ANNUAL REPORT
2017
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The Human Rights Advocacy centre had the opportunity to contribute to improving the health of its constituents in the year 2017. We focused on improving access to health care for key and vulnerable populations in two projects, “Improving access to LBGT rights and health care in selected regions of Ghana – Part II” and “HIV/AIDS Prevention Project Targeting Key and Vulnerable Population along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor”; while also improving the sexual and reproductive health right landscape in Ghana through the project “Improving Civil Society advocacy and Inclusion in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Decision Making Processes in Ghana”. The projects on the LBGT rights and health care in selected regions and the sexual reproductive health rights were completed as scheduled while the project along the Abidjan Lagos Corridor entered its second year.

In the course of the year, the HRAC led STAR-Coalition (HRAC and MindFreedom Ghana) secured funding from STAR-Ghana to implement the project, “Promoting quality access to mental health care and rights of persons with mental disabilities in traditional mental health centres in Ghana.” We also secured a contract with ORBIS Africa as part of a project to promote eye care for children in Kumasi, Ghana.

Considering the major role that community level engagement plays in empowering the ordinary Ghanaian, the year witnessed an outreach for commercial vehicle drivers as part of our Human Rights Clinic’s programme. We also provided legal services to the poor and vulnerable as our contribution to leaving no one behind in the quest for justice. We provided legal services to a total of sixty-three (63) persons on various issues including child maintenance and labour.

In October 2017, the Board of HRAC appointed Ms Cynthia Nimo-Ampredu as the substantive Executive Director. Ms Nimo-Ampredu took over from Ms Philomina Ahiable the then Acting Executive Director. By the close of the year, the Centre’s Internship Programme had provided internship opportunities to twenty-five (25) interns/volunteers (twenty international and five locals) and service placement opportunities for fifteen (15) national service personnel. On a sad note, we recorded a separation from one of our enthusiastic staff, Mr Samuel Azumah Nelson and the demise of our beloved colleague Amanda Tetteh. May her beautiful soul rest in peace!

Cynthia Nimo-Ampredu
Executive Director
About us

The Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) is a not-for-profit, independent, non-partisan, research and advocacy organization set up to advance and protect human rights in Ghana. Established in 2008, HRAC is an organization situated in the Greater Accra region that operates across Ghana.

As its core objectives, the Centre educates and creates awareness about human rights, conducts human rights advocacy and research, protects and promotes women and children’s rights and advocate good governance, accountability and transparency on key policies in the country.

Other objectives are to promote and advocate reproductive health rights, initiate and support public interest litigation; monitor and advocate for democratic policing; to advocate for the rights of prisoners; to monitor and evaluate government’s compliance with international, regional and national human rights standards; and training for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Security human rights Agencies and Civil Society Organisations.

Mission Statement

HRAC’s mission is to ensure the realisation, respect, promotion and protection of the rights of all persons living in Ghana in accordance with Ghanaian law and international standards and to increase human rights awareness and the adoption of a sustainable human rights culture by public officers in Ghana, thereby enhancing democracy, good governance and accountability.

Vision

HRAC envisions a Ghana where human rights of all Ghanaians are protected, promoted and respected, thereby enabling them to actively participate in nation building.

Goal

To become an international NGO with local relevance with focus on effectively addressing prevailing human rights issues with the best skills and expertise available to make human rights a reality.
HRAC STAFF

Cynthia Nimo - Ampredu
Executive Director

George Owuo
Programmes Manager

Elizabeth Mensah
Finance and Administrative Coordinator.

Wendy Abbey
Senior Technical Advisor:

Bright Bampoe-Addo
IT Officer:

Diana Owusu
Care Taker:

BrightDzumeku
Asst. Admin / Records Officer:
# INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

## National Service Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016/2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyril Afful</td>
<td>Michael Mensah Martey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsley Amoako</td>
<td>Emmanuel Dei</td>
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<td>Bernice Mensah</td>
<td>Gertrude Adjetey Sowah</td>
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<td>Jelord Sylvia Opoku</td>
<td>Rejoice Tawiah</td>
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<td>Glenda Ashalley Kutorkor</td>
<td>Bright Bampoe-Addo,</td>
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<td>Kingsley Asante</td>
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<td>Micheal Mensah</td>
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<td>Seth Peprah</td>
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<td>Aishatu Kadiri Sumana</td>
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<td>Ama Afrah</td>
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## Interns/Volunteers

