Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: GHA32289
Country: Ghana
Date: 28 August 2007

Keywords: Ghana – Homosexuals – Legal provisions

This response was prepared by the Research & Information Services Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. This research response may not, under any circumstance, be cited in a decision or any other document. Anyone wishing to use this information may only cite the primary source material contained herein.

Questions

1. **Please provide an update on the situation of homosexuals in Ghana 2005-August 2007.**

RESPONSE

For earlier information, previous responses and information on gay organisations in Ghana please see the Gay Resource Guide – Ghana.

1. **Please provide an update on the situation of homosexuals in Ghana 2005-August 2007.**

The information provided has been organised into the following two headings:
- Government Reports;
- News Reports.

The information is in reverse chronological order.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

According to the US Department of State, Ghanaian "law criminalizes homosexuality, and lesbians and gays face widespread discrimination, as well as police harassment and extortion attempts." The US Department of State provides the following information on homosexuality in Ghana during 2006:

> In July the government denied an application from the Gays and Lesbians Association of Ghana to host a proposed international conference in Accra in September. The Association was uniformly condemned by all religious organizations as well as government officials as being unconstitutional and immoral. Government officials maintained that because

homosexuality is illegal in the country, granting a permit to hold the conference would be in contravention of the law (see section 5.)

…The law criminalizes homosexuality, and lesbians and gays face widespread discrimination, as well as police harassment and extortion attempts. There is a minimum misdemeanor charge for homosexual activity, and homosexual men in prison often were subjected to sexual and other physical abuse.

There was widespread public outcry during the year against an international lesbian and gay conference scheduled to take place in Accra in September. Strong public opposition to the event and to homosexuals more generally was reflected in vehement letters to the editor, radio call-in shows, comments posted on the Internet, and in public speeches given by government officials. The government banned the conference after local religious leaders united to protest the planned event (US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Practice 2006 – Ghana*, 6 March, Section 1b & 5 – Attachment 1).

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada provides the following information on the legal status of homosexuality in Ghana as well as advice from the President of the Gays and Lesbian Association of Ghana (GALAG) on the situation of homosexuals in Ghana:

Legal status

There is no legislation in Ghana explicitly prohibiting homosexuality. However section 104 of the Ghanaian Criminal Code, last amended in 2003, states the following:

> (1) Whoever has unnatural carnal knowledge -
> (a) of any person of the age of sixteen years or over without his consent shall be guilty of a first degree felony and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than five years and not more than twenty-five years; or
> (b) of any person of sixteen years or over with his consent is guilty of a misdemeanour; or
> (c) of any animal is guilty of a misdemeanour.
> (2) Unnatural carnal knowledge is sexual intercourse with a person in an unnatural manner or with an animal (12 Jan. 1961).

The interpretation of this provision is not clear. In a letter to the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working for homosexual rights explained that although the Criminal Code does not expressly prohibit sexual relations between same-sex individuals, “it states that such action is ‘unnatural’ and when caught, you will be sentenced to [imprisonment]” (Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transsexuals of Ghana and CEPEHRG 18 Aug. 2004).

Some sources report that homosexuality is “criminalized” in Ghana (Pink News 14 Mar. 2006; The Ghanaian Chronicle 22 June 2005; US 8 Mar. 2006, Sec. 5; see also Sodomy Laws 2 June 2006).

Treatment and public perception

…The President of the Gays and Lesbian Association of Ghana (GALAG), who is also the Executive/National Director of the Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights Ghana (CEPEHR), provided the information in the following two paragraphs in 22 August 2006 correspondence with the Research Directorate.

