

GHANA'S CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (CSOs) REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS - 2025

**CONVENED BY:
THE POS FOUNDATION AND OVER 52 CSOs IN GHANA**



With the support of the **Center for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre)**,
Switzerland.



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LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

A Rocha Ghana. Alliance for Dynamics Initiative. Amnesty International – Ghana. Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana). Centre for Employment for Persons with Disability. Centre for Muslim Youth in Peace and Development. Centre for Security Policy and Research (CSPR). Centre for Women in Development and Public Policy. CEPHERG. Courageous Sisters Ghana. Defence for Children International – Ghana Section. Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GENCED). Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition. Ghana Federation for Disability Organizations. Ghana Integrity Initiative. Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC). Girls Empowerment Initiative Ghana. Glorious Interfaith Initiative. Good Governance Africa – West Africa. Hope Alliance Foundation. Human Rights Advocacy Centre. Institute for Democratic Governance. Interfaith Diversity Network of West Africa. International Child Development Programs. Kasa Initiative Ghana. Key Watch Ghana. Legal Resource Centre. LGBT+ Rights Ghana. Media Foundation for West Africa. OHF Initiative. One Love Sisters Ghana. Penplusbytes. PORSH. POS Foundation. Progressive Excellence Youth Organizations. Queer Ghana Education Fund. Reformation of Hope Foundation. Resilience Sisters Ghana. Resource Link Foundation. Rightify Ghana. SAME. Sisters of the Heart. Solace Initiative. Sung Foundation. The Ark Foundation. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF). Women in the Lord's Vineyard. Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment (WISE). Youth Alliance for Equality Foundation. Youth Development and Voice Initiative. Youth Entrepreneurship and Social Advancement Centre. Youth Entrepreneurship and Social Advocacy Centre.

Note: The reports were drafted under 7 themes in this joint submission.

Introduction

This joint report has been prepared and submitted by a coalition of over fifty civil society organizations (CSOs) in Ghana, convened by the POS Foundation, with the technical support of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre). The report is submitted in the context of Ghana's engagement with the United Nations Human Rights Committee for its review under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), in connection with the 144th session scheduled to take place in Geneva from 23 June to 25 July 2025.

This submission is made as part of the pre-sessional process leading to the adoption of the List of Issues (LoI), which will guide the next cycle of Ghana's review under the ICCPR. It reflects the collective analysis, concerns, and recommendations of Ghanaian CSOs working across a broad range of thematic areas, including civil liberties, rule of law, gender equality, protection of vulnerable groups, and anti-corruption efforts.

The report builds upon previous civil society contributions submitted during Ghana's last review in 2016 and assesses the level of implementation of the Human Rights Committee's priority recommendations, which addressed key issues such as non-discrimination, harmful traditional practices, and gender-based violence. It also draws on recent legal, political, and socio-economic developments that impact the enjoyment of civil and political rights in Ghana.

Structured under thematic clusters, the report identifies both progress and persisting challenges, and proposes questions for consideration by the Human Rights Committee in the formulation of the List of Issues. The aim is to ensure that the Committee's engagement with the Ghanaian State is informed by objective, evidence-based, and locally rooted perspectives.

The submitting organizations reaffirm their commitment to supporting the ICCPR review process and to working collaboratively with national institutions, development partners, and international mechanisms to advance the full realization of civil and political rights in Ghana.

A) Right to life and access to justice

Ghana is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and is therefore bound by its provisions, including Article 6 on the right to life and Article 14 on access to justice and fair trial guarantees. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana enshrines the right to life under Article 13 and provides for fair trial and due process rights under Articles 19 and 33. Various institutional mechanisms, such as the Ghana Police Service, the Judicial Service, the Legal Aid Commission, and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), are mandated to uphold these rights.

Despite the existence of this framework, the realization of the right to life and effective access to justice in Ghana continues to face serious challenges. These include extrajudicial killings, mob

justice, excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, long pre-trial detentions, and systemic barriers to legal assistance for vulnerable populations.

- **Extrajudicial killings and excessive use of force:** Numerous incidents of unlawful killings by security forces, particularly the police, have been reported in recent years, often during demonstrations or police operations. Investigations into such incidents are often delayed or inconclusive, and accountability mechanisms remain weak. The shooting of protesters in Ejura in 2021 and the reported killings during the 2020 general elections remain emblematic of a broader pattern of impunity.
- **Mob Justice:** Mob justice remains a widespread and disturbing practice in Ghana, where individuals suspected of crimes are subjected to public lynching or other forms of extrajudicial punishment. This phenomenon is fueled by a lack of public trust in the criminal justice system and impunity for perpetrators.
- **Delays in Judicial Proceedings and Pre-Trial Detention:** Court backlogs, inadequate legal aid services, and weak case management systems contribute to prolonged pre-trial detention, violating the right to liberty and fair trial. Many detainees remain incarcerated for years without trial, particularly in overcrowded prisons where conditions fall below international standards.
- **Barriers to Legal Aid:** Although the Legal Aid Commission Act, 2018 (Act 977) seeks to expand access to legal services for the poor and vulnerable, the Commission remains under-resourced and understaffed, limiting its reach and effectiveness. This disproportionately affects women, rural populations, and persons with disabilities.
- **Lack of Accountability and Oversight:** Mechanisms for holding law enforcement officials accountable, such as the Police Professional Standards Bureau and CHRAJ, are often perceived as lacking independence and enforcement powers. Victims of human rights violations face difficulties in seeking redress due to complex procedures, fear of reprisals, and institutional inertia.
- **Prison Conditions and Congestion:** Ghana's prisons are overcrowded and under-resourced, with 13,991 inmates held in facilities meant for 9,945, and each fed on just GHC1.80 (US\$0.30) a day. Only 52 Legal Aid lawyers serve 34 million people, limiting access to justice. While pre-trial detention has dropped from 33% in 2007 to 11.13% in 2025, rising convictions and lack of non-custodial sentencing keep congestion high.

