

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)

Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) the local chapter of Transparency International (TI) was launched in December, 1999 as a non-partisan, non profit civil empowerment organization focused on the delivery of essential themes necessary for the creation of a National Integrity System. It is made up of Board of seven members and a Secretariat manned by nine full time staff. It has also initiated a membership drive to realize its objective of becoming a membership organization.

OUR VISION

GII wants to see a corruption-free Ghana in all spheres of human endeavour where people and institutions act with integrity, accountability and transparency.

OUR MISSION

GII's mission has three main objectives specifically aimed at achieving the vision of a corruption-free Ghana. These are:

- To continuously create awareness about the negative effects of corruption
- To empower citizens to demand responsiveness, accountability and transparency from people and institutions in Ghana
- To work with people and institutions and build a culture of integrity, where corruption is unprofitable for people working in government, politics, business and civil society organisations.

OBJECTIVES

GII's main objective is to encourage networking of Community Based Organizations (CBO's) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in the demand for open government and reforms to ensure that corruption is minimized through:

1. Educating the public about civic rights and duties especially the basis of constitutionalism;
2. Pressing for legislative reforms of anti-corruption rules, enforcement procedures and rules restrictive to media freedom;
3. Supporting the evolution of strong institutions of governance especially the institutions directly involved in anti-corruption activities;
4. Forging links between the public and their governments as the basis for the evolution of a National Integrity System;
5. Creating and administering training programmes in ethics and civic duty;
6. Liaising with international anti-corruption bodies;
7. Organising media programmes that are aired nationally, devoted to awareness-raising on anti-corruption and integrity issues;
8. Building a database (including Internet Access) and library on corruption.

ACTIVITIES

PAST ACTIVITIES

In line with these objectives, GII has carried out a number of activities since its inception in 1999.

- Workshop on the theme "Information for Accountability" in 2000 bringing together Executive and Parliamentary arms of government and Civil Society to forge a consensus about the adoption of Freedom of Information Bill. Note that Ghana has still not enacted a Freedom of Information law although it has been in the government's agenda for a long time.
- Integrity walk dubbed 'Declare for Integrity! Walk with your Conscience', a launching pad for a national slogan campaign against corruption in 2001
- Organised sensitization workshops, seminars etc. on the causes, effects and solutions to corruption (2004 to date) with support from MISEREOR.
- Engaged student bodies in schools and identifiable youth groups to talk about the canker of corruption and possible remedies. (2004 to date).
- Seminar on investigative reporting organised for the Media in 2003

- Focus group discussion on the ‘First Draft of the Freedom of Information Bill 2002’ as an ongoing effort to press for the enactment of the law.
- ‘Governance hour’, a radio talk show educating the public on anti-corruption issues
- Hosted the TI African Chapter Conference in 2002.
- Seminar on enhancing transparency in Ghana - Mainstreaming Anti-Corruption Measures in Ghana (2002)
- Media Soiree in Accra (2006)
- Conducted corruption-related surveys:
 - # GII “Voice of the People” Survey –an urban corruption perception survey in Southern Ghana (2005).
 - # Judiciary Watch Project – Monitoring Judicial corruption in Ghana (2005 – 2007). The report was launched in November, 2007 at which the Chief Justice pledged her commitment to address corruption in the Judicial system in the country.

MOST RECENT ACTIVITIES

- Advocating for the passage of transparency-enhancing and anti-corruption legislations:
 - # Freedom of Information law. A coalition, including GII, has now been formed to work for the enactment of the law. It is hosted by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and continues to expand.
 - # Whistleblower Law. This law has now been passed (The Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720).
- Organised nation-wide radio programmes to educate the public on the importance of anti-corruption legislations in the fight against corruption (ongoing)
- Advocated for the ratification and domestication of United Nations (UN) and Africa Union (AU) Conventions against Corruption (2006)
- GII has continued to launch the annual reports of Transparency International, namely:
 - # Global Corruption Report (GCR)
 - # Corruption Perception Index (CPI)
 - # Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)
 - # Oil and Gas Companies Report (2008).
- Publish quarterly newsletter “*GII Alert*” that highlights GII and TI activities as well as best practices and significant happenings in anti-corruption in Ghana and around the world (2005 - ongoing)
- Membership Drive Project aimed at raising awareness for qualified members of the public to join the TI movement. (2007 – on-going)
- Africa Education Watch Programme, a multi-national project on primary education in Africa (2007-on-going)
- Public Education/ District/Municipal level sensitization workshop - Fighting corruption – an agenda for democracy and good governance (2004-ongoing)
- Effective implementation of the Assets Disclosure regime in Ghana (2007). Advocacy aimed at making the Assets Declaration law in Ghana (Act 550) operational.
- Promoting awareness of the Conflict of Interest Guidelines produced by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) (2007-2008)
- Ethics Programme for Religious Bodies(2008-ongoing) aimed at educating religious leaders on the negative effects of corruption and the need to join the fight against it.
- Transparency and Integrity in Service Delivery in Africa Programme just initiated with a special focus on water delivery in Ghana (2008-on-going)

NETWORKING

GII liaises with individuals and local institutions of integrity such as the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), the Attorney General's Department, the Media, Parliament, the Electoral Commission, Ghana Audit Service (GAS), various civil society organizations and International Institutions.

LOBBYING

- # Sensitizing political and other concerned parties and entering into dialogue on designing and adopting anti-corruption policy reforms through round table conferences, workshops, press statements, etc.
- # Addressing employees in various organisations and distributing leaflets on corruption
- # Lobbying for protection of whistleblowers in the Draft Protected Public Interest Disclosure Bill.

ADVOCACY AND LEGAL ADVISORY CENTRE

GII is in the process of setting up an Advocacy and Legal Centre (ALAC) to provide legal support to citizens that encounter corruption situations. This is expected to take off fully by the first quarter of 2009.

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