



UNFPA GHANA PROGRAMME REPORT 2018

**ENGAGING WITH THE SECOND  
LADY... TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS  
OF WOMEN AND END GBV**

## Engaging with the Second Lady... To Protect the Rights of Women and End GBV

### Contributors

- Mr. Niyi Ojuolape
- Tracy Igberaese
- Mitterand Okorie



## ● Forward

Since assuming office as the Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana in 2017, Her Excellency Samira Bawumia and UNFPA have established a formidable partnership. Together, they have been pursuing common goals such as ending maternal deaths, ending sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), promoting family planning (FP), and making young people a priority.

Her Excellency is the Founder and CEO of the Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects. SEHP, a non-profit organization, focuses on health, education, gender parity, and the empowerment of women. The organization also encourages entrepreneurial development and achievement of the aspirations of young Ghanaians, especially those of women and adolescent girls.

UNFPA's mandate is to lead developmental partners and the UN toward strengthening economic growth in Africa, including Ghana, by increasing the working population while reducing the number of births and deaths. Harnessing this demographic dividend presents a window of hope for the continent. The agency considers cooperation with various stakeholders a critical component of the program. In this aspect, the Office of the Second Lady of Ghana is not only a vital partner, but also an enthusiastic ally. Her Excellency's passion for a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled, is in perfect harmony with the UNFPA corporate mission. Her political, social, and institutional capital have all played important roles in bringing local stakeholders together to take action against sexual and gender-based violence. In all of her public addresses, Her Excellency spotlights the issues which, otherwise, might receive less attention.

Her Excellency has a relentless champion of the FP and SGBV causes in numerous forums: an evocative speech on SGBV at AFRIMA, convening a gathering of local celebrities to mainstream these issues through their platforms, and leading the efforts for the formation of CoPASH (Coalition of People Against SGBV and Harmful Practices). Her Excellency has demonstrated her determination to go beyond policies, to action and change. To this end, her Office provided an added impetus for the work UNFPA is doing in Ghana.

This publication highlights the multiple engagements UNFPA, in alliance with the Office of the Second Lady, has undertaken, and their impact.

### **Niyi Ojuolape**

Country Representative

UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund.

**Her Excellency Samira Bawumia speaks at the UNFPA Gala Night on Family Planning, calls for increased commitment on family planning and maternal health**



***Her Excellency Samira Bawumia speaking at the launch of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023)***

**F**amily planning (FP) and maternal health represents core thematic issues UNFPA seeks to address. To achieve success, UNFPA engages local and international actors who provide social and institutional capital. During the gala, Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, the UNFPA Country Director, stressed the need for consolidated collaboration between the stakeholders present on the continent in order to improve the quality of life the population deserves. The Second Lady, Her Excellency Samira Bawumia, an important stakeholder for the organization, reiterated the need for stronger efforts on FP and maternal health.

On November 17, 2017, Mrs. Bawumia spoke on family planning at a UNFPA Gala Night. She described family planning as central to women's health and expressed concern that more often than not, women were left with the responsibility of handling this issue on their own. Mrs. Bawumia made the case for an increase in public spending for family planning education in order to empower more women and accelerate socio-economic development saying, "A woman who is empowered to make a choice is a woman who is empowered to be successful."

Mr. Mabingue Ngom, the West and Central African Regional Director of the UNFPA, also spoke at the event, emphasizing one of the major tools for enhancing development in Africa, the demographic dividend. It is so important to the West and Central African region because nearly two-thirds of its population is under the age of twenty-four. He also stated that “it can only be harnessed by making strategic investments and policy interventions to allow parents to plan families better and to improve education, skills development, health systems, economic reforms, job creation, good governance, and accountability.”

The Gala was held on the sidelines of the annual continental meeting by the West and Central African Regional Office (WACRO) of the UNFPA, hosted by Ghana, to take stock of its operations and performance in the previous year and plan for the coming year.