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<tr>
<th>Blankhorst Laurette</th>
<th>Dave Kajal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saggau Maj-il Bjoerm</td>
<td>Hees Vera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legendre Camille</td>
<td>Arhunmwunde Aisosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easterly Grace</td>
<td>Colman Carrie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithur Nikita Sena</td>
<td>Mingle Nathan Nii Adotey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mcgvan Grace</td>
<td>Ndanu Harriet Bless</td>
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<tr>
<td>Padondu Veneranda Rosemonde</td>
<td>Bertolini Ashley</td>
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<td>Falek Idan</td>
<td>Lamina Dorothy Kukua</td>
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<td>Kandimire Juniour Kudzai</td>
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<td>Couturier Don</td>
<td>Owusu Andy</td>
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<td>Schuck Natalie</td>
<td>Parkinson Benjamin Northcote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayirebi Acquah Patricia</td>
<td>Dzomeku Bright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ibeh Aduaeze</td>
<td>Chatelion Counet Anna</td>
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IMPROVING ACCESS TO LGBT RIGHTS AND HEALTH CARE

Impact

- Capacity of 222 human rights defenders, CSOs and community leaders, built on right-based advocacy for LGBT persons
- 228 health workers educated on human rights and access to health for LGBT persons in six workshops.
- 569 LGBT persons reached through IDAHOT regional celebrations in Ghana.
- 35 Advocates committed to protect the rights of LGBT persons in a roundtable meeting

"Human rights are foreign to no culture and native to all nations. They are universal"

Kofi Annan
Values clarifications and Advocacy workshop for Human Rights Defenders and State human rights institutions in three selected regions of Ghana.

The HRAC organized advocacy workshops for traditional leaders, human rights defenders and State human rights institutions in six selected regions in Ghana, namely Central, Ashanti, Western, Greater Accra, Eastern and Volta Regions. The objectives of the workshops were to raise awareness amongst opinion leaders to support rights-based protection regime for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and to develop a strong network of organizations, which advocate for the protection of the human rights of LGBT people. In this regard, the purpose of the workshops was to provide information that would allow law enforcement officers, civil society and human rights defenders to protect and advocate for the rights of LGBT community.

Activities of the workshop include value clarification, sharing of experiences, training on stigma and discrimination, and human rights framework for advocacy (human rights 101). Representatives from targeted human rights defenders and allies (Ghana Police, CHRAJ, religious leaders and chiefs and queen mothers) took turns to make presentations on their role as human rights defenders in protecting the rights of the LGBT persons. After the presentations, the vulnerability of LGBT persons was discussed from human rights and public health perspectives. In order to place the discussion in context, participants watched two video clips of an attack on a young man who was suspected to be gay by some youth in Nima, a Zongo community in Accra. Participants also watched and discussed a documentary on LGBT rights (HRAC production). Participants engaged in lengthy, but objective discussions on the reality of stigma, discrimination and human rights violations, that confronts the LGBT community in Ghana and the socio-religious and cultural context of Ghana. They concluded that, though religious and cultural beliefs of Ghana frowns at the activities of LGBT persons, their human rights should be protected by law enforcement officers, public and social institutions. A total of two hundred and
twenty-two (222) participants drawn from the Ghana Police Service, CHRAJ, DOVVSU, Legal Aid Scheme, Civil Society Organisations, Ghana Education Service, religious bodies, District Assemblies, traditional and religious leaders and private individuals participated in the six workshops. Find below the aggregated statistics of the participants.
Analyses of the Value Clarification Exercise

As part of evaluation of participants’ understanding of human rights and perception of LGBT persons all advocacy workshops activities were preceded by a value clarification. The chart below shows the aggregated responses of participants from three of the regions;

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Responses from participants - workshops in Ho, Accra and Koforidua.</th>
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The chart shows how participants responded to value clarification statements. Even though all the participants agreed that discrimination is a human rights abuse, they did not agree on whether LGBT persons can belong to religious institutions or teach in schools (question 3. and 4). Several participants were of the view that the act of being homosexual is illegal and against values and traditions of societies and therefore homosexuality should not be encouraged in the country. However, the majority of the participants were willing to advocate for the rights of the LGBT persons in their various communities. At Ho in the Volta Region, a representative of the Metropolitan Assembly chose not to participate in the value clarification activity, indicating that it is towards promoting homosexuality. He however, admitted...
after the workshop that he got it wrong initially, and that the human rights of LGBT persons should be protected.

