

Dorcas Ama Frema Coker-Appiah (Ghana)

Date and place of birth: Wenchi, Ghana, 17 August 1946

Working languages: English

Current position/function

Executive Director, Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre, Accra, a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of women in Ghana.

Member, CEDAW (July 2003 to date) serving the unexpired term of Prof. Akua Kuenyehia who resigned when she was elected to the International Criminal Court

Main professional activities

Member, Legal Service Board, having responsibility for the legal service in Ghana (2001 to date)

Member and Chairperson, Legal Literacy and Resource Foundation, set up by the Ghana Bar Association to provide legal literacy for the public (1995 to date)

Chairperson, Board of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) a regional network of individuals and organizations using law as a tool for development of women in Africa, based in Harare, Zimbabwe (2001 to date)

Educational background

LLB (Hons), University of Ghana, 1970, Professional certificate in Law, 1972

Called to the Ghana Bar and Member, Ghana Bar Association, October 1972

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned

- (a) Member, Group of experts to Sierra Leone to assess needs of Government of Sierra Leone in implementing CEDAW, October 2004 organized by United Nations Division for Advancement of Women
- (b) Facilitator, training workshop for staff of Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Sierra Leone, 4-8 April 2005 organized by United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
- (c) Facilitator, training of women in political leadership in Liberia, organized by Office of Gender Advisor, UNMIL, June 2005 in Liberia, Monrovia
- (d) Member, Advisory Committee on Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Women
- (e) Panel speaker, Women's Human rights and the Elimination of Violence against Women: 10th Anniversary Commemoration of Beijing Conference, Beijing, 29 August-1 September 2005
- (f) Panel speaker, conference organized by Womankind Worldwide, London, 9 December 2004 on theme; Global Challenges to Women's Rights: 25 years of CEDAW. (Paper presented: 25 Years of CEDAW: The story so far.)

(Looking at effects of the Convention on the rights of Women, as well as obstacles and challenges to implementation)

- (g) External evaluator for ACBF midterm evaluation of NGOCC Women 2000 Project, Zambia, May 2003
- (h) Co-facilitator, Human Rights Education for NGOs in Sierra Leone organized by UNHCR September 2002 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Prepared a manual on women's rights including international human rights instruments, such as the CEDAW which is used by trainees as resource handbook
- (i) Facilitator, Strategic Planning Meeting for WILDAF Nigeria, April 1999
- (j) Course Facilitator, Africa Human Rights Camp, Oct. 20-Nov. 9, Sogakope, Ghana. Organized by Human Rights Institute of South Africa, and Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre
- (k) Training on Organizational Leadership Skills for Women Leaders in the Horn of Africa, August 1998, Djibouti
- (l) Training on Democracy and Civic Education, Monrovia, Liberia July and September, 1997, organized by AED (Washington D.C. and Africa Leadership Forum, ALF)
- (m) West Africa subregional Training of Trainers on Manual on "Organizing for Women in Africa", May 1998
- (n) Resource person for training on Leadership Skills and Legal Education for WILDAF, Ghana, 1992 to date
- (o) Volunteer, FIDA Legal Aid Centre, 1985 to date
- (p) Co-developer, with Akua Kuenyehia of training module on legal literacy and leadership skills for women leaders of grass-roots organizations for WILDAF Ghana and trainer on legal literacy, leadership skills and gender

List of most recent publications

- (a) Co-writer with Clara Fayorsey and Christine Dowuona-Hammond: "Societal influences on the conduct of conjugal relations" in *Women and Law in West Africa*, "Gender Relations in the Family — a West African Perspective", edited by Akua Kuenyehia (2003)
- (b) Co-editor, Coker-Appiah — Cusack, "Breaking the Silence and Challenging the myths of Violence against Women and Children in Ghana. Report of a National Study" (1999). Publication of Gender Studies and Human rights Documentation Centre
- (c) Co-author with Akua Kuenyehia of: "Landlord and Tenant" and "Right to a Fair Trial", published by Ghana Legal Literacy and Resource Foundation, 1999
- (d) Co-author with two others (Akua Kuenyehia and Emelia Adjepong) of "Intestate Succession", "Marriage Laws", "Your Child and You, Maintenance of Children", "Divorce Laws" and "Administration of Estates", published by FIDA Ghana Legal Literacy Project, 1991