogu (UNDP Somalia). Presentation for Regional Consultation on the Right to an Effective Remedy for Trafficked Persons: Procedural Pre-Conditions in Realizing The Right to an Effective Remedy for Trafficked Persons: Policy And Practice in Africa. November 2013. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Trafficking/Consultation/ConsultationEffectiveRemedy/Fourth/VictoriaIjeomaNwogu.doc>.
- 174 Child Protection Network Meeting. Ghana's Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs – Department of Children. Coconut Grove Hotel. 3 February 2011.
- 175 Child Protection Network Meeting. Ghana's Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs – Department of Children. Coconut Grove Hotel. 3 February 2011.
- 176 Government of Ghana National Development Planning Commission (NDPC). Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework: Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), 2010-2013. Accessed on September 2013 at: <http://www.ndpc.gov.gh/GPRS/Final%20Draft%20Policy%20Framework%20092010.pdf>.
- 177 Dwamena-Aboagye, Angela. The Ghana NGO Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: On Implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child by the Republic of Ghana. The Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child. May 2005.
- 178 Dwamena-Aboagye, Angela. The Ghana NGO Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: On Implementation of the Convention of Rights of the Child by the Republic of Ghana. The Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child. May 2005.
- 179 Dwamena-Aboagye, Angela. The Ghana NGO Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: On Implementation of the Convention of Rights of the Child by the Republic of Ghana. The Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child. May 2005.
- 180 Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Consideration of Reports submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention, Concluding Observations: Ghana, 17 March 2006, CRC/C/GHA/CO/2. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3d4a68026.pdf>.
- 181 US Department of Labour. U.S. Department of Labour's 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2011TDA/ghana.pdf>.
- 182 Child Protection Network Meeting. Ghana's Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs – Department of Children. Coconut Grove Hotel. 3 February 2011.
- 183 Child Protection Network Meeting. Ghana's Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs – Department of Children. Coconut Grove Hotel. 3 February 2011.
- 184 Vibe Ghana. Journalists urged to bring out issues of child labour. November 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://vibeghana.com/2012/11/16/journalists-urged-to-bring-out-issues-of-child-labour/>.
- 185 Ghanaweb. Human Trafficking Soars in Northern Ghana. July 2013. Accessed on March 2014 at <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/crime/artikel.php?ID=280099>. See also: Child Prostitution Soars in BA. June 2012. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=242539>. <http://vibeghana.com/2013/01/11/teenage-sex-work-increase-in-cape-coast/>. And also: Modern Ghana. Children, Youth discuss Violence Against

