



UNFPA GHANA PROGRAMME REPORT 2018

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



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FOREWORD

The 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is a global campaign commemorated every year from November 25–December 10. Ending SGBV and harmful practices is one of the three transformative goals the UNFPA pursues with an acute, dedicated focus.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women and young girls has been allowed to escalate to epidemic proportions. Today, one in three women worldwide experience gender-based violence, suffering the stigma while offenders commit these acts with impunity. In Ghana, approximately 94% of children between the ages of one and fourteen are said to have experienced one form of gender-based violence (MoGCSP 2018). Over 48% of Ghanaian women and girls have been sexually abused.

Globally, the situation is similarly dire. A 2018 report estimated that 650 million women and girls in the world today are married before the age of eighteen. In West and Central Africa, where this harmful practice remains rampant, approximately four out of ten young women are married before the age of eighteen. This situation inhibits a girl's potential and leads to additional issues such as interruption of education, isolation, and early pregnancy. All these factors increase the risk of women and girls experiencing domestic violence.

The 16 Days of Activism international campaign began in 1991 at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute, coordinated by the Institute's Center. During the 2018 campaign, UNFPA undertook several activities to create awareness and constructive engagement with state and civil institutions, ensuring that the SGBV conversation is presented with clear and effective communication and reaches the target audience. This publication highlights the activities the Country Office undertook during the course of the 16 days.

Niyi Ojuolape

Country Representative

UNFPA—United Nations Population Fund, Ghana

FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Forms of Violence	Percentage (%) of women affected globally
Women who have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner during their lifetime	70%
Percentage of women and girls who are human trafficking victims	71%
Women and girls today who were married before the age of eighteen	650 million
Women and girls alive today who have undergone female genital mutilation in the thirty countries with data on the prevalence of this harmful practice	200 million
Adolescent girls (ages 15-19) who have experienced forced sex (forced sexual intercourse or other sexual acts) at some point in their life	15 million

PRESENTATION OF AWARD AND MESSAGE ON SGBV DURING THE AFRIMA AWARDS



HE Samira Bawumia making her way to the AFRIMA stage

HE Samira Bawumia announcing the 16 Days of Activism against SGBV to the audience. She urged music stars to use their music and platforms to promote zero gender-based and sexual violence



In collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the Government of Ghana hosted the All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA) in Accra on November 24, 2018. AFRIMA is a music award show honoring musical talent from the continent and diaspora. It highlights the great potential and value of the African music industry and brings to light the continent's great heritage, raises awareness of social issues affecting the continent, and calls on world leaders to recognize Africa as a world-wide competitor.

HE Samira Bawumia attended AFRIMA along with the Minister of Tourism and presented the Song of the Year Award. During the award presentation, HE highlighted her advocacy for CoPASH and UNFPA Ghana, issuing a "call to action," an appeal to African artists to use their platform to speak out against sexual and gender-based violence. She introduced the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, "Orange the World: Hear Me Too," calling on artists to use the hashtag #HearMeToo on their social media platforms as a sign of support for survivors of SGBV.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN BY FELLOWS

To mark the 16 Days of Activism, the sixteen YoLe Fellows planned and hosted a social media campaign. During each day of the campaign, a Fellow was featured with a personal message regarding SGBV. Fellows spoke about topics such as child marriage, domestic violence, and rape. Each urgent message appealed to the audience to bring an end to these harmful practices, both globally and in Ghana.



UNFPA Youth Fellows hold an awareness campaign with members of the public



WiLDAF-Ghana, UNFPA, AND PARTNERS CALL FOR STRONGER ACTION AGAINST SGBV DURING THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

On November 25, 2018, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF, Ghana), in collaboration with UNFPA, OXFAM in Ghana, Care International, Crossroads International, and Safe Spaces Foundation, came together to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

For the celebration of this year's campaign, UNFPA and other partners took the opportunity to commend the Ghanaian government for its work to combat gender-based violence. These efforts have included a legislative response, the 2007 Domestic Violence Act (DVA). DVA also has legislative and institutional support for implementation and enforcement, such as DOVVSU, DV Secretariat, DV Management Board, and the Gender-Based Violence Courts.

WiLDAF-Ghana also commended the public for its role in generating momentum and exerting societal pressure on the government to act. The government has answered by applying the DVA in court proceedings as well as case benchmarking and analysis to assess the development and effectiveness of the law since its passage. Other noted initiatives include CoPASH, the coalition-based initiative to drive awareness, response, and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, spearheaded by the Office of the Second Lady, HE Samira Bawumia. UNFPA was commended as well for their continuing support for these initiatives.