Human Rights Education Workshops for Health Care Professionals

HRAC in collaboration with WAAF organized human rights education workshops for healthcare service providers in six selected regions in Ghana, namely Central, Ashanti, Western, Greater Accra, Volta Eastern and Regions.

The purpose of the workshops was to share experiences and educate health workers on the rights of LGBT persons and to encourage them to avoid stigmatisation and discrimination against key populations when they visit health facilities, with the primary objective of creating a stigma and discrimination free environment at health facilities to improve access to health for the LGBT persons.

The activities of the workshops included: presentations by HRAC on stigma and discrimination; WAAF and Ghana Health Service on access to stigma-free health services; values clarification; education on international, regional and local human rights laws and the Ghana Health Service nurses’ charter. Participants also watched a video clip of the attack of a young man from Nima, Accra, suspected of being homosexual.

Two hundred and twenty-eight (228) health workers participated in the six workshops. Participants were selected from regional and district hospitals, military and police hospitals and private health facilities in the six selected regions. Participants were drawn from the ART and HIV Counseling and testing centres, Out Patient Departments (OPD), pharmacy, midwifery and laboratories departments of targeted hospitals.
Analyses of the Values Clarification Exercise
As part of evaluation of participants’ understanding of human rights and perception of LGBT persons all human rights education workshops for health workers activities were preceded by values clarification. Statements were put on the screen and participants were asked to agree or disagree. With each statement, a few people were asked to share their reasoning for their position. The chart below shows the aggregated responses of participants from two of the regions;

The exercise shows how participants, health workers, agree that discrimination is a violation of human rights. Even so, participants held the view that homosexuals should not have rights. The LGBT community is, according to some participants, considered to be against the norms and
traditions that defines the Ghanaian culture. For instance in Ho, 36 disagreed while 12 agreed on whether homosexuality is legal in Ghana. Participants were educated on the differences between gender identity, gender expression, biological sex, and sexual orientation.

**Roundtable Meeting on Advancing Human Rights Protection and Access to Healthcare Services for LGBT Persons in Ghana, Capital View Hotel, Koforidua, 19th September, 2017.**

The Human Rights Advocacy Centre on Tuesday 19th of September 2017 organised a Roundtable Meeting on Advancing Human Rights Protection and Access to Healthcare Services for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender (LGBT) persons in Ghana at the Capital View Hotel in Koforidua. This meeting was to climax the implementation of “Improving Access to LGBT Rights and Healthcare Services in Selected Regions of Ghana” project – Phase II.

Thirty-five (35) people attended the meeting. Participants include traditional rulers, representatives from the health and education sectors, State human rights institutions; Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working with LGBT persons and religious leaders. The objectives of the roundtable meeting included: sharing of lessons, experiences, success stories and new strategies identified over the project implementation period; and Identifying together with partners ways to sustain and systematically use existing systems to ensure the human rights of LGBT persons are protected with no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The major outcome of the roundtable meeting was the collective issuance of a communique of commitment by participants

**International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) 2017.**

The Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) in collaboration with WAAF and AfED marked the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia in the Western, Volta, Ashanti, Eastern, and Central regions of Ghana. The purpose of the celebration in the regions was to bring the LGBT community together to socialize and at the same time educate them on their health and the need to access the health care services available in the communities. The theme for the Day
was “Family within, family beyond”. The activities for the regional celebrations varied, but included panel discussions on the theme and sharing of experiences from LGBT persons and their family members. Facilitators for the events included: psychologists, M-Friends, M-Watchers and representatives from LGBT focused NGOs and CSOs. There were different performances at the regional events. Key among the performance are traditional dancing, poetry and fashion shows. A movie titled: Black Bird" on the acceptance of homosexuality was screened at all the regions. The West African AIDS Foundation mounted health-screening stands during the celebrations, which were highly patronized by the participants.