> In Ghana, homosexuality is "accepted" by certain communities (i.e., the Ga ethnic group) while other communities consider it a taboo and see it as "an abominable offence that attracts beating and even killing." Homosexuals face discrimination, name calling and stigma because of their sexual orientation. The President indicated that there have been cases in previous years where gay men were arrested because homosexuality is "illegal" in Ghana but that there has been no increase in the number of prosecutions. Lawyers were reluctant to take on such cases as their credibility would be questioned if they defended homosexuals. The President stated that extortion of homosexuals was frequent.
>
> In addition, the President stated that, considering that the law is open to interpretation and has been used to prosecute homosexuals, in his opinion, it will continue to be used for such purposes and that "there is no protection of any kind [for] homosexual men or women". Judges are mostly very religious individuals and as a consequence it is very difficult for homosexuals to obtain justice. According to the President, lawyers are reluctant to take on such cases as it puts their credibility in question. Although the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) has stated that they will investigate any cases of discrimination against homosexuals, the President questioned who would be receiving the complaint in the CHRAJ office and whether any homosexuals would be willing to come forward with a complaint (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2006, *GHA101616.E – Ghana: Treatment of homosexuals by society and authorities and availability of state protection; names and activities of groups or associations promoting homosexual rights*, 2 October http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=450505 – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 2).

NEWS REPORTS

According to the Deputy Attorney General of Ghana, "lesbianism and gayism remain criminal acts under the countries statutes." The article continues:

> He explained that charters and international conventions that recognize homosexualism do not override national laws. For that reason the Criminal Code of 1960, which outlaws homosexualism is incontrovertible, says the Dep. AG He was speaking in an interview with the media at the ongoing 41st Ordinary Session of the African Charter on Human People's Rights (ACHPR), where gay right activists accused the organizers of failing to put their rights on the table for discussion.
>
> Hon. Prempeh said unnatural carnal knowledge is an illegal act under the Criminal Code as per section 104, and homosexualism, without any equivocation, is a form of unnatural carnal knowledge (Hanson, Ebenezer 2007, 'No Room for Gays and Lesbians', *Public Agenda*, 21 May, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 3).

The *BBC* reports that "in deeply religious Ghana, homosexuality is seen as an imported foreign lifestyle choice and a moral aberration." The article provides information on the experiences of Patrick, a gay 21 year old Ghanaian:

> When Patrick Williams told his mother he was gay, she packed his bags and threw him out of the house, disowning her son for what she saw as an evil act.
>
> The 21-year-old Ghanaian had known he was gay since he was 13, but had hesitated to tell anyone.
>
> "I was scared and I knew in our society, it was not accepted. It was best for me to keep it inside until I saw someone who was similar," he said.

> When a schoolmate told his mother of rumours that the 18-year-old Patrick was having sex with another boy, he admitted he was gay.
>
> "She said because of what I chose to be, I was no longer her son. Was the whole world against me? This was the biggest question in my mind. My own mother sometimes says she wishes I was dead," he said.
>
> His experience is by no means unusual in the West African country, where homosexuality is seen as an unnatural sexual act and, as such, is illegal.
>
> …Such is the opprobrium that homosexuality attracts that even normally vociferous Ghanaian human rights organisations are subdued in their support for gay rights.
>
> "In the first place, I do not know if I want to promote homosexuality in Ghana," said Richard Quayson, deputy commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the country's leading human rights organisation.
>
> "As a human rights organisation, if someone comes forward and says their rights are violated, it is my duty to protect them. As a Ghanaian, I don't think I can openly go out and promote it in the country," he said.
>
> In the experience of 23-year-old Joseph Hilary Afful, people do make their disapproval clear, sometimes in violent ways.
>
> Pointing to scars on his forehead, he describes how he and four friends were attacked last August in an Accra suburb, Chorkor.
>
> "We have to hide ourselves if even walking in the afternoon, someone can throw stones at you," he said (Ryan, Orla 2007, 'Ghana's secret gay community', *BBC News*, 14 March http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6445337.stm – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 4).

Recent research by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), in conjunction with the Futures Group and the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) in Kumasi, Accra and Tema found that 62% of gays in Ghana "indulge in heterosexual activities with their wives and girlfriends." Reverend Kofi Boateng, CEO of the African Christian Homes and Rehabilitation Centre, "was visibly worried about the startling revelation pointing to a new trend of male sexuality, indicating sexual perversion and a potential threat for increased transmission of the HIV/AIDS virus" ('62% of Ghanaian Gays indulge in heterosexual activities' 2006, *GNA*, 6 December, Ghana HomePage website http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=115115 – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 5).