Finally, the UNFPA supported an SGBV street campaign to bring the various forms of violence to the forefront and educate the general public. Several young people portrayed the physical and emotional trauma of SGBV using costumes and make-up while holding placards with messages to increase the public's awareness of and sensitivity to SGBV. Throughout the campaign, the street demonstrators stood at strategic spots in the metropolis of Accra and held conversations with members of the public.



Campaign Demonstrators







SGBV ART EXHIBITION WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY

To commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the 16 Days of Activism, CoPASH partnered with the French Embassy of Ghana to host an art exhibit on November 27, 2018. The exhibit depicted the many forms of violence against women through various forms of art.

Wearing an orange scarf as a sign of support for the “Orange the World: Hear Me Too” campaign for the 16 Days of Activism, HE Samira Bawumia addressed the audience during the exhibit's closing ceremony saying, “It is a time to amplify the voices of survivors of gender-based violence as well as galvanize national support to ensure that less people perpetuate it and that there is appropriate response and action in favor of those that have fallen victim to such.”

Her Excellency, an avid art enthusiast, toured the exhibit alongside Anne-Sophie Avé, the French Ambassador to Ghana, the Ambassador of Chile to Ghana, and Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Country Representative. She spoke with artists about the inspiration for their work, urging them to continue to address injustices through their art.



HE Samira Bawumia, Anne-Sophie Avé, French Ambassador, and a cross-section of artists who presented their SGBV-themed work



HE Samira Bawumia, Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Country Rep, look on as various artists present their SGBV-themed art work



Anne-Sophie Avé, French Ambassador, HE Samira Bawumia, Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Country Rep, and one of the exhibiting artists

CoPASH's "A NIGHT OF STARS" DINNER

On November 29, 2018, under the auspices of the Coalition of People against SGBV and Harmful Practices (CoPASH), HE the Second Lady hosted an advocacy dinner attended by Ghanaian musicians, actors, actresses, media personnel, and professional athletes. The occasion served to raise awareness during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and marked the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day.

Some of the many celebrities attending included Theresa Ayoade, Angela Kyerematen-Jimoh, Santokh Singh, Sacha Okoh, Penelope Jones-Mensah, Stacy Amoateng, Menaye Donkor, Martha Ankomah, DKB, Gloria Sarfo, Rodney Quarcoo, etc.

Her Excellency spoke about the need for celebrities to use their social media platforms, such as Twitter and Instagram, to raise awareness in their followers. After Her Excellency's comments, celebrities had the opportunity to ask questions, offer recommendations, and pledge support to CoPASH's mission.

Throughout the dinner, CoPASH received support from celebrities in many forms, such as promises to include educational content on SGBV in their acts. CoPASH also received commitments from media organizations promising support through advertising, production services, and of utmost importance, time.

Since the dinner, CoPASH has followed up with many of the celebrity attendees to ensure these promises of collaboration and support are fulfilled.



R-L: Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Country Rep, HE Samira Bawumia, and a celebrity during the Night of Stars Dinner



HE Samira Bawumia and celebrities during the Night of Stars Dinner



R-L; Erika Goldson, UNFPA Deputy Country Rep, Niyi Ojuolape, Country Rep, and celebrities



WORLD AIDS DAY FLOAT (December 1, 2018)

A recent report by the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) showed that in 2017, HIV/AIDS prevalence among young people, especially below the age of twenty-four, rose to approximately 45% nationwide. Addressing HIV/AIDS is integral to UNFPA's mission of achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health care and realizing human rights and gender equality.

In light of this, and to commemorate World AIDS Day, on December 1, 2018, the UNFPA Ghana Country Office, championed by the YoLe Fellows, joined the Ghana Philanthropy Forum (GPF) on a float to mark the thirtieth anniversary of this global health campaign. The float's theme was "Know Your Status."

The Fellows moved through the main streets of Accra distributing condoms as well as fliers highlighting various HIV facts and methods of prevention. The float stopped at Independence Square for an event to mark the first day of Philanthropy Week by the GPF.

This event was an important occasion for the UNFPA Ghana YoLe Fellows to get involved and promote the achievement of developmental milestones that will move Ghana closer to the Agenda 2030.