Proposed questions for the List of Issues

1. What concrete measures has the State taken to investigate and prosecute cases of extrajudicial killings, particularly those committed by security forces since 2020?
2. What steps have been taken to hold accountable those responsible for the deaths of protestors in Ejura and during the 2020 elections?
3. What legal and policy reforms have been adopted to combat mob justice, and what results have been recorded to date?

4. What is the current average duration of pre-trial detention in Ghana, and what mechanisms are in place to monitor and reduce it?
5. What resources have been allocated to the Legal Aid Commission in the past three years, and what proportion of the population has benefited from its services?
6. How does the State ensure the operational independence of oversight bodies such as CHRAJ and the Police Professional Standards Bureau in investigating law enforcement abuses?
7. What efforts have been made to improve access to justice in rural and marginalized communities, including for women and persons with disabilities?
8. What safeguards exist to prevent and punish reprisals against individuals who file complaints of human rights violations by public officials?
9. Describe the measures currently being taken to improve prison conditions and decongest the prisons by the State party.

B) Freedom of expression, media freedom, and right to information

Freedom of expression and access to information are guaranteed under Articles 18 and 21 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, and are further protected by international instruments such as Article 19 of the ICCPR. In 2019, the passage of the Right to Information (RTI) Act (Act 989) marked a significant legislative milestone, reinforcing the right of citizens to access public information.

The Ghanaian media landscape is pluralistic, with a high number of radio, television, and online platforms operating across the country. Nonetheless, recent developments have raised serious concerns about the shrinking civic space, increasing threats to media freedom, and restrictions on access to information. Despite existing legal protections, implementation gaps and emerging patterns of state and non-state pressure on journalists and activists undermine the practical enjoyment of these rights.

Attacks, Intimidation, and Harassment of Journalists: Journalists in Ghana continue to face physical attacks, arbitrary arrests, threats, and judicial harassment for their work. Notable incidents, such as the killing of investigative journalist Ahmed Suale in 2019, remain unresolved, fostering a climate of fear and self-censorship. Other journalists, including Edward Adeti and others working on corruption-related stories, have reported threats and reprisals with limited or no protection from authorities.

- **Abuse of Defamation Laws and Criminal Sanctions:** Despite the decriminalization of criminal libel in 2001, authorities frequently rely on broad provisions of the Criminal and Other Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) to arrest journalists or critics under charges such as

false publication or offensive conduct. These laws are often used to suppress dissent and discourage investigative reporting.

- **Political and Economic Pressures on Media Houses:** Media outlets perceived as critical of the government or aligned with opposition voices face regulatory harassment, withdrawal of advertising, or politically motivated closures. The National Communications Authority (NCA) has been accused of selective enforcement of broadcasting regulations, which undermines media independence.
- **Implementation of the RTI Act:** Although the RTI Act was passed in 2019, access to public information remains inconsistent due to limited institutional capacity, reluctance by public bodies to release information, and lack of public awareness. Many public institutions have not designated RTI officers or set up efficient response systems, limiting the law's effectiveness in practice.
- **Surveillance and Digital Threats:** There are increasing concerns about unlawful surveillance, hacking of digital accounts, and cyber-harassment targeting journalists, activists, and whistleblowers. The lack of clear safeguards in the use of surveillance technologies raises human rights concerns, especially in a context of limited transparency and oversight.
- **Freedom of Expression & Media Attacks:** Over the past five years, journalists have faced **physical attacks, arrests, and media house raids**—notably, the **assault on Latif Iddris (2018)**, the **murder of Ahmed Suale (2019)**, and the **attack on Class Media Group (2024)**.
- **Legal Framework & Enforcement Gaps:** Despite ratifying key instruments (ICCPR, ACHPR, UN Declaration on HRDs), **laws like the Criminal and Other Offences Act** are used against journalists; **only 52 Legal Aid lawyers** serve **34 million people**, limiting justice access.
- **Right to Information Implementation:** Although the **RTI Act (2019)** is in force, the **RTI Commission remains under-resourced**; only **15% of public institutions** submitted annual reports in 2020, and **Section 75 fee issues** hinder access.
- **Journalist Intimidation:** Journalists in Ghana face persistent intimidation, including assaults, arrests, and threats. Cases include attacks on Latif Iddris (2018), Michael Aidoo (2022), Akosua Otchere (2023), and five journalists injured while covering the 2025 Council of State elections. Several journalists including Caleb Kudah, Zoe Abu-Baidoo, Paa Kwesi Simpson, Kwabena Ansah, and Eric Gyetuah have also faced arbitrary arrests and detention for their reporting. The 2019 murder of Ahmed Suale remains unresolved; although a suspect was arrested, public trust in the investigation remains low. Journalists like Edward Adeti continue to report threats.

Examples/Supporting Cases:

1. On November 1, 2021, the police arrested and detained a radio presenter, Paa Kwesi Simpson, on charges of publishing false news. The arrest followed a false kidnapping claim made by a listener who called into Simpson's programme. The journalist was detained for a week during which the police carried out their investigations.

