



## **STATEMENT ON THE RECENTLY PASSED ANTI-LGBTQ+ BILL IN GHANA.**

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) is gravely concerned about the recent passage of the 'Human Sexual rights and Ghanaian Family Values Bill' by the Parliament of Ghana and awaiting Presidential Assent which if it becomes law, will highly aggravate violence, discrimination and abuse towards the already marginalized LGBTQ+ individuals in the country.

NANHRI urges the State of Ghana to recall Resolution 275 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which strongly urges "States to end all acts of violence and abuse, whether committed by State or non-state actors, including by enacting and effectively applying appropriate laws prohibiting and punishing all forms of violence including those targeting persons on the bases of their imputed or real sexual orientation or gender identities, ensuring proper investigation and diligent prosecution of perpetrators and establishing judicial procedures responsive to the needs of victims". The Bill not only goes against Resolution 275, it also goes against the principles of equality and non-discrimination thus countering the spirit of inclusivity and UBUNTU.

NANHRI urges President Nana Akufo-Addo's government to reject this discriminatory bill and protect the rights of all Ghanaians, irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity. NANHRI also appreciates the responses from the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice who have voiced their position as per their mandate of protecting human rights.

NANHRI calls on all African NHRIs to extend protection for all persons without distinction within their jurisdiction and to ensure that policies and legislations adopted do not alienate the present diversity within our peoples and the continent.

**'The Africa we want** is an Africa that embraces and engages with all our diversity and harnesses our potential for the good of all peoples'.

**Done in Nairobi, 18 March 2024**

**Adv. Joseph Whittal, NANHRI Chairperson**