

Biographical Data form for Candidates to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Name (family name, first name): GBEDEMAH, Hilary

Nationality: Ghanaian

Date and place of birth: 1 October 1953; Nsawam, Ghana

Working Languages: English

Current position/Function:

Rector of The Law Institute, Accra. The Institute is Ghana's premier vocational law training Institute, undertaking training of non-legal personnel in paralegal studies, and legal personnel in specific aspects of the law as requested. Functions include lecturing (in Family Law, Human Rights, Legal Aspects of Human Resource Management and Employment Discrimination, Law of Succession, ADR and Contract); Research, curriculum development and administration.

Main professional activities:

- Research in Law, Gender and Human Rights, Human Resource Law
- Producing publications and academic writings
- Curriculum Development for Vocational Law Programmes, Production of training materials.
- Implementation of Para-legal Studies training programmes, within and outside the Institute
Partnering, networking and building coalitions with NGO, private sector, governmental and international stakeholders
- Advocacy on contemporary human rights issues (inheritance, property rights of spouses; affirmative action and women's equal representation; economic rights; access to, and management of natural resources – water, forestry, mining;)
- Supervision of office administrative functions, ensuring quality control in the Institute's output.

Educational background:

- LL.M. (Masters Degree in Law), Georgetown University, Washington D.C. 1996
- LL.B (Hons.) University of Ghana, Legon, 1995; B.L. (Professional Law Qualification), 1977
- Women in Senior Management, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
- International Humanitarian Law. (Certificate) Henri Dunant Institute, Geneva, 1998
- Diploma in Leadership and Advocacy, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. 1996

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of

All Forms of Discrimination against Women:

Main activities relevant to CEDAW's mandate listed by Articles (in parenthesis) are:-

Participated in documenting discriminatory articles in Ghana's 1992 Constitution, presented submissions to the Constitutional Review Commission (5). Engaged with the International

Spouses Association on discriminatory aspects of Ghana's Citizenship laws (9). Engaged in legislative advocacy and community sensitization on the Property Rights of Spouses Bill and the Intestate Succession Bill. Produced and presented a paper to ILO with Chapters on Prostitution and Trafficking of girls (6). Provided drafting instructions, engaged in lobbying and advocacy on Ghana's Affirmative Action Bill (7 & 8). Made presentations on Work place and Maternity Rights of Women, (11) and on economic rights at Beijing+15 NGO Forum, formed an entrepreneurial club – Women on the Move – to assist young women entrepreneurs, has been a contributor to the World Bank IFC *Women, Business and the Law*; from 2012 - 2015 (13). Worked for 7 years as a lawyer in the rural areas representing women to claim their legal rights (14).

List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights:

- **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; Successes and Challenges from Ghana's Perspective**, published 2013.
 - **Trokosi: Twentieth Century Female Bondage – A Ghanaian Case Study**, published 2006
 - **Enhancing Women's Representation in Governance through Affirmative Action**
Unpublished 80 page manuscript Paper prepared for ABANTU for Development 2011.
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