

Laila Howard Mills.

please check against delivery

n.v.

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 20TH SESSION OF THE WORKING
GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - STATEMENT
DELIVERED BY THE GHANA DELEGATION ON THE SECOND CYCLE
REVIEW OF THE GAMBIA**

TUESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER, 2014

I thank you Mr. President.

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation from The Gambia and commends them for their dedication to the UPR Mechanism.

Ghana acknowledges the gains made by The Gambia in the area of equitable access to education, notably the construction of more schools to ensure that every child enjoys the right to education and the increase in enrollment at all levels of education particularly of girls.

Ghana is also pleased to note that The Gambia has passed a Domestic Violence Act and a Sexual Offences Act which among other things provide protection for the victims of domestic violence, particularly women and children as well as criminalize all forms of sexual assault, exploitation and harassment.

However, in view of the concerns expressed by the UN country team in paragraph 10 of the UN compilation, Ghana recommends that The Gambia takes urgent steps to incorporate the prohibition of female genital mutilation in its laws and vigorously enforce those laws.

Ghana also recommends to the Gambia to consider the ratification of the following:

1. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Member of Their Families (**ICRMW**)
2. The International Convention for the Protection of All persons from Enforced Disappearance (**CPED**)
3. The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (**CAT**)

Thank you Mr. President.