



SPEECH BY NIYI OJUOLAPE, UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE
49TH CADET OFFICERS' GRADUATION CEREMONY
SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT
THE SENIOR OFFICERS MESS,
GHANA POLICE HEADQUARTERS, ACCRA

- Distinguished IGP
- Director General, Criminal Investigations Department
- Director General/HRD, Ghana Police Service
- National Coordinator of DOVVSU
- Distinguished Heads and Executives of State Institutions
- Divisional/District Crime Officers
- Friends from the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and privilege for us at UNFPA to be part of 49th Cadet Officer's Graduation Ceremony of the Ghana Police Service. UNFPA has over the years worked dutifully with the Ghana Police Service through its Domestic Violence & Victims Support Unit to strengthen GBV prevention and response in Ghana.

Violence against women and girls constitutes one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. It knows no social, economic or



national boundaries. It undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence.

According to an analysis of statistics from DOVVSU, approximately six women are likely to be raped every week. Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death.

UNFPA has collaborated with DOVVSU over the years on activities aimed at reducing sexual and gender based violence and in particular, sexual violence and its attendant problems especially among women and adolescent girls. This is because of our shared vision of ensuring a violence free society in which all social groups, specifically the most vulnerable ones enjoy equal rights and opportunities to reach their full potential as individuals and citizens.

It was in this light that UNFPA worked with the Ghana Police Service to develop a training manual on GBV and SRH for use at the various police training schools and administrative offices in 2015. UNFPA appreciate the integration of SGBV into the Police Training curriculum and making SGBV an examinable subject. UNFPA pledge our continuous support for the SGBV annual awards.



This collaboration was firmly rooted in our conviction of the key role that the Unit plays in preventing SGBV and in working sensitively with survivors, recording and reporting incidents of violence, providing initial psychological support, and offering referrals for clinical management and legal redress.

This year, UNFPA celebrates 50 years of existence as well as the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its landmark Program of Action that highlighted the importance of sexual and reproductive health, women's empowerment and gender equality in achieving sustainable development. In November, all roads lead to Nairobi to discuss and deliberate on actions to accelerate the promise made 25 years ago in Cairo, Egypt. Naturally, ending gender -based violence i.e. the threat of violence and harm of women and girls worldwide is one of the five themes of the Nairobi Summit.

To our Cadets Officers who have diligently gone through rigorous training, UNFPA is confident that this SGBV focused manual has built your capacities on preventing and addressing sexual/gender-based violence and its ramifications on health, psychosocial, legal, justice and community responses. In the coming months and years as you find your footing in this noble profession, we are convinced that these trainings will come to bear as you address gender equalities, a prominent focus of the UN Sustainable



Development Goals (SDGs) specifically to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

We recognize the critical role you play to help achieve this objective, being directly at the forefront of law enforcement to stem SGBV/DV and provide integrated social services. We fully support your relentless efforts and hence our continuous collaboration with the Police Administration and DOVVSU. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, permit me to use this opportunity to thank the headship of the Ghana Police Service and particularly DOVVSU for their seminal work in responding to and preventing violence against the vulnerable especially women and girls whose issues have for a long time been ignored.

In conclusion, I am sure our concerted efforts will not only benefit vulnerable women and girls but the entire population.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.