



Home Office

**Border &  
Immigration Agency**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENTS

# GHANA

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27 DECEMBER 2007

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## 1. Preface

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- i This Country of Origin Information Key Documents (COI Key Documents) on Ghana has been produced by COI Service, Border and Immigration Agency (BIA), for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 27 December 2007.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any BIA opinion or policy.
- iii For BIA users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on *[country]* is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to COI Service as below.

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### ADVISORY PANEL ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

- x The independent Advisory Panel on Country Information was established under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 to make recommendations to the Home Secretary about the content of the BIA's country of origin information material. The Advisory Panel welcomes all feedback on the BIA's COI Key Documents and other country of origin information material. Information about the Panel's work can be found on its website at [www.apci.org.uk](http://www.apci.org.uk)

- xi It is not the function of the Advisory Panel to endorse any BIA material or procedures. In the course of its work, the Advisory Panel directly reviews the content of selected BIA COI documents, but neither the fact that such a review has been undertaken, nor any comments made, should be taken to imply endorsement of the material. Some of the material examined by the Panel relates to countries designated or proposed for designation for the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Panel's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

**Advisory Panel on Country Information****Email:** [apci@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:apci@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**Website:** [www.apci.org.uk](http://www.apci.org.uk)**[Return to Contents](#)**

## 2. Background information about Ghana

**Full Country Name:** The Republic of Ghana

**Area:** 239,537 sq. km

**Population:** 22, 931,299 million (July 2007 est.)

**Capital City:** Accra (population: 1.7 million)

**People:** Ghanaians come from six main ethnic groups: the Akan (Ashanti and Fanti), the Ewe, the Ga-Adangbe, the Mole-Dagbani, the Guan, and the Gurma. Akan (44%), Mole-Dagbani (16%), Ewé (13%), Ga (8%), Guan, Gurma, Gonja, Dagomba (19%). The Ashanti tribe of the Akan are the largest tribe in Ghana and one of the few matrilineal societies in West Africa.

**Languages:** The official language is English. There are around 75 spoken languages and numerous ethnic groups, including the Akan, the Mossi, the Ewe, the Ga-Adangme, the Fante, and the Hausa.

**Religion(s):** 68.8% Christian, (Pentecostal/Charismatic 24.1%, Protestant 18.6%, Catholic 15.1%, other 11%), 15.9% Muslim, 8.5% traditional African religions, 0.7% other, 6.1% none (2000 census)

Ghana has the highest percentage of Christians in West Africa, but the belief in traditional animist religions is still extremely common.

**Life expectancy:** (years at birth): 59.12 (males 58.31; females 59.95 ) (2007est)

**Currency:** Cedi

**Major Political Parties:** New Patriotic Party (NPP), National Democratic Congress (NDC), People's National Convention (PNC), Convention Peoples' Party (CPP).

**Government:** Constitutional democracy

**Head of State:** President John Agyekum Kufuor, Elected 2000 and 2004

**Deputy Head of State:** Aliu Mahama

**Foreign Minister:** Hon Akwasi Osie-Adjei

**Membership of International Groupings/Organisations:** Commonwealth, United Nations (UN), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union (AU). [1a](Europa World), [1b](Europa World), [4a](FCO country profile, 29 October 2007), [7a](BBC News), [36a] (p3)

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### GEOGRAPHY

The Republic of Ghana lies on the west coast of Africa, with Côte d'Ivoire to the west and Togo to the east. It is bordered by Burkina Faso to the north. "A narrow grassy plain stretches inland from the coast, widening in the east. The south and west are covered by dense rain forest. To the north are forested hills, beyond which is dry savannah and open woodland. The Black and White Volta rivers enter Ghana from Burkina Faso and lead to the largest man-made lake in the world, Lake Volta." [1a](Europa World); [4a] (FCO country profile, 29 October 2007) "Volta Lake...extends from the Akosombo Dam in south eastern Ghana to the town of Yapei, 520 kilometers (325mi.) to the north. The lake generates electricity, provides inland transportation, and is a potentially valuable resource for irrigation and fish farming." [2c](USDOS background briefing note, October 2007)

"The climate is tropical, with temperatures generally between 21°C and 32°C (70°–90°F) and average annual rainfall of 2,000 mm (80 ins) on the coast, decreasing inland. English is the official language, but there are 10 major national languages (each with more than 250,000 speakers), the most widely spoken being Akan, Ewe, Mole-Dagomba and Ga. Many of the inhabitants follow traditional beliefs and customs. Christians comprise an estimated 69% of the population." [1a](Europa World)

