May 2010

Refugee Documentation Centre

Country Information Package

GHANA

Disclaimer

Country Information Packs (CIPs) are prepared by researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. CIPs contain a selection of representative links to sources under a number of categories for use as Country of Origin Information. Please note that CIPs are not, and do not purport to be, exhaustive with regard to conditions in the countries surveyed or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or protection. The General Human Rights Reports category contains links to information which may be useful for a number of the other categories.

List of Documents

1. Nationality/Citizenship/Residency

Embassy of Ghana in Japan (undated) *Ghana – Dual Citizenship* <u>http://www.ghanaembassy.or.jp/visa/dual.html</u>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2 October 2003) *Ghana:* Update to GHA29191.E of 15 May 1998 on the right to Ghanaian citizenship for a person born in Ghana to a Ghanaian mother and foreign father, who has lived most of her/his life in Ghana, but who has always held the father's citizenship GHA41972.E http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/403dd1f38.html

The Parliament of Ghana (9 February 2007) *The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana* http://www.parliament.gh/book/export/html/60

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (7 January 1993) Constitution of the Republic of Ghana http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/198474_en.html

United States Office of Personnel Management (March 2001) *Citizenship Laws of the World* <u>http://www.opm.gov/EXTRA/INVESTIGATE/is-01.PDF</u>

2. Maps

Relief Web (2 March 2006) Reference Map of Ghana (Government of France) http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/AHAA-6MHNMA?OpenDocument

UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Cartographic Section (February 2005) Ghana http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/ghana.pdf

3. Local Information/Language/ Culture/Customs

Africa Guide (undated) Ghana: People and Culture http://www.africaguide.com/country/ghana/culture.htm

BBC News (9 February 2010) Country Profile Ghana http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1023355.stm

CIA (26 April 2010) The World Factbook: Ghana https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-worldfactbook/geos/gh.html

Ethnologue, Languages of The World (2005) Languages of Ghana http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=GH

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (27 May 2005) Ghana: The Asona clan, including languages, geographical locations and whether men are forced to marry their uncle's daughter, age of marriage, reasons for marriage, consequences of refusal and state protection available (2003-2005) GHA100109.E http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/42df60ed2.html

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (14 September 2004) Ghana: The existence in the region of Ashanti of two different towns with the same name Kokofu; If so, names of the chiefs in both towns and the authority they report to (1994-September 2004) GHA42972.E http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/42df60ed20.html

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (12 January 2010) Q11451 -What procedures are in place to prevent violent deaths arising from chieftaincy disputes? How does the state protect citizens involved in chieftaincy disputes?

http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q11451

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (12 January 2010) Q11453 -Are there any records of a person being tortured/killed where they refuse to take up the stool/chieftaincy of a tribe in Ghana? http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q11453

United States Library of Congress (4 October 2005) *Portals to the World – Ghana: Culture* <u>http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/amed/ghana/resources/ghana-culture.html</u>

4. General Human Rights Reports

Amnesty International (28 May 2009) *Report 2009: Ghana* http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/africa/ghanal

Freedom House (16 July 2009) *Freedom in the World 2009: Ghana* <u>http://freedomhouse.org/inc/content/pubs/fiw/inc_country_detail.cfm?ye</u> <u>ar=2009&country=7614&pf</u>

International Committee of the Red Cross (27 May 2009) *Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire: "Annual Report 2008* <u>http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/annual-report-2008-abidjan/\$File/icrc ar 08 abidjan.pdf</u>

United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *Ghana: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – 2009* <u>http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/af/135956.htm</u>

5. Conflict/Security

Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (July 2009) Voice of Reason: A Ghanaian Practice-Based Vision of Peace building

http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk/pubs/workingpaper68.pdf

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (28 April 2004) *Ghana: The Ghanaian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), including the length of tour of duty in Lebanon and where it is stationed while in Ghana (1997-April 2004) GHA42596.E* http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/41501c0ae.html

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (20 April 2004) *Ghana: Military service, including sanctions for deserting the army (April 2004) GHA42595.E*

http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/41501c092a.html

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (24 September 2008) Q08483 Ghana: Information on a chieftaincy dispute in 2007/2008 between Angola and Keta/Francis Abodo and Raymond in the Volta region.

