**GHANA ASSOCIATION OF PERSONS WITH ALBINISN (GAPA)**

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Combating stigmatization against Persons with Albinism in Ghana

**March 2010**

**Table of content**

Background (introduction)

Problem

Objective

Implementation strategy (Project activities)

Target Groups & Collaborating Organizations

Expected Outcomes

Challenges

Proposed Budget

Time Plan

List of Acronyms

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

CHRAJ: Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice

GAB: Ghana Association of the Blind

GFD: Ghana Federation of the Disabled

GNATH: Ghana National Association of Traditional Healers

GNAD: Ghana National Association of Deaf

GSPD: Ghana Society of the Physically Disabled

NCCE: National Commission of Civic Education

NCPD: National Council for Persons with Disability

PWA: Persons with Albinism

PWD: Persons with Disability

**Background (Introduction)**

Following the adoption of the National Disability Policy (2000) and the promulgation of the National Disability Act in 2006, Disability Right awareness has received significant attention of wider society. This has given further impetus to the promotion and advocacy for the Rights of Persons with Disability (PWDs) in the country.

The promulgation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability has further boosted the efforts of the civil society organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating in the disability sector.

It is however interesting to note that whilst the promotion and advocacy for the rights of PWDs is gaining significant public attention, most of the attention has been focused on 3 major forms of disability, namely the visually impaired (Blindness), the physically disabled and the hearing impaired (Deafness).

The concerns of other disability groupings such as the Persons with Albinism (Albinos), persons with Autism and the mentally handicap seem to have been on a low key, even though the composition of the Ghana Federation of the Disabled transcend and the three(3) traditional disability organizations i.e. GBU, GSPD and GNAD.

***Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism (GAPA***)

The Ghana Association of Persons Living with Albinism (GAPA) was established on 2nd February 2003. GAPA was previously known as the Society of Albinos Ghana (SOAG). It is a non-governmental organization that promotes the rights of persons with albinism (PWA)

The objective of the organization is to demystify or break the myths and misconceptions of persons with albinism in Ghana and to sensitize and create awareness about the challenges facing them. The Association was granted a membership status to the Ghana Federation of the Disabled in December, 2007. The vision of GAPA is to adopt a holistic approach towards addressing the problems peculiar to persons with albinism in Ghana.

**Aims and Objectives of GAPA include the following:**

* To break the myths, prejudices and other negative cultural beliefs and norms about persons with albinism.
* To support Ghanaians with albinism to cope with their disability through health support programs and other initiatives.
* To advocate for the rights of persons with albinism in Ghana
* To mobilize and empower persons with albinism in Ghana

The major activities of GAPA include;

* Provision of assistive technical devices and other related services
* Mass membership mobilization of persons with Albinism
* Research and advocacy
* Public education

**Problem Statement**

Persons with Albinism in Ghana and other African countries have historically been stigmatized and discriminated against. Like other Persons with Disability, albinos in Ghana lack equal opportunities in the sphere of employment, marriage and access to health services. The worst of all the discriminatory tendencies is the fact that, as pertains in other African countries like Tanzania and Burundi, Albinos are sometimes murdered for ritual purposes. This is as a result of the belief that the body and the blood of persons with Albinism PWA contains good omen (luck) and are therefore useful for ritual purposes.

In the Eastern Region of Ghana, Burukuwa, Akwamufie and other traditional areas, PWAs are neither permitted to reside nor enter the community. In the early 2009, a former Imam of the National Armed Forces and the leader of the Salawati Muslim Mission in the Northern Region made a public declaration to the effect that politicians and other prominent personalities in Ghanaian society engage in the sacrifices of the blood of Albinos for success.

Even though a fact-finding mission of the Ghana Federation of the Disabled (GFD) proved that the scenario in Burukuwa and other areas are genuine concerns, nothing positive and concrete have been done by way of intervention by neither the state nor civil society.

**Objective**

The proposal pilot project would be a regional focus advocacy scheme aimed at protecting the fundamental human rights of the albinos in the eastern region of Ghana. The project is intended to be replicated in other regions of the country. Among the fundamental objectives are to;

* Campaign against the stigmatization and discrimination against Ghanaian albinos.
* Campaign against the ritual killing of albinos in Ghana.
* Demystify the notion of albinism as a phenomenon caused by a spiritual factor.
* To sensitize the custodians of traditional Ghanaian culture and customs as well as the Psychic and traditional medicine practitioners on the rights of PWAs and PWDs in general.

**Target Groups and Collaborating Organizations**

The proposal project shall be implemented in collaboration with the Kwahu Traditional Council, Eastern Regional House of Chiefs, and key stakeholders in the disability movement such as the Ghana Federation of the Disabled and the commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). The rest of are the Ghana National Association of Psychic and Traditional Healers (GNATH) and the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE), the ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs and the Commission on Culture.