- Them. September 2013. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/487216/1/children-youth-discuss-violence-against-them.html>.
- ¹⁸⁶ A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf
- ¹⁸⁷ A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf
- ¹⁸⁸ IN's CSEC Project – Creating Second Chances for Children in Ghana. December 2012. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.internationalneeds.org.au/News/NewsArticle/tabid/99/ArticleID/192/IN%E2%80%99s-CSEC-Project-Creating-Second-Chances-for-Children-in-Ghana.aspx>.
- ¹⁸⁹ Child Sexual Abuse in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Review of the Literature. East, Central and Southern African Health Community. July 2011.
- ¹⁹⁰ Child Sexual Abuse in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Review of the Literature. East, Central and Southern African Health Community. July 2011.
- ¹⁹¹ International Organization for Migration. 'Free to Be Me' Toolkit Promotes Child Protection, Combats Child Trafficking in Ghana. 3 May 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2013/pbn-listing/free-to-be-me-toolkit-promotes-c.html>.
- ¹⁹² International Organization for Migration. 'Free to Be Me' Toolkit Promotes Child Protection, Combats Child Trafficking in Ghana. 3 May 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2013/pbn-listing/free-to-be-me-toolkit-promotes-c.html>.
- ¹⁹³ ECPAT International. Global Monitoring Report on the status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Ghana, 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://resources.ecpat.net/A4A_2005/PDF/AF/Global_Monitoring_Report-GHANA.pdf.
- ¹⁹⁴ Darko, Rose Hayford. Protect Children Against Misuse of Internet – GNCRC. Modern Ghana. 7 July 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/338664/1/protect-children-against-misuse-of-internet-gncrc.html>.
- ¹⁹⁵ Darko, Rose Hayford. Protect Children Against Misuse of Internet – GNCRC. Modern Ghana. 7 July 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/338664/1/protect-children-against-misuse-of-internet-gncrc.html>.
- ¹⁹⁶ Ghana Districts. Accra: Africa Tasked to Fight Cyber Crimes. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.ghanadistricts.com/news/?read=37822>.
- ¹⁹⁷ Dogbevi, Emmanuel K. Ministry to Tackle CyberCrime in Ghana. Ghana Business News. 26 March 2009. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2009/03/26/ministry-to-tackle-cyber-crime-in-ghana/>.
- ¹⁹⁸ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Second Periodic Reports of States Parties Due in 1997, Ghana. 14 July 2005.
- ¹⁹⁹ Manful, Esmeranda and Saka E Manful. Child welfare in Ghana: The relevance of children's rights in practice. (13:6) Journal of Social Work. March 11, 2013.
- ²⁰⁰ Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child. UNODC. Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.unodc.org/ngo/showSingleDetailed.do?req_org_uid=16253. See also: US Department of State - Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, Ghana. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper>. And see also: CRIN. The Ghana NGO Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. May 2005. Accessed on April 2014 at: http://www.crin.org/docs/Ghana_GNCRC_ngo_report.doc.
- ²⁰¹ Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child. UNODC. Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.unodc.org/ngo/showSingleDetailed.do?req_org_uid=16253.
- ²⁰² Human Rights Council of United Nations. Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Ghana. 13 December 2012. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/>

- RegularSession/Session22/AHRC226_English.pdf.
- ²⁰³ Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21: Ghana. 10 August 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.refworld.org/publisher,U_NHRC,,GHA,506d5e612,0.html.
- ²⁰⁴ A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011.
- ²⁰⁵ A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011.
- ²⁰⁶ Republic of Ghana Ministry of Women and Children. Policies Programmes and Activities. Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.mowacghana.net/programs.html>.
- ²⁰⁷ An Integrated ICT-Led Socio-Economic Development Policy and Plan Development Framework for Ghana, June 2003. Accessed on 19 May 2014 at: <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan032381.pdf>
- ²⁰⁸ Republic of Ghana, Ministry of Communications. Accessed on 19 May 2014 at: <http://www.moc.gov.gh/134-news-and-events/235-girls-in-ict-day.html>
- ²⁰⁹ The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. Accessed on 10 July 2014 at: http://www.thecode.org/who-have-signed/?member_name=&country=4307§or=0.
- ²¹⁰ Tourism in Ghana is the fourth largest foreign exchange earner after cocoa, gold and remittances from abroad. MENSAH-ANSAH, Joseph, MARTIN, Emma and EGAN, David (2011). Tourism trends in Ghana: the accommodation sector. *Tourism Analysis*, 16(2), 157-168. Accessed on 10 July 2014 at: <http://shura.shu.ac.uk/6391/>. Tour operators have also identified Ghana as an emerging destination. The World Bank. *Tourism in Africa: Harnessing Tourism for Growth and Improved Livelihoods*, 2013. Accessed on 10 July 2014 at: http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/09/30/000442464_20130930124458/Rendered/PDF/814680WP0P13260Box0379837B00PUBLIC0.pdf.
- ²¹¹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ²¹² UNDESA – Statistics Division. The Civil Registration System in Ghana. June 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/CRVS2011/EGM%20Papers/EGM%20Vital%20Stats.%20Paper%206.pdf>.
- ²¹³ Section 8(5) of the Registration Act.
- ²¹⁴ This is in terms of the Citizenship Act of 2000.
- ²¹⁵ Harmonisation of Children's Laws in Ghana. The African Child Policy Forum. 2012. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://acerwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/English-ACERWC-Ghana-Harmonisation-of-Laws-on-Children.pdf>.
- ²¹⁶ Fagernas, S and Odame J. Birth Registration and Access to Health Care: An Assessment of Ghana's Campaign Success. 25 April 2013. Accessed on September 2013 at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24052683>.
- ²¹⁷ Ghana Children's Act, 1998, Section 121. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/WEBTEXT/56216/65194/E98GHA01.htm>.
- ²¹⁸ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention, Concluding observations: Ghana. 17 March 2006. CRC/C/GHA/CO/2. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/45377ed30.html>.
- ²¹⁹ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention, Concluding observations: Ghana. 17 March 2006. CRC/C/GHA/CO/2. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/45377ed30.html>.
- ²²⁰ Adamu-Issah, Madeez et al. Achieving Universal Primary Education in Ghana by 2015: A Reality or Dream? UNICEF. June 2007. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/french/videoaudio/PDFs/Achieving_Universal_Primary_Education_in_Ghana_by_2015.pdf.
- ²²¹ Adamu-Issah, Madeez et al. Achieving Universal Primary Education in Ghana by