The regional celebrations were crowned with marking of IDAHO in Accra on 17th May, 2016. About 150 LGBT persons participated in the Accra event. Also present at the event were donor partners and representatives from human rights and CSOs/NGOs working with the LGBT communities. The celebration recorded 569 participants from the LGBT communities.
Impact Assessment

HRAC as part of its monitoring and evaluation practice, conducted impact assessment activities in three regions, namely: Greater Accra, Volta and Western Regions. The purpose of the activity was to assess the impact of human rights and legal empowerment trainings organized for members of the LGBT communities, in the three regions mentioned above in 2016. A total of 40 out 130 participants were sampled during the monitoring and evaluation process.
IMPROVE CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY AND INCLUSION IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS DECISION MAKING PROCESSES IN GHANA

Impact

• Shadow Report on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in Contribution to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review Validated

• 50 Parliamentary committee members briefed on gaps in Sexual and reproductive Health Rights

• 2 Diplomatic Missions engaged on CSOs recommendations to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review Validated

• Capacity of 65 representatives of CSOs built on Utilizing the UN Mechanism and Social Behavioral Change Communication for advocacy on SRHR in Ghana

As part of fulfilling its mandate of monitoring and evaluating compliance of Ghana with international, regional and national human rights standards, HRAC in collaboration with the Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health developed a shadow report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Ghana. HRAC organized a validation meeting on 20th March, 2017 to validate the report. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit Civil Society Organisations in health input, finalize the report and adopt it as a shadow report of CSOs in Ghana.

The fundamental goal of HRAC and the Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health’s report is to promote the realization of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of all persons living in Ghana. The report focused on five thematic areas of sexual and reproductive health, namely Comprehensive Abortion Care, Adolescent Reproductive Health Rights, Family Planning, Child Marriage, and Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

Participants, deliberated on the report after a productive group validation exercise during a breakout session. Participants approved and adopted the report as a shadow report to the Ghana report. HRAC submitted the shadow report to the UN Human Rights Council on November 2017.

Policy Brief: Gaps in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

The Human Rights Advocacy Center organized a briefing session on the United Nations Periodic Review with selected members of the Parliamentary Select Committees on Health, Committee on Gender, Children and Social Protection and Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. Over 50 Members of Parliament (MPs), civil society representatives and media participated in the briefing session held at the Holiday Inn, Accra on 5th July, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was for MPs to engage in dialogue with Civil Society Organizations in preparation for the upcoming United Nations Periodic Review of Ghana on 7th November, 2017. Speakers at the meeting stressed the need for civil society organisations in sexual and reproductive health to work toward securing of the interest and welfare of all persons living in Ghana. They also emphasized that, it is the collective responsibility of Civil Society Organisations and government to ensure that sexual and reproductive health rights of all persons living in
Ghana are protected. The meeting also created the forum to educated participants on the UPR process.

There were discussions surrounding the weak enforcement of laws, specifically regarding child marriage, and suggestions that prosecuting offenders is the first step to combating this practice. There is also the need to educate District Assemblies to ensure effective enforcement of laws on child marriage; look into cultural norms and attitudes toward SRHR; and the inclusion of males in the campaign against violations of sexual and reproductive health rights.

The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee thanked the Human Rights Advocacy Centre and other stakeholders for their contribution to the program and helping the MPs to get a broader view of what is going on the ground.

**Meetings with Diplomatic Missions on Adoption of Civil Society Recommendations to the Human Rights Council on the Universal Periodic Review of Ghana.**

Human Rights Advocacy Centre undertook in-country engagements with diplomatic Missions on CSOs recommendations to the UPR. Two meetings were held with the Ambassador of Switzerland and the Political Officer of the United States Government. These meetings sought to lobby Mission representatives to adopt HRAC’s and the Coalition of NGOs in Health’s recommendations to the Human Rights Council on SRHR. In view of such recommendations, HRAC developed policy brief that prioritized SRHR recommendations to the Human Rights Council in a Policy Brief.
Capacity building for CSOs: Utilizing the UN Mechanism and SBCC for advocacy on SRHR in Ghana

The Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) conducted a national capacity building workshops for CSO/NGOs in health on Utilizing the UN Mechanism, and Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) for advocacy on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in Ghana. The workshops, which attracted participants from the ten (10) regions of Ghana, was part of activities to implement the project, “Improving civil society advocacy and inclusion in sexual and reproductive health decision making processes in Ghana”. The three (3) workshops held in Accra, Kumasi and Tamale had sixty-five (65) participants from fifty-six (56) organisations.