**“Make the care you provide memorable.” The Second Lady of Ghana urges nurses at the launch of the Five-Year Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023)**

Her Excellency Samira Bawumia, wife of the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, spoke to nurses on the sidelines of the launch of the Five-Year Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023). In her message at the “Nursing Now” campaign, she urged compassion in patient care. The launch was sponsored by the Ministry of Health with support from UNFPA Ghana, the Maternal and Child Services Program (MCSP) of USAID, and the “Nursing Now” campaign in Ghana. “Treat them with care, make the care you provide memorable, as this can help in the recovery process,” she reiterated.

The “Nursing Now” campaign is a global campaign intended to improve general health as well as raise the profile and status of nursing worldwide. The conference afforded leaders in the nursing and midwifery sector of Ghana to develop an implementation plan for the new strategic framework. It was also an important opportunity to learn more about current methods which can be adopted to improve the efficiency of nursing and midwifery delivery services at all levels of care.



*Her Excellency Samira Bawumia speaking at the launch of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023)*



*Launch of the Nursing Now Campaign on the sidelines of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023).*



*Dignitaries at the launch of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023).*



*H.E. Samira Bawumia with participants and dignitaries at the launch of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023).*



***Ms. Erika Goldson, UNFPA Deputy Representative, speaking during the launch of the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023).***



***H.E. Samira Bawumia launching the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan and Services Framework (2019-2023).***

## ● CoPASH

### UNFPA partners with the Office of the Second Lady of Ghana on SGBV

#### **Coalition of People Against SGBV and Harmful Practices (CoPASH)**

Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. In Ghana, women and adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to harmful practices (HPs) and all forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Between 2000 and 2013, more than 177,840 cases of SGBV, including rape, defilement, incest, and compulsory marriage were reported to the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service.

Cognizant of the importance of sustaining the Coalition, an advisory board was installed to provide strategic guidance and ensure the Coalition remains true to its mission. Members were meticulously selected to represent the various stakeholders whose support and intervention are required to respond to SGBV issues. These stakeholders include policy makers, heads of embassies, government representatives, civil society, and UN agency representatives.

Since the Coalition launched in August 2018, CoPASH has welcomed more than two hundred people, inaugurated an advisory board of twenty-five experts and advocated for improved resources for stakeholder partners from the Ministry of Gender, French Embassy, and DOVVSU, who are fighting SGBV.

## ● Why CoPASH

The 2016 UN Women statistics on SGBV in Ghana reported that lifetime physical/sexual intimate partner violence was 24%, an increase from 19% the preceding year. Lifetime non-partner sexual violence affected 4% of women in the population, female genital mutilation was estimated to affect 4% of women, and child marriage affected 21% of women. These numbers present a deep cause for concern, especially for organizations like CoPASH who are committed to designing and devising appropriate responses to tackle these issues. These solutions would mean a better life for young girls and women who have had to battle violence, discrimination, and disempowerment.

UNFPA Ghana has consistently sought to partner with the relevant state actors whose commitment can strengthen the work being done on the ground. Therefore, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Office of the Second Lady of Ghana (OSL), established the Coalition of People Against SGBV and Harmful Practices (CoPASH). This body was created to spearhead a national response to the issues of SGBV and HP including case management and increased prevention efforts in Ghana. CoPASH is bringing together agencies, organizations, and individuals who are passionate about the rights of women and girls, in order to advocate for better resources for SGBV victims throughout the nation. Within a short period of time, CoPASH has undertaken several important initiatives which effectively draw attention to SGBV. CoPASH has accomplished this by leveraging the strength of the creative industries, foreign missions in Ghana, Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs), and other local partners that Her Excellency Samira Bawumia, through her special offices, has brought on board.

- Launch of CoPASH

On August 14, 2018, H.E. Samira Bawumia, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ghana, launched the Coalition of People against SGBV & Harmful Practices (CoPASH); more than four hundred guests attended the launch. Remarks were presented by H.E. Samira Bawumia, Chief Superintendent of DOVVSU, Deputy Minister of Health, Mrs. Theresa Asare, a domestic violence survivor, Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, UN Resident Coordinator for Ghana.

In her remarks, Ms. Evans-Klock stated that over the years the UN has been working with the government of Ghana to create an enabling environment for the gender agenda. She acknowledged that “it is therefore exciting to see the Second Lady of the Republic championing this cause to work with Government and all other interested citizenry to bring high level advocacy, to ensure holistic and dedicated response, to address sexual and gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, and strengthen coordination among diverse actors required for sustained and meaningful action.”



