PARLIAMENT MUST DISTANCE ITSELF AND REPRIMAND KENNEDY AGYAPONG FOR DEBASING WOMANHOOD

Since Ghana’s independence in 1957, the democracy of the country has grown to embrace the need for gender equality at all levels of decision making. Ghana’s commitment to gender equality has been demonstrated by the country’s endorsement of international treaties including the Convention on Elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women. The country’s position internationally on gender equality has been localized into laws and policies including: the 1992 constitution, the Gender policy, the spousal law, the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Act with a notable promises in party manifestos for the promotion of the right and equality of males and females in the Ghanaian society.

There has been a lapse in achieving the numerous targets and promises on gender equality due to entrenched cultural and religious believes in the country. Unfortunately, the lack of political will to ensure the effective implementation of such policies and laws on gender equality is increasingly manifested. One will expect that the law makers of the country will have higher standards on gender issues and promote the participation of both males and females in key decision making structures and processes.

It is a dishonor for a member of parliament for Assin North, Kennedy Agyapong to have publicly accused Mrs Charlotte Osei, the first female Electoral Commissioner of Ghana as incapable to competitively rise to such position without sexual favors. For the parliamentarian to have boldly and confidently stated as part of campaigns for power that record statements like “the chairperson of electoral commission exchanged her womanhood for the position” cannot be tolerated at any level. This clearly attacks womanhood and must be condemned unreservedly.

Somewhere February this year, same Mr. Kennedy Agyapong lynched on Ms. Valentina Nana Agyeiwaa (the popular Afia Schwarzenegger) with degrading statements like “She has been single for the past thirty years because she can’t stop Bedwetting...I’ll go down to the gutters with her. She has been ungrateful to Delay [Delores Frimpong Manso] and even to the woman
who introduced her to prostitution. This is a girl who offered sex to a carpenter she had employed his services because she had no money to pay”. We repeat this statement with pain but to call for action against the consistent attack by this law maker on womanhood. For a law maker to continuously debase womanhood in a manner that we are witnessing clearly shows an intention to silence or intimidate women in leadership positions.

NORSAAC as a gender based advocacy organization stands against such utterances especially for females who have gained political positions and are serving as role models and source of encouragement to the over 51% of the population in Ghana.

We therefore demand that;

1. Parliament must publicly distance itself from this utterance, reprimand Kennedy Agyapong and demand a withdrawal of the statement from him subject to a time period beyond which he must appear before the privileges committee.
2. The New Patriotic Party must equally distance itself from Kennedy Agyapong’s comment and impress on him to withdraw the statement or face severe disciplinary actions from the party.
3. Civil Society Organizations and Gender Activists must demonstrate their solidarity to Mrs Charlotte Osei in these times and resist statements which debase womanhood and denigrate women in leadership positions.

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Executive Director

Sign: [Signature]

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