Gay City News reports that gays and lesbians in Ghana "have been the target of a month-long campaign of homophobia in the media…an attack abetted by homophobia declarations from the Ghanaian government." Prince Kweku MacDonald, the leader of Ghana's only LGBT group, has left Ghana "in fear of his life, after receiving a constant stream of threats of violence and death." The article continues:

> The anti-gay campaign began when Ghanaian media began reporting in late August that an "international conference" of gays and lesbians would be held in Ghana, creating a firestorm of protest from newspapers, radio talk show hosts, and religious leaders.

On September 1, the government announced a ban on any such conference, and said criminal sanctions would be imposed on anyone involved in organizing it. Information Minister Kwamena Bartels said that because homosexuality was illegal in Ghana the gathering was not permitted.

“Government does not condone any such activity which violently offends the culture, morality, and heritage of the entire people of Ghana,” he said.

“Government would like to make it absolutely clear that it shall not permit the proposed conference anywhere in Ghana. Unnatural carnal knowledge is illegal under our criminal code. Homosexuality, lesbianism, and bestiality are therefore offences under the laws of Ghana,” the information minister added, calling on the interior minister to investigate and punish anyone involved in organizing or permitting the conference.

…The gathering was allegedly going to take place at Accra’s International Conference Centre, but the BBC’s correspondent in Accra reported, “Managers of the International Conference Centre have denied that such a conference was due to take place at the premises.”

Prince Kweku MacDonald, the executive president of GALAG and an HIV-prevention educator, told me, “The truth of the matter is that our gay and lesbian association has not even thought of any conference in the coming months. We do not even have the money or the resources it takes to organize such a big conference as reported by the local media here in Ghana. The problem here is that, they are afraid there might be something of that magnitude coming on in future, and wanted to threaten or caution the LGBT community here in Ghana not to come out at all in future because the people of Ghana hate the association of gays and lesbians.”

MacDonald told of the climate of fear created by the government’s declarations.

“For them to come out to condemn the false conference and go on to condemn the practice of homosexuality in Ghana made it very difficult for gay people to meet these days,” he reported. “The LGBT community in Ghana does not really feel safe to hold meetings and organize parties.”

MacDonald spoke to me from a neighboring African country, which I was asked not to name in order to protect his security.

“I left Ghana because I was receiving threatening phone calls and physical threats where I am living and from the religious group in Ghana, “ MacDonald said. “Would you believe I woke up one day only to find on our office vehicle an inscription that read, ‘burn it up?’ People would walk behind my house and shout, ‘We will stop you; the conference will happen only over our dead bodies,’ or holler, “Now we know you are behind all this and will put you where you deserve to be in this society.’ I felt it would be safest for me to leave Ghana before they do something to me.”

On September 5, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) issued a statement condemning the homophobic media campaign and the government’s ban on the non-existent “conference,” which it called “a red herring, introduced by an unknown source to galvanize resentment against Ghana’s increasingly visible gay and lesbian community.”

“Newspapers and radio call-in shows in the West African country have been obsessed with the topic of homosexuality and the sentiment has been strongly negative and in many cases violent. A number of LGBT leaders have received death threats and many are in fear of their lives,” IGLHRC said, adding, “The focus on the international nature of the conference, which

according to the government 'would have brought gays and lesbians from all over the world to Ghana,' seems designed to play into nationalist sentiments and reinforce notions of the 'unAfricanness' of same-sex desire and behavior."

The anti-gay hate campaign has continued in the time since IGLHRC's statement. A week after the BBC exposed the "conference" as a hoax, the Accra Daily Mail reported on September 7 that major religious leaders had called a large public demonstration against "gay and lesbian activities in Ghana," with Vice President Alhaji Airu Mahama having agreed to help lead it.

In calling the demonstration, the head of the Presbyterian Church in Ghana, Right Reverend Yaw Frempong Manso, denounced homosexuality as "detestable behavior... unnatural, abnormal, unBiblical and filthy;" while Reverend Dr. Lawrence Tetteh, head of the Protestant fundamentalist Worldwide Miracle Outreach sect, called gays and lesbians "sinful and shameful" and warned Ghanaians that "freedom for us in Ghana should not be a license to hell."

The demonstration was also supported by Ghana's national chief imam, Sheik Nuru Sharabutu, and by the Ga Mantse, or paramount chief of the Ga people, the large tribe after whom the country is named.