The purpose of the workshops was to build the capacity of CSO/NGOs in health to engage in effective advocacy to ensure government deliver on its mandate on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and improve on government engaging CSOs/NGOs in formulation of SRH policies.

There were three presentations on advocacy, social behavioural change communication (SBCC) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Process.
HIV/AIDS PREVENTION FOR KEY AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS ALONG THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS CORRIDOR

Impact

- 24 ALCO friendly lawyers engaged on human rights and access to health for key populations within the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor
- Capacity of 20 journalists built on human rights and right-based reporting
- 3 Biannual meetings held with Focal Persons, Community Network and Peer Educators
- 2 Orientation outreaches held with nurses to improve access to healthcare for Key and Vulnerable Populations
- 8 Human rights and Gender-Based violence outreaches organized among key populations (SW/MSM)
- 3 Orientation on human rights, Gender-Based violence and data collection organized for MSM and SW peer educators
- 28 Security officers trained on HIV prevention, gender equality, human rights and Gender-Based violence (GBV)
- 2 Supervision and monitoring activities conducted during HIV and STI testing, Mass Sensitization and data collection activities
Engagement with Lawyers on human rights issues affecting Key and vulnerable populations (KVPs)

HRAC organized meetings with lawyers in Ho and Takoradi. The meetings, formed part of the activities implementing the project, “HIV/AIDS Prevention for Key and Vulnerable Populations along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor”. Representatives of the Ghana Bar Association and CHRAJ in Takoradi and Ho respectively assisted in coordinating the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to form a network of ALCO friendly lawyers to provide stigma and discrimination free legal services to members of the key populations. This is in consonant with the project aim of removing stigma and discrimination against key population, which acts as barrier to access to justice and health.

The HRAC team informed the lawyers of discriminatory instances that have led Key Populations to seek legal counseling from HRAC and the need for a network of key populations’ friendly lawyers that HRAC can directly work with to address such situations. The twenty-four (24) lawyers engaged expressed their readiness to assist with providing legal services to key populations. However, they indicated that they are not promising pro-bono services across board and that they would considered cases upon review.

Capacity building of journalists on human rights and right-based reporting of key and vulnerable populations (KVP) issue

HRAC organized a training for twenty (20) journalist and media officials at the Aflao and Elubo. The training brought together from various media houses in and beyond Aflao and Elubo area. The training aimed at building the capacity of participants to use a right-based approach in reporting cases that concern key and vulnerable populations. Topics treated include journalism and human rights, concept of human rights, Stigma and Discrimination against key and vulnerable populations, human rights reporting mechanisms and right-based reporting.

Biannual meeting with Focal Persons, Community Network, Media and /Peer Educators on improving access to healthcare and justice for Key and Vulnerable Populations

As part of the project, “HIV/AIDS Prevention for Key and Vulnerable Populations along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor”, HRAC organized three biannual (3) meetings with community network comprising journalists, HIV focal persons, security officers, health workers, CSOs and peer educators in Aflao and Elubo. The purpose of the meetings were to gather feedback, assess and monitor the work of the network members and encourage them to
collaborate for effective management of Gender-Based violence and other human rights abuses against KPs. The meetings discussed how the network’s operation address Gender-Based violence and human rights issues affecting Key and Vulnerable Populations in Elubo and Aflao and their surrounding communities.

The meetings also deliberated on how to improve access to health care and justice by Key and Vulnerable populations through removal of stigma and discrimination and concluded that CSOs working with Key and Vulnerable populations should be visible and relevant in the communities to respond timeously to needs of Key and Vulnerable populations. Twenty-eight (28) participants from various organizations participated in the meeting.