2. On 11 May 2021, National Security officers arrested Citi News journalist Caleb Kudah in front of the Ministry of National Security offices on accusations of filming in a restricted security zone. Kudah was taken to a local police station where he was reportedly beaten and the pictures erased from his phone. Subsequently seven-armed security officers stormed the media outlet's offices in an attempt to arrest another journalist, Zoe Abu-Baidoo, who was accused of having received the video files from Kudah. Both journalists were released, with Caleb Kudah having been subjected to interrogation.
3. On February 10, 2022, the police detained Kwabena Bobbie Ansah, a presenter at *Accra FM*, on a charge of "publication of false news and offensive conduct." The charges relate to a video the journalist posted on social media claiming that President Nana Akufo-Addo's wife had illegally obtained a parcel of state land.
4. On 3 February 2022, radio broadcaster for Connect FM, Eric Nana Gyetuah, was assaulted by police officers in Takoradi, Western Region, after they noticed the journalist filming them in a restaurant, while reportedly bringing arrested individuals in handcuffs with them. The beating reportedly started after the journalist refused to hand over his phone. Gyetuah was further handcuffed, brought to a police station and detained for several hours on accusations of unlawfully taking pictures and public order charges before being released four hours later.
5. Investigative reporter Ahmed Hussain-Suale Divela, who worked for Tiger Eye Private Investigations, was shot and died on January 16, 2019, while returning home in Accra, in a violent attack. Prior to his murder, Hussain-Suale Divela was involved in the documentary "Number 12" on alleged football corruption which ultimately led to the dissolution of the Ghana Football Association (GFA) and a lifetime FIFA ban on GFA's former president, Kwesi Nyantakyi.
6. In March 2025, the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) issued an ultimatum to the Ghana Police Service, demanding a concrete update on the investigation into Suale's murder by the end of March 2025. The GJA expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of progress over the six years since the assassination and threatened to escalate the matter to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Community Court of Justice if no satisfactory response was received .
7. Following this pressure, the police arrested a suspect, Daniel Owusu Koranteng, also known as Amakye, in connection with the murder. Koranteng, a former colleague of Suale at Tiger Eye PI, was apprehended on March 17, 2025, and arraigned before the Madina District Court on March 19, 2025. The GJA commended the police for this development, describing it as a significant milestone in the pursuit of justice. Nevertheless, the public thinks the Police and the State are using this suspect to cover up for their inability to reach the actual murderer.
8. On January 13, 2022, a group of thugs numbering about 12 stormed the premises of the community radio station, Ada Radio, assaulted two of its journalists and vandalized equipment.
9. On April 25, 2024, the Labone headquarters of Class Media Group (CMG) in Accra was attacked by four men on motorcycles who threw petrol bombs and stones over the fence, shattering the glass door of the reception area. CCTV footage captured the suspects

fleeing the scene. The motive behind the attack remains unclear, a report has been filed with an investigation underway.

10. On November 27, 2024, an armed auctioneer, court bailiff, and police officers forcibly entered the premises of Ignite Media Group (IMG), operators of Metro TV, during a live broadcast of the "Good Morning Ghana" programme. The group disrupted the programme by breaking into the studio, causing the live broadcast to be abruptly terminated. This incident was condemned by IMG, and it was not the first attempt by the auctioneer to execute a controversial court judgment involving the media house.
11. There have been several incidents of arbitrary arrests and prosecution of journalists in Ghana, using legislation such as the Public Order Act, the 2008 Electronic Communication Act and the 1960 Criminal and Other Offences Act (Act 29).
12. This is despite the repeal of the criminal libel and seditious libel laws decades ago.
13. On February 8, 2022, a High Court in Accra sentenced a broadcast journalist with Accra-based Power FM, Oheneba Boamah Bennie, to 14 days in prison after he was found guilty of contempt of court.
14. The journalist was dragged to the High Court by Ghana's Attorney General after he posted a Facebook video containing allegations that President Nana Akufo-Addo was influencing judges sitting on a petition by the opposition against his 2020 presidential election victory.

Proposed Questions for the List of Issues

1. What steps has the State taken to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of attacks and threats against journalists, including the unresolved case of Ahmed Suale?
2. How does the State ensure that provisions of the Criminal and Other Offences Act are not used arbitrarily to suppress freedom of expression and criminalize dissent?
3. What legal or institutional measures are in place to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the National Communications Authority?
4. What is the current status of implementation of the Right to Information Act across public institutions, and what proportion of information requests have been granted since 2019?
5. How does the State protect journalists and activists from unlawful surveillance, digital threats, and cyber-harassment, and what oversight mechanisms exist in this regard?
6. What support mechanisms are in place for journalists facing reprisals or threats due to their professional activities?
7. How does the government ensure equitable access to media space for all political and civil society actors, especially during electoral periods?

8. What training or public education programs have been implemented to increase awareness and accessibility of the RTI Act among the population, especially marginalized communities?

C) Non-discrimination and equality

Ghana's Constitution provides a broad guarantee of equality before the law and protection against discrimination. Article 17(2) of the 1992 Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, race, ethnic origin, religion, creed, or social or economic status. In addition, Ghana is party to several international human rights instruments, including the ICCPR, CEDAW, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, all of which prohibit discriminatory practices.

Institutionally, bodies such as the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection are mandated to address issues related to discrimination and social inclusion. However, Ghana has yet to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that fully reflects the principles of the ICCPR.

While the legal framework provides a foundation for the protection of equality and non-discrimination, significant gaps remain in practice. The lack of implementation, coupled with socio-cultural norms and systemic barriers, continues to undermine the effective realization of these rights.

- **Gender-Based discrimination and violence:** Women and girls in Ghana face multiple layers of discrimination, particularly in rural areas. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains pervasive, with high rates of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and harmful practices such as child marriage. The enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732) remains weak, and shelters and psychosocial support services are limited.
- **Harmful traditional practices:** Despite ongoing public education campaigns, practices such as trokosi, female genital mutilation (FGM), and witchcraft accusations persist in some communities, disproportionately affecting women and girls. The response by authorities remains inconsistent, with inadequate enforcement and limited victim support mechanisms.
- **Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity:** Persons belonging to sexual and gender minorities continue to face discrimination, harassment, and violence. The absence of legal protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity has left these populations highly vulnerable. Legislative proposals such as the Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, 2021 have further exacerbated stigma and incited public hostility.
- **Marginalization of persons with disabilities (PWDs):** Although the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715) exists, its implementation is weak. Many public facilities remain physically inaccessible, and access to education, employment, and healthcare for persons

with disabilities is inadequate. The delay in adopting legislative reforms aligned with the CRPD continues to impede substantive equality.

- **Inequality based on socioeconomic status and geographic location:** People living in poverty, particularly in northern Ghana and rural areas, continue to face systemic exclusion from essential services, including quality education, health care, and legal protection. Disparities in resource allocation and public service delivery deepen patterns of structural discrimination.

