



**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF 2019 NORTHERN GHANA SRHR  
CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (NORGHA2019) HELD FROM  
AUGUST 26TH to AUGUST 28TH, 2019 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, TAMALE, NORTHERN REGION.**

Madam Chairperson, The Sagnarigu MCE, Honourable Mariam Iddrisu, The Executive Director NORSAAC, Representatives from UNFPA, UNICEF, RAINS, SIMAVI, GH ALLIANCE, GES, GHS, young people present, distinguished ladies and gentlemen

The importance of sexuality education has been recognized by numerous international agreements. As far back as 1994, the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development called on governments to provide sexuality education to all manner of people including adolescents, specifying that such education should take place both in schools and at the community level, be age-appropriate, begin as early as possible, foster mature decision-making and aim to eliminate gender inequality. Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) includes scientifically accurate, curriculum-based information about human development, anatomy, pregnancy and related complications, contraception and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. Importantly, CSE goes beyond information, to encourage confidence and improved communication skills. CSE curricula should also address the social issues surrounding sexuality and reproduction, including cultural norms, family life and interpersonal relationships. This year we celebrate 25 years of this conference and we cannot deny that enormous gains have been made, however with the promise of leaving no one behind the fight to ensure that all young people can fully enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights has brought us here.



We, young people from the Northern Ghana, numbering 403 and within the ages of 15 to 30 years have participated in the four days Northern Ghana SRHR conference for young people- NORGHA 2019.

This conference was organised by NORSAAC in partnership with UNFPA, UNICEF, RAINS, AXIS, GH Alliance, SIMAVI and CCFC and held at the University of Development Studies from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Government partners included Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, CHRAJ, DOVVSU and the Department of Children.

The conference gave us the opportunity to interact among ourselves and explored ways to engage stakeholders towards the implementation of the CSE national guidelines and assess government compliance to the implementation process. Additionally, it has served as a preparation ground and introduced us to what is to come when the CSE guidelines implementation starts.

Having discussed topics such as **CSE**,

**safeguarding systems for young people, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and harmful practices including sexual harassment and abuse, sexual exploitation, child marriage, FGM, human rights and sexual reproductive health, Social Media activism and the ICPD at 25 even as we march to Nairobi.**

We interacted with various resources persons and among ourselves on the conference theme ***“Leaving no one behind, voices of young people in the implementation of the national CSE guidelines.”***. *Believing that in the spirit of leaving no one behind and reaching the farthest first; we accelerate the promise of the ICPD PoA in advancing the rights and health*



*of all especially women and girls and young people, we hereby call on Stakeholders to consider the following **in the implementation of the CSE Guidelines.***

1. Sexual exploitation continues to be a challenge that young people face in senior high school, Universities and Training Colleges.  
(Marks for sex)
2. Child marriages continue to happen and takes away the childhood and future of girls.
3. Other harmful cultural practices such as FGM is still happening in our communities
4. Teenage Pregnancy due to inadequate access to Sexual and Reproductive Health information and services
5. Access to condoms and other contraceptives remains a challenge due to inadequate health workers, stigma and restrictions
6. Gender stereotypes affecting the mental health of boys exist thereby gradually leaving boys behind.
7. Lack of motivation and role models to look up to coupled with parent's apathy towards education has led to low educational standards.

**Having identified that the above are true reflections of our current challenges as young people, we believe that a successful implementation of the CSE guidelines will undoubtedly help in addressing these challenges. Believing that achieving success is a multi-stakeholder affair; We call on the following stakeholders to consider the following;**



1. We entreat GES, GHS and other stakeholders to Fastrack processes that will ensure the roll out and implementation of the CSE guidelines
2. Ministry of Education, Ghana Education Service and relevant authorities should push for the creation and implementation of safeguarding systems and policies on various institutions. (Primary – Tertiary).
3. CSOs programming should be multi-faceted and hence engage both parents, adolescents and community structures.
4. Establish/resource complain units in all help facilities to deepen confidence of young people to report and seek redress.
5. Government agencies such as DOVSSU, CHRAJ and the Police Service should be on the move in arresting and prosecuting perpetrators of Child marriage, sexual exploitation and FGM.
6. Work in partnership with government to implement the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Guidelines.
7. Awareness and enforcement of GES reentry policy for pregnant adolescents.
8. Intensify education and awareness so that Chiefs, religious leaders and even teachers will not interfere in sexual harassment and abuse cases.

We look forward to working with you all on the above demands.

Thank you





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