

23 October 2026.

Petition to Intervene for Justice and Repair: The Alleged Abuse of Obuasi SHTS Girls and Every Child Harmed in Our Schools.

To: The Honourable Minister, **(Ministry of Education)**
The Republic of Ghana

ActionAid Ghana writes with profound concern and unwavering sense of responsibility, anchored in our mandate to advance women's rights, child protection and social justice to petition your esteemed office over the allegation of sexual abuse of nineteen (19) girls of Obuasi Senior High Technical School (Obuasi SHTS) in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. This call is borne out of the fact that there has been recent widespread reportage in the media of alleged sexual abuse of some girls by the Headmaster of the Obuasi SHTS and the apparent shielding of the perpetrator by the Ghana Education authorities.

While respecting the presumption of innocence and due process, ActionAid Ghana is deeply concerned by the number of girls and the serious safeguarding implications for students in Obuasi SHTS and sister schools across the country. We are extremely worried that this may just be the tip of the iceberg of a growing canker in our educational system. A JoyNews Research review documented at least 44 cases of teachers and headteachers accused of sexually abusing students since 2015, including Bole SHS, Dzodze-Penyi SHS, Okadjakrom SHTS, KNUST SHS and Labone SHS in the past year alone. Only 12 of these ended in conviction, and 23 have seen no reported outcomes. No SHS Headteacher has ever been convicted.

There are numerous national laws and policies that prohibit these acts, and they must be strictly enforced. The recent reports underscore the urgent need to protect students' rights, uphold bodily autonomy and ensure that the allegations are thoroughly and fairly investigated for justice to be served. Schools must be safe spaces for learning, where every student is protected from sexual abuse, intimidation and the misuse of authority.

Our Concerns:

1. **Safeguarding and Protection of Girls in schools;** As a social justice organisation championing equal access to quality education over the past 35 years, we strongly advocate for safe schools. Educational institutions have a duty to protect students from sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment and other forms of violence. This current allegation raises urgent questions about safeguarding systems, reporting mechanisms and the measures in place to protect students from potential harm or retaliation.
2. **Bodily autonomy, dignity and consent:** Every person has the right to bodily autonomy, dignity and freedom from sexual violence. No individual should be subjected to unwanted sexual contact, coercion or abuse of authority. Students must be able to exercise their rights without fear, manipulation or intimidation.
3. **Justice and accountability:** Accountability must extend to any person found, through due process, to have committed, facilitated or concealed abuse. No social status or political

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affiliation places anyone above the law. While we commend the Ghana Police Service and Ghana Education Service for showing leadership in this case, we are still concerned about the urgency attached to this case and similar ones already reported

4. **Survivor-centred support and protection from retaliation:** We are also concerned about survivors' dignity, access to appropriate psychosocial support, healthcare, and protection from intimidation. Where are the survivors, and have they been given proper health care and psychosocial support?

Our demands

In line with our commitment to social justice, gender equality and the protection of the rights of women, girls and young people, ActionAid Ghana calls on the relevant authorities to:

1. **Ensure transparent, impartial and expedited investigations to deliver Justice for survivors:** We call for a transparent, impartial and urgent processes, devoid of political machinations, to establish the facts and ensure justice is served to the survivors of the alleged rape and sexual abuse by the Headmaster of Obuasi SHTS in the Ashanti Region.
2. **Strengthen Rights Education and Protection in Schools:** Scale up rights education and safe reporting mechanisms nationwide to empower girls to recognise and report abuse, challenge the quiet settlement of cases, and ensure accountability for violations of their rights.
3. **Strengthen Safeguarding Reforms in Schools:** Urgently review and enforce safeguarding policies across all schools, establish offender registers with appropriate due process and confidentiality safeguards, and end the practice of quietly transferring alleged offenders to other schools without accountability.
4. **Ensure reparation for all survivors:** We call for state institutions like GES, to immediately acknowledge the harm suffered, provide medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, ensure continuity of education, and protect them from stigma and retaliation, while addressing institutional failures and ensuring accountability.

Conclusion

It is our fervent wish that the Attorney-General, the Ghana Police Service, the Ghana Education Service, the Ministry of Education and all relevant institutions act with urgency, integrity and accountability to ensure justice for the survivors. We commend citizens for their active citizenship and commitment to social justice, a core focus of ActionAid Ghana's work, and encourage them to sustain their engagement and vigilance until justice is served. The outcome of this case must lead to stronger safeguarding systems, meaningful accountability and safer learning environments for every student. Together, let us rebuild schools that girls can trust.

Signed,
ActionAid Ghana.

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Cc:

- H.E the Vice President, Republic of Ghana
- Honourable Minister, (Ministry of Interior)
- Honourable Minister, (Ministry of Justice and Attorney General)
- Honourable Minister, (Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection)
- The Inspector General of Police, (Ghana Police Service)
- The Commissioner; Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)
- All relevant child protection and human rights institutions.
- All media outlets.

About ActionAid Ghana:

ActionAid Ghana (AAG) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization and part of a global movement committed to promoting human rights and fighting poverty in over 45 countries. We believe that people living in poverty can create change for themselves and their communities, and AAG serves as a catalyst for that change.

In Ghana, we operate in 11 of the 16 administrative regions: Upper East, Upper West, Northern, Savannah, North-East, Bono, Bono East, Ahafo, Volta, Oti, and Greater Accra. Our mission is to create a just and sustainable world where everyone can live with dignity, free from poverty and oppression. You can contact ActionAid Ghana via email; aaghana@actionaid.org or call 0244316392.