



NANHRI-CHRAJ-Ghana Workshop on Litigation and Engagements with Regional Treaty Bodies

Joint Press Release

Salutation:

Good morning members of the press.

Thank you very much for honouring and attending this press briefing ahead of the workshop on Litigation and engagement with the African regional treaty bodies.

The [Network of African National Human Rights Institutions](#) (NANHRI) and the [Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice](#) of Ghana have organised a workshop bringing together more than 25 staff members of the CHRAJ and civil society organisations (CSOs) for a training on litigation and other forms of engagements with sub-regional and regional human rights treaty bodies.

This training is based on a study [by NANHRI](#) of 2019, which established that most national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in Africa have minimal interaction with the sub-regional and regional human rights treaty bodies in securing remedy for human rights violations.

Although CHRAJ has sought remedy for human rights violations through its mandate and a few cases via national courts, the institution has seldom approached the regional human rights bodies.

While Ghana is State Party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter) and The Protocol on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Court Protocol), less than 10 cases from Ghana have been presented before the [African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) (African Commission) and [African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights](#) (African Court) for a decision. The African Charter and African Court Protocol establish the African Commission and African Court respectively.

Another treaty body, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), has issued [communications](#) on 16 cases since 2005 involving various States in Africa.

None of the active or finalized cases before the three treaty bodies were presented by CHRAJ.

Although the CHRAJ has sufficient mandate through the CHRAJ Act and the Constitution of Ghana to resolve or pursue human rights violations, regional human rights bodies can complement its work.

This gap informed the three day-training of the staff of CHRAJ and CSOs in Ghana to enhance their capacity in actively litigating and engaging the regional treaty bodies in complementing the national mechanisms to ensure human rights for all.

Furthermore, the training seeks to consolidate and identify opportunities for collaboration between CHRAJ and CSOs in not only engaging the regional human rights treaty bodies, but also following up on implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the regional bodies for the benefit of the rights holders. This, again, is a gap identified from our study that showed that States mostly ignore decisions of regional treaty bodies, hence the need for national mechanisms of following up to fruition.

Similarly, the training will focus on how CHRAJ and CSOs can institutionalise and utilize affiliate status to the African Commission and ACERWC and their *locus standi* at the African Court.

Engagements with the regional treaty bodies will not only improve enjoyment of human rights through triggering legal reforms and complementary remedy to national mechanism, but also trigger legal reforms through the decisions to ensure Ghana aligns its laws to regional and international standard.

Jointly issued by NANHRI and CHRAJ.

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