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Compilation Report from UN agencies on the 4th Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review

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I. Introduction

This report is a joint submission from United Nations agencies in Ghana, led by the Resident Coordinator's Office and presented in a summarised manner owing to word-limit constraints. While identifying key achievements in Ghana's human rights journey, it also points out crucial gaps and makes salient recommendations.

II. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

- 1.1. The constitutional framework of Ghana is guided by the 1992 Constitution of the 4th Republic of Ghana (Constitution). This is complemented by statutes with supporting instruments, bye-laws, judicial precedent, rules of common law and customary law as far as they remain in consistency with the Constitution. There are several international treaties which Ghana has signed but not ratified. There are also relevant international treaties which Ghana has not yet acceded to. This has impacted the effective integration and implementation of international obligations in the Ghanaian legislative framework.

Integration of international obligations in legislative framework	
Primary duty-bearer(s): Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament	Recommendation(s): • <i>Ratify international treaties and protocols which Ghana is a signatory to, including agreements on climate change and the environment.</i> • <i>Accede to international treaties and protocols which Ghana is not yet a party to.</i> • <i>Accelerate the implementation of previous recommendations from the 3rd Cycle of Ghana's Universal Periodic Review, noting the gaps and taking active steps to address them.</i>

- 1.2. Recent legislative attempts reveal a progressive attitude towards establishing an institutional framework to support human rights. A relevant example is the Ghana AIDS Commission Act 2016 (Act 938) and its legislative instrument (L.I. 2403) of 2020, which hopes to facilitate human rights in the HIV/AIDS response. Nonetheless, the constitutional framework establishing key pillars of comprehensive human rights

protection remain lacking.

Equality and non-discrimination		
Primary duty-bearer(s):		Recommendation(s):
Constitutional Commission	Review	Propose constitutional amendment on non-discrimination for equal protection of all persons as reflected in Article 12(2) in Chapter 5 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. Amendment should include clear definitions to guide constitutional interpretation of categories for discrimination such as race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, creed and gender.

- 1.3. Similarly, the Mental Health Act, 2012 (Act 846) is largely aligned to the CRPD¹. The only exception is involuntary treatment for persons with acute mental health conditions. Nonetheless, there are ongoing consultations to review and ensure full alignment of existing mental health laws.

Mental health		
Primary duty-bearer(s):		Recommendation(s):
MHA²		- Promote techniques such as Quality Rights training for all mental health staff, caregivers, traditional and faith-based practitioners which uphold the rights of persons admitted for acute mental health care by providing treatment in a protected and decent environment. - Propose amendments to Parliament to facilitate the alignment of Act 846 and other domestic legislation with the CRPD in the areas of protection from involuntary treatment, and equal right to seek release; - Establish the tribunal envisioned in Act 846 to hear the complaints of persons, detained without their consent. - Ensure the protection of persons with mental health conditions from harmful procedures, such as conversion therapy.

- 1.4. Ghana is commended for adopting a Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989) and establishing the Right to Information Commission. The Commission has a broad mission to build an informed citizenry, promote transparency of information, check corruption and to hold government accountable.

¹ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability

² Mental Health Authority

- 1.5. The Commission is currently finalising a legislative instrument and opening zonal offices across the country. A critical gap in its implementation is the vague nature of the provisions rendering the Act inefficient in achieving its aim.

<i>Information</i>	
Primary duty-bearer(s): Right to Information Commission	Recommendation(s): Consider extensive consultative meetings aimed at refining language of RTI Act to provide clarity on vague provisions

- 1.6. Furthermore, significant achievements have been made through the passage of Births and Deaths Registration Act, 2020 (Act 1027) and Cybersecurity Act, 2020 (Act 1038), the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage 2017-2026 as well as the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service (GPS) Strategic Plan (2021-2025).

<i>Domestic violence</i>	
Primary duty-bearer(s): MoGCSP³	Recommendation(s): - Ensure full implementation of existing legislation and policies on domestic violence, particularly the operationalisation of the Domestic Violence Support Fund to support the provision of the essential services⁴ to victims of domestic violence. - Design a mechanism to ensure the cost of police medical reports is not placed on survivors of gender-based violence.