Supervision of outreaches held with nurses to improve access to healthcare for Key and Vulnerable Populations

HRAC officers supervised nurses to complete two (2) human rights outreaches at the Keta municipality hospital and the Elubo health post. The nurses who are members of the ALCO network sensitised their peers on stigma and discrimination and human rights. The purpose of the outreaches was to reduce stigma and discrimination at the health facilities and improve access to healthcare for key and vulnerable population. During the supervision, the HRAC team observed that nurses in Aflao and Elubo have not been engaged on formal education on stigma and discrimination, human rights and Gender-Based violence. The participants also suggested the need to conduct human rights empowerment training for KPs, as they (KPs) are not accessing healthcare service, despite the mainstreaming of the screening and testing services of the Health post. The two outreaches had twenty (20) nurses participating.

Human rights and Gender-Based violence outreaches organized among key populations (SW/MSM) in Aflao and Elubo

HRAC in collaboration with trained peer educators of CEPEHRG and Pro-Link conducted eight (8) human rights outreach activities. The purpose of the outreaches is for the PEs to sensitize their peers on human rights, security and Gender-Based violence, and encourage them to report cases of abuses against them to law enforcement agencies. A peer (sex worker) appreciated the
knowledge gained and indicated that, she would have reported a client who abused her about a year ago if she had the knowledge of her rights then. The PEs reached nineteen (19) MSM and fourteen (14) FSWs during the outreaches.

Peer educators orientation on Gender-Based violence and data collection:

HRAC in collaboration with CEPEHRG and Pro-Link conducted three (3) orientations on human rights, Gender-Based violence and data collection for twenty (20) peer educators (PEs). The orientation was part of activities in the implementation of ALCO’s HIV/AIDS project targeting key and vulnerable populations along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor. The aim of the orientation is to enhance data collection on GBV and Human Rights related cases by CEPEHRG and Pro-Link and improve rights protection for KPs in ALCO sites.

Facilitators educated participants on understanding basics of human rights; definition and type of human rights; stigma and discrimination and Gender-Based violence. The role of PEs in improving monitoring and reporting of human rights violations in the fight against Gender-Based violence and providing assistance to victims and survivors of Gender-Based violence; and step by step demonstration as to how to complete case documentation using the HRAC client detail form were discussed. The PEs were also educated on how to use the CHRAJ online and text message portals to report discrimination cases. Facilitators shared information on how to access the HRAC human rights clinic and the Legal Aid Desk for KPs and were encouraged to report cases to their respective organisations.

Workshop for Policemen and Gendarmes on HIV Prevention, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Human Rights and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The HRAC organised two workshops on HIV Prevention, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Human Rights and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) for security officers (police officers and gendarmes) at Aflao and Elubo border posts. The workshops were part of activities implementing ALCO’s "HIV/AIDS prevention for vulnerable and key populations (KPs) along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor" project. The goal of the project was to help reduce HIV/AIDS infection among vulnerable and key populations along the borders by removing the barriers to accessing healthcare by KPs. The identified barriers are, stigma and discrimination and its related human rights abuses, including Gender-Based
violence. In line with the above goal, the aim of the workshops was to educate security officers on HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), human rights and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and to discuss the role of police officers and gendarmes in protecting human rights of key and vulnerable populations.

**Twenty-eight (28)** officers selected from Ghana Polices Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Revenue Authority and Ghana Fire Service in Aflao, Elubo and Half Assini participated in the workshop.

**Supervision and monitoring activities conducted to monitor the effective implementation of HIV and STI testing, Mass Sensitization and data collection activities**

The Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) in collaboration with CEPEHRG completed two (2) case monitoring and supervision during CEPEHRG mass sensitization and HIV Testing and Counselling at Keta Municipal in the Volta Region. The activity was in line with activities implementing ALCO HIV/AIDS project targeting vulnerable and key populations along the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor. The aim of the activity was to monitor and support CEPEHRG’s human rights outreaches during their mass sensitization and HIV Testing and Counselling activities. The HRAC team also provided support to PEs during the outreaches on human rights and Gender-Based violence (GBV) with participants to strengthen the capacity of PEs in the promotion and protection of human rights and the fight against GBV. The team also received cases and assisted with documentation to improve data collection on abuses against KPs (MSMs) in support of CEPEHRG’S human rights activities. The venue for the two supervisions are Keta and Sogakope in the Volta region.
WEST AFRICA CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE (WACSI)

The West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), in partnership with the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and the Open Society Foundation’s Human Rights Initiative selected the Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) as one of two human rights organisations to undergo a Technology and Information Systems Capacity Strengthening from July 2017 to April 2018.

