

Human Rights Council

14th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of GHANA

Statement by AUSTRIA

Austria welcomes H.E. and the delegation of Ghana to the UPR and thanks them for the presentation of their informative report.

We thank Ghana for accepting all of Austria's recommendations during the first Universal Periodic Review in April 2008 and the efforts undertaken by the Government of Ghana to implement these recommendations

We commend Ghana for its efforts to tackle gender-based violence, in particular through establishing a GBV court. However, we remain concerned about the persistence of violence against women in many settings. In particular, we are alarmed that harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, are still carried out, especially in Northern Ghana. What further actions are planned to effectively end this nefarious practice?

Austria also wants to offer the following recommendations to the Government of Ghana:

- to fully implement the Domestic Violence Act and ensure the effective functioning of the Police's Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit
- to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home
- to amend the Right to Information Bill in line with the recommendations made by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)
- to continue efforts to reduce overcrowding in the prison system and ensure that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners are observed as well as consider becoming a state party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

I thank you.

Michael PFEIFER