



PRESS STATEMENT

**NCPTA CONDEMNS RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
CALLS FOR A CONSTITUTIONALLY INCLUSIVE EDUCATIONAL
ENVIRONMENT.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Introduction

The National Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (NCPTA)-Ghana, is deeply concerned about the recent developments at Wesley Girls SHS, Tema SHS and any other Public or Private institution where certain administrative directives appears to favour a specific religious faith, heritage or doctrines to the disadvantage of students of other faiths and the interest of the state. As the statutory national body representing the interest of parents and guardians across the country, the NCPTA views these developments as inconsistent with Ghana's constitutional order and the principles that governs public service in the delivery of public education.

As public entities, all schools and public servants must uphold the Supremacy of the Constitution of Ghana as stated in **Article 1(2) 'This Constitution must be the supreme law of Ghana and any other law found to be inconsistent with any provisions of this constitution, shall to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.'**

Constitutional and legal Imperatives

All Public and Private Schools at the Pre-tertiary Educational levels in Ghana (Kindergarten, Primary, Junior High, Senior High, Technical and Vocational Training Schools) irrespective of their historical antecedents, educational philosophy, cultural ethos and faith based origins, are state institutions that must operate under the authority of the 1992 Constitution and in compliance with Article 1(2).

We believe that such schools which are largely funded and patronized by the Government and Parents cannot:

1. Privilege one religion over others, hence must provide egalitarian leadership and create an inclusive environment for religious tolerance.
2. Suppress the practices of minority faiths, unless such practices are in violation of Article 14(1) (e) where exceptions are granted for the purposes of educational or welfare of a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years. Such limitations must be applied narrowly, reasonably and in the genuine interest of the child's welfare and not as a justification for doctrinal or religious preferences.
3. Enforce rules rooted in a specific religious doctrine against students who do not share that faith, as all such actions violates Articles 12, 17, and 21(1)(c) of the Ghanaian Constitution which guarantees the protection of the fundamental human rights and freedoms, non-discrimination and freedom of religion of all persons.

Respect for Tradition and Educational Heritage

The NCPTA recognizes the rich history, culture and contributions of Faith based Institutions to Ghana's educational advancement, hence commends the founders of such schools for their immense contribution to discipline, high moral standards, and academic excellence. However, their achievements were not built on exclusion or intolerance, but on a tradition of openness, tolerance, mutual respect and a commitment to educating every child who walks through their gates. Tradition must therefore operate within the bounds of constitutional requirements and must not be used to justify discriminatory practices in state founded schools.

Central Role of Parents in Upholding Students' Rights

As the primary custodians of children's welfare, parents play an indispensable role in ensuring a safe, inclusive and constitutionally compliant school environment. Under the Pre-tertiary Education Act, 2020 (Act 1049), parents are recognised as essential stakeholders in educational governance. Their input is central to shaping school policies, monitoring disciplinary systems and safeguarding students' rights.

Parental oversight through the NCPTA and its constituent structures, School Management Committees and Boards is a vital mechanism for ensuring transparency, accountability and respect for diversity within schools. Parents must therefore remain vigilant and actively engaged, ensuring that no school atmosphere—whether public or private—undermines the freedoms and protections guaranteed to their children. The NCPTA calls upon parents across all religious backgrounds to unite in defending the constitutional values of fairness, dignity and equal treatment for all learners.

CALL TO ACTION

To address these issues in the bud, we propose the following:

- 1. Review of School Policies:** The NCPTA urges the Ministry of Education, together with parents, school authorities, Faith-Based Organisations and relevant stakeholders, to undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of existing school policies to ensure that they align fully with the 1992 Constitution, the Pre-Tertiary Education Act, 2020 (Act 1049) and Internationally recognised human rights standards.
- 2. Training for School Administrators, Teachers and other Key Stakeholders:** Furthermore, school administrators, teachers, PTA leaders, School Management Committees and Board members must undergo continuous training in constitutional literacy, diversity management, student welfare, and conflict-sensitive practices. The Ministry of Education should engage the services of experts to provide training and capacity building programmes for these key stakeholders on the importance of diversity, inclusion, discipline and tolerance.
- 3. Student Engagement:** Encourage student participation in decision-making processes to ensure their voices are heard and their rights are respected. Strengthened dialogue among parents, schools and communities is essential to fostering an environment built on trust, cooperation and mutual understanding.
- 4. Community Engagement:** Foster dialogue between schools, parents and the community to promote understanding and respect for diversity.
- 5. Enforcement and Compliance:** The NCPTA calls on the Ministry of Education and its collaborating agencies to decisively enforce the laws governing public education. Unconstitutional and discriminatory

practices must be identified, addressed and sanctioned promptly to maintain public confidence in the governance of our schools and to deter future violations.

Conclusion

The National Council of Parent–Teacher Associations reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that Ghana’s public and private schools—many of which rely on the support of government, parents and community partners—continue to be centres of tolerance, discipline, inclusivity, moral integrity and academic excellence. The NCPTA remains unwavering in its resolve to protect the rights and welfare of every Ghanaian child.



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