

# Ghana National Catholic Youth Council (GHANCYC)

DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL MINISTRY & EVANGELIZATION - NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT



Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....

Bankers: Ghana Commercial Bank (GCB)

National Secretariat

P.O. Box KA 9712,

Airport-Accra/Ghana-West Africa

Mob: +233 242010490 Tel: +233 (0) 302-500491/2

Fax: +233 (0) 3022-500493

E-mail: ghancyc2010.1974@yahoo.com

14<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

## **CATHOLIC YOUTH SUPPORTS GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE ON STANCE ON HOMOSEXUALITY IN GHANA**

We, the Catholic Youth of Ghana offer our unflinching and total support to the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) on the stance it has taken to support the draft Bill presented to parliament on Promotion of Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values in Ghana.

We wish to categorically state that, in as much as LGBTQIA+ activities threaten the concept of family and the associated value systems that are central to the social structure of all ethnic groups in Ghana and bring into question the concept of family for Ghanaians which has always been a unit of society initiated by marriage between a man and a woman each of whose gender is assigned at birth, Catholic Youth in Ghana will resist any attempt that seek to legalize or legitimize their activities in Ghana through all legitimate means.

We join our Bishops to offer our support to the draft bill presented to parliament that seeks to make the practice of homosexuality illegal in Ghana. The practice of homosexuality is alien to our culture, abominable, morally unacceptable and it defeats the purpose of procreation through natural course. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that;

*Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity (Cf. Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:10), tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered." (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Persona humana, 8). They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved. (CCC 2357)*

Following our understanding that homosexuality is a sexual disorder of which some victims genuinely need help, we encourage all especially our fellow youth to take advantage of the intervention/treatment options that our Bishops wish to offer. As

---

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Young Catholic Students (YCS), Young Christian Workers (YCW), IMCS-Pax Romana, Catholic Youth Organisation (CYO), Catholic Organisation for Social and Religious Advancement (COSRA), All Arch/Diocesan Youth Councils

Catholic youth leaders, we stand ready to offer our help to all manner of persons but especially our fellow youth who have fallen victims of this sexual disorder and genuinely require psychological, medical or other interventions.

*The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. They do not choose their homosexual condition; for most of them it is a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition. (CCC 2358).*

We condemn the sin but not the sinner who can be reformed with love, support and counselling. There are some negative effects suffered by homosexuals which includes, higher rate of contracting STIs (especially HIV), stigmatization which leads to chronic health issues such as heart diseases and severe psychological distress. According to the recent Kaiser Family Foundation Research report published in May 2018, LGBTQIA+ community experiences higher rates of other less visible health issues like high blood pressure and earlier onset of disabilities.

In another study, it was found that lesbians, gays and bisexuals drank and smoked more heavily than heterosexuals which is seen as a 'coping mechanism' for dealing with discrimination. We wish to bring to the attention of the youth that these are the grave effects of LGBTQIA+ practices and advise them to stay away from such practices.

It is important to state that as Ghanaians and especially those who have the power to educate the public on this matter should be circumspect in what and how they contribute to the ongoing conversation/debate. Much as we hold and respect different opinions of people on this matter, it is of no use to attempt to disrupt the peaceful coexistence of religious bodies in Ghana by distorting and/or misquoting the submission of the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference on this matter. We encourage the media to crosscheck their facts before they publish.

As Catholic Youth we are proud of the firm position of the Catholic Bishops' Conference on this vex matter and therefore assure them of our unrelenting support.

May God Bless our homeland Ghana and make her great and strong,

Catholic Youth - Power in Action!

Catholic Youth - Power in Action!!

Action - For Christ!!!

Dennis Appiah-Sasraku  
General Secretary  
GHANCYC  
(0242010490)

Joseph Besigrinee  
Chairperson  
GHANCYC

Rev. Fr. James Bour-Mensah  
National Youth Chaplain  
(0243851275)