**Implementation Strategy (Project Activity Plan)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Target Group Collaborative Organizations** | **Responsibility** | **Objective/ Expected outcome** | **Challenges / Possible Risks** | **Means of verification / Monitoring Indicators** |
| 1. Launching of the project | Kwahu Traditional Council, Eastern Regional House of Chiefs, CHRAJ ‘NCCE, GFD, NCPD, GNATH |  |  |  |  |
| 1. TV documentary, Radio programs, newspaper publication, press conference | General public | Advocacy Committee of GAPA in collaboration with media / communication consultant | Significant Awareness of Albinism and Rights of PWAs in general. | Convenient Broadcasting time | Reports, contacts with stated agencies and organizations. |
| 1. 1 day public Forum | General public | GAPA subcommittee | Awareness creating albinism and development and promotion of GAPA website and quarterly news letter | Attracting Significant number of participants | Photos, videos, reports |
| 1. Meeting with Reps of Eastern Regional House and National House of Chiefs, Kwahu Traditional Council, Akwamufie Traditional, Ministers of chieftaincy Affairs, commission of culture. | Regional House and national House of chiefs, Kwahu Traditional Council, Ministry of chieftaincy Affairs, commission on culture. | Sub-committee of GAPA |  |  | Minutes of meeting verification from and contacts with stated agencies and organizations, |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Publication of News Letter and Handouts | All partners / General public | Media /Communication Expert |  |  | Cross verification from Media Commission and partner organizations |
| 1. 1 day public lecture / Scientific presentation / symposium on Albinism |  | Consulting Dermatologist / Physiologist (Dr. Edmund Delle) |  |  |  |
| 1. Concert by persons with Albinisms | General public | MUSIGA (Musician Union of Ghana) |  | Prospects of getting Salif Keita of Mali and Yellow man of Jamaica to perform for free. |  |
| 1. Submission of final project report to partners |  |  |  |  |  |

**Proposed Time Plan**

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| **Activity** | **Implementation period (May – September 2010**) |
| 1. Launching of project | 1st week of May |
| 1. Meeting with Reps of Regional House and National House of Chiefs, Kwahu Traditional Council, Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs, Commission on Culture | 2nd and 3rd week of May |
| 1. Sensitization of the media on Albinism | 4th week of May 2010 |
| 1. 1 day public lecture / scientific presentation / symposium on Albinism | 1st week of June 2010 |
| 1. TV documentary, Radio programs, newspaper publication, Press Conference | 2nd – 3rd week of June and July 2010 |
| 1. Publication of News Letter and Handouts | End of July 2010 |
| 1. Submission of final project Report to partners | End of August 2010 |

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| **BUDGET LINE** | | **QUALITY** | **RATE** | **AMOUNT** |
| **Administration EXPENSES** | |  |  |  |
| * Stationary | |  |  | 150 |
| * Office Utilities and Expenses | |  |  | 150 |
| * Communication | |  |  | 200 |
| * Meetings expenses | |  |  | 200 |
| * Bank Charges | |  |  |  |
| * Other – specify: posters, leaflets, t-shirts | |  |  | 300 |
| **Subtotal administration expenses (max 10%)** | |  |  | 1000 |
| **Objective** | **Project Activities** |  |  |  |
| **Obj 1** Campaign against the stigmatization and discrimination against Ghanaian albinos. | Public lecture on the issue of Stigmatization & discrimination against persons with albinism |  |  |  |
| Resource Persons |  |  | 1000 |
| Venue (cost of rent)/workshop/conference facility. |  |  | 500 |
| Refreshment |  |  | 500 |
| **Obj 2** Campaign against the ritual killing of Albinos in Ghana. | A float/ walk through the streets /public education on the right of Persons with albinism within the targeted communities |  |  | 500 |
|  | TV and Radio Discussion |  |  | 500 |
| Publication and Circulation of Newsletter and Handouts |  |  | 1500 |
| Development and Launching of GAPA website |  |  | 1500 |
| **Obj 3** Demystify the notion of albinism as a phenomenon caused by spiritual factor. | Education on albinism as a health condition |  |  |  |
| Resource Persons |  |  | 1000 |
| Venue |  |  | 500 |
| **Obj 4**. To sensitize the custodians of traditional Ghana culture and custom as well as the Psychic and Traditional medicine practitioners, on the rights of PWAs and PWDs in general | Venue rental and lunch / refreshment for consultative forums with traditional leaders other stakeholders. |  |  | 850 |
| Refreshment |  |  | 500 |
|  | **SUBTOTAL FOR PROJECT ACTIVITY** |  |  | **8850** |
|  | **GRAND TOTAL** |  |  | **9,850** |

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| --- | --- |
| Own Total Contribution: | GH ¢ 1850 |
| Sponsors Contribution: | GH ¢ 8000 |
| Total Cash Budget: | GH ¢ 9850 |