



14. **The Committee requests the State party to include in its Constitution, or in its gender equality law, which is currently being drafted, a definition of discrimination in line with article 1 of the Convention, encompassing both direct and indirect discrimination. It also urges the State party to adopt appropriate legislation for the implementation of each of the provisions of the Convention. The Committee also calls on the State party to ensure that the provisions of the Convention and related domestic legislation are made an integral part of legal education and the training of judicial officers, including judges, lawyers and prosecutors.**

15. The Committee is concerned that, although women's access to justice is provided for by the law, women's ability in practice to exercise this right and to

women's participation in decision-making positions in political and public life and other areas .

21. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of a patriarchal ideology with firmly entrenched stereotypes and the persistence of deep-rooted cultural norms, customs and traditions, including widowhood rites, female genital mutilation, and "Trokosi" (ritual slavery), which discriminates against women and constitute serious obstacles to women's enjoyment of their human rights. The Committee is also concerned about the persistence of the belief in witchcraft in some parts of the country, in particular in rural areas, and the fact that women accused of being witches are subjected to violence and are confined in witch camps.

22. **The Committee urges the State party to introduce, without delay and in full, the following measures:**

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31. The Committee expresses concern about the lack of access of women to adequate health-care services, including prenatal and post-natal. The Committee is concerned that women may lack access to health-care services owing to, among

electricity, land, and income-generating projects, and that the Women's Development Fund is made accessible to the most vulnerable women, including women of various ethnic groups. The Committee further recommends that traditional leaders be made aware that, in their mediation of conflicts in the rural areas, they must include a gender perspective and a perspective that is supportive of the various ethnic groups. The Committee recommends that the State party monitor the implementation of Ghana'

Goals. It calls for the integration of a gender perspective and explicit reflection of the provisions of the Convention in all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report.

43. The Committee notes that States' adherence to the seven major international human rights instruments¹ enhances the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects of life. The Committee commends the State party for having ratified the seven major international human rights instruments.

44. The Committee requests the wide dissemination in Ghana of the present concluding comments in order to make the people, including government officials, politicians, parliamentarians and women's and human rights organizations, aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure de jure and de facto equality of women, as well as the further steps that are required in that regard. The Committee requests the State party to continue to disseminate widely, in particular to women's and human rights organizations, the Convention, its Optional Protocol, the Committee's general recommendations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

45. The Committee requests the State party to respond to the concerns expressed in the present concluding comments in its next periodic report under article 18 of the Convention. The Committee invites the State party to submit

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