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## RECENT HISTORY

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile 29 October 2007, notes, "Nkrumah turned Ghana into a one-party state under African Socialism. A celebrated pan-Africanist, he also developed close ties with the Soviet Bloc. He was overthrown in Ghana's first military coup in 1966". [4a]

IRIN country profile notes that, "In 1979, air force lieutenant Jerry Rawlings staged a brutal coup and in an attempt to root out corruption, staged public executions of senior military officials. He introduced a new constitution and handed power to an elected president but within two years he overthrew that government and took charge." [32a]

The FCO country profile notes that "For the next 26 years until 1992, Ghana had only short periods of civilian rule ( 1969-71,1979-81 ) interrupted by longer periods of military rule (1966-69,1972-79, 1981-1991). During the last period of military rule Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings brought in populist policies, and Cuban-style revolutionary institutions, including the CDRs, Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, and People's Defence Committees. However, under pressure internally and from the international community, in 1991 Rawlings conceded a return to constitutional rule and multi-party politics. A new constitution was approved in a referendum in April 1992." [4a]

The FCO country profile continues: "The 1992 constitution introduced an executive presidential system, a 2-term limit to presidential tenure and a 200-member unicameral legislature (since increased to 230 in 2004). Rawlings created his own party, the NDC, out of the former revolutionary structures, and other parties were created or revived. In the subsequent presidential election of November 1992, Rawlings won with 58% of the vote. 4 years later, in 1996, Rawlings again won the Presidency with 57% of the vote but the NDC was reduced to 133 seats." [4a]

The country profile continues, "Rawlings stepped down in 2000 and the current government of President Kufuor, of the opposition NPP, was elected, first in December 2000 (with 57% of second round votes) and again in December 2004 (with 53% of second round votes). In both legislative elections, the NPP won a majority of the seats leaving the NDC with a greatly reduced presence in Parliament." [4a]

IRIN, humanitarian country profile, February 2007 states, "the introduction of the 1993 constitution, which ushered in Ghana's Fourth Republic, was a milestone for democracy in Ghana. It established a democratic system of checks and balances, including an independent judiciary, and an independent human rights commission. Under the law, sovereignty resides with the Ghanaian people and provides for a power-sharing government. The hope is that this will prevent coups, dictatorial rule and a one-party state, as seen in the past. Parliament has 230 seats, and by law more than half the appointed ministers must be taken from elected members of parliament." [32a]

The profile continues, "The constitution, however, still allows for a strong presidency. The president is head of state, head of government and commander in chief of the armed forces and he has the power to veto bills passed before parliament for legislation. The president is limited to two terms in office, and Ghana had its first peaceful transition to a new government in 2000 when the opposing candidate, John Kufuor, won the vote." [32a]

The profile adds, "Opposition parties can operate and express their views freely and won nearly a majority of the seats in parliament in the last elections in 2004. 'Kufuor is in his second term and is not eligible to run in elections in 2008. Analysts see this

second handing-over of government by ballot box as a test of how firmly rooted democratic governance has become in Ghana’.” [32a]

Europa World, accessed 7 November 2007 notes, “In June 1997 Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and Nigeria formed the ‘committee of four’, which was established by ECOWAS [Economic Community Of West African States] to monitor the situation in Sierra Leone, following the staging of a military coup; troops were dispatched to participate in a peace-keeping force. It was reported in February 1998 that Ghana had opposed the use of force by the Nigerian contingent of this peace-keeping unit to overthrow the military government in Sierra Leone. Following the reinstatement of the democratically elected Government in March, ECOMOG units remained in the country and continued to launch attacks against rebel forces, which still retained control of a number of areas. In December 2005 the Ghanaian troops participating in the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) returned to Ghana on the termination of the peace-keeping mission.” [1a](p10)

“In December 2001, violent clashes between members of the Mamprusi and Kusasi ethnic groups in Bawku reportedly resulted in some 50 deaths. A curfew was imposed in the town, and a delegation of ministers and military officials visited the region and announced the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the dispute. ... The state of emergency ended in the majority of districts in October 2003, but remained in place in Tamale municipality and Yendi district until August 2004. Unrest, however, continued during 2005.” [1a](p7)