…There are many, many more examples of the Ghanaian media fanning the flames of anti-gay sentiment in these last weeks (Ireland, Doug 2006, 'Ghana: Media Leads Anti-Gay Witch-Hunt', *Z Magazine*, source: *Gay City News*, 21 September http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=11016 – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 6).

Ft. Lt. (Rtd) Codjo, solicitor and General Manager in charge of administration at the Ghana Publishing Corporation "has called for the prosecution of gays and lesbians" in Ghana:

Speaking in an interview with The Chronicle, he said for the sake of deterrence, the security agencies must be resourced adequately to arrest and prosecute gays and lesbians whose existence in the country pose a great threat to the moral fibre of this nation.

…He said media reports in recent time gave enough evidence for society to believe that there was a great deal of homosexuality and lesbian activities in Ghana and lamented that nothing had been done with such frequent media reports in our prisons, cells and single-sex schools.

He referred to what is known in our local parlance as "supi supi" and the 'Kojo besia' syndromes, which he said were the end results of the gay and lesbian culture engulfing our society today.

"Because society has allowed this culture to go on freely in our schools and prisons, we have no cause to complain when these same people practice their activities after education or after serving their jail terms," he reprimanded society in general.

…He appealed to society not to discriminate against gays and lesbians, as such a move could fuel their clandestine activities in the country.

The lawyer contended that the best way forward for this country to keep gays and lesbians under control was to strengthen systems in the prisons and all single-sex schools, especially secondary schools where majority of gay and the lesbian cultures were rooted.

> He expressed fear that if nothing were done quickly enough, gays and lesbians could propagate their seeds in our young students through material inducement (Adjei, Emmanuel 2006, 'Law Must Pursue Gays and Lesbians, Says Lawyer', *Ghanaian Chronicle*, 5 October, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 7).

The Life and Freedom Movement in Takordi plan to hold a "demonstration against gays and lesbianism practice that is gaining root" in Ghana:

> He [Prince Armah, President] said: "We intend to use all legitimate means to make Ghana a hostile place for these gays and lesbians". He lauded moves by the religious bodies, government and the other bodies for coming out in time to condemn the acts.
>
> ...Mr. Armah told ADM [*Accra Daily Mail*], the demonstration will have a national character since some of its leading members are from the various political groups in the country. He said the Movement has the intention of repeating the demonstration in Accra and Kumasi later in the year.
>
> "I wonder", Mr. Armah said "why the so-called president of the gays and lesbians association is still walking around a free person and have not been arrested by the police. But I promise that we are going to make sure this demonstration destabilizes their activities in this country".
>
> He called on all well meaning to come out in their numbers to demonstrate thereby erase the image these inhuman practices has brought to this nation and also tell the whole world Ghana is clean and peaceful country to live in (Appiah-Dolphyne, Joseph 2006, 'Stiff Opposition for Gays, Lesbians in Ta'di', *Accra Mail*, 25 September, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 8).

GALAG issued the following statement after the alleged international LGBT conference in Ghana was banned:

> 1. The Gay & Lesbian Association of Ghana (GALAG) has never discussed, nor have we ever organised, an international Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender [LGBT] conference in Ghana. Since our Executive President appeared in some electronic media, this conference appears to have been the brainchild of someone's vivid imagination. As an association, we are not prepared to organise such a conference anywhere in Ghana, let alone any part of the universe, at this point.
>
> 2. We have no hand in – nor the faintest clue about – any such conference to be organised by any group anywhere; neither do we know of – nor have we heard of – any such event. All we know is what is being peddled irresponsibly in the media, apparently oblivious to the journalistic ethical code which calls for confirming such a potentially controversial event with at least two or three reliable sources before putting it on air or in print media as truth.
>
> 3. GALAG is like any other non-governmental association representing a population which exercises its constitutional rights, votes in elections, pays our taxes, cares for our parents, children, siblings and other family members, working dutifully at our jobs and, therefore, contributing our fair share to national growth.
>
> 4. We wish to state categorically that GALAG does not promote homosexuality, but rather seeks the sexual well-being of same-gender-loving people, their families and friends, as well as the general population at large. LGBT individuals and their loved ones are frequently rejected and have no place to turn. GALAG tries to fill that void.

