

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - MARCH 8, 2016

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) is pleased to join stakeholders around the world on the occasion of International Women's Day today, March 8, to reflect on progress made towards the advancement of women's rights.

Globally, the day is being celebrated on the theme: '**Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality.**' Ghana's adopted theme: '**Gender Equality by 2030: Inclusion of all for Ghana's Sustainable Development,**' is in sync with the global theme as both call for renewed efforts towards bridging the gap between men and women and the involvement of both sexes in the national development agenda.

Indeed, working together to realise gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls especially, will play a crucial role towards achieving targets as set out in the new global development paradigm - the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The world cannot develop to an appreciable level if opportunities are not created for both women and men to participate in the development process.

Although Ghana continues to make strides towards women's empowerment, certain intractable traditional and socio-cultural norms and perceptions about women's place in the society continue to reinforce gender stereotypes of femininity and masculinity, thereby thwarting gender equality efforts.

The Commission is, therefore, hopeful that the development of a National Gender Policy and the formulation of the Affirmative Action Law, currently awaiting Cabinet's approval, would address some of the shortfalls and mainstream gender equality into the national development agenda to ensure equal participation of both women and men in every facet of life.

It is extremely important that efforts are made to allow women and girls equal access to quality education, economic resources and political participation. Women's full and equal participation in the political and economic arena is fundamental to democracy and justice, and no efforts should be spared in bringing this about.

CHRAJ, therefore, calls on all stakeholders to make significant investments to close the gap, as well as take concrete steps to quicken global efforts at achieving gender equality.

The Commission also urges stakeholders to work together to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, as well as other barriers which impede gender equality.

**MR RICHARD QUAYSON
ACTING COMMISSIONER**