- 1.7. MoGCSP has also gone through an extensive review of the Children's Act and the Juvenile Justice Act to bring these in line with provisions of the CRC and address current implementation challenges. The proposed amendments contain several requirements to strengthen protection of children from violence, including cyberbullying and other forms of online abuse.

<i>Children</i>	
Primary duty-bearer(s): MoGCSP	Recommendation(s): Propose amendments from extensive review of The Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560) and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 (Act 653) for parliamentary approval.

³ Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

⁴ The essential services package comprises legal, medical and psychosocial services.

2. Human rights institutional infrastructure and policy measures

- 2.1. Ghana continues to make significant achievements to enhance the human rights and policy measures. These include efforts at developing child protection-related policies and legal frameworks such as Child Online Protection Framework, the Safe School Policy, the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana (NPA Phase III, 2022-2026), and the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana (NPA Phase II, 2022-2026).

<i>Primary duty-bearer(s):</i>	<i>Recommendation(s):</i>
Government	- Consider innovative financing to secure resources for implementing the third phase of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana. - Strengthen awareness creation on the need for various stakeholders (including both state and non-state actors) to work together on issues of human rights and the protection of Human Rights defenders. - Continue to strengthen human rights institutions like CHRAJ and the Ghana Police Service to enable them to defend human rights.
Ministry of Interior, Ghana Immigration Service	Institutionalise strategic enablers to ensure the implementation of the Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694) and the Immigration Amendment Act, 2012 (Act 848) as well as and allocate sufficient resources to combat trafficking in persons, human smuggling and other irregular migration.
MoGCSP	- Develop a National Plan of Action on Child Rights which will inform budgetary decision making as well as reflect priorities, indicators and targets to improve the well-being of children with emphasis on the protection against all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence. - Fully implement the National Strategic Framework for Ending Child Marriage and allocate adequate resources to the Domestic Violence Secretariat by 2030. - Set up an inter-sectoral framework to ensure collaboration, reporting and accounting on child-related mandates and activities at central and decentralised levels.
CHRAJ⁵	Develop a National Human Rights Action Plan by 2030

⁵ Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice

- 2.2. Moreso, Ghana has conducted a national baseline assessment on Business and Human Rights which was launched in July 2022. The findings of the baseline, which captured sectors such as extractives, agriculture, petroleum and finance, will form the basis for the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights. A thirteen-member committee has been inaugurated to develop the NAP by the end of 2022.

<i>Primary duty-bearer:</i> Ministry of Trade and Industry	<i>Recommendation(s):</i> • <i>Apply Good Manufacturing Policy (GMP), product development and quality standards conformity assessments to enable consumers to follow production processes of items they consume. This should be considered in the NAP on Business and Human Rights which is being developed.</i> • <i>Consider NAP in resourcing and empowering the Energy Commission, and the Association of Ghana Industries AGI to fully gain the mandate for collecting data at the industrial sector for the purpose of supporting any future projects.</i>
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture	• <i>Develop and implement a Fisheries Policy which will legitimise, promote and secure tenure rights of small-scale fishers and fishing communities to aquatic resources and land. The policy should also provide formal recognition for customary tenure rights with due attention to equitable access to resource exploitation and gender equality. The policy's design must reflect objective and reasonable criteria for allocation which follows inclusive, participatory, and transparent processes with a view to ensuring social acceptability</i> • <i>Institute mechanisms and structures aimed at preventing tenure disputes, violent conflicts, and corruption with the sole aim of enhancing harmony and equity in land use and allocation.</i>
Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation	• <i>Actively integrate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations for businesses in the NAP on Business and Human Rights, making specific recommendations for mining business to safeguard against illegal mining (galamsey) as well as climate change.</i>

- 2.3. As of June 2022, Ghana had 168 prisoners on death row. A bill has since been introduced to repeal the death penalty. Through civil society participation, Ghana has initiated efforts to draft a Community Service Bill to provide an alternative sentencing regime for Ghana. The draft bill is currently being reviewed by a technical committee put together by the Minister of Interior after which there will be a validation to finalise the bill for submission to cabinet.

