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COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENTS

GHANA

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Preface

- i This Country of Origin Information Key Documents (COI Key Documents) on Ghana has been produced by COI Service, UK Border Agency (UKBA), for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 27 August 2008. It was issued on 27 August 2008.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any UKBA opinion or policy.
- iii For UK Border Agency users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on Ghana is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to COI Service as below.

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- vii The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information (APCI) was established in 2003 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the UK Border Agency's country of origin information material. The APCI welcomes all feedback on UKBA's COI Key Documents, COI Reports and other country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at www.apci.org.uk
- viii In the course of its work, the APCI reviews the content of selected UKBA COI documents and makes recommendations specific to those documents and of a more general nature. The APCI may or may not have reviewed this particular document. At the following link is a list of the COI Key Documents, COI Reports and other documents which have, to date, been reviewed by the APCI: www.apci.org.uk/reviewed-documents.html
- ix Please note: It is not the function of the APCI to endorse any UKBA material or procedures. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

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2. Background information about Ghana

Full Country Name: The Republic of Ghana

Area: 239,460 sq. km

Population: 23,382,848 (July 2008 est.)

Capital City: Accra (population: 1.7 million)

People: Akan 45.3%, Mole-Dagbon 15.2%, Ewe 11.7%, Ga-Dangme 7.3%, Guan 4%, Gurma 3.6%, Grusi 2.6%, Mande-Busanga 1%, other tribes 1.4%, other 7.8% (2000 census).

Languages: Asante 14.8%, Ewe 12.7%, Fante 9.9%, Boron (Brong) 4.6%, Dagomba 4.3%, Dangme 4.3%, Dagarte (Dagaba) 3.7%, Akyem 3.4%, Ga 3.4%, Akuapem 2.9%, other 36.1%. The official language is English. (2000 census)

Religion(s): 68.8% Christian, (Pentecostal/Charismatic 24.1%, Protestant 18.6%, Catholic 15.1%, other 11%), 15.9% Muslim, 8.5% traditional African religions, 0.7% other, 6.1% none (2000 census)

Ghana has the highest percentage of Christians in West Africa, but the belief in traditional animist religions is still extremely common.

Life expectancy: (years at birth): 59.49 (males 58.65; females 60.35) (2008est)

Currency: Cedi

Major Political Parties: New Patriotic Party (NPP), National Democratic Congress (NDC), People's National Convention (PNC), Convention Peoples' Party (CPP).

Government: Constitutional democracy

Head of State: President John Agyekum Kufuor, Elected 2000 and 2004

Deputy Head of State: Aliu Mahama

Foreign Minister: Hon Akwasi Osie-Adjei

Membership of International Groupings/Organisations: Commonwealth, United Nations (UN), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union (AU). [1a](Europa World), [4a](FCO country profile, 3 January 2008), [7a](BBC News), [36a] (p3), [9a] (CIA World Factbook)

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GEOGRAPHY

The Republic of Ghana lies on the west coast of Africa, with Côte d'Ivoire to the west and Togo to the east. It is bordered by Burkina Faso to the north. "A narrow grassy plain stretches inland from the coast, widening in the east. The south and west are covered by dense rain forest. To the north are forested hills, beyond which is dry savannah and open woodland. The Black and White Volta rivers enter Ghana from Burkina Faso and lead to the largest man-made lake in the world, Lake Volta." [1a](Europa World); [4a] (FCO country profile, 3 January 2008) "Volta Lake...extends from the Akosombo Dam in south eastern Ghana to the town of Yapei, 520 kilometers (325mi.) to the north. The lake generates electricity, provides inland transportation, and is a potentially valuable resource for irrigation and fish farming." [2c](USSD background briefing note, June 2008)

"The climate is tropical, with temperatures generally between 21°C and 32°C (70°–90°F) and average annual rainfall of 2,000 mm (80 ins) on the coast, decreasing inland. English is the official language, but there are 10 major national languages (each with more than 250,000 speakers), the most widely spoken being Akan, Ewe, Mole-Dagomba and Ga. Many of the inhabitants follow traditional beliefs and customs. Christians comprise an estimated 69% of the population." [1a](Europa World)

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RECENT HISTORY

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Country Profile dated 3 January 2008 noted, "Nkrumah turned Ghana into a one-party state under African Socialism. A celebrated pan-Africanist, he also developed close ties with the Soviet Bloc. He was overthrown in Ghana's first military coup in 1966". [4a]

