



Ghana Integrity Initiative

Local Chapter of Transparency International

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

08 – 03 - 2021

COMMEMORATING 2021 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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On the occasion of this year's International Women's Day Celebration, the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), the local chapter of Transparency International (TI) wishes to congratulate women from all walks of life for their immense contribution towards nation building. GII also wishes to call on women to unite and take a stand against corruption. We further wish to congratulate women who are playing various roles in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic globally. Women's contributions either as healthcare workers, caregivers, community leaders, policymakers/leaders, among others is driving the hope of seeing an end to the pandemic and its devastating effects soon. Women have indeed proven over the years; and now in a pandemic stricken world, that they are a force to reckon with and key to nation building.

According to the 2010 population census of Ghana, women are said to represent almost 52% of the population, yet very few are playing key roles in the fight against corruption, a critical developmental challenge that is militating against gender balance and progress. A study by GII in 2014 on 'Gender perspectives of Corruption' evinced that Ghanaian women are constantly subjected to corruption across all spheres of life especially, in the service delivery value chain and bear the worse impact of it; hindering their ability to develop economically and socially. According to a 2017 publication by TI¹, gender equality and anti-corruption are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing, thus fighting corruption with women can greatly improve their opportunities, rights and quality of life; considering that they bring diverse perspectives to issues. However, women's efforts in the fight have been inadequate;

anti-corruption platforms and opportunities for women, to engage on pertinent corruption issues that even affect their advancement in life, and to deliberate on strategies to remedy same have been limited. GII recognizes that involving women in anti-corruption efforts is critical to achieving gender equality, thus the need to empower them to make their voices heard at all times, particularly during pandemics such as the world is plagued now.

In line with this year's theme "*Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world*", GII also supports the view of UN Women to uphold women's rights and fully leverage the potential of women's leadership in pandemic preparedness and response. The perspectives of women in all of their diversity must be integrated in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in all spheres and at all stages of pandemic response and recovery. As the world battles with curbing the pandemic, the global concern relative to national crisis is increased incidences of corruption with its debilitating implications on the poor especially, women. GII believes promoting women's effective participation in high-level decision-making processes relating to anti-corruption efforts is even more critical now with COVID-19 recovery efforts. Women have demonstrated their ability to bring divergent views and opinions leading to practical solutions and ensuring that transparency, accountability and anti-corruption measures are integrated in these solutions. If an equal future for women will be achieved, then their rights must be fully realized and recognised and conscious efforts made to significantly mainstream these rights in all endeavour such as anti-corruption programming, policy planning and implementation and decision-making at all levels of society.

As we celebrate women across the world today, GII calls on all stakeholders to encourage and accept the fact that fighting corruption is a collective responsibility as posited by the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan, irrespective of their gender or status. Specific gendered forms of corruption such as sextortion and sexual harassment should be eschewed from all levels of society, particularly in academic places of learning and places of employment. Government should work with civil society to design and implement public policies that advocates for women to participate in high-level anti-corruption efforts both in public and political life.

Again, both the public sector and civil society must provide more spaces for women to amplify their voices and also strengthen their role in the fight against corruption. GII also wish to encourage women to use existing corruption reporting platforms (such as the GIIs Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) toll free lines, Eye on Corruption and ipaidabribe) to speak up against corruption. Finally, we encourage women to endeavor to be active and determined to stay relevant in the processes towards ensuring accountability, transparency, and good governance in Ghana.

We say Ayekoo to all Women.

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ⁱ <https://voices.transparency.org/gender-and-corruption-where-do-we-go-from-here-e891900f5d0f>

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