<i>Primary duty-bearer (s):</i>	<i>Recommendation(s):</i>
Parliament, Government	• <i>Expedite action in passing the bill to repeal the death penalty</i> • <i>Improve the conditions of prisoners, including overcrowding, access to food and social services</i> • <i>Expedite action on processes to decriminalize petty offences and finalise the Community Service Bill for timely adoption by Parliament</i> • <i>Ratify Second Optional Protocol on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) aiming at the abolition of the death penalty</i>

- 2.4. The Legal Aid Commission which is mandated to provide access to legal aid for the poor and the vulnerable seeks to expand access to legal aid delivery through a paralegal system. The Commission is currently developing regulations and a paralegal guide to facilitate the establishment of the system.

<i>Primary duty-bearer(s):</i>	<i>Recommendation(s):</i>
Parliament, Government	• <i>Expedite action to adopt the legislative instrument for paralegal use by the Legal Aid Commission.</i> • <i>Provide adequate budgetary allocation for Legal Aid Commission to enable it to fulfil its mandate of ensuring that no one is left behind in accessing justice.</i>

- 2.5. In December 2018, Ghana inaugurated an Inter-Ministerial National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF). The NMRF, as a committee made up of representatives of various Ministries, Departments and Agencies, still has the same reporting backlog as when it was inaugurated. One of the challenges of the current state of the NMRF is the lack of official and formal establishment. It is based on internal terms of reference which ought to be published in the official Gazette.

<i>Human Rights Reporting</i>	
<i>Primary duty-bearer(s):</i>	<i>Recommendation(s):</i>
MoJAGD⁶	• <i>Propose, for parliamentary approval, the formal establishment of NMRF by strengthening its mandate through formal regulation, while seeking international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of engagement with human rights mechanisms within the model framework for the NMRF</i>

⁶ Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department

as well as SDGs 16 and 17.

- Continue to actively participate in opportunities for capacity-building such as trainings by OHCHR to regularise reporting to treaty bodies and engage in a process of implementation and follow up of recommendations emanating from all UN human rights mechanisms.

- 2.6. According to the 2022 World Press Freedom Index, Ghana has dropped 30 places, ranking 60th (from 30th a year before). This decline suggests that a relook at the commitment to freedom of speech, embedded in the notion of human rights in Ghana's Constitution and global commitments for which Ghana has such a strong and positive reputation. This will involve the prosecution of crimes against journalists to curtail impunity and guarantee their safety.

Primary duty-bearer:
Cabinet of Ministers

Recommendation(s):

- Establish an independent mechanism for the prevention and repression of torture and enforced disappearance to strengthen implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT)

- 2.7. In 2020, the Ghana AIDS Commission launched the “Strategic Plan for the response to Human Rights-related Barriers to HIV and TB Services (2020-2024)”.
- 2.8. The completion of the PLHIV Stigma Index 2.0 in 2020 in the country, and the Integrated Bio-Behavioural Sentinel Surveys for men who have sex with men and female sex workers elaborated in 2017 have provided further evidence of stigma among PLHIV including key population groups living with HIV.

2.9.

Primary duty-bearer(s):
GAC⁷

Recommendation(s):

- Ensure rigorous implementation of “Strategic Plan for the response to Human Rights-related Barriers to HIV and TB Services (2020-2024)”
- Design data-driven interventions in a strategic action plan to respond to address stigma among PLHIV including key populations.

In
line
with
global

normative frameworks, Ghana has developed laws, policies and programmes on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including National HIV and AIDS, STI policy, Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy and recently, the Integrated Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) Strategic Plan. Notwithstanding the progressive nature of these systems, abortion remains illegal in Ghana.

Primary duty-bearer(s):

Recommendation(s):

⁷ Ghana AIDS Commission

- *Adapt existing sexual and reproductive health policy to include the protection of the rights of pregnant teenagers and adolescent mothers against all forms of discrimination.*

- 2.10. Gaps remain in mainstreaming disability inclusive education, despite efforts to introduce child protection and disability inclusiveness programs. Whilst an estimated 1.7% of kindergarten and primary students have disabilities, only 0.2%-0.4% of students are enrolled in special schools.

