



## **Parliamentary Seminar on Combating Early and Forced Marriage**

**La Palm Royal Beach Hotel**

**Accra, Ghana**

**March 3-4, 2014**

*With the financial support of*

*Department of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development Canada*

*The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*

### **MONDAY, MARCH 3**

#### ***Adae Kesie Conference Room***

*9:00 – 9:30 a.m.*                      Registration of participants

*9:30 – 10:30 a.m.*                      **Opening Ceremony**

#### **Welcome**

Hon. Irene Naa Torshie Addo, MP  
First Deputy Minority Whip  
Parliament of Ghana

#### **Chair**

Hon. Alban Sumana Bagbin, MP, Nadowli Kaleo  
Parliament of Ghana  
Chair, PGA Ghana National Group

*Short Video on Early and Forced Marriage*

#### **Speakers:**

Ms. Diedrah Kelly  
Charge d' Affaires, Senior Political Counsellor  
High Commission for Canada to the Republic of Ghana

Professor Fred Sai, M.P.H  
Ghana



Parliamentarians for Global Action  
Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios  
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires

Hon. Alfred Asbesi, MP  
Deputy Majority Leader  
Parliament of Ghana

Hon. Dominic Nitiwul  
Deputy Minority Leader  
Parliament of Ghana

**Keynote Address:**

Hon. Ebo Barton Oduro, MP  
First Deputy Speaker  
Parliament of Ghana

*10:30 – 11:00 a.m.*

*Official Photograph and coffee break*

*11:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

**Session 1 – The Ghanaian Case: Assessment of Current Legislation and National Policies on Early and Forced Marriage**

- Gaps and Opportunities

**Moderator:**

Hon. Alban Sumana Bagbin, MP, Nadowli Kaleo  
Parliament of Ghana  
Chair of PGA Ghana National Group

**Speakers:**

Hon. Gifty Kusi, MP, Tarkaw Nsuaem  
Parliament of Ghana

Ms. Angela Dwamena Aboagye  
The Ark Foundation, Ghana

Hon. Gershon Gbediame, MP, Nkwanta South Region  
Parliament of Ghana

Dr. Dorcas Coker-Appiah  
Executive Director, Gender Center  
Ghana

**Discussion**



12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

## **Session 2 – Addressing Root Causes of Early and Forced Marriage**

- Economic realities
- Keeping girls in school
- Addressing social pressure and norms

### **Moderator:**

Hon. Esther Obeng Dapaah, MP Abirem  
Parliament of Ghana

### **Speakers:**

Hon. Dr. Bernadette Lahai, MP  
Parliament of Sierra Leone

Mr. Birima Fall  
Senior Trainer, Community Empowerment Program  
TOSTAN Senegal

Hon. Dr. Susan Chebet, MP  
Parliament of Kenya

### **Discussion**

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

*Lunch at Royal Dragon Restaurant, La Palm Royal Beach Hotel*

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

## **Session 3 – Overcoming Challenges to Improving Maternal and Reproductive Health**

- Increasing quality, information and access to reproductive healthcare
- Best practices, strategies and interventions used by colleagues in other parliaments

### **Moderator:**

Hon. Juliana Azumah Mensah, MP, Agortime Kpetoe  
Parliament of Ghana; Former Minister of Women and Children

### **Speakers:**

Dr. Friday Okonofua  
Program Officer  
The Ford Foundation



Hon. Bernice Heloo Adiku, MP, Hohoe  
Parliament of Ghana

4:30 p.m.

*Seminar adjourns for the day*

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 4**

### ***Adae Kesie Conference Room***

9:00 – 10:45 a.m.

#### **Session 4 - Role of Parliamentarians in Addressing Early Marriage: Legislators, Community leaders and Facilitators of Positive Change**

- Public statements – facilitating abandonment of practice
- Prompting collective dialogue
- Results on FGM case studies – issue closely linked to EFM

#### **Moderator:**

Hon. David Oppon-Kusi, MP  
Parliament of Ghana

#### **Opening Remarks:**

Hon. Nana Oye Lithur  
Minister  
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection  
Ghana

#### **Speakers:**

Hon. Joseph Osei-Owusu, MP  
Parliament of Ghana

Dr. Wale Okediran  
Former MP, Consultant to the Committee on Health  
Senate of Nigeria

Mr. Richard Quayson  
Deputy Commissioner  
Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice  
Ghana



## Discussion

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

*Coffee break*

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

### **Session 5 – Strengthening the Law: Recommendations for Effective Implementation**

- Strengthening birth registration and data collection systems
- Protection of victims and enforcement of sanctions

#### **Moderator:**

Hon. Pindi Chana, MP Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children  
Parliament of Tanzania

#### **Speakers:**

Hon. Jessie Majome, MP  
Parliament of Zimbabwe

Sen. Clarice Jah  
Parliament of Liberia

Hon. George Loh, MP, North Dayi  
Parliament of Ghana

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

*Lunch at Royal Dragon Restaurant, La Palm Royal Beach Hotel*

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

### **Session 6 – Exchanging Best Practices and Effective Tools to Combat Early and Forced Marriage**

- Education, livelihood skills
- Access to healthcare
- Give visibility to communities that have abandoned the practice

#### **Moderator:**

Hon. Moses Anim, MP, Trobo  
Parliament of Ghana

#### **Speakers:**

Ms. Ellen Travers  
Program Officer  
Girls Not Brides



Hon. Afenyo Markins, MP, Effutu  
Parliament of Ghana

Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, MP, Ablekuma West  
Parliament of Ghana

Ms. Johanna Eriksson  
Chief, Child Protection Specialist  
UNICEF Ghana

*3:30 – 4:45 p.m.*

**Discussion and adoption of Statement of Commitment on  
Ending Early and Forced Marriage and  
Closing Ceremony**

**Chair & Closing Remarks:**

Hon. Irene Naa Torshie Addo, MP  
First Deputy Minority Whip  
Parliament of Ghana