Europa notes that, “Ghana enjoys a reputation as a peace-keeper in the region and in 2007 was the sixth largest contributor to UN peace-keeping missions world-wide. The Kufuor administration has sought to increase Ghanaian involvement in conflict resolution within west and central Africa. In late 2005 Ghana was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.” [1a](p9)

“In January 2006 the African Peer Review Mechanism, a programme of voluntary assessment organized by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, published its report on Ghana. The report, while commending overall development, criticized endemic corruption and the ongoing civil unrest in the north of the country.” [1a](p10)

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## RECENT EVENTS AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2006 (USSD 2006), published 6 March 2007, noted the following on the political situation in Ghana, “In 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections were held nationwide. John Agyekum Kufuor of the NPP was re-elected with 52.45 percent of the vote. Despite some irregularities, domestic and international observers characterized the elections as generally free and fair. There were reports of a shortage of ballots at some polls and minor problems with the voter register, such as misspelled names or photos not matching names. In the parliamentary elections the NPP won 128 seats; the National Democratic Congress (NDC), 94; the Convention Peoples Party, three; the People’s National Convention (PNC), four; and one independent candidate won a seat.” [2a](p10)

“The country continued its transition from a one-party state to a more established multiparty constitutional system. The political system includes recognized opposition parties, which expressed their views freely within parliament and won a near majority of the parliamentary seats. Registered political parties, including two new parties

registered this year, operated freely within the country; however, opposition parties and persons in private business continued to allege that government contracts were often awarded on the basis of ruling party membership.” [2a] (p10)

The report further notes that “Women held 25 of 230 parliamentary seats, and there were four female ministers, 14 deputy ministers, and three female council of state members out of 112 such positions. Significantly more women presented themselves as candidates in the district assembly elections than in previous elections, and the percentage of female representation in the assemblies increased to 10 percent in 2006 from seven percent in 2002.” [2a](p10)

BBC News on 15 September 2007 reported of the recent severe flooding that has affected several West African countries, stating that Ghana has been hit the hardest. “In the north of the country at least 20 people have died and an estimated 400,000 have been affected. Many of them are now homeless. It is feared that outbreaks of diseases such as cholera are likely due to the contamination of the water supply. The north of the country is relatively poor and most rural homes are built from mud and thatch. The floods have washed away many such homes and they have also destroyed crops and people have lost livestock. The whole country's food supply will be affected.” [7c]

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## ECONOMY

**GDP:** US\$ 12bn (2006 est)

**Annual Growth:** 6.0% (2006 est)

**Inflation:** 10% (2006 est)

**Major Industries:** Cocoa, gold and timber.

**Natural resources:** Gold, timber, diamonds, bauxite, manganese, fish

**Agriculture:** *Products* - cocoa, coconuts, coffee, pineapples, cashews, pepper, other food crops, rubber. *Land* – 70% arable and forested

**Business and industry:** *Types* – mining, lumber, light manufacturing, fishing, aluminium, tourism

**Major trading partners:** The European Union, United States, Nigeria, Togo

**Exchange rate:** 17,411.5 cedis = £1 (December 2004) [2c](USDOS background briefing note, October 2007), [4a](FCO country profile, 29 October 2007)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile, 29 October 2007 noted the following regarding Ghana's economy, “Ghana's economy has always been dependent on a small number of key exports principally gold and cocoa. Gold dominates the mining sector and contributes 30% of foreign exchange earnings. Ghana also produces diamonds, manganese and bauxite. Ghana is also a major cocoa producer. In 2006, with an output of 740,000 tonnes, it has retained its position as the second largest producer in the world, a position it had not held for three decades before 2003. Cocoa production is subject to volatile prices and the vagaries of the weather. This makes the economy vulnerable. Since 2001 the Kufuor administration has achieved some success in stabilising the macro economy, helped initially by high gold and cocoa prices, through the introduction of tighter monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies. As Ghana's economy continues steady growth, power supply is an increasing problem. A large amount of remittances come in from Ghana's extensive diaspora, much of which is invested in the booming property sector in the main cities. Ghana is trying to diversify its sources of external funding, including in the successful international commercial bond issue in September this year.” [4a]

The report stated further, "Ghana's current IMF agreed 3 year Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) finished in October 2006. Loans attached to it amounted to around US\$258 million. The Government has started its intention to sign up to the IMF's policy support instrument and implement its own growth and poverty reduction strategy. In July 2004 Ghana reached Heavily Indebted Poor Countries HIPC completion point. Ghana's debt has been massively reduced as a result of this." [4a]