> 5. We work hard to promote the well-being and health of same-gender-loving people trying to survive in an otherwise hostile environment.
>
> 6. We have no clear estimate of the number of GLBT in Ghana, but initial studies here have shown that about half of Ghanaian men who have sex with other men are also having sex with women, creating a potential 'crossover' for HIV/STDs between the gay and heterosexual populations here. As for sheer numbers, it is safe to say that about 10% of the Ghanaian population – or approximately 2 million Ghanaians – have been involved in same-sex sexual relationships. During the past year, through brief research GALAG has participated in, nearly 2,000 of these have been identified in Accra and Tema alone. Each of these men & women contributes positively to Ghanaian life.
>
> 7. We have peer educators who do outreach in the LGBT community to educate vulnerable community members on such issues as safer sexual practices, accessing user-friendly health and social services, and generally to discuss their well-being. This is only necessary because many of them cannot receive the nurturing they deserve from their families, their churches, their mosques, their schools or other social institutions which so readily provide needed support to heterosexual individuals.
>
> …10. Media personnel and the public need to be careful stereotyping homosexuality in the newspapers, on radio and TV. We have found lots of the comments and reactions to homosexuality to be weightless and prove the general public's ignorance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals. We are everywhere – albeit many of us 'closeted' because of anti-gay sentiment, harassment and violence, when we should instead be protected by the constitution to be able to achieve our potential, like any other Ghanaian should (Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana 2006, 'Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana Speaks out on Recent Attacks', International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission website, 15 September http://www.iglhrc.org/site/iglhrc/section.php?detail=679&id=5 – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 9).

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana "has pledged the church's support for government's prompt and bold stance to prevent this abomination [homosexuality] from being encouraged on Ghanaian soil." The article continues:

> The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frimpong Manson, at a news conference held at the church's headquarters on the Golden Jubilee Crusade, has condemned the shameful act of homosexuality and same sex marriages.
>
> …According to the Moderator, homosexuality in certain communities is no longer viewed as something shameful or sinful, and that homosexuals have adopted an open lifestyle, which he described shameful practice in a more positive term as 'gay'.
>
> He was appalled that those who detested and condemned the practice were called 'homophobic' and that in some communities, it was the homophobia and not homosexuality that was treated with contempt (Addo, Michael 2006, 'Presbyterian Church of Ghana Condemns Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriages', *Ghanaian Chronicle*, 8 September, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 10).

The Presbyterian Church of Ghana and the Worldwide Miracle Outreach "have arranged to embark on a "peaceful demonstration" this weekend in Accra, to register their displeasure at gay and lesbian activities in Ghana." The article continues:

> Speaking at a press briefing in Accra on Tuesday, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Tetteh referred to lesbian and gay practices as "shameful and sinful".

He cautioned Ghanaians against misinterpretation of democracy and stressed that, "freedom for us in Ghana should not be a license to hell".

He said if the conference had been allowed to take place, it could worsen the spread of sexually transmitted diseases especially HIV/AIDS in the country.

Rev. Lawrence Tetteh acknowledged the government's "bold step" taken against the issue but stressed the need for more intervention.

"I thank the government for its initiative but we need a massive and united front to combat these unacceptable practices and lifestyles" he said (Boateng, Theresa 2006, 'Presby Church, WMO to Demonstrate Against Same Sex', *Accra Mail*, 7 September, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 11).

Prince McDonald, President of GALAG has called on Ghanaians to accept gays and lesbians:

Even though Ghanaians society and the country's legal framework generally frown on same sex, there are many Ghanaians who have been "clandestinely" engaged in their sexual preference, but have now publicly announced their desire to be recognized.

As their number in the country keeps swelling, the President of Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana has revealed that the association has currently been registering members including some who are in senior secondary school or have just left school. Already, there are some top men and women in society, people with diverse professions including politicians flirting with the gay fraternity, he disclosed.

"We have the majority of gay men in Accra. During some of the small programmes we organize, we get about 400 to 500 gays attending and when we have big programmes we get thousands of people coming from other regions," Mr. Prince McDonald, the president of the association told Joy fm a local radio station in Accra yesterday.