*H. E. Samira Bawumia and UNFPA Country Representative Niyi Ojuolape addressing the audience in conversation during the launch*



**Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Representative, addressing the audience during the launch**

**M**r. Niyi Ojuolape, the UNFPA Country Representative, moderated the launch and revealed that CoPASH is the brainchild of the Second Lady. He went on to say that his organization, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is providing support based on its mandate to bring the dreams of the Second Lady to fruition.

Speaking at the event, Madam Gifty Twum-Ampofo, the Deputy Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, remarked that protecting girls from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices is a social and moral imperative. She reiterated the willingness of her ministry to work diligently to end SGBV. She congratulated both Mrs. Bawumia and UNFPA for bringing together the various stakeholders in the fight against SGBV/HPs through CoPASH. She said this initiative will go a long way to strengthen her ministry's efforts to ensure a society free of violence for all citizens.

In a more intimate address, the Hon. Kwaku Agyemang-Manu, Minister of Health, spoke to the audience regarding his non-violent posture in regard to his wife, calling on others to emulate his example.

Mrs. Theresa Asare, a petty trader, mother of four, and SGBVS survivor who had been married for seventeen years, gave the sad account of her ordeal at the hands of her husband.

Chief Supt. Owusuwaa Kyeremeh, National Coordinator of DOVVSU, gave a presentation on the operations of DOVVSU and provided statistics on reported cases of domestic violence (DV) across all the regions of Ghana. In a stark revelation, she said, "a nine-year old girl had to have her womb removed because she was raped. That is domestic violence!" She stressed the necessity of having a 'One-Stop Center' which will enhance the DOVVSU's work by

providing victims with privacy and improved services including counselling, healthcare, and psychotherapy, along with expedited processes for timely justice.

H.E. Samira Bawumia engaged in a public conversation with Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, the UNFPA Country Representative, explaining the rationale behind CoPASH. Expressing her belief in the viability of the collaboration with UNFPA to the audience, she said, "I believe CoPASH will be the game-changer in efforts toward ending sexual and gender-based violence." She then formally launched the Coalition to applause from the audience. She called on all stakeholders to join in ending sexual and gender-based violence in Ghana.

Former first Lady of Ghana, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, and the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Hajia Alima Mahama, both used the opportunity to express their goodwill toward H.E. Samira Bawumia and pledged their support for CoPASH. They also commended UNFPA for their unceasing support in tackling gender-related issues.

The ceremony brought together individuals, young people, the media, parliamentarians, religious leaders, traditional authorities, and members of civil society. All the Heads of UN agencies in Ghana, as well as members of the diplomatic community, including the ambassadors for Norway and Japan, were also present.

The call for action was read by Mrs. Claudia Lumor, the UNFPA Honorary Ambassador for Ghana. She outlined the next steps for CoPASH and asked for everyone's support for the government's plans and the coalition's mission. She also asked the country to take bold steps to accelerate the plans for ending sexual and gender-based violence in Ghana.



*L-R.; Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Representative, Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, UN Resident Coordinator Ghana, H.E. Samira Bawumia, and other dignitaries at the launch*



*H.E. with Queen Mothers from across the country*



*L-R: Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Representative, Rukia Yacoub, WFP Rep & Country Director, H.E. Samira Bawumia, Sylvia Lopez-Ekra, IOM Chief of Mission, Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, UN Resident Coordinator, Anne Claire Dufay, UNICEF Representative, Fakhruddin Azizi, UNIDO Representative*



*Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Representative, addressing the audience during the launch*



*A cross section of the audience*

## CoPASH INAUGURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

On November 22, 2018, the Second Lady formed an advisory board to ensure the sustainability of CoPASH and to make certain the Coalition remains true to its mission. The board consists of high-level professionals from various sectors able to provide strategic guidance and function as a thoughtful sounding board for the Coalition. The Board's particular role is to:

- Promote and provide strategic guidance and direction to the Coalition
- Consider and approve Coalition work plans and ad-hoc opportunities as necessary
- Leverage core competencies and networks in a coordinated and synergistic manner

The meeting began with opening remarks from the Chairperson, H.E. Samira Bawumia. She spoke about the composition of the Coalition and gave an overview of CoPASH's mission. She shared her expectation that the board would be a source of sound and strategic advice. She then thanked the board members for attending and welcomed them to the inaugural advisory board meeting.

