

## **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<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 1953; NSAWAM, GHANA**

Working Languages: **ENGLISH**

### **Current position/Function:**

Rector, The Law Institute, Labone Accra. The Institute is Ghana's premier vocational law training Institute undertaking training of non-legal personnel in paralegal studies, and legal persons in specific aspects of the law they require courses in. 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<sup>1</sup>**

- 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  
Partner, network and build coalitions with NGO, private sector and 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. (Master's Degree in Law), Georgetown University, Washington D.C. 1996
- LL.B (Hons.) University of Ghana, Legon, 1975; 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

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that membership in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requires participation in three annual sessions of three weeks duration, plus participating (on a rotating basis) in a pre-session working group of one week in respect of each session

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:  
(10 lines maximum)

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

Engaged with CSOs in identifying discriminatory articles in Ghana's 1992, and the International Spouses Association on discriminatory aspects of Ghana's Citizenship laws in order to present submissions to the Constitutional Review Commission in 2011. Has 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. Has written, trained and engaged in lobbying advocacy on Affirmative action. Is a member of Netright – a CSO coalition, on whose platform I made a presentation on Women's Economic Rights at Beijing +15 NGO Forum; Formed an entrepreneurial club – Women on the Move – to assist young women in business, and was a contributor to the World Bank IFC 2012 **Women, Business and the Law; Removing Barriers to Economic Inclusion**. Has worked with the Legal Awareness Programme, advancing the legal rights of rural areas women, and establishing their claim-making power.

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

- **Trokosi: Twentieth Century Female Bondage – A Ghanaian Case Study**
  - **Rape and Defilement; Interventions available to Victims of Rape and Defilement; Safety Planning – Preventing Rape and Defilement**
  - **Enhancing Women's Representation in Governance through Affirmative Action**  
Unpublished 80 page manuscript Paper prepared for ABANTU for Development
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