http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q08483

United States Department of State (30 April 2009) *Country Reports on Terrorism 2008: Ghana* http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2008/122412.htm

6. Minority/Ethnic Groups

Behind the Mask (undated) *Ghana* http://www.mask.org.za/index.php?page=ghana

Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity *Citizens and Subjects: Democratisation* (October 2008) *and Ethnic Identity in Rural Ghana* http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk/pubs/workingpaper59.pdf

Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (October 2007) *Ethnicity, Religion and the State in Ghana and Nigeria: Perceptions from the Street* <u>http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk/pubs/workingpaper34.pdf</u>

Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (February 2007) *The Overwhelming Minority: Traditional Leadership and Ethnic Conflict in Ghana's Northern Region* <u>http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk/pubs/workingpaper30.pdf</u>

Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (February 2007) *The Peaceful Management of Horizontal Inequalities in Ghana*

http://www.crise.ox.ac.uk/pubs/workingpaper25.pdf

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2 October 2006) Ghana: Treatment of homosexuals by society and authorities and availability of state protection; names and activities of groups or associations promoting homosexual rights GHA101616.E http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f1473820.html

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (27 May 2005) *Ghana: The* Asona clan, including languages, geographical locations and whether men are forced to marry their uncle's daughter, age of marriage, reasons for marriage, consequences of refusal and state protection available (2003-2005) GHA100109.E http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/42df60ed2.html

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (May 2009) *State-sponsored Homophobia - A world survey of laws prohibiting same sex activity between consenting adults* <u>http://ilga.org/Statehomophobia/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia</u> <u>2009.pdf</u>

Minority Rights Group International (16 July 2009) Annual Report

http://www.minorityrights.org/download.php?id=663

Minority Rights Group International (undated) *World Directory of Minorities – Ghana Overview* <u>http://www.minorityrights.org/4159/ghana/ghana-overview.html</u>

7. Religion/Cults

Immigration and Refugee Board (11 October 2006) *Ghana: Presence* of cults or sects and consequences for refusing to join a cult; government attitude or response towards cults and/or any abuses committed by sect members (2004 - 2006) GHA101612.E http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f1473811.html

Immigration and Refugee Board (20 July 2004) Ghana: The distinction between a fetish priest and chief/chieftain, especially regarding which is more privileged in the community; likelihood of physical punishment or reprisals for refusing to accept the position of fetish priest GHA42842.E

http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/41501c097.html

ModernGhana.com (20 January 2009) *Juju hits Parliament* http://www.modernghana.com/news/199171/1/juju-hits-parliament.html

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (26 February 2010) *Q11732* Information on the extent of the practice of Trokosi in Ghana http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q11732

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (21 January 2009) *Q09168 Ghana: Information on the prevalence of belief in juju/black magic* <u>http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q09168</u>

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (2 October 2008) *Q08561* Information on those who are forced to become Fetish Priests <u>http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q08561</u>

United States Department of State (26 October 2009) International Religious Freedom Report 2009 - Ghana http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127235.htm

8. Political

Amnesty International (8 January 2009) *Ghana's new President must commit to human rights* <u>http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/ghanas-new-president-must-commit-human-rights-20090108</u> Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (23 October 2006) *Ghana: Treatment of political dissidents or members of the opposition and their family members (2004 - 2006) GHA101615.E* <u>http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f1473711.html</u>

9. State Protection

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (26 February 2010) Q11733 Information on the availability of state protection in Ghana http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q11733

10. Government/Civil Society

The Economist (17 December 2008) *Ghana* <u>http://www.economist.com/research/backgrounders/displaybackground</u> <u>er.cfm?bg=997832</u>

Government of Ghana Official Website (undated) *Government of Ghana* http://www.ghana.gov.gh/

International Trade Union Confederation (28 January 2008) Core labour standards violations in Ghana identified in new ITUC report http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?article1772

Konrad Adenauer Foundation (November 2006) *Political Parties and Political Participation in Ghana* <u>http://www.kas.de/db_files/dokumente/7_dokument_dok_pdf_9821_2.p</u> <u>df</u>