IRIN country profile, updated February 2007, noted that, "In 1979, air force lieutenant Jerry Rawlings staged a brutal coup and in an attempt to root out corruption, staged public executions of senior military officials. He introduced a new constitution and handed power to an elected president but within two years he overthrew that government and took charge." [32a]

The FCO country profile noted that:

"For the next 26 years until 1992, Ghana had only short periods of civilian rule (1969-71, 1979-81) interrupted by longer periods of military rule (1966-69, 1972-79, 1981-1991). During the last period of military rule Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings brought in populist policies, and Cuban-style revolutionary institutions, including the CDRs, Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, and People's Defence Committees. However, under pressure internally and from the international community, in 1991 Rawlings conceded a return to constitutional rule and multi-party politics. A new constitution was approved in a referendum in April 1992.

"The 1992 constitution introduced an executive presidential system, a 2-term limit to presidential tenure and a 200-member unicameral legislature (since increased to 230 in 2004). Rawlings created his own party, the NDC, out of the former revolutionary structures, and other parties were created or revived. In the subsequent presidential election of November 1992, Rawlings won with 58% of the vote. Four years later, in 1996, Rawlings again won the Presidency with 57% of the vote but the NDC was reduced to 133 seats.

"Rawlings stepped down in 2000 and the current government of President Kufuor, of the opposition NPP, was elected, first in December 2000 (with 57% of second round votes) and again in December 2004 (with 53% of second round votes). In both legislative elections, the NPP won a majority of the seats leaving the NDC with a greatly reduced presence in Parliament. In December 2006 the losing candidate of the NDC party in 2000 and 2004, John Atta Mills, was again nominated by the NDC presidential candidate for the 2008 elections. In December 2007 the NPP nominated former Foreign Minister Nana Akuffo Addo as its candidate for the 2008 elections, after he beat his nearest rival Alan Kyeremanteng in the first round of party voting." [4a]

IRIN, humanitarian country profile, February 2007 stated: "The introduction of the 1993 constitution, which ushered in Ghana's Fourth Republic, was a milestone for democracy in Ghana. It established a democratic system of checks and balances, including an independent judiciary, and an independent human rights commission. Under the law, sovereignty resides with the Ghanaian people and provides for a power-sharing government. The hope is that this will prevent coups, dictatorial rule and a one-party state, as seen in the past. Parliament has 230 seats, and by law more than half the appointed ministers must be taken from elected members of parliament.

"The constitution, however, still allows for a strong presidency. The president is head of state, head of government and commander in chief of the armed forces and he has the

power to veto bills passed before parliament for legislation. The president is limited to two terms in office, and Ghana had its first peaceful transition to a new government in 2000 when the opposing candidate, John Kufuor, won the vote.

“Opposition parties can operate and express their views freely and won nearly a majority of the seats in parliament in the last elections in 2004. ‘Kufuor is in his second term and is not eligible to run in elections in 2008. Analysts see this second handing-over of government by ballot box as a test of how firmly rooted democratic governance has become in Ghana’.” [32a]

Europa World online reported:

“In December 2001, violent clashes between members of the Mamprusi and Kusasi ethnic groups in Bawku reportedly resulted in some 50 deaths. A curfew was imposed in the town, and a delegation of ministers and military officials visited the region and announced the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the dispute. ... The state of emergency ended in the majority of districts in October 2003, but remained in place in Tamale municipality and Yendi district until August 2004. Unrest, however, continued during 2005.

“Ghana enjoys a reputation as a peace-keeper in the region and in February 2008 was the seventh largest contributor to UN peace-keeping missions world-wide. The Kufuor administration has sought to increase Ghanaian involvement in conflict resolution within west and central Africa. In late 2005 Ghana was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

“In January 2006 the African Peer Review Mechanism, a programme of voluntary assessment organized by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, published its report on Ghana. The report, while commending overall development, criticized endemic corruption and the ongoing civil unrest in the north of the country.” [1a](p7-9)

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RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2007 (USSD 2007), published 11 March 2008, noted the following on the political situation in Ghana:

“In 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections were held nationwide. John Agyekum Kufuor of the NPP was re-elected with 52.45 per cent of the vote. Despite some irregularities, domestic and international observers characterized the elections as generally free and fair. There were reports of a shortage of ballots at some polls and minor problems with the voter register, such as misspelled names or photos not matching names. In the parliamentary elections the NPP won 128 seats; the National Democratic Congress (NDC), 94; the Convention Peoples Party, three; the People’s National Convention (PNC), four; and one independent candidate won a seat.

