THE UPR PROJECT AT BCU

BIRMINGHAM CITY University

Informal Exchange of Views with European Union Member States ahead of Ghana's UPR, 42nd UPR Session, Human Rights Council

Recommendations by the UPR Project at BCU and AIDER Group (Cited in the OHCHR's Summary of Stakeholders' Submissions as "JS14") (A/HRC/WG.6/42/GHA/3)

Recommendations for EUMS to provide for Ghana's UPR:

Child, Early and Forced Marriage:

- Fully implement the **National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage in Ghana**. This includes regular monitoring and tracking of progress against targets set under the Framework.
- Adopt a **COVID-19 response strategy** that extends beyond health and prioritises the prevention and elimination of CEFM.
- **Empower girls and boys** to be better able to prevent and respond to child marriage.
- Conduct, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, **awareness raising and education programmes** aimed at addressing the negative implications of CEFM and how to effectively address the issue. These should be targeted at community and religious leaders.

Child Sexual Exploitation:

- Ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**
- Generate **more awareness, education and sensitization** on child sexual exploitation among stakeholders and the general public.
- **Strengthen the legal and policy framework** to increase the number of prosecutions on Trokosi and trafficking.
- Increase the penalty for the violation of **Section 314A on Prohibition of Customary Servitude**.
- Focus on the **role of the schools** in preventing sexual exploitation and implement measures accordingly.

Access to Education:

- Consider the inherent dignity of children and enable them to express his or her views in accordance with **Article 12(1) of UNCRC** when enacting legislative and policy provisions in relation to children's right to education.

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- Ensure that its domestic legislation on free education **covers the hidden costs of education**, so that these do not create a barrier to the right to education.
- Implement both **legislative and policy mechanisms** to ensure the non-discriminatory practices of children with disabilities in education.
- Implement legislative mechanisms that will monitor the enforcement of **free and compulsory education at community level**.

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