Following the opening remarks, Mr. Niyi Ojuolape, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Representative, introduced the CoPASH Advisory Board members. He commended the Coalition for their commitment to the mission and to achieving the visionary goals.

He provided a brief background of the Coalition, explaining that CoPASH was launched with UNFPA support to spearhead a national response to the issues of SGBV and Harmful Practices and that these efforts will include case management and increasing preventive efforts in Ghana.

He spoke of the program's mandate to bring together a group of agencies, organizations, and individuals who are passionate about the rights of women and girls and will advocate for better resources.

Mr Ojuolape detailed some of the proposed CoPASH activities such as giving support to the DOVVSU to complete its One-Stop-Shop agenda, facilitating the provision of a coordinated response to SGBV, and strengthening and expanding data management systems at the Unit.

Advisory Board members, drawn from several bodies such as the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, UNICEF, UNHCR Ghana, UNAIDS Ghana, DOVVSU, Ark Foundation, Women and Children's Health Promotion (WaCHPro), DV Coalition, Net Right, FIDA, Commission on Human Rights & Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), IOM, High Commission of Canada, and the Office of the President–SDGs Advisory Unit, had the opportunity to deliberate on the needs of the Coalition and advisory board. The discussion proved to be in-depth, informative, and resulted in a concrete plan of action for moving forward.



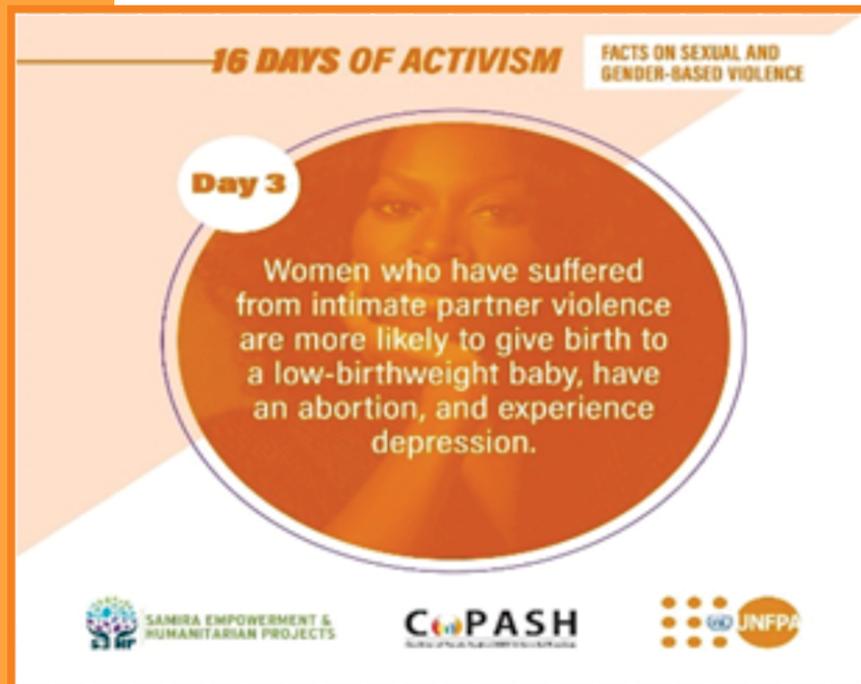
*H.E. Samira Bawumia (center) with CoPASH Advisory Board Members*



*CoPASH inaugural advisory board meeting in progress*

## Training of DOVVSU Regional and Deputy Regional Coordinators

From September 3–7, 2018, the Ghana Police Service, with support from UNFPA and as part of CoPASH, held a five-day capacity-building training for regional and deputy regional coordinators of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU). The DOVVSU is a primary stakeholder and has a direct mandate when it comes to protecting victims of sexual and gender-based violence and prosecuting offenders.