“The country continued its transition from a one-party state to a more established multiparty constitutional system. The political system includes recognized opposition parties, which expressed their views freely within parliament and won a near majority of the parliamentary seats. Registered political parties, including two new parties registered this year [2007], operated freely within the country; however, opposition parties and persons in private business continued to allege that government contracts were often awarded on the basis of ruling party membership.

“Women held 25 of 230 parliamentary seats, and there were four female ministers, 14 deputy ministers, and three female council of state members out of 112 such positions. Significantly more women presented themselves as candidates in the district assembly elections than in previous elections, and the percentage of female representation in the assemblies increased to 10 per cent in 2006 from seven per cent in 2002.” [2a](p10)

Relief Web reported on 25 March 2008 that: “Following a deportation on Sunday 23 March of 16 Liberians by the Ghanaian authorities – 13 of them registered with UNHCR as refugees – we have urged Ghana to cease any further forcible removals. The deportation followed a five-week sit-in demonstration by a group of Liberians which started last month on 19 February at the Buduburam refugee settlement, some 35km west of the country’s capital city, Accra.” [31c]

allAfrica reported on 27 June 2008: “Ghana’s President Kufuor has demanded an immediate end to a conflict between two ethnic groups in the north of the country that has claimed at least 17 lives in the last week and which observers warn could jeopardise presidential elections later this year... Bawku, which has a predominantly Muslim population of 206,000, has been under a dusk to dawn curfew since January when several days of violence starting on New Year’s Day led to four deaths and large parts of the town being burned. Further clashes between the Mamprusi and Kusasi in March left two more dead... Bawku has a long history as a flashpoint town in Ghana. In 2001 at least 28 people were killed there when factions clashed in another battle apparently sparked by a relatively small crime, the destruction of a small shop... Northern Ghana is riddled with conflicts over ethnicity as well as over who has rights to assume certain chieftaincies – local government positions.” [40c]

allAfrica reported on 18 July 2008: “On 15 July 2008, Western Publications Limited, publishers of the “Daily Guide”, an Accra-based, privately-owned daily newspaper, filed a complaint with the head of the Ghana Police Service’s Criminal Investigations Department (CID) regarding threats to the lives and security of its staff and property. The threats were received via anonymous telephone calls. This followed frequent death threats that three of the newspaper’s senior staff members have recently received... On 5 July, ‘Daily Guide’ publisher and chief executive officer Gina Ama Blay received a death threat for the second time on her cell phone while she was in Japan covering the recent G8 Summit. In a separate development, Media Foundation for West Africa welcomed the announcement by Ghana’s chief justice, Georgina Wood, of the establishment of a national human rights court...which will start operating in October [2008]... Wood... said the creation of the special court was an initiative by the judiciary aimed at promoting the rule of law and reducing the frustrations that Ghanaians experience daily when their rights are abused.” [40d]

allAfrica reported on 28 July 2008: “In Ghana like any developing country, there is internal migration by rural dwellers to urban centres despite its attendant problems... A research on the sustainable return of migrants to their origin has revealed that most female migrants from northern Ghana return home to marry.” [40e]

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ECONOMY

GDP: US\$ 12.5bn (2006)

Annual Growth: 6.2% (2006)

Inflation: 11% (2006)

Major Industries: Cocoa, gold and timber.

Natural resources: Gold, timber, diamonds, bauxite, manganese, fish

Agriculture: *Products* - cocoa, coconuts, coffee, pineapples, cashews, pepper, other food crops, rubber. *Land* – 70% arable and forested

Business and industry: *Types* – mining, lumber, light manufacturing, fishing, aluminium, tourism

Major trading partners: The European Union, United States, Nigeria, Togo

Exchange rate: 17,411.5 cedis = £1 (December 2004) [2c](USSD background briefing note, June 2008), [4a](FCO country profile, 3 January 2008)