Proposed Questions for the List of Issues

1. What steps has the State taken to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law covering all grounds protected under the ICCPR?
2. How does the government ensure effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, particularly in terms of access to protection, shelters, and justice for survivors?
3. What actions have been taken to eradicate harmful traditional practices such as trokosi, female genital mutilation, and witchcraft accusations?
4. How does the State protect persons from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and what measures are in place to address incitement to violence and hate speech?
5. What is the government's position on the Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, and how does it ensure its compatibility with international human rights obligations?
6. What efforts have been made to implement the Persons with Disability Act and align national laws with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?
7. What measures are in place to address systemic inequalities affecting access to services for people living in poverty and rural communities?
8. How is the State addressing intersecting forms of discrimination affecting women, children, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups?

D) Rights of persons with disabilities

Ghana ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2012, and the national framework is anchored in the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715). Article 29 of the 1992 Constitution also affirms the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs), particularly regarding access to education, employment, and protection against exploitation and abuse. Institutions such as the National Council on Persons with Disability (NCPD) and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection have mandates related to disability inclusion.

However, the Persons with Disability Act predates Ghana's ratification of the CRPD and falls short of the Convention's standards. A draft amendment bill, aimed at aligning national law with the CRPD, has been under review for several years without adoption. In practice, persons with disabilities in Ghana continue to face systemic barriers and discrimination in nearly all aspects of public life.

While the legal framework offers a foundation for disability rights, its weak implementation, combined with entrenched stigma and inadequate resources, continues to hinder the full realization of rights for persons with disabilities.

The main concerns are related:

- **Delay in legislative reform:** Efforts to amend the Persons with Disability Act to bring it in line with the CRPD have been ongoing for more than a decade. This legislative inertia has hindered the development of policies and programs that fully comply with international obligations and human rights standards.
- **Barriers to education:** Children with disabilities face substantial obstacles to accessing inclusive and quality education. Many schools are not physically accessible, teachers lack training in inclusive pedagogy, and special education services remain severely underfunded. These challenges are especially pronounced in rural areas.
- **Discrimination in employment:** Persons with disabilities encounter widespread discrimination in the labor market. Employers often lack awareness or incentives to promote inclusion, and reasonable accommodation is rarely provided. Public sector institutions have not met the government's employment quotas for PWDs.
- **Inaccessible public infrastructure and services:** Most public buildings and transport systems are not disability-friendly. Despite constitutional guarantees, physical access to health facilities, courts, and administrative buildings remains limited, creating a de facto exclusion from essential services.
- **Lack of access to justice:** PWDs, particularly those with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, face significant barriers in accessing justice. Court facilities are often inaccessible, legal aid is limited, and procedures lack reasonable accommodation. There are also reports of persons with disabilities being denied the right to testify or participate fully in legal proceedings.
- **Stigma and social exclusion:** Harmful stereotypes and stigma continue to affect the daily lives of persons with disabilities. In some communities, persons with disabilities—especially children—are subject to neglect, hidden from society, or even subjected to infanticide based on harmful traditional beliefs.

Proposed questions for the List of Issues

1. What is the status of the proposed amendment to the Persons with Disability Act, and when does the State intend to bring it into alignment with the CRPD?

2. What concrete steps are being taken to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities, including teacher training, infrastructure upgrades, and resource allocation?
3. How does the State ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to employment opportunities, both in the public and private sectors?
4. What measures are in place to ensure that public infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, transport, and government buildings, is accessible to persons with disabilities?
5. How does the government guarantee access to justice for persons with disabilities, particularly in terms of legal aid, reasonable accommodation, and procedural accessibility?
6. What specific actions have been taken to address stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities in communities and institutions?
7. How are persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities protected from institutionalization and other forms of coercion, and what services exist to support community-based care?
8. What mechanisms exist to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in policy-making and implementation?

E) Rights Related to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC)

Ghana's 1992 Constitution guarantees the dignity and equality of all persons. Article 17 prohibits discrimination on several grounds, including gender, ethnic origin, religion, and social status. However, the provision does not explicitly include sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics as protected grounds. This legal gap is further compounded by the continued existence of section 104(1)(b) of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29), which criminalizes "unnatural carnal knowledge" — a vague provision often interpreted to target consensual same-sex relations between adults.

To date, Ghana has not enacted any legislation to protect individuals from discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Furthermore, the country does not have a legal framework for legal gender recognition, nor are there procedures in place to allow transgender or intersex persons to update their legal documents to reflect their gender identity.

Rather than moving toward legal reforms to align with international human rights obligations under the ICCPR, recent legislative developments have significantly worsened the situation. The

Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, 2021, currently under parliamentary consideration, seeks to criminalize a wide range of conduct and advocacy related to LGBTQ+ rights, institutionalizing discrimination and severely limiting freedom of expression, association, and assembly.

Despite Ghana's general commitments to human rights and equality, persons with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics continue to face hostility, marginalization, and systemic rights violations.

The continued criminalization of consensual same-sex relations enables police abuse, blackmail, and arbitrary arrests of LGBTQ+ individuals. Reports indicate that individuals are often detained based on suspicion or expression of their identity, rather than any criminal conduct. The Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill, dramatically expands criminal penalties against LGBTQ+ persons and criminalize the work of human rights defenders, healthcare providers, journalists, and allies advocating for equality. Arbitrary arrests and the disruption of private gatherings perceived as "LGBTQ+ events" have been reported, including mass arrests without due process. Victims often face public humiliation and lack access to legal remedies. Community-based LGBTQ+ organizations have been forcibly shut down, with threats and harassment directed at their staff. These actions curtail freedom of association and undermine civil society's ability to advocate for marginalized groups.

Transgender and intersex persons are denied legal gender recognition, affecting their ability to access services, employment, and participate fully in public life. There are no administrative or judicial procedures in place to change legal gender markers. Healthcare discrimination is widespread, with LGBTQ+ individuals reporting denial of services, verbal abuse by providers, and exclusion from public health programs, including mental health services and HIV/AIDS treatment initiatives. The growing public incitement to violence and hate speech, including by public officials and religious leaders, creates a hostile environment and increases the risk of violence against LGBTQ+ persons, with little to no institutional response or condemnation.

