



**MINISTRY OF GENDER,  
CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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24



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Central Destitute Infirmary

# SENIOR MANAGEMENT



*Hon.*  
**Newman Dakoa**  
Minister for Gender, Children  
and Social Protection

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*Hon. Dr.*  
**Benjamain Yeboah Sekyere**  
Deputy Minister for Gender, Children  
and Social Protection

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*Dr.*  
**Afisah Zakariah**  
Chief Director  
Minister for Gender, Children  
and Social Protection



# EDITORIAL

## For 2024 News Letter

The Act's focus on setting timelines and targets for gender equity demonstrates its practical and actionable approach. By providing a framework to progressively close the gender gap, the Act ensures accountability in its implementation. It not only empowers women but also recognizes the broader societal benefits of their inclusion in decision-making and leadership roles. This holistic strategy fosters an environment where diverse perspectives can thrive, ultimately leading to more innovative solutions and better outcomes. As such, the Act serves as a vital catalyst for change, encouraging organizations and institutions to adopt more equitable practices. This is a step toward sustainable development, as no nation can fully thrive while half its population remains marginalized.

The final hurdle now lies in the President's assent, a step that is anticipated with optimism given his strong support for women's issues. Once signed into law and published in the gazette, the Affirmative Action Act will begin reshaping Ghana's social, political, and economic landscape.

This milestone is not just a victory for women—it is a victory for Ghana as a whole. The passage of this legislation is a testament to the Government of Ghana's commitment to equity and the collective will of its people to foster an inclusive society.

However, the work does not end here. Effective implementation is critical to realizing the promises of this Act. Institutions and stakeholders must embrace their roles in ensuring compliance and accountability. From the public sector to private organizations, all hands must be on deck to meet the set targets.

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection has expressed its gratitude to all who supported this cause, and rightly so. But this gratitude must extend to a commitment to follow through on this landmark legislation. This is a call to action for every Ghanaian: to champion gender equity, challenge outdated norms, and build a society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

As Ghana moves forward, the Affirmative Action Act stands as a beacon of progress and a reminder of the power of collective advocacy. The journey to equity is far from over, but this milestone is a significant step in the right direction. Let us ensure that its promises are fulfilled, not just for the women of today but for generations to come.

On Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Ghana's Parliament

took a monumental step forward in its journey toward gender equity with the passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024.

After nearly eight years of debate and deliberation since its initial introduction in 2016,

the passage of this Act is a landmark achievement in the nation's efforts to ensure equal representation and opportunities for women across all sectors. This legislation aims to

address the persistent gender disparities in political representation, employment, and access to education.



# EDITORIAL

## For 2024 News Letter

The Affirmative Action Act represents a bold and necessary intervention aimed at addressing entrenched social, cultural, economic, and gender imbalances in Ghanaian society. Despite constitutional provisions for equality, gender disparities persist, largely due to patriarchal norms that have historically excluded women from decision-making processes and leadership roles. By mandating a minimum 30% representation of women in public and private sectors by 2026, with an ambitious goal of achieving gender parity by 2030, this legislation sets Ghana on a transformative path toward a more inclusive society. Many advocates believe that the Act will empower women and create a more inclusive society, ultimately contributing to the country's overall development and prosperity.

This progressive legislation is the product of extensive consultations involving both state and non-state actors. Its passage underscores the collaborative effort of stakeholders who have championed gender equity over the years. The involvement of civil society organisations, notably the Affirmative Action Bill Coalition, along with government bodies like the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, highlights the collective resolve to address the marginalisation of women in Ghana.

It also demonstrates commitment and alliance, ensuring that the implementation of the legislation is both inclusive and effective.

As a result, there is a renewed sense of hope that this landmark achievement will lead to tangible improvements in the lives of women across the nation.

Significantly, this achievement was made possible through Cabinet's approval of the Bill in September 2023 and its subsequent introduction to Parliament by the Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Hon. Dakoa Newman, in June 2024. The Minister and her team deserve commendation for their unwavering dedication to seeing this vision through.



**The 2024 edition focuses on commemorative Days and some key activities of the Ministry within the year**



## 2024 Annual Summit on the Affirmative Action Act and World Children's Day

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP), supported by Development Partners, organized the **2024 Annual Summit on the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act**, alongside the **World Children's Day commemoration**.

**Theme:** *"Promoting Equality and Inclusive Development through the Affirmative Action Act."* The summit brought together key stakeholders to evaluate achievements, address challenges, and strategize on advancing gender equity and social inclusion in Ghana.

