

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW 14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

### Denmark's recommendations for

#### Ghana

Thank you, Madame President.

Denmark welcomes the delegation of Ghana to Geneva and would like to thank them for their comprehensive presentation given here today.

Mediation services undertaken by the Human Rights Commission and the Judicial Service are important in facilitating *access to justice* for the poor and marginalized, especially women. While Denmark recognizes the Government of Ghana's increased funding of the Commission, resources are still scarce and further funding crucial. To ensure full benefit of established programmes and trained mediators, sufficient funding should be provided.

Denmark recognizes the measures that have been taken to address banishment of women into *witch camps*. These measures include public education, and a governmental cash support programme of extremely poor households, which has been extended to vulnerable women in witch camps. Despite these measures, women are still accused of being witches and suffer seclusion from their communities through banishment, physical molestation, and outright lynching. Denmark recommends that all possible measures are taken to abolish this practice.

The Constitution Review Commission proposed expanding the mandate of the Human Rights Commission to include powers to initiate investigations and enforce decisions directly by courts. The establishment of a special commissioner for vulnerable groups, including children and persons with disabilities, to ensure their rights was also proposed. Denmark recommends that the expansion of the Human Rights Commission's mandate be effectuated.

Thank you, Madame President.