Proposed questions for the List of Issues

1. What steps has the State taken to repeal section 104 of the Criminal Offences Act, which criminalizes consensual same-sex conduct?
2. How does the State intend to ensure that legislative proposals such as the Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill comply with Ghana's international human rights obligations under the ICCPR?
3. What measures are in place to protect LGBTQ+ individuals from arbitrary arrest, detention, and violence by both state and non-state actors?

4. What mechanisms exist to ensure LGBTQ+ individuals can access healthcare services without discrimination, including in relation to mental health and HIV/AIDS services?
5. What is the State's response to the forced closure of LGBTQ+ community centers and the suppression of human rights organizations working on SOGIESC issues?
6. How is the government addressing hate speech, public incitement to violence, and stigmatization of LGBTQ+ persons in public discourse?
7. Are there any plans to establish a legal framework for gender recognition based on self-determination for transgender and intersex persons?
8. What steps is the State taking to ensure that LGBTQ+ persons and organizations are meaningfully included in public policy-making processes related to equality and non-discrimination?

F) Corruption and accountability of public institutions

Ghana has ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and has developed a number of institutional mechanisms and legal frameworks aimed at combating corruption. The 1992 Constitution enshrines principles of accountability and good governance, while specific legislation such as the Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720) and the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663) aim to promote transparency and protect individuals who report wrongdoing.

Key institutions mandated to prevent and address corruption include the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), the Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP), and the Auditor-General's Department. These bodies are tasked with investigating and prosecuting corruption-related offenses and enforcing integrity standards across the public sector.

Despite this robust institutional framework, Ghana continues to struggle with systemic corruption, weak enforcement, and limited accountability. Public perception surveys, including those by Afrobarometer and Transparency International, consistently rank corruption among the top concerns of Ghanaians.

While there have been reform efforts in recent years, particularly through the establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor and digitization of public services, corruption remains widespread, especially in public procurement, law enforcement, extractive industries, and political party financing.

- **Weak enforcement and institutional independence:** Many anti-corruption agencies lack operational and financial autonomy, making them vulnerable to political interference. Investigations often stall or fail to lead to prosecutions, particularly in high-profile cases.

- **Low prosecution and conviction rates:** There is a significant gap between the number of reported or investigated corruption cases and those that result in meaningful legal consequences. The judicial process is slow, and some cases are reportedly withdrawn without transparency.
- **Retaliation against whistleblowers:** Despite the Whistleblower Act, protections for individuals who expose corruption remain weak. Several whistleblowers have reported threats, job loss, or social ostracism after reporting misconduct.
- **Lack of transparency in public procurement:** Corruption in procurement processes remains a significant concern. Reports of inflated contracts, favoritism, and lack of due diligence persist at both national and local government levels.
- **Ineffective asset declaration regime:** The current system of asset disclosure by public officials is not publicly accessible and lacks independent verification, limiting its usefulness as an anti-corruption tool.
- **Corruption in natural resource management:** In sectors such as mining and timber, communities frequently report that public officials and companies operate with impunity, evading oversight and accountability while contributing to environmental degradation and human rights abuses.
- **Weak civic participation in anti-corruption processes:** While civil society plays a vital role in monitoring public integrity, meaningful participation in anti-corruption policymaking and implementation remains limited.

Example/Supporting Case:

There has been flagrant abuse of the PPA Act by public institutions as the major causes of procurement irregularities. A report published by IMANI Africa showed 120 contracts were single sourced and the value of these contracts added to GHC 18,706.20. An example of their gross misconduct and abuse of power was the recent 'Contracts for Sale' scandal. Mr. A. B. Adjei, former PPA CEO, had used his company Talent Discovery Limited to gain government contracts through restricted tendering and selling those contracts to others for profit. The contracts were public works contracts awarded by the Ministry of Works and Housing, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Special Development Initiatives, Ministry of Inner-City & Zongo Development and the Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority. The former boss of the PPA was charged with eight counts of using public office for profit and nine counts of directly and indirectly influencing the procurement process to obtain an unfair advantage in the award of a procurement contract by the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP). The OSP reported that he had violated section 179C(a) of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) and section 92(b) of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663).

Proposed questions for the List of Issues

1. What steps has the State taken to guarantee the operational and financial independence of anti-corruption institutions, particularly the Office of the Special Prosecutor and CHRAJ?
2. How many high-profile corruption cases have been investigated and successfully prosecuted in the past five years, and what were the outcomes?
3. What mechanisms exist to ensure effective protection for whistleblowers, and how many reports have been received and addressed under the Whistleblower Act since its adoption?
4. What reforms have been introduced to improve transparency and accountability in public procurement processes at the national and local levels?
5. Is there a plan to make asset declarations of public officials publicly accessible and subject to independent verification?
6. What measures are being taken to address corruption in the management of natural resources, particularly in the mining, forestry, and oil sectors?
7. How is the government ensuring that corruption-related offenses are addressed in a timely and impartial manner through the judicial system?
8. What efforts have been made to involve civil society and independent media in the monitoring and evaluation of anti-corruption policies and programs?

Supporting Case:

- There has been flagrant abuse of the PPA Act by public institutions as the major causes of procurement irregularities. A report published by IMANI Africa showed 120 contracts were single sourced and the value of these contracts added to GHC 18,706.20. An example of their gross misconduct and abuse of power was the recent 'Contracts for Sale' scandal. Mr. A. B. Adjei, former PPA CEO, had used his company Talent Discovery Limited to gain government contracts through restricted tendering and selling those contracts to others for profit. The contracts were public works contracts awarded by the Ministry of Works and Housing, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Special Development Initiatives, Ministry of Inner-City & Zongo Development and the Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority. The former boss of the PPA was charged with eight counts of using public office for profit and nine counts of directly and indirectly influencing the procurement process to obtain an unfair advantage in the award of a procurement contract by the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP). The OSP reported that he had violated section 179C(a) of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) and section 92(b) of the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (Act 663).

