

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

GHANA

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts, taken directly from Treaty Body Concluding Observations and Special Procedure reports, relating to issues of interest and concern to UNHCR with regards to Ghana.

Treaty Body Concluding Observations and Recommendations

**CRC/C/GHA/CO/2 41st session
17 March 2006**

32. Notwithstanding the remarkable progress achieved in improving birth registration coverage from 28 per cent in 2003 to 51 per cent in 2004, including through the extensive use of mobile registration units, the Committee remains concerned about the many challenges faced by the State party such as poor staffing, inadequate funding and lack of logistics. The Committee is further concerned about the difficulties in ensuring the birth registration of children, particularly in rural areas, and for abandoned children, asylum-seekers and refugee children.

33. In light of article 7 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party implement an efficient birth registration system, which covers its territory fully, including through:

- (a) Strengthening its efforts in terms of financial allocations and improved institutional capacities;*
- (b) Taking appropriate measures to register those who have not been registered at birth;*
- c) Strengthening the cooperation of the Births and Deaths Registry between the local government and community based institutions;*
- (d) Increasing the appreciation of the importance of birth registration and providing information on the procedure of birth registration, including the rights and entitlements derived from the registration, to the public, including through television, radio and printed materials; and*
- (e) Paying particular attention to the improved access to an early birth registration system by abandoned children, asylum-seekers and refugee children.*

61. The Committee takes note with appreciation of the general practice of the State party in hosting refugees and asylum-seekers.

62. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to meet the specific protection needs of refugee children in the refugee settlements, in particular to provide protection against sexual and gender-based violence by strengthening the administration of justice in the camps and taking supportive measures such as deployment of female police officers and facilitating related activities by NGOs. It further recommends that the State party strengthen its

protection of unaccompanied and separated refugee children. In this regard, the Committee recommends that the State party refer to its general comment No. 6 (2005), Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside Their Country of Origin.

Special Procedure Reports

Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

9-15 July 2007

Press release

Very young girls from Northern Ghana (the so-called Kayayee) increasingly migrate to the large cities in the South in search of menial jobs so that they can escape extreme poverty, and in some cases also family oppression. Often having to live in the street, these girls are vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and abuse. Violence against women in refugee camps, ejection of HIV positive women from their homes, rape and sexual abuse in the family as well as the situation of young women with children out of wedlock and widows are also major areas of concern

- End of excerpts -

Protection Operation and Legal Advice Section

Division of International Protection Services

UNHCR

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