### Highlights from the Summit

**Day 1: Setting the Stage:** The opening day coincided with **World Children's Day**, marked under the theme: *"Our Future, Our Voice: Listening to a Future for Affirmative Action."*

### Key Addresses and Insights:

- Dr. Afisah Zakariah, Chief Director of MoGCSP, called for action to advance gender equity and protect children's rights.
- Development Partners, including **UNICEF Ghana**, **UNFPA Ghana**, and **UNDP Ghana**, reaffirmed their support for equitable leadership, economic participation, and social standing.

### Engaging Discussions:

- The **6th Sitting of the National Children's Parliament** saw young delegates debate key issues such as **gender-based violence**, **child marriage**, and **barriers to education**, emphasizing the role of youth voices in shaping policy.
- Panelists examined how the **Affirmative Action Act**, passed in July 2024, dismantles structural inequalities and enhances opportunities for women and girls.

### Day 2: A Focus on Action

Day two featured in-depth discussions on overcoming barriers to gender equity and mapping actionable strategies for the effective implementation of the Affirmative Action Act.

### Ministerial Address:

Hon. Dakoa Newman, Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, highlighted:

- The **doubling of the LEAP grant** to shield vulnerable households from inflation.
- The successful passage of the **Affirmative Action Act, 2024**, as a milestone for inclusive development.

### Collaborative Commitments:

Stakeholders outlined measures to ensure:

- Progress monitoring and accountability.
- Integration of gender equity into national and local policies.





# Commemoration Of 2024 International Women's Day

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP), in collaboration with the Department of Gender and partners including the United Nations in Ghana, Crossroads International, and Emerging Public Leaders Ghana, marked the 2024 International Women's Day with a vibrant **National Equity Walk**.

The walk, themed *“Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,”* started at Kwame Nkrumah Circle and ended at the Ministry's forecourt. The theme underscored the importance of investing in women as a catalyst for advancing human rights, fostering inclusive societies, and reducing poverty.

## Key Highlights

- Advocacy for Gender Equality:** Delivering a speech Dr. Afisah Zakariah, Chief Director of MoGCSP, stressed that investing in women is not just an economic imperative but also a moral obligation encompassing their social, health, and human rights.

### Policy Advancements:

- Updates to the **National Gender Policy**, aimed at integrating gender equality into national development plans for greater inclusivity.

- Parliamentary discussions on the **Affirmative Action Bill**, which seeks to redress social and economic disparities and enhance women's participation in public life.

### Call to Action by Partners:

Partners reaffirmed their commitment to supporting grassroots organizations and amplifying initiatives that promote gender equality and empower women and girls across the nation.

## Why March 8th Matters

International Women's Day, observed annually on March 8th, celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women globally. It also serves as a call to action for accelerating gender parity and creating a more inclusive world.





## 2024 DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD



The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) through the Department of Children commemorated the **2024 Day of the African Child** themed: **“Education for All Children in Ghana: Improving Access for All.”**

The celebration emphasised the critical need to achieve inclusive and quality education for every child in Ghana.

### Minister Advocates for Inclusive Education

Delivering the keynote address, Hon. Dakoa Newman, Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, highlighted education as a fundamental right essential for children's development and future success.

The Minister acknowledged challenges such as gender disparities, disabilities, and regional inequities, outlining key priorities:

- Promoting inclusive education for all children.
- Improving educational infrastructure nationwide.
- Addressing systemic disparities affecting marginalized groups.
- Enhancing the quality of education delivery.

### Messages of Solidarity

Key partners, including Plan International Ghana, UNICEF, International Needs Ghana, World Vision, and Plan International, delivered messages of support. They emphasized the importance of collaboration in driving educational equity across the country.

### Celebrating Children and Their Rights

Participating schools included Accra High School, Dzorwulu Special School, Osu Presbyterian Cluster of Schools, Mampong School for the Deaf, and God's Garden Montessori School.

The event also honoured the memory of the children involved in the Soweto Uprising of 1976, reinforcing the importance of safeguarding children's rights across Africa.



# COMMEMORATION Of INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 2024



The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) commemorated the International Day of the Girl Child with a special event theme: *“Girls’ Vision for the Future.”* The celebration focused on amplifying the voices of girls, addressing challenges they face, and empowering them to contribute meaningfully to national development.