- 2015: A Reality or Dream? UNICEF. June 2007. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/french/videoaudio/PDFs/Achieving_Universal_Primary_Education_in_Ghana_by_2015.pdf.
- 222 Adamu-Issah, Madeez et al. Achieving Universal Primary Education in Ghana by 2015: A Reality or Dream? UNICEF. June 2007. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/french/videoaudio/PDFs/Achieving_Universal_Primary_Education_in_Ghana_by_2015.pdf
- 223 Adamu-Issah, Madeez et al. Achieving Universal Primary Education in Ghana by 2015: A Reality or Dream? UNICEF. June 2007. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/french/videoaudio/PDFs/Achieving_Universal_Primary_Education_in_Ghana_by_2015.pdf.
- 224 Adamu-Issah, Madeez et al. Achieving Universal Primary Education in Ghana by 2015: A Reality or Dream? UNICEF. June 2007. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/french/videoaudio/PDFs/Achieving_Universal_Primary_Education_in_Ghana_by_2015.pdf.
- 225 A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- 226 U.S. Department of Labour's 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Department of Labour. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/PROGRAMS/OCFT/2011TDA.PDF>.
- 227 U.S. Department of Labour's 2011 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Department of Labour. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/PROGRAMS/OCFT/2011TDA.PDF>.
- 228 A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- 229 Ghana's Education Act, 2008 (Act 778). Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/MONOGRAPH/83622/92463/F2061259086/GHA83622.pdf>.
- 230 The African Report on Child Wellbeing, 2011. The African Child Policy Forum. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/3764.pdf>.
- 231 A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- 232 A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- 233 A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- 234 A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- 235 A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- 236 A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- 237 Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- 238 Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.

- 239 Ratification Status on the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Accessed on June 2013 at : http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/Status_OPSC_and_OPAC_01_October_2012.pdf.
- 240 ILO. Ratifications for Ghana. Accessed on June 2013 at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11200:0::NO:11200:P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103231.
- 241 Databases. United Nations Treaty Collection. Accessed on June 2013 at: http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?mtdsq_no=XVIII-12&chapter=18&lang=en.
- 242 Databases. United Nations Treaty Collection. Accessed on June 2013 at: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?mtdsq_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&lang=en.
- 243 Ratifications Table. African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://acerwc.org/ratifications/>.
- 244 Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. Child Frontiers Ltd. Hong Kong. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- 245 The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana. Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.politicsresources.net/docs/ghanaconst.pdf>.
- 246 Article 28(5). The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana. Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.politicsresources.net/docs/ghanaconst.pdf>.
- 247 The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana. Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.politicsresources.net/docs/ghanaconst.pdf>.
- 248 ACERWC. In the Best Interests of the Child: Harmonising Laws on Children in West and Central Africa. The African Child Policy Forum. Addis Ababa. 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.acerwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/English-ACERWC-Harmonising-Laws-on-Children-in-west-and-central-Africa.pdf>; Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560). December 1998. Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/44bf86454.html>.
- 249 Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560). December 1998. Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/44bf86454.html>.
- 250 Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. Child Frontiers Ltd. Hong Kong. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- 251 Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. Child Frontiers Ltd. Hong Kong. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- 252 Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. Child Frontiers Ltd. Hong Kong. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- 253 ACERWC. In the Best Interests of the Child: Harmonising Laws on Children in West and Central Africa. The African Child Policy Forum. Addis Ababa. 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.acerwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/English-ACERWC-Harmonising-Laws-on-Children-in-west-and-central-Africa.pdf>.
- 254 UNDP Ghana. Access to Justice. UNDP Projects: Ghana. Accessed on June 2013 at: http://www.undp-gha.org/design/operations/project_details.php?page=27.
- 255 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>.
- 256 Criminal Code, 1960 (ACT 29). Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88530/101255/F575989920/GHA88530.pdf>.
- 257 Criminal Code, 1960 (ACT 29). Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88530/101255/F575989920/GHA88530.pdf>.
- 258 Criminal Code, 1960 (ACT 29). Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/>

- natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88530/101255/F575989920/GHA88530.pdf.
- ²⁵⁹ US Department of State Overseas Security Advisory Council. Ghana 2013 Crime and Safety Report. Accessed on March 2014 at: <https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=13768>.
- ²⁶⁰ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/19223>.
- ²⁶¹ Sertich, Manda and Marijn Heemskerk. Ghana's Human Trafficking Act: Successes and Shortcomings in Six Years of Implementation. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/19/1sertich.pdf>. Ghana Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694).
- ²⁶² Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694). Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Ghana_Human-Trafficking-Act_2005.pdf.
- ²⁶³ Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694). Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Ghana_Human-Trafficking-Act_2005.pdf.
- ²⁶⁴ Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694). Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Ghana_Human-Trafficking-Act_2005.pdf.
- ²⁶⁵ Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694). Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Ghana_Human-Trafficking-Act_2005.pdf.
- ²⁶⁶ Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694). Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Ghana_Human-Trafficking-Act_2005.pdf.
- ²⁶⁷ Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694). Accessed on July 2013 at: http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Ghana_Human-Trafficking-Act_2005.pdf.
- ²⁶⁸ Sertich, Manda and Marijn Heemskerk. Ghana's Human Trafficking Act: Successes and Shortcomings in Six Years of Implementation. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/19/1sertich.pdf>.
- ²⁶⁹ M. Sertich and M. Heemskerk. Ghana's Human Trafficking Act: Successes and Shortcomings in Six Years of Implementation. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/hrbrief/19/1sertich.pdf>.
- ²⁷⁰ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷¹ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷² U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷³ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷⁴ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷⁵ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷⁶ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷⁷ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷⁸ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ²⁷⁹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Accessed on August 2013 at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/>

english/law/crc-sale.htm#art2.

