

PETITION TO GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE NORTHERN REGIONAL MINISTER FROM YOUNG URBAN WOMEN ON DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE LIVES OF YOUNG WOMEN IN THE NORTHERN REGION

We are Young Urban Women between the ages of 15 to 25 years from Beilpela, Nalung, Kakpagyili, Banvum, Vittin, Dabokpa, Kpanvo, Tuutingli and Kalariga communities. Among us are; mothers, traders, students and Persons with Different Abilities. We have appreciated the strength in numbers and have come together to build our voices on challenging issues affecting us in the areas of; unpaid care burden, decent work and reproductive health for young women. We have engaged various stakeholders on these issues which have resulted in community members' support in our home based activities, income earning opportunities and demands for increased and improved reproductive health service delivery for young women.

On the occasion of the International Youth Day, we the young urban women numbering 1000 have reflected on our challenges and also considered key national policy documents like; National Youth Policy, the Adolescent Health Policy, Ghana Health Policy and the Decentralisation Act and have resolved to present the under listed issues for urgent attention.

Whiles expressing our appreciation to the government for the number of youth interventions in the country, we have a strong feeling that the opportunities are tilted towards a category of the youth. The acceptance of a local theme '**Youth Civic Engagement; the missing voice of the female youth**' from the global theme "**Youth Civic Engagement**" is deliberate and has enabled us to engage number of stakeholders on wide range of issues.

It is in appreciation of the issues raised that we, the young urban women from the 9 communities in the Tamale Metropolis make the following specific demands on behalf of young women in the region for prompt action. We demand that;

1. Government should provide resources for Ghana Health Service in the region to provide more youth friendly services to enable young women access reproductive health services including contraceptives.

2. The National Health Insurance Scheme be instructed to publicise all family planning services covered in the scheme and ensure that young people benefit.
3. Ghana Education Service in the region should presents to your office names of teachers caught for sexual harassment of young women for severe punishment instead of just transferring them.
4. The Regional Coordinating Council leads a process to have traditional authority and other stakeholders in the region to stop interfering in defilement, sexual harassment and child marriage cases.
5. The National Youth Authority in the region be strengthened in coordinating all youth employment initiatives and income earning opportunities and give at least 40% to young women.
6. Ensure the enforcement of the implementation of section **6.1.14 of the National Youth Policy** which requires **“active participation of the youth in decision- making at all levels”** and that young women at all times are given at least 40% representation.
7. Adequate waste management facilities such as rubbish bins, channels of waste disposals, among others are provided in each community, to reduce time young women spend in disposing waste.
8. The Assemblies be directed to make annual declaration of percentage of their common fund use for youth development especially the young women. This also includes enforcement of opened engagement with community stakeholders in addressing poor road networks that are affecting emergency situations, such as fire outbreak, ambulance services, among others.
9. The Labour Commission in the region be directed to produce timelines for regional dissemination of cases of indecent work especially as they pertain in the informal sector providing a clear sex disaggregation.

We the Young Urban Women in the Northern Region, present this to you with the hope that you would officially respond to our concerns and set up a team within the Regional Coordinating Council to ensure that issues raised in this document get the needed attention. We would like to assure you of our availability and contributions to your plans towards addressing the mentioned issues.

Date:	Name	Position	Sign