He noted: "There are a lot of people with this orientation when you move all over Ghana. When you go to Kumasi there is a large population, when you go to Sunyani, when you go to Techiman, in the North, in the Central, there are whole lot of young men and old men, young women and old women who are engaged in same sex attraction."

Mr. McDonald, 29 says he has been a gay throughout his life. He mentioned some of the societal constraints they encounter as inability to seek medical attention with sexually transmitted infections and media criticism. "Most people do not have anyone to talk to or express that feeling to and that is the problem", he said.

…He called on Ghanaians to accept gays and lesbians into the society because they are human beings and they should be treated the same way as others would wish to be treated. He did not understand why Ghanaians are infringing on their rights and are refusing to accept their fraternity. He said, "We have problems with some things heterosexuals do, but we don't complain about them, we don't fight over them."

…Meanwhile none of the "ordinary people" ADM [*Accra Daily Mail*] talked to agreed that gays and lesbians should be accepted into the Ghanaian society (Essel, Isaac 2006, 'Out of the Closet! – Ghanaian Gays and Lesbians Ask for Recognition', *Accra Mail*, 24 August, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 12).

Professor Sakyi Awuku-Amoah of the Ghanaian AIDS Commission "has dismissed suggestions that homosexuals are unable to access health services." The article continues:

> His comments follow complaints by the leader of a gay and lesbian group in Accra that homosexuals face discrimination at various health centres.
>
> Prof. Awuku-Amoah told Joy News that homosexuals have themselves to blame if they are not getting medical care.
>
> "Anyone of them can go to the hospital for health services and the moment they report, Physicians will treat them like any other person with HIV. So if they feel they are not getting the services then the problem is partly their own," he said.
>
> This, Prof Awuku-Amoah explained was because they do not feel comfortable to come out in the open about their sexuality to access health facilities made available to them.
>
> He said because they know that doctors or physicians would ask them to bring their partners for treatment, whenever they visit the hospitals, they refuse to bring their partners and in certain cases they do not show up at all.
>
> Professor Awuku Amoah told Joy News that homosexuals spreads infection just as commercial sex workers and because both of them work underground, it posses problems to the national response.
>
> He explained that the Aids Commission is funding an organization, which is conducting research into homosexuals and until their findings is ready; there isn't much that the commission can do.
>
> Professor Awuku Amoah told Joy News that the commission's HIV/AIDS campaigns are non-discriminatory ('AIDS Commission Boss Comments on Gays' 2005, *My Joy Online*, 22 June, Behind the Mask website http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=ghana&id=254 – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 13).

The Ghanaian Chronicle provides information on Prince Kweku MacDonald, a gay rights activist in Ghana, who "has suffered violence and discrimination at the hands of fellow Ghanaians for years". The article continues:

> Beaten, harassed, and bereft of many fundamental human rights, Prince Kweku Macdonald refuses to give up his fight. He has suffered violence and discrimination at the hands of fellow Ghanaians for years, ever since people started suspecting that he might be gay.
>
> At around the age of eighteen, while attending pastorial school, Macdonald started feeling attracted to men.
>
> …Hopeless, Macdonald was thinking of taking his own life when he met someone who helped him deal with his feelings of frustration and despair. "I confided in a friend and he told me that he had felt the same way, for years, and that I was not an evil person."
>
> Encouraged by the confirmation that he was not alone, Macdonald abandoned his suicide plan and instead began working to protect gay rights in Ghana.
>
> Now a human rights activist with the gay and lesbian association of Ghana, Macdonald wants society's attitude towards gays and lesbians to change. "I think it is possible. If two religious groups are living together, then it is possible for two types of people to also live together."

> But there is a significant difference. It is not against the law to practice different religions. It is illegal, however, to take part in sexual activities that are not intended for procreation. Article 104 of the criminal code prohibits unnatural carnal knowledge.
>
> That means that gay and lesbian sex is punishable by law, even when it is done in the privacy of your own home. This, says one Ghanaian lawyer, who wishes to remain unidentified, is in direct violation of the constitution, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which has been ratified by Ghana. She is using this ICCPR as a means of protecting her client, who was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for having sex with another man.
>
> …This is the first case of this kind she has worked on, and she admits that most of her colleagues wouldn't represent a gay client. "The attitude is very difficult in this society," she says. "I think religion has a lot to do with it" (Jacques, Jaime & Gbolu, Florence 2005, 'Social Justice – Same Sex, Different Rights', *Ghanaian Chronicle*, 22 June, Behind the Mask website http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=ghana&id=255 – Accessed 15 August 2007 – Attachment 14).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources**:**