<i>Primary duty-bearer(s):</i>	<i>Recommendation(s):</i>
MOE⁸	• <i>Integrate disability-inclusive education teaching curriculums, especially those for children.</i>

- 2.11. In 2020, the Parliament of Ghana adopted the Narcotics Control Commission Act (Act 1019). The law transformed the former Narcotics Control Board (NACOB), an agency under the Ministry of Interior with limited functions, to the independent Narcotics Control Commission (NACOC) with an expanded mandate and law enforcement powers, including prosecutorial powers. The legislation reduces the stringent mandatory five-year imprisonment for possession and personal use of illicit drugs to a lesser punishment.

- 2.12. Ghana is developing a National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP) (2022 – 2030). The plan is an opportunity to reduce disproportionate sentencing in Ghana for drug-related offences and ensure better health-related outcomes.

<i>Primary duty-bearer(s):</i>	<i>Recommendation(s):</i>
NACOC	• <i>Expedite development of NDCMP</i>

- 2.13. As of April 2022, there are four identified witch camps in northern Ghana where women who had been accused of performing witchcraft were forced to move into. They face unfair stigmatisation and discrimination for being old, single, widowed, unmarried or having mental illness. This also impacts children who are instructed to accompany such women to the camps. They end up doing house chores losing out on opportunities for formal schooling.

- 2.14. The camps also do not offer good living conditions with limited access to essential services including education and health services, which affect the quality of life of both the women and children. Even after the governmental efforts to close down some of these camps, the women and children often fear returning to their original communities because of sustained discrimination.

<i>Primary duty-bearer (s):</i>	<i>Recommendation(s):</i>
MoGCSP, Ghana Police Service	• <i>Work collaboratively to design and implement a specific and strategic framework to eradicate witch camps for institutionalising violence and abuse against women and children</i>

⁸ Ministry of Education

III. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Right to social protection

- 1.1. Ghana's current budget allocation for social protection is lower than the average spending in Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) and inadequate to reach national coverage targets, as per the National Social Protection Policy, National Medium Term Development Policy Framework 2022-2025, and global and regional targets such as SDG 1.3.

Primary duty-bearer(s):	Recommendation(s):
MoGCSP, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, GHS	• <i>Increase social protection spending to 2% of the GDP in 2022, and gradually up to 4.5% of Ghana's GDP by 2025, in line with global benchmarks and commitments.</i> • <i>Release budget allocated to social protection programmes such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) on time and account for inflation</i> • <i>Adapt Social Protection Bill to ensure that LEAP budget releases and the implementation of other flagship social protection programmes in Ghana be considered a statutory obligation, and social protection be protected as a justiciable right.</i> • <i>Ensure the full allocation of revenue generated for NHIS and its timely disbursement, and secure dedicated operational funds at the district level for better coverage and streamlined operation</i>

2. Right to an adequate standard of living

- 2.1. According to the 2021 Ghana census report, 56.7% of the population live in urban areas with 4.6% urban growth rate. This reaffirms the primal drive to congregate in cities and towns in pursuit of aspirations and better life is on the increase.
- 2.2. However, the urbanisation increase rate unmatched with well-planned, managed and financed cities continue to bear associated challenges with the proliferation of slums, the lack of adequate and safe housing conditions, including clean water, sanitation and security of tenure which makes it difficult to live a decent life.
- 2.3. The recent COVID-19 pandemic impacts in cities have further exposed the underlying inequalities and exclusion in cities and towns.

