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
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*

11:00 a.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**
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

Adac 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