## Stakeholders

The event brought together stakeholders, including representatives from government agencies, international development partners, civil society organizations, and schools. It provided a platform for girls to share their dreams and aspirations for a brighter, more inclusive future.

## Ministerial Address

Hon. Dakoa Newman emphasized the potential of girls to drive global change if supported through education and protection. “Despite challenges, girls envision a future where they are respected, empowered, and heard,” she remarked.

On behalf of the Chief Director of the Ministry, Dr. Afisah Zakariah, the Director of the General Administration Directorate, Mr. Ebenezer Charway, called for collective action from all sectors of society to invest in the education, healthcare, and leadership development of girls, noting that the success of girls has a profound impact on communities, families, and nations at large.

## ACTIVITIES AND DIALOGUES

The celebration featured:

- School Engagements
- Intergenerational Dialogues, And Discussions On Gender Equality, Climate Justice
- Leadership Development.
- These activities addressed critical issues such as gender equality, climate justice, and the role of girls in achieving sustainable development.

## Participation

Participating students shared inspiring stories about their ambitions and the changes they hope to see in society. Development partners reiterated their commitment to supporting initiatives that empower girls and promote gender equality.

The event concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to invest in girls and create safe, enabling environments where they can thrive and achieve their full potential



# DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD



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# Commemorating **BLUE DAY** 2024



## MoGCSP MARKS UN DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) through the Human Trafficking Secretariat hosted the 2024 media launch for the **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** (Blue Day). The event was held under the theme: *“Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking.”*

The launch served as a precursor to the global observance on **July 30, 2024**, focusing on raising awareness, strengthening Ghana's coordinated efforts, and rallying support for combating human trafficking in all its forms.

### Keynote Address: A Call to Action

Dr. Afisah Zakariah, Chief Director for MoGCSP, highlighted the theme's emphasis on child protection and inclusion. She reiterated that **Regulation 7** of the Human Trafficking Legislative Instrument mandates the Ministry to educate all segments of society about human trafficking, given Ghana's role as a source, transit, and destination country.

Dr. Afisah Zakariah underscored the need for:

- **Heightened awareness** campaigns.
- **Community sensitization** to combat trafficking.
- **Proactive enforcement** of laws against trafficking.

She expressed appreciation to sponsors for their collaboration in the fight against human trafficking and called for a collective effort to eliminate exploitation.

Representatives from various organizations emphasized the importance of prevention, prosecution of perpetrators, and support for survivors. Stakeholders committed to strengthening measures to curb child trafficking through legislative enforcement and awareness campaigns.

### Human Trafficking Inter-Schools Debate

As part of the launch, inter-school debates were organized to educate and engage students on the risks of human trafficking:

#### Topics:

- "Sport can be an avenue for human trafficking."
- "If I desire to play professional football or any sporting activity, I am vulnerable to human trafficking."

#### Winners:

- Tesano 1 Junior High School (JHS) emerged champions in the 1st Cycle Schools category, defeating Police Depot JHS with a score of 74.6.
- Accra Academy Senior High School (SHS) clinched victory in the 2nd Cycle Schools category, outscoring Odorgonno SHS with a score of 91.

#### Awards:

Winning schools received a plaque, a computer, and 100 exercise books each, recognizing their exceptional performance and contribution to the anti-human trafficking discourse.



# 16 Days

## of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence



The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP), through its Domestic Violence Secretariat and in collaboration with partners and the Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU), officially launched the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** in Accra. The event, marked by a symbolic walk through the city's principal streets, aimed to raise awareness and mobilize action to eliminate violence against women and girls.

**Theme: "30 Years After the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: UNITE to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Ghana"**

The campaign, which runs annually from **November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women)** to **December 10 (Human Rights Day)**, underscores the global commitment to ending all forms of gender-based violence.

### Key Highlights from the Launch

The Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Hon. Dakoa Newman, decried the persistence of violence against women and girls, stressing the importance of unity in combating the issue.

- **Achievements Highlighted:**
  - Training of **180 market executives as paralegals**.
  - Capacity building for **105 service providers** to support survivors of violence.
- **Call to Action:**

The Minister urged individuals, institutions, and organizations to donate towards the initiative's success.



### GPRTU's Contribution

The GPRTU, outlined the union's collaboration with the Ministry to educate drivers and conductors on recognizing, preventing, and reporting domestic violence incidents in public

### Development Partners' Solidarity

- **Pledge of Support:**

They reiterated their commitment to creating a safer and more equitable environment in Ghana and called for sustained action to eliminate gender-based violence.