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile, 3 January 2008 noted the following regarding Ghana's economy: "Ghana's economy has always been dependent on a small number of key exports principally gold and cocoa. Gold dominates the mining sector and contributes 30% of foreign exchange earnings. Ghana also produces diamonds, manganese and bauxite. Ghana is also a major cocoa producer. In 2006, with an output of 740,000 tonnes, it has retained its position as the second largest producer in the world, a position it had not held for three decades before 2003. Cocoa production is subject to volatile prices and the vagaries of the weather. This makes the economy vulnerable. Since 2001 the Kufuor administration has achieved some success in stabilising the macro economy, helped initially by high gold and cocoa prices, through the introduction of tighter monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies. As Ghana's economy continues steady growth, power supply is an increasing problem. A large amount of remittances come in from Ghana's extensive diaspora, much of which is invested in the booming property sector in the main cities. Ghana is trying to diversify its sources of external funding, including in the successful international commercial bond issue in September 2007. Ghana's economic prospects were given a further boost with the announcement in June 2007 of significant oil finds off the coast..."

"Ghana's current IMF agreed three year Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) finished in October 2006. Loans attached to it amounted to around US\$258 million. The Government has started its intention to sign up to the IMF's policy support instrument and implement its own growth and poverty reduction strategy. In July 2004 Ghana reached Heavily Indebted Poor Countries HIPC completion point. Ghana's debt has been massively reduced as a result of this." [4a]

Ghanaweb reported on 15 September 2007 that Ghana changed its currency denomination on 3 July 2007 and that the transition was smooth. "The exercise which was announced in December 2006 is aimed at eliminating the hazard and inconvenience in carrying large sums of currency notes for business transactions. Four zeros were pruned from the old denominations. The new currency notes are in five denominations: One, Five, Ten, Twenty and Fifty Cedi notes and five coin denominations of one, five, ten, twenty and fifty pesewas. Under the new denominations, the old ten thousand Cedi becomes the new One Ghana Cedi which means that the new ten Cedi notes can pay for the equivalent of the old one hundred thousand Cedis while the new Fifty Cedi note is equivalent to the old Five Hundred Thousand Cedis. The one new pesewa coin is equal to the old one hundred cedi while the new Fifty pesewa coin represents the old Five Thousand Cedi note." The old notes will no longer be legal tender after December 31, 2007. [3b]

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HUMAN RIGHTS

IRIN humanitarian country profile, February 2007 noted that: "Ghana has a Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), established through the last constitution. Its independence is guaranteed and it is not subject to the control of any government department or person."

"In 2000, newly elected President John Kufuor faced widespread demands for the government to address past human-rights abuses, particularly during the military rule of Jerry Rawlings, including religious persecution, arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial killings and the disappearance of 200 people. But the 1992 Constitution had indemnified all military personnel against judicial scrutiny, making it impossible for convictions to be handed down. Despite this legal protection of the old regime, the new regime put in place the National Reconciliation Commission to compile an accurate historical record of past human rights violations by providing a forum for victims to tell their stories.

"Many of the 2,000-plus testimonies spoke of summary executions, 'disappearances', torture, arbitrary imprisonment, confiscation of property and ill-treatment. The commission made recommendations for reparations to be paid to victims. Individual payments began in October 2006 and range from about \$217 to \$3,300 depending on the extent of abuse or violations, according to the attorney-general's office, and total payments will add up to \$1.5 million." [32a]

The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2007 (USSD 2007), published 11 March 2008, stated that: "The government generally respected human rights and made significant improvements during the year; however, there were problems in several areas, including incidents of vigilante justice. Human rights problems included deaths resulting from the excessive use of force by police; vigilante justice; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; police corruption and impunity; prolonged pretrial detention; forcible dispersal of demonstrations; corruption in all branches of government; violence against women and children; female genital mutilation (FGM); societal discrimination against women, persons with disabilities, homosexuals, and persons with HIV/AIDS; trafficking in women and children; ethnic discrimination and politically and ethnically motivated violence; and child labor, including forced child labor." [2a]

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WOMEN

Amnesty International in its 2008 annual report noted: "Women continued to be victims of domestic violence and female genital mutilation. The Domestic Violence Acts became law, allowing prosecution of marital rape. A plan of action for its implementation was drafted." [10c]

Freedom House, in their country report 'Freedom in the World, Ghana (2008)' noted: "Despite their equal rights under the law, Ghanaian women suffer societal discrimination that is particularly serious in rural areas, where opportunities for education and wage employment are limited. However, women's enrolment in universities is increasing. Domestic violence against women is said to be common but often goes unreported, and even formal complaints are rarely resolved in court. Sexual violence against girls is a particular problem in the country's otherwise thriving educational sector ... Ghana has yet to ratify the African Union Protocol on Women's Rights." [23a](p6)

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PRISON CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN

The USSD 2007 Human Rights report stated, regarding women in prison: "In the Accra Central Police cells, female prisoners were kept in a small vestibule, separated from men by only a gate.