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (undated) Ghana - Country Profile http://www.usaid.gov/locations/subsaharan_africa/countries/ghana/ghana_profile.pdf

United States Social Security Administration (August 2009) *Social Security Programs Throughout the World – Ghana* <u>http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2008-</u> 2009/africa/ghana.pdf

The World Bank (March 2009) *Country Brief - Ghana* http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAE XT/GHANAEXTN/0,,menuPK:351962~pagePK:141132~piPK:141107~t heSitePK:351952,00.html

11. Press/Media/Freedom of Expression

Committee to Protect Journalists (10 February 2009) Attacks on the Press in 2008: Africa Developments http://cpj.org/2009/02/attacks-on-the-press-in-2008-africadevelopments.php#gha

Freedom House (1 May 2009) Freedom of the Press 2009 - Ghana http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4b27421328.html

International Press Institute (2007) World Press Freedom Review -Ghana http://www.freemedia.at/index.php?id=336&tx ttnews[pointer]=2&tx ttn ews[tt_news]=3847&tx_ttnews[backPid]=336&cHash=f38b50043f

12. Women/Children/Family

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (2008) Child Soldiers Global Report 2008 - Ghana http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/content/ghana

Danish Immigration Service (17 June 2008) Protection of victims of trafficking in Ghana http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/EB5BAEDA-0D96-46C2-B2D2-E48BA8911B2C/0/Ghanaffrapport2008.pdf

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (24 October 2006) Ghana: Forced marriages; prevalence of such marriages; whether a woman can refuse such a marriage, and the consequences of the refusal; available state protection and redress (2004 - 2006) GHA101618.E http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f1473720.html

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (12 October 2006) Ghana: Practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) and state protection available to those being targeted (2004 - 2006) GHA101617.E http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147382.html

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (12 July 2006) Ghana: Widowhood rites performed by the Akan people, particularly for chiefs and sub-chiefs; whether the widow has to marry the customary successor of the sub-chief and consequences for refusal (2004 - 2006) GHA101539.E

http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147352f.html

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (6 April 2006) Ghana: Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DOVVISU), formerly the Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU), established by the Ghanaian police and whether it provides protection to women in Ghana (March 2006) GHA101146.E

http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147367.html

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (25 February 2004) Ghana: Update to GHA35667.E of 6 November 2000 on the treatment of women, including domestic violence, forced or arranged marriages, and divorce procedures; state protection available to victims; nongovernmental organizations that assist women (2001-February 2004) GHA42417.FE

http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/41501c0a15.html

LandInfo (12 January 2009) Female genital mutilation of women in West Africa http://www.landinfo.no/asset/768/1/768 1.pdf

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (10 March 2010) Q11810 -Information on available state protection against spousal abuse http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q11810

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) (undated) At a glance: Ghana http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/ghana.html

UNHCR (16 July 2007) UN Expert on violence against women concludes visit to Ghana http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/huricane.nsf/view01/97ABF06C87190A AFC125731A002D2417?opendocument

UNHCR (28 October 2003) Juvenile Justice Act http://www.ecoi.net/file upload/1504 1217426917 juvenile-justiceact.pdf

UN Human Rights Council (21 February 2008) Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ertürk, Yakin

http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/47ce68652.pdf

UN Population Fund (UNFPA) (20 November 2007) To Serve and Protect: Police Scale Up Violence Unit to Prevent Abuse of Women and Children in Ghana http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=946&Language=1

United States Department of State (27 August 2008) 2007 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor - Ghana http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,,,GHA,,48caa472c,0.html

United States Department of State (16 June 2009) Trafficking in Persons Report 2009 - Ghana http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/123362.pdf

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (3 July 2008) Q07830 Ghana: Information on problems faced by women who have worked in Ghana in Prostitution. Information on lack of access to police protection in Ghana

http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q07830

13. Prison/Detention/Torture/Slavery

Amnesty International (1 May 2008) *Ghana: What's happening in the prisons?* [AFR 28/002/2008] <u>http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR28/002/2008/en/66f0e6ea-1835-11dd-92b4-6b0c2ef9d02f/afr280022008eng.pdf</u>