UNFPA Youth Fellows on the World Aids Day Float in Accra



NIGHT VIGIL TO COMMEMORATE THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

On the last day of the campaign, the YoLe Fellows organized a vigil. Beginning at the Country Office, the Fellows walked through the streets of Osu to the Danquah Circle, a notable landmark in Accra. The Fellows held up lanterns during the event as well as placards with messages of advocacy such as “I Am Human, Not a Punching Bag,” “My Body is Mine,” “Stop Violence against Women,” and “End Female Genital Mutilation.” The monument at the center of the roundabout was illuminated in orange, the symbolic color of the fight against sexual and gender-based violence.

Although it was a solemn and reflective event, it was nonetheless filled with the spirited enthusiasm that is characteristic of young people. The spectacular and memorable evening received a warm reception from patrons and participants, leaving open the possibility for subsequent occasions in the future.







LAWA-GHANA AND UNFPA POLICY DIALOGUE

On December 10, 2018, a policy dialogue was held with Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Ghana as part of UNFPA Ghana's 16 Days of Activism activities. Held at the Coconut Grove Regency Hotel in Accra, the event marked efforts by both organizations to encourage a deeper commitment from the government and policymakers to eradicate gender-based violence against domestic workers.

Speaking on behalf of the Representative, Mr. Amadu thanked LAWA-Ghana and UNFPA for spearheading this initiative and highlighting the role of legislation in addressing GBV against domestic workers and domestic assistants. He stated that women experience more violence than their male counterparts, and domestic workers, the majority of whom are women, are overlooked and neglected.

While domestic workers are protected under the Domestic Violence Act (Act 732), LAWA-Ghana's proposed Labor (domestic workers) Regulations would provide regulations based on the Labor Act, specific to the unique employment situations of domestic workers and domestic assistants. He reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to amplifying the most vulnerable voices in society and drawing attention to the least addressed issues in the national discourse to ensure that no one is left behind.





Selina Owusu, UNFPA National Program Analyst on Gender, speaking at the event

While Ghana has signed several pieces of human rights legislation, there is still a need to ensure that the government is utilizing all available resources and institutions to ensure that the rights of all workers, including domestic workers, are respected. During research and interventions undertaken by LAWA-Ghana, the following recurring acts of violence against domestic workers and domestic assistants were noted: physical violence, such as beatings and other forms of violence; sexual violence, such as rape, defilement, indecent assault, and sexual harassment; economic violence, such as lack of clarity regarding terms and conditions of domestic placement, and denial of salaries.

During the event proceedings, one domestic worker shared her experience of working for an employer who lived far from her home. Since she had no money for transportation, she had to walk a long distance to her place of work. She described how her inability to sweep an extremely large compound led to her being fired. She admitted her ignorance of the appropriate authorities and procedures to report mistreatment and unlawful termination and asked for more details.

This vital policy dialogue provided an opportunity for a broad-based discussion on how to ensure that laws to protect domestic workers and domestic assistants are enforced, how the government can best intervene to protect abused domestic workers and assistants, and how we can ensure that this is accomplished.

UNFPA GHANA RECOMMENDS INCREASED ATTENTION OF LOCAL MEDIA ON COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION



Ms. Erika Goldson, UNFPA Deputy Representative, addressing the participants

UNFPA Ghana, as part of its mandate to ensure that comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is used as a positive tool for empowering adolescent girls, has appealed to the Ghanaian media to act as a strong advocate in this area.

On December 10, 2018, UNFPA Deputy Country Representative Erika Goldson spoke at an event held at the International Press Centre in Accra. She stated that discussions with the media are facilitated to help them understand the concept and importance of CSE for the Ghanaian female child. She also mentioned that the media is essential in assisting the UNFPA address the risks and vulnerabilities affecting adolescent females.

However, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Representative Cynthia Prah, while appreciating UNFPA's role in the area of CSE, encouraged Ghanaian journalists to be sensitive when reporting CSE issues and focus on more than the criminal aspects of the story. A presentation on the national CSE guidelines, developed by the Republic of Ghana and supported by UNFPA and media partners, followed.

The primary objective of the national CSE guidelines is ensuring that young people are able to acquire accurate, reliable, and age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health and rights through comprehensive sexuality education.

An additional focus of the CSE guidelines is skill development for young people, such as critical thinking, communication, negotiation, self-esteem, and confidence building, equipping them to make correct and informed choices.

Journalists present requested resources for capacity building in CSE in order to gain and use in-depth knowledge to educate the general public.

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