

# Report of Burning Issues: African Youth Ambassadors

## Ghana

### Voice of Youth Coordinator Richard Offei and Youth Ambassador Alfred Appiah

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“By the grace of God, there is peace in Ghana. There hasn’t been any incident of killing in any form in Ghana. One thing worth reporting is the introduction of the double track system in the second cycle education system. Ghana's second cycle institutions will now move away from three school terms to a two-semester system similar to that run by tertiary institutions

The introduction of the semester system comes as government's policy of free SHS encounters fresh and serious challenges. The move to make education free at the second cycle stage in order to deepen access has led to severe congestion in classrooms and pressure on already inadequate infrastructure. To cure this problem, the government has, not without controversy, introduced the double track system. The system divides the entire student body and staff into two different tracks. So while one track is in school, the other is on vacation.

On the other hand, unemployment is on the increase in Ghana as most graduate don't find jobs to do after school. Abuse of drug is also on the rise in Ghana. The abuse of Tramadol is speedily becoming a big issue in Ghana as many people are losing their lives.

A viral video reveals the dangers persons who abuse the opioid painkiller go through; a reason health experts are warning against the abuse of the drug in the country.

Tramadol is a pain relief drug, which according to medical experts, functions like heroin and can cause psychotic problems as well as damage vital organs in the human body if abused.

Recent surveys have shown that the drug is being abused by some youth, as well as some market women, drivers and in some cases students. Most of the users of this drug take them for some reasons including sex and energy for hard work.

Findings have shown that Tramadol abuse has killed more people than heroin and cocaine. This has called for concerns and Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has planned to join forces with a number of sector agencies to curb the illegal entry, distribution, sale of tramadol following how some Ghanaians are speedily abusing the drug.

FDA's recent investigation shows that most of the drug comes into the country through unapproved routes making it difficult to track its final destination.”

## Tanzania

### Voice of Youth Ambassador Zakaria Mpembela

“In Tanzania, we are facing some strange killings. People have been killed but the killers are not known and the government have failed to find those killers. Many are of the view that the killings are connected to political affairs, the most affected people have been the politicians from opposition's parties and some of activists (People who fight for human right, People from non-government agencies who advocate for human rights protections). Opposition political parties are still being banned from conducting their political activities.

Also unemployment is still high in Tanzania especially for graduates. Some factors for unemployment are:

- Changes in government policies and priorities
- miss location of Budget
- Action of the government to remove people who had fake certificates and were civil services.

No democracy, people they don't have right to choose.”

## Cameroon

### Voice of Youth Ambassador Vanessa Endong

“There is still blood shedding in Cameroon as people are being killed day in and out. People who speak against the Government and these killings are silenced unknowingly. This is in attempt to make Cameroon a French speaking country and those who oppose it are killed, especially the English speaking citizens are those who suffer or are victims. Most of us who speak English now live and find refuge in the bushes. The media is silent on this because any one who attempt to report these menace would be killed silently. In Cameroon, those of us who speak English are discriminated upon, we are denied jobs, education, court hearing etc. These killings are done in secrete and the only thing we see is death bodies of family and friends who are killed. The cause if these death is still unknown.”

## Nigeria

### Voice of Youth Ambassador Helen Amos

“In Nigeria, the story isn’t different as people are killed each day and night.

Fulani Herdsmen on the 24th June, 2018 a day before our departure from Switzerland for the Youth ambassador program, there was an attack at Barkin Ladi of Joseph Plateau State. More than 200 human lives were killed and countless driven out in the rains and left without shelter, the victims are mostly Christian indigenes of the state, their homes and churches were burnt.

Boko Haram on the other side is still killing in almost all the states of the county especially the northeast states, schools, churches, houses and few of mosques are destroyed. All these led to most people leaving their jobs, homes and family in escape of their lives in areas of Borno, Yobe

Another awful issue is the kidnaping of People as ransom for money or rituals. Children and youth have been victims of this as people are kidnapped and killed each day and night.”

## Conclusion

We call on all to stand in prayer with our brethren in African especially, Cameroon, Nigerian and Tanzania

Submitted by:

***Youth Ambassadors from Africa.***