The project is designed to strengthen information management systems, software and hardware capacities of participating organizations to improve data security, storage, document sharing systems and evidenced based advocacy.

As part of the selection process, a team from WACSI conducted an assessment to determine the specific capacity gaps of HRAC with focus on internal capacity and operational context including IT infrastructure. Following the assessment, a two-member team from HRAC led by Bright Bampoe-Addo, the IT officer, met with the technical team of WACSI on 7th July, 2017 to discuss the proposed project plan. This session was also used to strengthen the commitment of HRAC to the process and collectively determine the expected results.
THE HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

Impact

- 63 Cases reported to the HRC
- 45 Drivers sensitized on their rights and responsibilities

About the Clinic

The Human Rights Clinic (HRC) is a walk-in facility at the Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC), which provides free, confidential, legal support to vulnerable and indigene members of the public whose fundamental human rights have been infringed upon. The clinic functions through assisting clients to address various issues of abuse and violations of individual rights. Cases handled by the clinic include family, immigration, discrimination and labour related disputes. The Clinic facilitates dialogue between parties and out of court settlement of disputes in civil cases and refers cases requiring State or prosecutorial attention to relevant State Authorities.

The Centre receives various complaints through the Centre’s walk-in clinic, referrals from existing and past clients and other Organizations. Other means of case reporting include phone calls through our hotline, Facebook and e-mail through the Centre’s webmail.

Cases Clinic

In the year 2017, our human rights clinic recorded sixty-three (63) cases, which include but is not limited to cases with respect to child maintenance and custody, labour, legal advice or assistance, rape and assault. The clinic successfully resolved eight (8) cases. While some cases remaining pending at the Clinic, others have been referred to and pending at the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit, our Pro-Bono Lawyer Network and Legal Aid and the National Labour Commission.

The month of March saw the highest number of cases being reported. The highest number of cases received had to do with child maintenance. Most of these cases were referred to the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit.

“The month of March saw the highest number of cases being reported. The highest number of cases received had to do with child maintenance.”
“Some of the drivers expressed their frustration as most of them said that when stopped it is easier to bribe the officers than do the right thing by cooperating and remaining calm, though they know they are not at fault. Because sometimes insisting on their rights takes a substantial amount of time out of their working hours and affects their sales.

HRAC Organized Human Rights Outreach for Commercial Drivers

The human rights advocacy centre on 24th June, 2017 organized a human rights outreach for drivers at the Labadi trotro and taxi station. The purpose of the outreach was to sensitize the drivers on their rights and responsibilities towards road safety.

The drivers were educated on “know your rights”, and reporting of rights abuse. The HRAC team entreated the drivers to adhere to all road safety requirements and desist from bribing of police officers. They were also educated on measures available in the event of police extortion.

The team used diverse methods of teaching in presenting its messages. This include, presentation, discussions, role-plays, distribution of information, education and communication materials and questions and answers.
During the discussion session, the drivers remained extremely engaged, active, and shared stories about their personal encounters with police officers. Some of the drivers expressed their frustration as most of them said that when stopped it is easier to bribe the officers than do the right thing by cooperating and remaining calm, though they know they are not at fault. Because sometimes insisting on their rights takes a substantial amount of time out of their working hours and affects their sales. They also indicated that getting a lawyer to assist them legally is extremely expensive so they might as well take care of their business themselves and pay the officers off. The drivers were introduced to the work of HRAC’s human rights clinic and encouraged to seek assistance from the clinic when their rights are abused.

The drivers and their union leaders appreciated the outreach activities and suggested HRAC extend the program to other stations and the public. The HRAC team distributed brochures and posted some human rights and clinic information on some of the vehicles. Forty-five (45) drivers and some hawkers and food vendors participated in the outreach programme.
HRAC in the News

CSOs urged to intensify awareness of human rights laws

Parliament lobbied to give attention to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

Amnesty International, others demand justice for stripped driver

HRAC calls for justice for beaten and stripped lady

Mental health care must be on political agenda – Human Rights NGO

Ghana urged to abolish shackling of mental patients
HRAC IN PICTURES

Meetings

Send-Offs

Activities