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## PRESS STATEMENT

### HUMANIST ASSOCIATION OF GHANA STATEMENT ON PARLIAMENT OF GHANA COMMITTEE REPORT OF ANTI-LGBT BILL

The Humanist Association of Ghana (HAG) has taken note of the parliamentary select committee on Constitutional, Legal and Parliamentary affairs report on The Promotion of Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill 2021, which is to be laid before the Parliament of Ghana today.

One of the objections that the committee raised, like many other Ghanaians, was that this bill if passed, would likely impose a charge on the consolidated fund, and we agree with that. We also note two court cases filed in that regard, which makes us wonder why the rush to push the bill at all costs.

One of our preliminary objections to the bill, which was captured in a joint memo we submitted with other organisations, was the fact that the bill violates Article 1 Clauses 1 and 2 of the 1992 constitution and that any bill in contravention of, or inconsistent with the laws of Ghana should be null and void. The bill violates a lot of key fundamental human rights positions which the committee mentioned in their report but still insisted the bill be adopted; we cannot agree to that position.

Our constitution guarantees freedom of association, religion, beliefs and expression, which this current bill, in its form, violates on all fronts. This begs the question, is parliament, or in particular, this session of parliament, intending to run an authoritarian society where a few members of parliament will use their personal religious persuasions to create bills that infringe on all these rights?

As an organisation for marginalised persons, this shows us that should the majority of religious Ghanaians want to create laws against our lack of beliefs, we essentially would not be considered. The wave of hate on our continent is evident with the passing of laws in the past and present in Nigeria, Kenya and Zambia, and the Humanist Association of Ghana notes how this hate distracts from the real problems we are faced with - poverty, corruption, and a general lack of respect for human dignity. That is why this bill is dangerous.

Our thoughts and hopes remain with the LGBT community and all their allies.

SIGNED

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