- ²⁸⁰ Electronic Transactions Act, 2008 (Act 772). Accessed on September 2013 at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/WPFD2009/pdf/Ghana%20Electronic-Communications%20Act%202008.pdf>.
- ²⁸¹ Electronic Transactions Act, 2008 (Act 772). Accessed on September 2013 at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/WPFD2009/pdf/Ghana%20Electronic-Communications%20Act%202008.pdf>.
- ²⁸² Electronic Transactions Act, 2008 (Act 772). Accessed on September 2013 at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/WPFD2009/pdf/Ghana%20Electronic-Communications%20Act%202008.pdf>.
- ²⁸³ Electronic Transactions Act, 2008 (Act 772). Accessed on September 2013 at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/WPFD2009/pdf/Ghana%20Electronic-Communications%20Act%202008.pdf>.
- ²⁸⁴ Section 281 of the Criminal Code, 1960 (ACT 29). Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88530/101255/F575989920/GHA88530.pdf>.
- ²⁸⁵ Section 281 of the Criminal Code, 1960 (ACT 29). Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88530/101255/F575989920/GHA88530.pdf>.
- ²⁸⁶ Section 281 of the Criminal Code, 1960 (ACT 29). Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/88530/101255/F575989920/GHA88530.pdf>.
- ²⁸⁷ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>.
- ²⁸⁸ ECPAT. Extraterritorial Laws – Why They Are Not Really Working and How They Can Be Strengthened. September 2008. Accessed on April 2014 at: http://resources.ecpat.net/worldcongressIII/PDF/Journals/EXTRATERRITORIAL_LAWS.pdf.
- ²⁸⁹ Extradition Act, 1960. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.jtighana.org/actdetails.php?id=44>.
- ²⁹⁰ Outlined extradition crimes under the First Schedule to this Act include crimes of child sexual exploitation such as child prostitution and defilement of a child under 16 years of age.
- ²⁹¹ Under Section 29 of the Act, “extradition crime’ means a crime which, if committed within the jurisdiction of Ghana, would be an indictable offence described in the First Schedule to this Act.”
- ²⁹² Training Resources Group and Play Therapy Africa. Strengthening Child Protection Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa: a working paper. August 2012. Accessed on April 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/strengthening_child_protection_systems_in_sub-Saharan_Africa_-_August_2012_.pdf.
- ²⁹³ Ibid. Citing to Osman Alhassan (2007). Documentation of Domestic Violence in Ghana 1998-2006. University of Ghana.
- ²⁹⁴ Ibid. Citing to UNICEF. Regional Review of Child Protection Monitoring and Information Systems in West and Central Africa. UNICEF Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa. Dakar. 2009.
- ²⁹⁵ Maalla M’Jid, Najat. Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in West and Central Africa. UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office. 2008. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/ESEWCAROFinalReport_EN_corrige.pdf.
- ²⁹⁶ Albano, Teresa (as cited in Demir, 2003). Interview of Project Manager for the Counter-Trafficking Unit, IOM Rome. September 2002. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://sites.tufts.edu/jha/files/2011/04/a115.pdf>.
- ²⁹⁷ J Demir. Trafficking of Women for Sexual Exploitation: A Gender-Based Well-Founded Fear? An Examination of Refugee Status Determination for Trafficked Prostituted Women from Cee/Cis Countries to Western Europe. January 2003. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://sites.tufts.edu/jha/files/2011/04/a115.pdf>.
- ²⁹⁸ United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. Second Periodic Reports of the States Parties due in 1997, Ghana.

- CRC/C/65/Add.34. 2005. Accessed on January 2014 at: [http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/cb2ade9679679dccc1257077005462b1/\\$FILE/G0542738.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/cb2ade9679679dccc1257077005462b1/$FILE/G0542738.pdf).
- ²⁹⁹ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ³⁰⁰ Joy Online. Dovvsu Lacks Attention. January 2014. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2014/January-6th/dovvsu-lacks-attention-angela-dwamena-aboagye.php>.
- ³⁰¹ Centre for Policy Analysis (Ghana). NGO Support for Children in Ghana – Challenges and Prospects. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://cepa.org.gh/researchpapers/NGO71.pdf>.
- ³⁰² Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ³⁰³ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ³⁰⁴ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ³⁰⁵ Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF. Report of the Mapping and Analysis of Ghana's Child Protection System. January 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/Ghana_Mapping_Analysis_Child_Protection.pdf.
- ³⁰⁶ OrphanAid Africa. Regulations for Care and Protection of Children without Appropriate Parental Care in Ghana. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.oafrica.org/upload/pdfs/RESIDENTIAL_CARE_STANDARDS_GH_14.2.11.pdf.
- ³⁰⁷ A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- ³⁰⁸ A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- ³⁰⁹ A Five-Country Analysis Paper: Mapping and Assessing Child Protection Systems in West and Central Africa. June 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/english/West_Central_Africa_CP_Systems_5_Countries_Analysis_Paper_FINAL.pdf.
- ³¹⁰ Ghana News Agency. Vodafone Ghana Foundation launches hotline for domestic abuse. Accessed on September 2013 at: <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/print/48789>.
- ³¹¹ Ghana News Agency. Vodafone Ghana Foundation launches hotline for domestic abuse. Accessed on September 2013 at: <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/print/48789>.
- ³¹² AHTU website. Hotline. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://ahtu.org>.
- ³¹³ U.S. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report 2013. Accessed on July 2013 at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/210739.pdf>.
- ³¹⁴ US Department of State. 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report Ghana. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2013/215470.htm>.
- ³¹⁵ Refworld. 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report – Ghana. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4fe30cc740.html>.
- ³¹⁶ Ghanaweb. Ghana Records Lower Human Trafficking Cases. November 2011. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=224065>. See also: Government of Ghana. Immigration Service Alone Cannot Manage Migration – Minister. October 2013. Accessed on April 2014 at: <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php/2012-02-08-08-32-47/general-news/3481-immigration-service-alone-cannot-manage-migration-minister>.