- **Security Recruitment Scandals**

Though there have been marked improvements in the recruitment process of security agencies, politicians and their surrogates are being accused of involvement in a “pay to serve” scheme by the media. On April 2, 2022 a man believed to be an officer in mufti who was captured in a video brandishing a weapon and attacking a motorist along the Kasoa-Winneba highway was arrested. After an individual has been recruited there is no information as to the nature of the training and the code of conduct for which they must follow. A Member of Parliament for Tamale North, Alhassan Sayibu Suhuyini has called for a second look at how people get recruited into the Army and the Ghana Police Service. World War II veteran, Corporal Wisdom Edmond Kudowor stated that the current recruitment process for the various security agencies in Ghana has become so bad. The act of paying money before one gets recruited has contributed to the indiscipline in the security agencies being witnessed today.

Interior Minister Muntaka Mohammed Mubarak inaugurated a seven-member committee on February 13, 2025, to review recruitment processes within Ghana’s security services. The committee was tasked with assessing the transparency, fairness, and integrity of recruitment procedures for agencies including the Ghana Police Service, Ghana Prisons Service, Ghana National Fire Service, and Ghana Immigration Service. The goal was to ensure that recruitment practices align with national security needs and uphold the highest standards of professionalism and fairness.

G) Business and human rights (natural resources, environment, and land rights)

Ghana’s Constitution provides for the protection of property rights (Article 18), the right to a clean and healthy environment (Article 41), and fair compensation in cases of land acquisition by the State. Ghana is also a party to several international treaties that recognize the obligation of States to protect individuals from human rights abuses by private actors, including businesses.

Domestically, institutions such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minerals Commission, the Lands Commission, and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) play critical roles in regulating business operations, managing land and natural resources, and addressing grievances.

Despite these legal and institutional safeguards, weak enforcement, overlapping mandates, and the prioritization of commercial interests over community rights have contributed to significant human rights violations, particularly in the extractive and agricultural sectors.

Key Concerns

The intersection between business activities, especially in mining, oil, forestry, and large-scale agriculture and human rights has become increasingly contentious in Ghana. Local communities, particularly in rural and resource-rich regions, bear the brunt of environmental degradation, land dispossession, and loss of livelihoods.

- **Environmental degradation from mining and extractive industries:** Both licensed and illegal mining (galamsey) operations have led to widespread destruction of farmlands, water pollution, and health hazards. Communities have reported a lack of meaningful consultation or redress when their environments are harmed by business activities.
- **Land grabbing and forced evictions:** Large-scale land acquisitions for agriculture, infrastructure, and mining have led to forced evictions and the displacement of entire communities without adequate compensation, alternative livelihoods, or access to justice.
- **Weak regulatory oversight and corruption:** Regulatory bodies often lack the capacity or independence to monitor and enforce compliance by powerful business actors. Corruption and political interference further erode trust and accountability in these sectors.
- **Lack of corporate accountability mechanisms:** Victims of corporate-related human rights abuses face significant barriers to justice. There is no comprehensive legal framework for corporate due diligence or liability for human rights violations.
- **Limited access to information and consultation:** Affected communities are often excluded from decision-making processes related to land use, natural resource exploitation, or environmental impact assessments. Public participation mechanisms remain weak or tokenistic.
- **Gendered impacts of business-related harm:** Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the loss of land and water resources, and are often excluded from compensation negotiations or community leadership structures.
- **Violence and intimidation against environmental defenders:** Activists who speak out against corporate abuse or environmental destruction have reported threats, intimidation, and criminal charges.

Proposed Questions for the List of Issues

1. What legislative framework has been put in place to regulate that the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and the Minerals Commission prioritize the review of the Minerals and Mining Act and the domestication of the African Mining Vision, ECOWAS Mining Code and the UN Guiding Principles on Business, Security and Human Rights
2. Indicate whether the State party intends for the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and the Parliament to develop a Legislative Instrument to regulate large-scale land acquisition in Ghana as recommended by the Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036).
3. What mechanisms are being put in place by the state party to develop the business and human rights action plan which would ensure that shareholders and management of mining companies demonstrate their commitment to the UN

Guiding Principle on Business and Human Rights by taking full responsibilities of the incident.

4. When is the State Party putting State of Emergency on mining activities throughout the country to restore the mass epidemic of destruction of water bodies, leading to community violence, health complication, arbitrary claim of land by party loyalists and impunity shown by mining sector actors.

Supporting Cases:

1. Electrochem Ghana Limited (EGL) and Human Rights Violations in Ada (May 2021)

Electrochem Ghana Limited, a private company owned by Dr. Daniel McKorley, faced allegations of human rights abuses in the Ada area. In May 2021, Benjamin Anim, a community member, was reportedly injured while defending locals from being detained by individuals believed to be EGL's security personnel and police officers. While seeking medical treatment, Anim was allegedly handcuffed to a hospital bed for five weeks, denied basic rights, and later charged with property destruction. Additionally, Radio Ada, a local community radio station, faced legal threats for broadcasting programs critical of EGL's mining activities, leading to accusations of press freedom violations and attempts to suppress dissenting voices.

2. Bogoso Prestea Gold Mine Dispute and Alleged Expropriation (December 2024)

In December 2024, Future Global Resources Limited (FGRL) and Blue Gold Holdings Limited (BGHL) accused the Ghanaian government of unlawfully expropriating their investments in the Bogoso Prestea Gold Mine. The investors alleged that unauthorized parties were extracting and selling valuable gold tailings from the mine, resulting in significant financial losses. They invoked the UK-Ghana Bilateral Investment Treaty and called for immediate settlement discussions to address the dispute. This case underscores concerns about the protection of investor rights and the potential for human rights abuses when business interests are not adequately safeguarded.

These cases illustrate ongoing challenges in Ghana's mining sector, where the actions of private investors and businesses have raised serious human rights concerns, including violations of community rights, press freedom, and investor protections. They highlight the need for stronger regulatory frameworks and accountability mechanisms to ensure that mining activities contribute positively to the well-being of affected communities.