## GHANA PARTICIPATES IN THE 17TH CONFERENCE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Ghana represented by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, has participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP17) at the UN Headquarters in New York. The COSP is the largest global meeting focused on disability rights, aimed at ensuring countries uphold their commitments to guarantee equality for all individuals.

Since the Convention's adoption in 2008, the COSP has convened annually to monitor the implementation of this landmark treaty, which has been signed by 191 UN Member States.

This year's COSP17 is themed "Rethinking Disability Inclusion in the Current International Juncture and Ahead of the Summit of the Future."

In her statement, Hon. Newman emphasized Ghana's long-standing commitment to the principles of inclusion and nondiscrimination enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

"As a signatory to the Convention since 2012, we have made significant strides in our efforts to promote the rights and participation of persons with disabilities," she said.

Hon. Newman highlighted that the Government of Ghana, in line with SDG 11, has developed various programmes and interventions in collaboration with other government agencies and civil society organizations. Key initiatives include the Common Fund for Persons with Disabilities, which has provided essential support to over a thousand individuals at decentralized levels.

The Minister called for strengthened international collaboration through joint programmes, resource sharing, training, and regional networks.

She stressed that such cooperation would enable countries to learn from each other and adopt effective strategies. She urged all member states to commit to these strategic directions and work collaboratively towards a world where disability inclusion is a reality for all.



## LAUNCH OF FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN ON STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN 2024

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP), through the Department of Social Welfare, has launched a Five-Year Strategic Plan on Street-Connected Children and Young Persons (2024-2028). The strategic plan aims to address the multifaceted challenges faced by street-connected children through comprehensive rehabilitation and support systems.

### Addressing Street-Connected Challenges

Hon. Dakoa Newman, Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, highlighted the growing prevalence of street-connected children in Ghana and the urgent need for a sustainable solution. “This plan represents a significant milestone in our efforts to provide these children with access to care, resources, and opportunities to rebuild their lives,” she stated.

The Minister reflected on past initiatives, such as “Operation Go Back to School” and “Operation Get Off the Streets for a Better Life,” which laid the foundation for addressing the issue. However, she acknowledged the need for a holistic and collaborative approach to achieve long-term success.

### Key Focus Areas of the Plan

The strategic plan prioritizes the following areas:

- Comprehensive rehabilitation programs for street-connected children.
- Strengthening family support systems to prevent children from ending up on the streets.
- Enhancing intersectoral collaboration among stakeholders to provide sustainable solutions.

### Partnerships and Support

The launch event was supported by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), whose financial and technical contributions were instrumental in developing the plan.

### KEY MESSAGES

Mr. Wilfred Hurana, representing CRS, emphasized their commitment to ensuring that no child is left behind. “This strategic plan provides a clear roadmap for transforming the lives of street-connected children,” he stated.

The National Director of the Department of Social Welfare, Rev. Dr. Mrs. Comfort Asare, described the plan as a collective effort to address the root causes of child homelessness and reintegrate affected children into society.

### A Vision for Change

The five-year plan reflects the Ministry's unwavering commitment to protecting the rights of all children and creating a society where every child has the opportunity to thrive.



## Minister Undertakes Working Visit to **Kumasi Children's Home and Central Destitute Infirmary**



### **Visit to the Central Destitute Infirmary**

The Minister and her delegation proceeded to the **Central Destitute Infirmary** in Bekwai, Ashanti Region, where they interacted with inmates and social workers while inspecting the facilities.

The infirmary, which provides care for destitutes, the elderly, and other marginalised members of society, is an essential component of the Ministry's mission to support vulnerable populations.

### **Commitment to Facility Improvement**

Hon. Newman commended the caregivers for their dedication and encouraged them to continue their exemplary service. She also announced that the government has allocated funds for renovating buildings and facilities within the infirmary, reinforcing its commitment to improving living conditions for residents



The Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Hon. Dakoa Newman, conducted a working visit to the **Kumasi Children's Home** and the **Central Destitute Infirmary** in Bekwai, both operating under the Ministry's oversight through the Department of Social Welfare.

### **Visit to the Kumasi Children's Home**

Accompanied by Chief Director Dr. Afisah Zakariah and the National Director of the Department of Social Welfare, the Minister assessed the living conditions and operational needs of the Kumasi Children's Home, which currently provides essential care and support to 71 children.