Ghanaweb reported on 15 September 2007 that Ghana changed its currency denomination on 3 July 2007 and that the transition was smooth. "The exercise which was announced in December 2006 is aimed at eliminating the hazard and inconvenience in carrying large sums of currency notes for business transactions. Four zeros were pruned from the old denominations. The new currency notes are in five denominations: One, Five, Ten, Twenty and Fifty Cedi notes and five coin denominations of one, five, ten, twenty and fifty pesewas. Under the new denominations, the old ten thousand Cedi becomes the new One Ghana Cedi which means that the new ten Cedi notes can pay for the equivalent of the old one hundred thousand Cedis while the new Fifty Cedi note is equivalent to the old Five Hundred Thousand Cedis. The one new pesewa coin is equal to the old one hundred cedi while the new Fifty pesewa coin represents the old Five Thousand Cedi note." The old notes will no longer be legal tender after December 31, 2007. [3b]

BBC News reported on 18 June 2007 of the discovery of oil by a UK oil company in Ghana. "UK firm Tullow Oil has announced the discovery of 600 million barrels of light oil offshore from Ghana. Reserves in the Mahogany exploration well were far greater than the 250 million barrels than the firm had earlier forecast, it said. Tullow - which saw its shares rise 10% on the news - jointly owns the West Cape block where the drilling took place with Anadarko Petroleum. It was one of the biggest oil finds in Africa in recent times, Tullow said." [7d]

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## HUMAN RIGHTS

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Country Profile, 29 October 2007 stated the following regarding human rights in Ghana, "The Rawlings military regime of the 1980s saw significant human rights abuses. President Kufour's government set up a National Reconciliation Commission in 2002 to hear cases of human rights abuses during the years of military rule. It heard 4000 petitions. It reported in 2004. The human rights situation has been transformed for the better since the return to constitutional rule. Currently, Ghana's record is good. There is an independent judiciary and free and active press. The death sentence remains on the statute books." [4a]

IRIN humanitarian country profile, February 2007 notes that "Ghana has a Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), established through the last constitution. Its independence is guaranteed and it is not subject to the control of any government department or person." [32a]

The profile further notes "According to the CHRAJ, the human rights situation in Ghana has improved since the 1980s, but problems remain in several areas. Among other things, police and municipal security forces continue to use excessive force, prison conditions remain harsh, and the government continues to pressure the independent media." [32a]

In the same profile IRIN states, "In 2000, newly elected President John Kufuor faced widespread demands for the government to address past human-rights abuses, particularly during the military rule of Jerry Rawlings, including religious persecution, arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial killings and the disappearance of 200 people. But the 1992 Constitution had indemnified all military personnel against judicial scrutiny, making it impossible for convictions to be handed down. Despite this legal protection of the old regime, the new regime put in place the National Reconciliation Commission to compile an accurate historical record of past human rights violations by providing a forum for victims to tell their stories." [32a]

The profile continues, "Many of the 2,000-plus testimonies spoke of summary executions, 'disappearances', torture, arbitrary imprisonment, confiscation of property and ill-treatment. The commission made recommendations for reparations to be paid to victims. Individual payments began in October 2006 and range from about \$217 to \$3,300 depending on the extent of abuse or violations, according to the attorney-general's office, and total payments will add up to \$1.5 million." [32a]

The US State Department Report on Human Rights Practices 2006 (USSD 2006), published 6 March 2007 stated that: "The government generally respected human rights and made significant improvements during the year; however, there were problems in several areas, including incidents of vigilante justice. Human rights problems included deaths resulting from the excessive use of force by police; vigilante justice; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; police corruption and impunity; arbitrary arrest and detention; prolonged pretrial detention; infringement on citizens' privacy rights; forcible dispersal of demonstrations; forced evictions; corruption in all branches of government; violence against women and children; female genital mutilation (FGM); societal discrimination against women, persons with disabilities, homosexuals, and persons with HIV/AIDS; trafficking in women and children; ethnic discrimination and politically and ethnically motivated violence; and child labor, including forced child labor." [2a]

Amnesty International reported in its 2007 annual report that: "Violence and discrimination against women remained prevalent. Women continued to be victims of domestic violence and female genital mutilation, forced evictions and internal displacement, particularly of marginalized people, continued to occur. Despite statements by government officials that the death penalty should be abolished, no concrete steps were taken towards abolition and death sentences continued to be handed down albeit no executions were carried out." [10c]