The training objective was to bring officials up to date on new protocols and the preferred methods of assistance for domestic violence victims, efficient ways of handling domestic violence cases, and how to properly supervise investigations for successful prosecution.

On the final day, H.E. Samira Bawumia joined the training session. During closing remarks, she encouraged the attendees to read and always apply the DV Act protocols when managing cases. She further enjoined them to pay attention to the new protocols and preferred methods of assistance when assisting victims of SGBV. “You are the first point of contact for victims, so please receive them with a human touch so they do not relive the story,” she echoed.

### **16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - THE SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN**

During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which ran from November 29–December 10, 2018, CoPASH began an intensive social media campaign with the objective of raising awareness and educating the public on issues of sexual and gender-based violence. Each day, the Second Lady and UNFPA posted facts, figures, and quotes on SGBV. Each message was designed to shine a light on the injustices committed against women and girls, globally and in Ghana.

## CoPASH's "A NIGHT OF STARS" DINNER

On November 29, 2018, under the auspices of the Coalition of People against SGBV & Harmful Practices (CoPASH), H.E. 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.



L-R: UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Claudia Lumor, H.E. the Second Lady, UNFPA Representative Niyi Ojuolape



*H.E. with other celebrities*



*Singer Efyia during the event*



*R-L: Erika Goldson, UNFPA Deputy Representative, Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Representative, and celebrities during the occasion*

### **COURTESY CALL WITH THE UNFPA DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

On October 5, 2018, on the sidelines of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD+5) summit, Mr. Dereje Word of UNFPA, Deputy Executive Director, Programmes (DED), paid courtesy calls to the President, the Vice President, the wife of the Vice President, and Ministers of State. He also visited two of the UNFPA projects in Accra.

Along with the Country Representative and Deputy Country Representative of Ghana, Mr. Word of a paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Samira Bawumia. He congratulated Her Excellency on receiving the 2018 African Women of Excellence Award organized by the AU. He thanked H.E. for her support of the Ghana Country Office's many projects, including her leadership on CoPASH and the impressive launch event attended by more than four hundred people.



***H.E. Samira Bawumia and Mr. Dereje Wordofa, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director, Programmes, shake hands during the courtesy visit***



*L-R: Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Rep. , H.E. Samira Bawumia, Derege Wordofa, UNFPA Deputy Director, Programmes, and a Representative from UNFPA Arab States' Regional Office*

### **FAITH-BASED CONFERENCE, HER EXCELLENCY MENTORS ONE HUNDRED MUSLIM GIRLS**

The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) states, "Religion can play a significant role in promoting the understanding of sexuality as an affirming expression of equality, mutual respect, caring, and love." "Without a doubt, many adolescents and teenagers look to their religious communities as an important social resource. According to the Search Institute, "Each week, millions of young people participate in religious services and programs that provide opportunities for growth."

On November 14, 2018, Mrs. Bawumia spoke during the Faith-Based Organization Conference. She called on FBOs to eschew silence on sexual and gender-based violence, such as rape, defilement, and harmful practices saying, "it is our actions and inactions that contribute to the vulnerabilities of the female child."

She commended the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs for taking a bold step to initiate an interfaith dialogue on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). She suggested the FBOs Conference should become a platform for both religious and traditional leaders, who are the community gatekeepers, to share information on issues such as CSE, family planning, sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful practices.



*H.E. Samira Bawumia addressing the audience during the conference*

## MENTORING

An interactive teaching style promotes an atmosphere of interest and participation, making learning engaging and exciting. This interactive method was used during the mentoring session of one hundred Muslim adolescent girls, ages twelve to nineteen.

The aim of the mentoring session, held by the Second Lady of Ghana, Samira Bawumia, and other mentors, was to empower adolescent girls. Students from the Ghana Lebanon Islamic Senior High School participated in a program designed to remove limitations, barriers, and impediments to the realization of their full potential. Nafisa, a mentee who wants to be a blogger, live-tweeted her goal and received an offer of mentorship from an online participant (Jemila #DigitalSkills @jabdulai).