H) Rights of the Child

Ghana was the first country to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and has domesticated many of its provisions through the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560), as well as the Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 (Act 653). The 1992 Constitution also guarantees the

protection of children's rights under Article 28. These legal instruments establish rights related to health, education, protection from abuse and exploitation, and the right to be heard in matters affecting the child.

Institutions such as the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Department of Social Welfare, the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service, and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) are mandated to ensure the protection and welfare of children.

While Ghana has made notable progress in promoting child rights through laws, policies, and programs, serious implementation gaps remain, and numerous violations continue to be reported across the country.

The main concerns are:

- Children in Ghana, particularly those from poor, rural, or marginalized communities, remain vulnerable to various forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Child labour: Despite legal prohibitions, child labour remains widespread, particularly in the agriculture, fishing, mining, and informal sectors. Children are frequently exposed to hazardous working conditions and deprived of access to education and health care.
- Child marriage: Although the legal minimum age for marriage is 18, child marriage remains prevalent in several regions, particularly in northern Ghana. Social norms, poverty, and weak law enforcement continue to drive early and forced marriages.
- Violence and abuse: Physical and sexual violence against children remains a pervasive problem, both within families and in institutional settings such as schools and care facilities. Many cases go unreported due to stigma, fear, or lack of trust in institutions.
- Street-connected children and child trafficking: An increasing number of children live and work on the streets in urban areas, where they are exposed to exploitation, abuse, and trafficking. Coordination among institutions responsible for child protection remains weak.
- Juvenile justice concerns: Children in conflict with the law often face rights violations, including arbitrary arrest, detention with adults, limited legal representation, and lack of access to rehabilitation services. Conditions in juvenile facilities are often poor and inconsistent with international standards.
- Limited access to education and health: Despite progress in school enrollment, disparities in access and quality of education persist, particularly for girls, children with disabilities, and children in rural areas. Access to comprehensive health services, including sexual and reproductive health, is also limited.

Proposed questions for the List of Issues

1. What measures has the State taken to strengthen enforcement of laws against child labour, particularly in the informal and hazardous sectors?
2. What specific strategies are in place to eliminate child marriage, and how are they being implemented and monitored in high-prevalence regions?

3. How does the State ensure effective investigation, prosecution, and victim support in cases of violence and abuse against children?
4. What programs exist to support street-connected children and prevent their exposure to exploitation, abuse, and trafficking?
5. How is the juvenile justice system being reformed to ensure full compliance with the CRC and other international standards, particularly regarding detention conditions and legal safeguards?
6. What measures are being taken to ensure access to quality education and health services for children in marginalized communities, including girls and children with disabilities?
7. What role do local governments and traditional leaders play in child protection systems, and how are they held accountable?
8. How does the State involve children and youth in policy-making processes that affect their rights and well-being?

l) Mob justice and excessive use of force by security agencies

The right to life, personal liberty, and protection from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment are enshrined in the 1992 Constitution of Ghana under Articles 13, 14, and 15 respectively. Ghana is also a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), particularly Article 6 on the right to life and Article 7 on protection from torture. Law enforcement conduct is governed by domestic legislation such as the Police Service Act, 1970 (Act 350) and regulations developed by the Ghana Police Service.

Additionally, Ghana has established institutions such as the Police Professional Standards Bureau (PPSB), the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), and civil society watchdog mechanisms aimed at promoting accountability and civilian oversight of law enforcement agencies.

Despite this legal and institutional framework, violations of the right to life and bodily integrity persist, with growing concerns over extrajudicial killings, mob justice, and the excessive use of force by security forces—especially in contexts involving public protests, elections, and criminal apprehension.

Key Concerns

The prevalence of mob justice and disproportionate responses by security forces continues to threaten public safety, undermine the rule of law, and erode trust in state institutions.

- **Mob justice incidents:** Vigilante-style killings and beatings of suspected criminals by community members are widespread in both urban and rural settings. Victims are often denied due process and subjected to brutal acts of violence. Perpetrators are rarely prosecuted, and authorities often fail to intervene effectively.

- **Use of lethal force by police and military:** Security personnel have on multiple occasions used live ammunition against unarmed civilians during public demonstrations or enforcement operations. The Ejura killings in 2021, and the reported deaths during the 2020 general elections, exemplify a pattern of impunity.
- **Lack of effective investigations and accountability:** Investigations into unlawful killings or misconduct by security officers are often delayed, opaque, or inconclusive. Victims' families rarely receive justice, and public trust in complaint mechanisms remains low.
- **Militarization of civilian spaces:** Increasing deployment of military personnel for internal security operations—such as election-related activities or public order enforcement—has raised concerns about excessive force and civilian-military tensions.
- **Weak oversight mechanisms:** The PPSB and CHRAJ, while mandated to address complaints against security officers, lack sufficient independence, capacity, or enforcement power. Victims of abuse face fear of reprisals, legal complexity, or lack of access to legal assistance.
- **Impunity and normalization of violence:** The recurrence of both mob justice and excessive force, coupled with lack of deterrence, has contributed to the normalization of violence in public life. Citizens often feel compelled to take the law into their own hands due to a perceived failure of the justice system.

Proposed questions for the List of Issues

1. What measures has the State taken to prevent and punish incidents of mob justice, and what is the prosecution rate for such acts over the past five years?
2. What steps has the government taken to investigate and ensure accountability in high-profile cases involving excessive use of force, such as the Ejura killings and electoral violence?
3. What guidelines govern the use of force by law enforcement during public demonstrations, and how are they monitored for compliance with international standards?
4. What is the mandate and capacity of the Police Professional Standards Bureau, and how many cases of misconduct have it investigated and resolved in recent years?
5. How does the State ensure that military personnel deployed for internal security duties are subject to civilian oversight and legal accountability?
6. What mechanisms exist to provide legal aid, protection, and psychosocial support to victims of police or military violence?