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## WOMEN

Freedom House, in their country report 'Freedom in the World, Ghana (2007)' noted: "Despite their equal rights under the law, Ghanaian women suffer societal discrimination that is particularly serious in rural areas, where opportunities for education and wage employment are limited. Women's enrolment [sic] in universities, however, is increasing, and more girls than boys enrolled in primary and secondary education throughout the country in 2005." [23a](p6)

### PRISON CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN

The report states, regarding women in prison, "In certain facilities female prisoners in police cells were separated from male prisoners by only a few feet. In the Accra Central

Police cells, female prisoners were kept in a small vestibule, separated from men by only a gate.” [2a](p3)

“The law stipulates that female convicts be tested for pregnancy upon incarceration, regardless of the offense [sic], and that pregnant convicts be held in a facility where their health needs can be met. A non-governmental organization (NGO) that worked with prisoners reported that many female convicts were not tested unless they began to show signs of pregnancy. In September the Minister for Women and Children’s Affairs called on judges to avoid giving custodial sentences to pregnant women and proposed alternative sentences such as community work, suspended sentences, probation, and fines.” [2a](p3)

### **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)**

The same report notes that “The law prohibits FGM, but it remained a serious problem in the northern regions of the country. Type II FGM was more commonly performed than any other type. The typical age at which a girl was excised was 15, although it was often performed on younger girls. According to a 2005 study conducted by the Ministry of Health, approximately 15 percent of women between 12 and 19 in the three northern regions had undergone FGM, although some observers believed that NGO- and government-sponsored awareness campaigns regarding the illegality of FGM had driven the practice underground and that the real rate in these regions was as high as 30 percent. Such intervention programs have been somewhat successful in reducing the prevalence, although it was difficult to estimate their effectiveness precisely.” [2a] (p13)

A report by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) on 12 October 2006 regarding the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) and state protection available to those being targeted (2004 - 2006) recorded the following: “According to Ghana Homepage, a Ghanaian online information service (Ghana Homepage n.d.), a 1994 amendment to the Criminal Code, 1960 prohibits the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Ghana (20 May 2006). More specifically, Section 69A states that FGM is illegal and carries a minimum sentence of three years imprisonment (Ghana 12 Jan. 1961, Sec. 69A; see also Freedom House July 2005). However, the practice of FGM still occurs in Ghana (where genital mutilation is still performed with the tacit approval of the community) (Mail and Guardian 20 Aug. 2004).” The report added that “There was no available information of state protection to those being targeted for FGM “however, IRIN reports that FGM is still practiced in northern Ghana and that few prosecutions of FGM occur (5 Sept. 2006).” [35a]

Female genital mutilation was made illegal in Ghana in 1994, and those who perform the operation face a prison sentence of at least three years. In October 2006, Parliament began debating an amendment to the 1994 law that would extend its reach to relatives or guardians who give their consent for the procedure to be performed.” [23a](p6)

### **FORCED MARRIAGE**

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) also reported on 24 October 2006, regarding forced marriages and the prevalence of such marriages, whether a woman can refuse such a marriage and the consequences of the refusal, and also available state protection and redress during 2004 – 2006. “The Criminal Code, 1960 of Ghana, last amended in 2003, states that forcing a person to marry against their will is illegal (Ghana 12 Jan. 1961, Sec. 109) and the Children's Act of Ghana, 1998

stipulates that forced child marriage is also illegal (30 Dec. 1998, Sec. 14 and 15). Womankind, a United Kingdom-based organization promoting the advancement of women's rights, indicates that, even though legislation prohibiting forced marriages exists in Ghana, there has been little action to eliminate such practices (n.d.). Similarly, the Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child states that even though such laws exist, they are not enforced (May 2005).” [35b]

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The USSD 2006 report notes, regarding violence against women, “Violence against women, including rape and domestic violence, remained a significant problem. The law does not prohibit domestic violence, and the criminal code grants husbands ‘spousal immunity’ from any charges of assault against their wives. According to FIDA, one in three women experienced domestic violence, and most abuses went unreported.” [2a] (p12)

Freedom House states “Domestic violence against women is said to be common but often goes unreported. A domestic violence bill was debated in Parliament in 2006 but has yet to be passed. In the course of the debate, a provision that protects against marital rape was removed. A member of the National African Peer Review Mechanism Governing Council argued that the bill would be discriminatory if it were to pass without the provision because it would provide more protection for those experiencing extramarital sexual violence than those subject to sexual exploitation by their spouses.” [23a](p6)

