



CIVIL SOCIETY  
PLATFORM  
GHANA



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**GLOBAL FUND REPORT ON ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY GHANAIAI NGO**

The Ghana Civil Society Organisations Platform (CSOs) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has sighted a couple of publications in the local and international media on allegations of sexual abuse and extortions by a named Ghanaian CSO. The publications by Reuters and Ghanaweb.com reference an “18-page report entitled *Misconduct affecting Global Fund grants* details how representatives of the Ghana Network Association of People Living with HIV (NAP+) “abused their positions of power and fostered a culture of sexual and financial exploitation”. The publication goes on to allege that, these abuses took place between 2010 and 2019 and that “multiple NAP+ executives demanded that program members engage in sexual conduct or provide financial kickbacks in order to access events and benefits supported by grant funds, which constituted corrupt and coercive practices,”

The gravity of these allegations as captured in the said report gives a worrying concern to all well-meaning Civil Society Organisations, particularly those who work to promote social justice, equity, integrity, transparency, and accountability. Based on this, the leadership of the Ghana CSOs Platform on the SDGs states its position on the matter as follows:

- We encourage the mandated Governmental investigative institutions to immediately pay attention to this developing story, investigate and ascertain the veracity or otherwise of the story, and take the necessary remedial actions.
- We condemn in no uncertain terms any such acts of abuse and exploitation of projects principals/beneficiaries.
- We encourage the leadership of the Ghana Network Association of People Living with HIV (NAP+) to come clear on its position regarding these allegations to bring clarity on the said publications. The leadership should also be clear on how this issue and the allegations, if true, may have been handled.
- We demand to know actions undertaken by the Global Fund in relation to the said investigations as alleged by the cited publications. We believe that a transparent management of this case is the best way to demonstrate CSOs’ capacity to self-regulate and apply the ethos of good governance practices of transparency and accountability.

As a Platform we wish to admonish CSOs to exhibit professional ethics in their work and to be proactive in dealing with issues that have potential to give bad publicity to the broader CSO space. The platform stands in readiness to work with the Management of the Global Fund and NAP+ to address this issue and provide the necessary support to ensure the effective running of services to persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Thank you.

Signed:

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