Primary duty-bearer (s): Ministry of Works and Housing	Recommendation(s): • <i>Finalise the review of the National Urban Policy and validate the Slum Upgrading Strategy in line with increasing urban population trends, lessons learned on the impacts of COVID-19 on cities and the New Urban Agenda whilst ensuring the policy's full implementation in collaboration with the varied urban partners.</i> • <i>Review the National Housing Policy to operationalise the housing policy through strategies and programmes, organised housing developments and exercise regulatory oversight over the activities of real estate developers to ensure adequate access to low-income housing.</i> • <i>Integrate housing delivery and the right to adequate housing including security of tenure in National Housing Policy</i> • <i>Establish National Housing Authority to operationalize the housing policy including oversight over the activities of real estate developers and ensure access to and the right to adequate housing.</i>
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	• <i>Make adequate budgetary allocation ensure full implementation of housing policies</i> • <i>Ensure that LEAP Cash transfers are complemented by cash plus programmes in digital financial services</i>
MoGCSP	• <i>Design a framework to trigger the expansion of social protection floors for vulnerable families. This framework should take into consideration safety nets for unemployed families and caregivers</i>

3. Right to health

⁹ National Health Insurance Authority

Primary duty-bearer(s): MOH, GHS, NHIA⁹, MHA	Recommendation(s): • <i>Adopt measures to ensure universal access to sexual health and reproductive rights information and services pursuant to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.</i> • <i>Intensify public education and advocacy among women and girls on the law governing abortion, including information on obtaining safe and legal abortion, post-abortion care services</i> • <i>Scale up and expand youth-friendly and gender-sensitive programmes on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), in terms of SRHR education for the adolescent, service availability at community level and sensitisation of community stakeholders to improve perception on SRHR.</i> • <i>Intensify its response to HIV by implementing the new National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan, 2021 - 2025;</i> • <i>Increase government spending in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;</i> • <i>Expedite action for the inclusion of mental health in the NHIS benefit package to ensure financial protection for persons with mental health conditions</i> • <i>Explore sustainable financing mechanisms to support mental health service delivery.</i> • <i>Build on progress made to strengthen COVID-19 and routine immunisation, along with cold chain systems, and to maintain the continuity of services.</i> • <i>Keep up concerted efforts to curb neonatal and infant mortality should be made to achieve the targets by 2030, with a focus on perinatal care, skilled birth delivery and adequate nutrition. Governmental budget allocation should be secured for the continuation of essential health interventions and the sensitization of households and communities to secure uptake of best practices.</i> • <i>Quadruple the current level of public financing to sanitation and create an enabling environment for the private sector and users.</i> • <i>Increase resources for rural water supply, especially in the rural areas of five Northern regions and Volta where over 80% of the people do not have access to basic water.</i>
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⁹ National Health Insurance Authority

4. Right to education

- 4.1. All children in Ghana, irrespective of their geographic location, economic status or circumstances have the right to education. Specific initiatives like the school feeding programme instituted by the Government of Ghana help promote school enrolment, attendance and completion, to help contribute to Ghana's human capital.
- 4.2. Ghana has made significant strides in promoting and realising many of these human rights principles in the education sector (e.g. the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) and Free Senior High School (SHS) policies. Ghana achieved gender parity in basic education, but progress has been uneven across the country and wealth quintiles, contributing to girls and women's deprivation from universal access to adequate and gender responsive services, health, protection, or education services.

Quality education	
Primary duty-bearer: MOE	Recommendation(s): - Continue efforts to deliver free education to all, and at the forefront of its efforts to work on removing barriers to and promoting access for women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. - Reduce the gap in enrolment, by identifying and enrolling out-of-school children including children with disabilities, from migrant groups and those on the streets. Children from various marginalized groups could be integrated into the formal education system, using various traditional and innovative means. Governmental investment is needed in developing and rolling out inclusive pedagogy, supplementing facilities and supplying items - Mandate schools to fully implement the Positive Discipline Toolkit. - Continue to reinforce awareness-raising and educational programmes to prevent traditional harmful practices against women and girls and to ensure that victims have access to resources and protection and rehabilitation mechanisms. - Continue equipping schools with appropriate sex-disaggregated, safe and accessible sanitation facilities.
Parliament	- Ratify Convention against Discrimination in Education - Ratify the Convention on the Right to Education
GES	Safeguard the funding for reinforcement of school infrastructure and continued implementation of the Free Senior High school (SHS) Policy.