### TRAFFICKING

The U.S. Department of State 2007 Trafficking in persons report on Ghana, published on 12 June 2007 stated that: “Ghana is a source, transit and destination country for children and women trafficked for the purposes of forced labor [sic] and commercial sexual exploitation. Trafficking within the country is more prevalent than transnational trafficking and the majority of victims are children. Both boys and girls are trafficked within Ghana for forced labor [sic] in the fishing industry, agriculture, mines, quarries, and as porters, street hawkers and truck pushers. Girls are also trafficked within Ghana for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Children are also trafficked to and from other West African countries, most notably Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, and The Gambia, to work as farm workers, laborers [sic], divers, street hawkers, or domestics. Women and girls are trafficked for sexual exploitation from Ghana to Western Europe, from Nigeria through Ghana to Western Europe, and from Burkina Faso through Ghana to Cote d'Ivoire.” [2d]

“The Government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking; but it is making significant efforts to do so, despite its limited resources. To improve its response to trafficking, Ghana should: strengthen law enforcement efforts against traffickers; increase efforts to provide assistance to victims; ensuring in particular that foreign victims rescued at Ghana's borders are not turned away without assistance; establish the Human Trafficking Board and Fund mandated by its 2005 anti-trafficking law; and adopt its national action plan to combat trafficking.” [2d]

The report added that: “In 2005, Ghana passed a human trafficking bill, and has since taken steps to discourage the trafficking of children by increasing the registration of infants at birth and extending microloans to over 1,000 mothers whose poverty might

otherwise force them to sell their children. The government has not yet prosecuted anyone under the new law.” [23a](p6)

## LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS

“Ghana’s criminal code, in sexual offences article 105, states that ‘whoever is guilty of unnatural carnal knowledge - (a) of any person without his consent, is guilty of first degree felony; or (b) of any person with his consent, or of any animal, is guilty of a misdemeanour.’ This law, a relic of repressive British sodomy laws, groups homosexuality with bestiality, assault and rape, and brings a minimum misdemeanor [sic] charge for gay activity.” [12a] (Sodomy Laws, accessed 14 March 2007)

BBC News, 14 March 2007 reported on the current situation regarding homosexuality. “In deeply religious Ghana, homosexuality is seen as an imported foreign lifestyle choice and a moral aberration.” [25a]

A proposed gay and lesbian conference was banned last year. On 1 September 2006 BBC News reported “Ghana’s government has banned a conference for gay men and lesbians due to take place there later this month.” Information Minister Kwamena Bartels said “As homosexuality was illegal in Ghana the gathering was not permitted.” [25b], (BBC News, accessed 22 March 2007)

“In a statement banning the conference, Minister Kwamena Bartels said, ‘Ghanaians are unique people whose culture, morality and heritage totally abhor homosexual and lesbian practices and indeed any other form of unnatural sexual acts.’ The ‘Government does not condone any such activity which violently offends the culture, morality and heritage of the entire people of Ghana,’ he said.” [25a](BBC News, accessed 14 March 2007)

Ghana Today reported an article on 17 July 2007 regarding the intolerance of homosexuality within the church. “An executive member of the Orthodox Anglican Church, Ghana, Mr. Willie Halms has stated that the church does not believe in the enthronement of gays and lesbians as bishops of the Anglican Church because they do not subscribe to the gay culture and lesbianism. He said they equally did not support the enthronement of women as bishops of the church because it had no biblical basis. Speaking at a news conference to announce the intended visit of the head of the Orthodox Anglican Church, The Most Rev. Dr. Scott Earl McLaughlin to the country this month, Mr. Halm said the enthronement of gay bishops and women had no links to the great book, the bible. He noted that if God who created the earth wanted man to have sex with his colleague man, he would not have created Eve for Adam to marry.” [39a] Mr Halms was also reported as being critical of same sex marriage, and the consecration of women bishops. [39a] (Ghana Today, accessed 21 November 2007)

### 3. Index to key source documents

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| <b>KEY FACTS AND GEOGRAPHY</b> | <b>[1a]</b>  | Europa World Online: Ghana, Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital (accessed on 7 November 2007)<br><a href="http://www.europaworld.com/entry/gh.is.1">http://www.europaworld.com/entry/gh.is.1</a>   |
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