"In 2006 September the Minister for Women and Children's Affairs called on judges to avoid giving custodial sentences to pregnant women and proposed alternative sentences such as community work, suspended sentences, probation, and fines. Nevertheless, judges continued to impose custodial sentences for pregnant women, especially those not known to be pregnant at the time of sentencing. This was in part because officials did not consistently carry out pregnancy tests as required by law." [2a](p3)

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FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

The USSD Human Rights Report 2007 noted that:

"The law prohibits FGM, but it remained a serious problem in the northern regions of the country. Type II FGM was more commonly performed than any other type. The typical age at which a girl was excised was 15, although it was often performed on younger girls. According to a 2005 study conducted by the Ministry of Health, approximately 15 per cent of women between 12 and 19 in the three northern regions had undergone FGM, although some observers believed that NGO and government-sponsored awareness campaigns regarding the illegality of FGM had driven the practice underground and that the real rate in these regions was as high as 30 per cent. Such intervention programs were somewhat successful in reducing the prevalence, although it was difficult to estimate their effectiveness precisely. Officials at all levels, including traditional chiefs, continued to speak out against the practice, and local NGOs continued their educational campaigns to encourage abandonment of FGM and to train practitioners in new skills so they could seek alternate sources of income. There were no prosecutions of practitioners during the year." [2a] (p11)

allAfrica reported in an article dated 28 January 2008: "Practitioners and all parties that consent to the practice of FGM are liable to imprisonment to not less than five years and not more than 10 years as stipulated in the Constitution Amendment Act 741." [40f]

The Library of Congress state in a letter dated 18 August 2008: "The Ghanaian Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2007 (Act 741 (GPC/Assembly Press, Accra 2007) (official source)), which is an amendment to the 1960 Criminal Code (Act 29), has as its 'assent date' Aug.7, 2007, and its date of 'gazette notification' Aug 10, 2007... In Ghana, an Act does not enter into force until it is published in the gazette." [51a]

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FORCED MARRIAGE

allAfrica reported on 28 March 2008 the successful termination of a near marriage of a 17 year old Junior High School girl in Kumasi: "The young girl had been confined for the marriage ceremony planned for last Friday, but following the whistle blowing by the Ghanaian Times and the subsequent intervention by the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service, the young student had been freed to pursue her education." [40a]

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The USSD Human Rights 2007 report noted, regarding violence against women: "Violence against women, including domestic violence, remained a significant problem. In February [2007] parliament passed a bill outlawing domestic violence... DOVVSU (the Police Service Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit) worked closely with the Department of Social Welfare, the national chapter of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), the Legal Aid Board, and several human rights NGOs to combat domestic violence. Prosecution of domestic violence cases remained difficult." [2a] (p10)

The Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2008 report, stated: "Domestic violence against women is said to be common but often goes unreported, and even formal complaints are rarely resolved in court. Sexual violence against girls is a particular problem in the country's otherwise thriving educational sector." [23a](p6)

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TRAFFICKING

The U.S. Department of State 2008 Trafficking in Persons report on Ghana, published on 4 June 2008 stated that:

"Ghana is a source, transit and destination country for children and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Trafficking within the country is more prevalent than transnational trafficking and the majority of victims are children. Both boys and girls are trafficked within Ghana for forced labor [sic] in agriculture and the fishing industry, as porters and for street hawking. The Government of Ghana estimated in 2005 that up to 40,000 children worked as porters, or Kayaye, on Ghana's streets. Girls are trafficked within the country for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Local and international NGO reports in the past year indicate that child prostitution within the country is widespread and increasing. There were also reports that some boys are trafficked internally for prostitution. Liberian refugee children and women in Ghana are also trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Media and NGO reports in the last year indicated that tourist locations in Ghana are increasingly becoming destinations for sex tourists. Transnationally, children are trafficked to and from other West African countries, primarily Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria and The Gambia, for the same purposes listed above. Women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation....