The platform provided a wealth of information to the mentees, guidance on making informed choices, and discussion of issues affecting their lives. The mentors raised awareness of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices (SGBVs & HPs) and the culture of silence associated with these issues. After an active and insightful session, H.E. Samira Bawumia concluded by encouraging the girls to “intensify your efforts and you will surely make it. Break the walls of silence around the myth that you can be married off by your parents while still underage because they are your parents. Report cases of sexual abuse and by doing so, we can effectively be a voice for the voiceless in our society.”



*H.E. Samira Bawumia interacting with young Muslim girls during the mentorship segment of the conference*



*H.E. Samira Bawumia interacting with the girls*

## PRESENTATION OF AWARD AND MESSAGE ON SGBV DURING THE AFRIMA AWARDS

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.

H.E. Samira Bawumia attended AFRIMA along with the Minister of Tourism and presented the Song of the Year Award. During the award presentation, H.E. 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, noting that music and other forms of creative art are powerful means of advocacy. She called on entertainers to use their music and social media spaces to campaign against SGBV. 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 for SGBV.





*H.E. Samira Bawumia addressing the audience during AFRIMA event*

### **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.

H.E. Samira Bawumia addressed the audience during the exhibit's closing ceremony, wearing an orange scarf as a sign of support for the "Orange the World: Hear Me Too" campaign for the 16 Days of Activism. She stated, "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 Ave, 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.



*H.E. Samira Bawumia addressing the audience during the opening of the SGBV Art Exhibition at the French Embassy*



*L-R: Ricardo Alen, Head of Mission in Ghana—Chilean Embassy, Anne Sophie Ave, French Ambassador, H.E. Samira Bawumia, Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Representative*



*A cross section of the SGBV-themed artwork*





*The Second Lady, French Ambassador, and Head of Mission, Chile with the Winner of the SGBV Art Exhibition*



*H.E. Samira Bawumia with artists during the SGBV Exhibition*



*The Second Lady, the French Ambassador, and one of the exhibiting artists*

## The Second Lady of Ghana and UNFPA Present at SGBV Fundraiser at the Australian High Commission Accra

On November 14, 2018, the Australian High Commission organized its annual Melbourne Cup Charity Ball to raise funds to support “The Pearl Safe Haven” project, an emergency safe house for female victims of domestic violence.

An advocate against sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, Her Excellency Samira Bawumia, the Second Lady, attended the ball. She expressed her pride in the Initiative and how it provides practical solutions for ending the menace of sexual gender-based violence and harmful practices.

Niyi Ojuolape, UNFPA Country Representative, also attended the event. The initiative's goal, strengthening the prevailing underfunded support system for survivors of gender-based violence in Ghana, is in line with UNFPA's organizational goal of attaining zero SGBV incidents. The Pearl Safe Haven would be the sole safe house in Accra, providing housing for survivors for a short period of time and skills training to help them achieve economic independence. The haven would function as a refuge where women and children who have suffered can feel safe while attempting to rebuild a constructive life for themselves.

The Australian High Commission based in Accra announced that the 2018 Melbourne Cup Charity Gala raised a record GHC175,000 for the Accra-based charity, The Pearl Safe Haven. The project would be the only emergency transitional housing shelter for survivors of domestic violence and abuse in the capital, Accra. Project sponsors include Emirates, Geodrill, BCM International Group, Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel Accra, Labadi Beach Hotel, Wilkins Engineering Ltd. as well as gold sponsors Newmont Ghana, African Underground Mining Services (AUMS), and Enterprise Insurance & Clifton Homes.

The High Commissioner expressed gratitude to Her Excellency the Second Lady Samira Bawumia and the legendary Azumah Nelson for attending the event.



*L-R: Australian HC Andrew Barnes, H.E. Samira Bawumia, and UNFPA Representative Mr. Niyi Ojuolape during the event occasion*



*Australian HC Andrew Barnes addressing the audience at the event*



**UNFPA Ghana**

7, 7th Rangoon Close, Cantonments  
P.O.Box GP 1423 Accra, Ghana

**General Inquiries**

Telephone: +233 302 746746

Fax: +233 302 772829

Email: [ghana.info@unfpa.org](mailto:ghana.info@unfpa.org)

Website: [ghana.unfpa.org](http://ghana.unfpa.org)



UNFPA GHANA



UNFPA Ghana



UNFPA GHANA