IRIN News (18 September 2008) Victims of military abuses to prosecute officers http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=80473

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (4 September 2008) *Q08297 Ghana: The practice of 'Trokosi' in terms of women. How widespread is it? What are the factors that results in this practice? What age are women recruited for it? Is it linked to any particular religion or tribal groupings? Has it links with similar practices in other West African countries such as the Benin Republic? Are women forced to join this? Can women leave if they wish to? Are there laws against this practice? Do the police take actions against this practice? Are there NGOs involved in this area and do they help women who don't wish to get involved in this practice? Can women freely move from one part of Ghana to another? Would they have problems moving? Does the Ghana Human Rights Commission have a policy on this area?* <u>http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q08297</u>

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (11 January 2008) Q06691 Ghana: General reports re corruption, misconduct of police, regarding treatment of suspects. Particularly with reference to reports of female suspects/detainees being raped in detention http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q06691

14. Crime/Corruption

Freedom House (6 April 2010) *Countries at the crossroads* <u>http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4be3c8b00.pdf</u>

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (2 October 2006) *Ghana: Reports of corruption and bribery inside the police force; procedure followed to file a complaint and recourse available; the state's attitude toward police corruption and how police handle personal feuds GHA101614.E*

http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/45f147382f.html

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (5 March 2009) Q09402 Ghana: Information on police corruption http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q09402

15. Education

Digital Learning (8 April 2008) *Access, Quality and Equity - Ghana's Education Triumvirate* Asamoah-Duodu, Agnes <u>http://www.digitallearning.in/interview/interview-details.asp?interviewid=396</u>

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (3 July 2008) Q07831 Ghana: Lack of access to education and health facilities in Ghana http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q07831

World Bank Information for Development Programme (*info*Dev) (April 2007) *ICT in Education in Ghana* Mangesi, Kofi) <u>www.infodev.org/en/Document.406.aspx</u>

16. Health

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (July 2008) *Q07889 Ghana:* Information relating to access (or lack of) to healthcare, education, general welfare and development for children in Ghana. <u>http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q07889</u>

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) (undated) At a glance: Ghana <u>http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/ghana.html</u>

UN General Assembly (January 2008) National report on the progress of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) declaration of commitment on HIV and AIDS http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1329_1212587054_ghana-2008country-progress-report-en.pdf

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (29 September 2009) An Evaluation of the Effects of the National Health Insurance Scheme in Ghana <u>http://www.healthsystems2020.org/files/2361_file_Ghana_NHIS_Evalu</u> ation_Tech_Report_FIN.pdf

United States Library of Congress (undated) *Ghana – Healthcare* <u>http://countrystudies.us/ghana/55.htm</u>

World Health Organization (21 August 2008) *Ghana holds first national training of trainers on strengthening essential newborn care* http://www.who.int/countries/gha/news/2008/essential_newborn_care/en/index.html World Health Organization (July 2008) *Epidemiological Fact Sheet on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections* <u>http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1329_1217860194_efs2008-gh.pdf</u>

World Health Organization (October 2007) Very Progressive Mental Health Law; Country Summary Series: Ghana http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/242_1202911252_2008-02-13ghanacoutrysummary-oct2007.pdf

17. Asylum Seekers/Refugees/IDPs

Country of Return Information Project (August 2007) *Country Sheet; Ghana* <u>http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1197539553_ghana-cri.pdf</u>

Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland (3 July 2008) Q07829 Ghana: Information on problems faced by failed asylum seekers upon return to Ghana. Problems faced by single women upon return to Ghana

http://newlib.lab.ie/uhtbin/hyperion.exe/Q07829

United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (17 June 2010) World Refugee Survey 2009 – Ghana <u>http://www.refugees.org/countryreports.aspx?___VIEWSTATE=dDwtOT</u> <u>MxNDcwOTk7O2w8Q291bnRyeUREOkdvQnV0dG9uOz4%2BUwqzZx</u> <u>IYLI0SfZCZue2XtA0UFEQ%3D&cid=2328&subm=&ssm=&map=&sear</u> <u>chtext=&CountryDD%3ALocationList</u>=