



**REMARKS BY NIYI OJUOLPE, UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE,
AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE REFURBISHED DOVVSU
CRISES RESPONSE CENTRE AND THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF KNOWLEDGE SHARING SYMPOSIUM WITH TRADITIONAL
LEADERS IN GHANA ON ZERO GBV/HP
AT THE GHANA POLICE HOSPITAL ON 26TH NOVEMEBR 2019**

Protocol Observed:

- **Honourable Minister,**
- **IGP**
- **The President of the National House of Chiefs**
- **Royal Majesties,**
- **The Director of CID,**
- **Director of Police Hospital,**
- **Our Partners from the Police Service,**
- **Young People,**
- **Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

We began a Sixteen Days' journey yesterday to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and launched of "the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence". We at UNFPA encouraged everyone to stand up together, speak out together



and take action together – against rape and all forms of violence against women and girls.

We cannot do this without key players such as the Police – who are the front liners when it comes to the Law Enforcement Agencies, and the Traditional Leaders who live with the people in the communities.

Gender-based violence involves men and women with women usually, but not always, being the victim/ survivor It stems from unequal power relationships within families and communities. These communities, form the jurisdiction of our traditional leaders, some of who are here with us today, with representation from all 16 Regions of Ghana, where battering, sexual abuse of children, female genital mutilation, rape, defilement, and child marriages occur.

Traditional Leaders reach thousands of people in their communities through their cultural festivals, celebrations, funerals and or community dialogues; they advise government on traditional affairs and influence policy making that affects the lives of millions of people.

This is why it is critical that we position Traditional Leaders as agents of change on the prevention and management of Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices (GBV/HP). They are the first place of



call for victims and must be able to assist them. This assistance would be more effective if they work together with the law enforcement agencies such as the Police.

There is need for effective integrated services for all survivors of GBV to ensure that they are well rehabilitated back to society, where their rights and dignity is protected. This requires an intersectoral approach, which calls for holistic support in responding to the needs of survivors of GBV, involving the police, medical personnel, social workers and psychologists, among others. It is for this simple reason that UNFPA, which has one of its transformative goals of getting to zero gender-based violence and harmful practices has deemed it necessary to support the refurbishment of this crises response center, while we await the completion of the one stop shop by the Ghana Police Service. We wish to use this opportunity to entreat the media gathered here to engage in public advocacy and create awareness of this crises center, to facilitate the effective functioning of the center, in order to restore the dignity of GBV survivors. We also look forward to deepened relationships between the police and our traditional leaders on issues of GBV/HP. This is the beginning.

Let us work together for the Good of Ghana.

Thank you for the time.