- 4.3. There are concerns with the continued implementation of the School-Feeding Programme which primarily revolve around issues of sustainable funding. Steps are

being taken to enhance *Sustainable funding for the programme through clearly stated funding provisions, complemented by well-structured private sector institutions' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions to the fund.* In 2016, a draft School Feeding Bill was read and reviewed by Parliament. However, it requires revision to receive parliamentary approval.

Social interventions for right to education	
Primary duty-bearer: MOE	Recommendation(s): - Revise 2016 draft School-feeding Bill for parliamentary approval to include special provisions for marginalised students to ensure that successive governments would continue to prioritise the School Feeding Programme. - This Bill may also mandate a specific quota for the inclusion of locally produced food to boost smallholder farmers' activity.
MOE, MoGCSP with and Ministry of Communication and Digitization	Work collaboratively to ensure that the school-feeding programme is digitised to facilitate the monitoring and capture of caterer reimbursements. This will prevent plugging of leakages in payments and disbursement systems and better channel funds for programme expansion to all vulnerable groups.

5. Cultural rights

Primary duty-bearer: Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts	Recommendation(s): Update the 2004 Cultural Policy to take into account the complete strategic role of culture in development in re-aligning the architecture of the sector for efficiency in line with challenges identified.
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B. Rights of specific persons or groups-

1. Women

Primary duty-bearer(s): Government	Recommendation(s): - Expedite cabinet approval of the Affirmative Action Bill to facilitate the laying of the bill before Parliament - Design and implement a specific quota system for women inclusion and empowerment including political appointments and leadership in state-owned enterprises - Design and implement specific interventions to advance women's economic empowerment including expanding access to credit, land and advanced technology.
MoGCSP	Develop a strategic plan on Gender-Informed Entrepreneurship Initiatives and Innovations for women in the Private sector including in project management.

2. Children

Primary duty-bearer: Parliament	Recommendation(s): • <i>Ratify the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of a Child on the Sale of Children, Child prostitution and Child Pornography.</i> • <i>Pass the Social Protection Bill to strengthen the provision of safety nets in local communities and empower key actors to provide effective social services to extremely poor households and vulnerable persons</i>
Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations	• <i>Expand provisions for the elimination of child labour in the Children's Act and related laws. This should include the integration of a comprehensive list of hazardous activities for various economic sectors.</i> • <i>Develop a strategic plan that will target poor communities and ensure the inclusion of vulnerable households as part of efforts to eliminate child labour. This plan should prioritise the elimination of child labour as a national policy including the implementation of the national action plan on the elimination of child labour.</i>
MOE	• <i>Expand quality free compulsory basic education to child labour endemic areas including the savannah forest and coastal zones.</i>
MoGCSP, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Regional Development, MOE and National Commission for Civic Education	• <i>Strengthen efforts to create awareness against child abuse and violence, and shift the cultural norms and reduce the acceptance of social practices that have negative impacts on children, including corporal punishment, early marriage and teenage pregnancy.</i>
GPS¹⁰	• <i>Train its personnel in investigation and prosecution of child abuse and violence cases, and protection of the victims.</i>
MoGCSP and CHRAJ	• <i>Train personnel so that they will be able to identify cases and provide timely responses. All these agencies are encouraged to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and referral mechanisms, as well as to increase financial and human resources for better coverage.</i>
GES¹¹, GHS¹²	• <i>Expand adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health education and increase availability and accessibility of adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services at district level across the country, utilizing existing networks of service delivery personnel.</i>
MoGCSP	• <i>Strengthen efforts to implement the Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA) campaign and the utilisation of the Child Protection Community Facilitation Manual and</i>

¹⁰ Ghana Police Service

¹¹ Ghana Education Service

¹² Ghana Health Service

	<i>Toolkits.</i>
Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET)	Foster inclusive admission policies for vulnerable groups including girls and persons with disabilities to enhance their access to TVET training institutions.

3. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people

In the wake of the impending Promotion of Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, 2021, it is important to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community from all forms of discrimination and intimidation or violence by amending laws which criminalize consensual same-sex relations. In August 2021, a group of 9 Independent Special Procedures mandate holders of the United Nations issued a statement, expressing concern about the draft private members' bill, urging Ghana's Government to reject the proposed 'family values' bill, saying it "...appears to constitute an immediate and fundamental violation and breach of Ghana's obligations under international human rights law ...".¹³ In an earlier press release, issued in June 2021, UN human rights experts from the Special Procedures already condemned the arrest and alleged arbitrary detention of 21 people defending the rights of the LGBT community.¹⁴

<i>Primary duty-bearer:</i>	<i>Recommendation(s):</i>
Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of Parliament	<i>Critically consider evidential basis for the potential of human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity in deciding whether to pass the Promotion of Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, 2021.</i> <i>Take into account Ghana's international obligations under the international human rights treaties it has ratified, protecting a number of rights- such as right to equality, freedom of expression, freedom from torture- that would be jeopardized by the current bill.</i>
MoGCSP	<i>Adapt the National Gender Policy and complementary subnational action plans to include measures to eradicate discrimination motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity as part of efforts to leave no one behind in the fight to end gender-based violence.</i>
Parliament	<i>Consider the repeal of legislation on "unnatural carnal knowledge" as reflected in section 104 of the Criminal and Other Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) by</i>

¹³ Public Statement by UN Independent Experts, Public - OL GHA 03.08.21 (3.2021) dated August 9, 2021 available at <https://ghana.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/Public%20-%20OL%20GHA%2003.08.21%20%283.2021%29.pdf>

¹⁴ Ghana: UN rights experts condemn arbitrary arrest of LGBT human rights defenders, urge their release dated June 4, 2021 available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/06/ghana-un-rights-experts-condemn-arbitrary-arrest-lgbt-human-rights-defenders>

	2030
MHA	Ensure the protection of sexual and gender minorities from harmful practices such as conversion therapy.

4. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

Primary duty-bearer: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education	Recommendation(s): Include refugees in the National Health Insurance Scheme policy and the free basic and secondary education policy
Ministry of Interior, Ghana Immigration Service	Provide indefinite residence permits for those Togolese and Ivorian¹⁵ refugees opting for alternative legal status.
Parliament	Expedite amendment of Refugee Law, 1992 (PNDCL 305D) in order to bring it in conformity with international refugee law and standards.
Government	- Expedite the drafting process of the Revised National Legal Refugee Framework with the technical support of UNHCR. - Propose amendment to Parliament on an express provision for the differentiation between foreigners and refugees as well as an exemption of refugees from the provisions of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre Act, 2013 (Act 865) which requires that non-Ghanaians use 200,000 to 500,000 USD to start-up businesses in Ghana.

5. Stateless persons

Primary duty-bearer: Cabinet of Ministers	Recommendation(s): - Honour pledge made at the Ministerial Conference in Abidjan on 23 February 2015 and also in line with the strategy in the Ministry of the Interior's National Migration Policy for Ghana of April 2016 and, accedes to a) the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons b) the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
Ministry of Interior	Review and update the draft National Action Plan to End Statelessness. To achieve this, it must make efforts to collect relevant data on stateless persons and groups at risk of statelessness, review the nationality legislation with a view to bringing it into compliance

¹⁵ In line with the Global Compact on Refugees with particular reference to Section 3 on Local Integration and the Abidjan Joint Declaration on the Updated Roadmap for Comprehensive Solutions for Syrian Refugees dated 7 September 2021

framework for the protection of stateless persons.

6. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

IDPs	
Primary duty-bearer: Parliament	Recommendation(s): • <i>Ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the “Kampala Convention”), of which it is already a signatory to.</i>

7. Persons with disabilities

PWDs	
Primary duty-bearer: MoGCSP, National Council for Persons with Disabilities	Recommendation(s): • <i>Develop an Action Plan for strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in compliance with the Persons with Disability Act, 2006</i> • <i>Pass the legislative instrument to the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715)</i> • <i>Develop Standard Operating Procedures to cater for health service delivery for persons with disabilities.</i> • <i>Further efforts to implement the Inclusive Education Policy will help address the needs of children with functional and learning difficulties, reinforce disability-friendly facilities at schools, create the awareness for inclusion and nurture qualified teachers who are equipped with knowledge in inclusive education.</i>