



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

## 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



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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**



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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



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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



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## 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



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Hon. Afenyo Markins, MP, Effutu  
Parliament of Ghana

Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekufu, 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