During her visit, the Minister engaged with the children and staff, reaffirming the government's commitment to improving the welfare and protection of vulnerable children. She highlighted the Ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of life for children in institutional care and outlined plans for addressing their comprehensive needs.

## The Launch Of **DRY SPELL EMERGENCY CASH TRANSFER INITIATIVE 2024**



### **Partnership for Impact**

The Ministry, the Government of Ghana, in partnership with the World Bank and other stakeholders, responded to the crisis by activating the Dry Spell Emergency Cash Transfer to provide immediate and effective relief to over 212,000 LEAP beneficiary households across 5,210 communities in the eight affected regions. Each household will receive a one-time payment of 1,000 cedis.

### **Hon. Dakoa Newman Message**

Hon. Dakoa Newman emphasized the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that each payment serves its intended purpose.

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection launched the Dry Spell Emergency Cash Transfer initiative to support vulnerable households affected by recent dry spells across eight regions. The Dry Spell Emergency Cash Transfer is a government initiative designed to provide financial relief to beneficiaries of the LEAP Programme in regions severely impacted by the dry spell, where households are increasingly affected by hunger and multidimensional poverty.

### **Affected Regions**

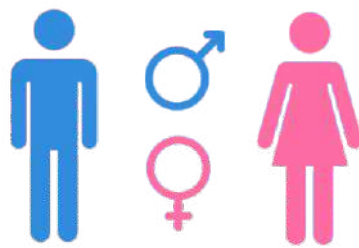
The affected regions include Bono, Bono East, Oti, Northern, North East, Savannah, Upper East, and Upper West

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Supporting Resilience**

Delivering the keynote address, Hon. Dakoa Newman, Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, emphasized the critical impact of the dry spell on agriculture and household resilience. "This initiative enables affected families to sustain their basic needs, safeguard assets, and build resilience," she stated.





## ZONAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GENDER STATISTICS COMMUNICATION TOOL

Gender Statistics is about identifying, producing, disseminating, and analyzing statistics to understand how gender issues (various roles and responsibilities assigned to men, women, boys, and girls in society) affect individuals and society.

As part of efforts to develop a communication tool for Gender Statistics under the Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP), the Research, Statistics, and Information Management (RSIM) Directorate of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP), in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), hosted a one-day zonal stakeholders' engagement within four (4) Zones across the Country.

- First Zone - 15th October 2024, Koforidua
- Second Zone - 21st October 2024, Tamale.
- Third Zone - 24th October 2024, Techiman.
- Fourth Zone - 30th October 2024, Cape Coast.

This initiative aims to bridge the gap between data generation and effective communication by creating a tool that facilitates the production and usage of gender statistics, making the information accessible and relevant to a wide range of stakeholders.

### The Main Objective of the Workshop:

The key objectives of the workshops included gathering valuable input from stakeholders to guide the development of the communication tool. The engagement sought to foster a shared understanding of the challenges involved and inspire innovative approaches to designing a tool that is both accessible and impactful.

### Ministerial Address:

Speaking at the workshop on behalf of the Deputy Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Hon. Benjamin Yeboah Sekyere, the Director of the RSIM Directorate, Dr. Sylvester Kyei-Gyamfi, emphasized that the tool will strengthen evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation in areas that affect the lives of the vulnerable, helping to address the systemic inequalities that persist in the country.





## ZONAL STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GENDER STATISTICS COMMUNICATION TOOL



He stated that the tool will be instrumental in achieving national development priorities and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, which focuses on gender equality.

Dr. Kyei-Gyamfi, therefore, encouraged all participants to engage actively, stressing that gender equality is not just a women's issue but a societal issue, and that every individual stands to benefit from a more equal and inclusive society through the development of the gender statistics communication tool.

### **Chief Director's Address:**

In a remark delivered on behalf of the Chief Director of the Ministry, Dr. Afisah Zakariah, Principal Research Officer from RSIM, Madam Gloria Ayorkor Charway, reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to making the gender statistics tool a cornerstone of its development agenda.

She noted that the tool will provide a deeper understanding of gender roles, respo Gender Statistics

### **The Communication Toolkit**

The toolkit will outline a clear strategy for communicating gender statistics to users and producers, featuring relevant illustrations and key messages tailored to the target audience. The Gender Statistics Communication Tool would enhance stakeholders' ability to understand the importance and the usage of gender statistics in their work.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

## Development Partners



## Partners Institutions