7. What human rights training is provided to security personnel, and how is its effectiveness assessed?
8. What steps are being taken to restore public confidence in state security institutions and promote non-violent dispute resolution at the community level?

J) Abolition of the Death Penalty

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana, under Article 13(1), provides for the right to life but allows for capital punishment in cases of serious crimes such as murder and treason. The Criminal and Other Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29) continues to prescribe the death penalty as a mandatory sentence for specific offenses.

However, Ghana has not carried out any executions since 1993, thus maintaining a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty. This position has been reflected in the country's votes in favor of the UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a global moratorium on executions.

In 2014, president John Mahama commuted 21 death sentences to life imprisonment in commemoration of Ghana's 54th republic day anniversary. However, courts continue to pronounce death sentences. By August 2015, 129 people were under sentence of death but it increased to 184 as of April 2025.

Significantly, in July 2023, Ghana's Parliament passed two landmark bills—the Criminal Offences (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the Armed Forces (Amendment) Act, 2023—which removed the death penalty from ordinary criminal laws, effectively abolishing it for crimes such as murder. Nevertheless, the death penalty remains on the books for certain offenses under the Constitution, including treason, which continues to pose a challenge to full abolition.

Key Concerns

While the 2023 legislative reforms represent an important step toward the protection of the right to life, Ghana has yet to achieve full abolition of the death penalty in law and to ratify international instruments reinforcing this commitment.

- **Retention in constitutional law:** death penalty remains constitutionally enshrined for offenses such as treason and certain military crimes. This constitutional protection prevents full legal abolition unless a constitutional amendment is adopted.
- **Lack of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (OP2):** Ghana has not ratified the ICCPR's Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, which would reinforce the country's commitment under international law.

- **Prisoners on death row:** Despite the moratorium, individuals remain on death row, often for decades, in poor prison conditions. There is limited access to post-conviction review or pardon mechanisms.
- **Limited public awareness and advocacy:** While civil society and Parliament have taken positive steps, broader public education on the reasons for abolition and the human rights dimensions of the issue remains limited.
- **No clear path to constitutional reform:** The absence of a clear timeline or political consensus for amending the Constitution to fully abolish the death penalty raises concerns about the permanence of recent legislative reforms.

Proposed questions for the List of Issues

1. What is the government's plan and timeline for fully abolishing the death penalty, including for offenses such as treason under the Constitution?
2. What steps has the State taken to initiate or support constitutional reform processes that would enable full abolition?
3. How many individuals currently remain on death row, and what is the status of their sentences following the recent legislative reforms?
4. What mechanisms exist for reviewing past death penalty convictions and ensuring fair access to clemency or commutation?
5. What measures are in place to improve the conditions of detention for death row inmates and ensure their humane treatment?
6. Has Ghana taken steps toward ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and what are the obstacles to ratification?
7. What strategies has the government adopted to promote public awareness and national dialogue on the abolition of the death penalty?
8. How does the State ensure that military justice, including offenses punishable by death, complies with human rights standards and procedural safeguards?

K) Special protection measures (witchcraft accusations, social protection, and marginalized populations).

Ghana's 1992 Constitution guarantees equality before the law and affirms the right of every person to dignity, protection from inhuman treatment, and social security. Article 37(6)(b) mandates the State to provide social assistance to the aged, disabled, and other vulnerable persons. Ghana is also a party to several international instruments, including the ICCPR, CEDAW,

and the CRPD, which require States to provide special protection for individuals facing heightened vulnerability.

The government has introduced various policies and programs to support marginalized populations, including the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program and the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Nevertheless, significant protection gaps remain for individuals exposed to harmful traditional practices, social exclusion, and poverty-related vulnerabilities.

Key Concerns

While some institutional progress has been made, numerous vulnerable groups in Ghana continue to face serious human rights violations due to cultural stigma, structural inequality, and weak enforcement of protective laws and services.

- Accusations of witchcraft and related violence: Elderly women, especially widows, continue to be accused of witchcraft in rural communities. Victims are often subjected to public beatings, banishment, and confinement in so-called "witch camps" in Northern Ghana. The lack of legal protections and the failure to prosecute perpetrators perpetuate impunity.
- Inadequate social protection mechanisms: Despite the existence of LEAP and related programs, coverage remains limited, especially in remote areas. Beneficiaries report delays, insufficient cash transfers, and inadequate access to services such as healthcare and education.
- Discrimination against older persons and persons with disabilities: Ageism and ableism remain deeply rooted in many communities. Older persons often lack access to health insurance, care services, and income security, while persons with disabilities face barriers to employment and public services.
- Street-connected populations and destitution: A growing number of elderly persons, persons with mental health conditions, and persons with disabilities live in poverty or on the streets in urban areas. These individuals are often criminalized or neglected by social and health services.
- Limited legal and policy framework: Ghana does not have a comprehensive legal framework to protect the rights of older persons or to criminalize harmful traditional practices such as witchcraft accusations. Efforts to develop such legislation have stalled.
- Insufficient community-based services: Institutional care is limited and often underfunded. There is a lack of community-based protection services, including shelters for abused elderly persons, accessible health care, or social work services in rural areas.

Proposed questions for the List of Issues

1. What legal measures has the State taken to criminalize accusations of witchcraft and protect victims, especially elderly women?

2. What is the current status of legislative or policy efforts to dismantle and reintegrate residents of "witch camps" while ensuring their safety and dignity?
3. How does the State ensure adequate budgetary allocation and geographic coverage for the LEAP and other social protection programs?
4. What strategies are in place to address the needs of older persons, particularly with regard to income security, health services, and protection from abuse?
5. What safeguards exist to prevent and address discrimination against persons with disabilities and ensure equal access to services?
6. What is the government doing to support street-connected and destitute persons, particularly those with mental or physical disabilities?
7. How does the State ensure that community-based services, including shelters, healthcare, and psychosocial support, are accessible to vulnerable populations in both urban and rural settings?
8. What monitoring and accountability mechanisms are in place to evaluate the effectiveness of special protection measures for at-risk populations?