"The Government of Ghana does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so... Overall victim assistance efforts have declined over the past two years, however, particularly with respect to sex trafficking victims. While Ghana took some law enforcement steps to address sex trafficking through police raids in the last year, there were limited investigations and prosecutions, and no convictions of perpetrators of this crime during the reporting year.

"The Government of Ghana continued to raise awareness about trafficking during the reporting period. The government launched several campaigns to educate the public about the 2005 law against trafficking. The Human Trafficking Board and the Human Trafficking Fund mandated by the 2005 law were established in July 2007...Ghana took modest measures to reduce demand for commercial sex acts by conducting raids on two brothels exploiting trafficking victims.." [2d]

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LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS

"Ghana's criminal code, in sexual offences article 105, states that 'whoever is guilty of unnatural carnal knowledge - (a) of any person without his consent, is guilty of first degree felony; or (b) of any person with his consent, or of any animal, is guilty of a misdemeanour.' This law, a relic of repressive British sodomy laws, groups homosexuality with bestiality, assault and rape, and brings a minimum misdemeanor [sic] charge for gay activity." [12a] (Sodomy Laws)

Behind the Mask reported: "The Constitution of Ghana guarantees the protection off all human rights for Ghanaian citizens 'whatever his race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, creed or gender', but does not mention sexuality." [46a]

BBC News, 14 March 2007 reported on the current situation regarding homosexuality. "In deeply religious Ghana, homosexuality is seen as an imported foreign lifestyle choice and a moral aberration." [7c]

Pink News, in an article dated 14 March 2007, stated: "Gay pressure group Outrage! has sent a letter to Ghanaian President John Agyekum Kufuor demanding he repeal laws criminalising homosexuality in his home country... Peter Tatchell and Kizza Musinguzi... wrote...pointing out that Ghanaian laws prohibiting 'unnatural carnal knowledge' are a product of British colonial administration in the nineteenth century and undermine national unity. They want new laws to protect LGBT people against discrimination and the inclusion of LBGT Ghanaians in the national HIV prevention programme." [45b]

Ghana Today reported in an article dated 17 July 2007: "An executive member of the Orthodox Anglican Church, Ghana, Mr. Willie Halms has stated that the church does not believe in the enthronement of gays and lesbians as bishops of the Anglican Church because they do not subscribe to the gay culture and lesbianism. He said they equally did not support the enthronement of women as bishops of the church because it had no biblical basis." [39a]

Pink News, in a further article dated 7 November 2007, stated: "The Foreign Office has confirmed that a 63 year old British national has been remanded in custody in...Ghana charged with having sex with another man." [45a]

Ghana Web reported on 15 November 2007: "The 63 year old British photographer who was arrested for sodomising a 19 year old Ghanaian is to be deported after payment of fines imposed on him by an Accra circuit court." [49c]

Ghana Web reported in an article dated 29 February 2008: "Reacting to an observation from a reporter who wanted it confirmed by the prison authorities that some prisoners engage in acts of sodomy, a former Director of the Nsawam Prisons affirmed the fact, saying, however, that each time any report of acts of sodomy had come to the notice of the prison authorities, those involved are severely dealt with." [49a]

Ghana Web reported in an article dated 23 May 2008: "A group calling itself Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Trans-sexuals of Ghana, have threatened to boycott the December polls if nothing concrete is done to bring them into the mainstream of socio-economic life in terms of recognition of their human rights. The leader of the group, Prince MacDonald, said 'we are discriminated upon because of our sexual orientation and no one dares talk to us'." [49b]

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3. Index to key source documents

(KB users - click source number to access document directly)

KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY	[1a]	Europa World Online: Ghana, Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital, Country statistics (accessed on 25 July 2008) subscription only – hard copy available
	[2a]	United States Department of State, country report on human rights practices 2007, 11 March 2008 http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100484.htm
	[2b]	International religious freedom report 2007, released 14 September 2007 http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2007/90100.htm
	[2c]	United States Department of State, background note: Ghana, last updated June 2008 http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2860.htm
	[4a]	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, country profile: Ghana, last updated on 3 January 2008 http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/country-profiles/sub-saharan-africa/ghana?profile=all
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