Government Information & Reports

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/cgi-bin/foliocgi.exe/refinfo_e

UK Home Office http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/

US Department of State http://www.state.gov/

United Nations (UN)

UNHCR http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home

Non-Government Organisations

Amnesty International http://www.amnesty.org/

Freedom House http://www.freedomhouse.org/

Human Rights Watch http://www.hrw.org/

International News & Politics

allAfrica.com http://allafrica.com/

BBC News http://news.bbc.co.uk/

Ghana HomePage website http://www.ghanaweb.com/

Topic Specific Links

365 Gay http://www.365gay.com/

The Advocate http://www.advocate.com/

Amnesty Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Concerns http://www.ai-lgbt.org/eng.htm

Asylum Law http://www.asylumlaw.org/

Behind the Mask http://www.mask.org.za/index2.html

Global Gayz http://www.globalgayz.com/

GMax http://www.gmax.co.za/

The Gully http://www.thegully.com/

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission http://www.iglhrc.org/site/iglhrc/

International Lesbian and Gay Organisation http://www.ilga.org/

Sodomy Laws http://www.sodomylaws.org/

Z Magazine http://www.zmag.org/

Search Engines

Google http://www.google.com.au/

Databases**:**
FACTIVA (news database)
BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)
REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)
ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)
RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. US Department of State 2007, *Country Reports on Human Practice 2006 – Ghana*, 6 March.

2. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2006, *GHA101616.E – Ghana: Treatment of homosexuals by society and authorities and availability of state protection; names and activities of groups or associations promoting homosexual rights*, 2 October http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/rir/index_e.htm?action=record.viewrec&gotorec=450505 – Accessed 15 August 2007.

3. Hanson, Ebenezer 2007, 'No Room for Gays and Lesbians', *Public Agenda*, 21 May, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007.

4. Ryan, Orla 2007, 'Ghana's secret gay community', *BBC News*, 14 March http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6445337.stm – Accessed 15 August 2007.

5. '62% of Ghanaian Gays indulge in heterosexual activities' 2006, *GNA*, 6 December, Ghana HomePage website http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=115115 – Accessed 15 August 2007.

6. Ireland, Doug 2006, 'Ghana: Media Leads Anti-Gay Witch-Hunt', *Z Magazine*, source: *Gay City News*, 21 September http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=11016 – Accessed 15 August 2007.

7. Adjei, Emmanuel 2006, 'Law Must Pursue Gays and Lesbians, Says Lawyer', *Ghanaian Chronicle*, 5 October, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007.

8. Appiah-Dolphyne, Joseph 2006, 'Stiff Opposition for Gays, Lesbians in Ta'di', *Accra Mail*, 25 September, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007.

9. Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana 2006, 'Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana Speaks out on Recent Attack's, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission website, 15 September http://www.iglhrc.org/site/iglhrc/section.php?detail=679&id=5 – Accessed 15 August 2007.

10. Addo, Michael 2006, 'Presbyterian Church of Ghana Condemns Homosexuality and Same Sex Marriages', *Ghanaian Chronicle*, 8 September, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007.

11. Boateng, Theresa 2006, 'Presby Church, WMO to Demonstrate Against Same Sex', *Accra Mail*, 7 September, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007.

12. Essel, Isaac 2006, 'Out of the Closet! – Ghanaian Gays and Lesbians Ask for Recognition', *Accra Mail*, 24 August, allAfrica.com website http://allafrica.com/ – Accessed 15 August 2007.

13. 'AIDS Commission Boss Comments on Gays' 2005, *My Joy Online*, 22 June, Behind the Mask website http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=ghana&id=254 – Accessed 15 August 2007.

14. Jacques, Jaime & Gbolu, Florence 2005, 'Social Justice – Same Sex, Different Rights', *Ghanaian Chronicle*, 22 June, Behind the Mask website http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=ghana&id=255 – Accessed 15 August 2007.