- 317 Refworld. 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report – Ghana. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4fe30cc740.html>.
- 318 Refworld. 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report – Ghana. Accessed on March 2014 at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4fe30cc740.html>.
- 319 UNESCO Planipolis. Ghana National Youth Policy. August 2010. Accessed on April 2014 at: http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Youth/Ghana/Ghana_YouthPolicy.pdf.
- 320 Government of Ghana. National Youth Bill Re-Submitted to Parliament-Sports Minister. March 2014. Access on April 2014 at: <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/index.php/news-slider/5199-national-youth-bill-re-submitted-to-parliament-sports-minister>.
- 321 Modern Ghana. National Youth Parliament Consultative Forum inaugurated. November 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/358901/1/national-youth-parliament-consultative-forum-inaug.html>.
- 322 Modern Ghana. National Youth Parliament Consultative Forum inaugurated. November 2011. Accessed on January 2014 at: <http://www.modernghana.com/news/358901/1/national-youth-parliament-consultative-forum-inaug.html>.
- 323 UNESCO. UNESCO supports the creation of a National Youth Parliament in Ghana. Accessed on June 2013 at: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_supports_the_creation_of_a_national_youth_parliament_in_ghana/back/18256/.
- 324 UNESCO. UNESCO supports the creation of a National Youth Parliament in Ghana. Accessed on June 2013 at: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_supports_the_creation_of_a_national_youth_parliament_in_ghana/back/18256/.
- 325 UNICEF. Youth Reporters Promote Education during the MTN Africa Cup of Nations, 2008. Accessed on March 2014 at: http://www.unicef.org/sports/index_42738.html.
- 326 Boateng, R. et al. 'SAKAWA' - Cyber Crime and Criminality in Ghana, Journal of Information Technology Impact, 11(2), pp. 85-100. 2011. Accessed on 17 January 2014 at: <http://www.jiti.com/v11/jiti.v11n2.085-100.pdf>.
- 327 Boateng, R. et al. 'SAKAWA' - Cyber Crime and Criminality in Ghana, Journal of Information Technology Impact, 11(2), pp. 85-100. 2011. Accessed on 17 January 2014 at: <http://www.jiti.com/v11/jiti.v11n2.085-100.pdf>.
- 328 YAP GHANA. Youth Advocacy Programme Ghana (YAP Ghana). Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.yapghana.org/Yap-Ghana-Constitution.pdf>.
- 329 YAP GHANA. Youth Advocacy Programme Ghana (YAP Ghana). Accessed on June 2013 at: <http://www.yapghana.org/Yap-Ghana-Constitution.pdf>.
- 330 Kuyini, Ahmed Bawa and Mahama, Fati K. Implementing Child Rights and Protection Law in Ghana: Case Study. Accessed on July 2013 at: http://cevsghana.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Implementing_Child_Rights_and_Protection_in_Ghana_2.27760927.pdf.



ECPAT International

328/1 Phayathai Road
Ratchathewi, Bangkok
10400 THAILAND
Tel: +662 215 3388, 662 611 0972
Fax: +662 215 8272
Email: info@ecpat.net
Website: www.ecpat.net