



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

NATIONAL MUSLIM CONFERENCE OF GHANA

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PRESS STATEMENT For Immediate Release

RESPONSE BY THE NATIONAL MUSLIM CONFERENCE OF GHANA TO THE STATEMENT BY THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF GHANA AND THE GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS PRACTICE IN GOVERNMENT-ASSISTED MISSION SCHOOLS

Introduction

The National Muslim Conference of Ghana (NMCG), under the leadership of the National Chief Imam, has followed with deep concern the statement jointly issued by the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) and the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) on 25th November 2025. Their position, which seeks to justify the suppression of minority religious rights within government-assisted mission schools, is not only unconstitutional but contradicts the very Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) they signed on 15th April 2024 and endorsed by the Ghana Education Service on 11th April, 2025.

For years, the Muslim community has exercised extraordinary restraint, guided by the wisdom, patience, and commitment to peace exemplified by the National Chief Imam. Needless to remind all of us of the historical visitation of the National Chief Imam to the Christ The King Catholic Church in Accra when he was celebrating his 100th birthday. He did not do that because he believed in the Catholic Church more than Islam; but rather he chose to use that milestone in his life to tell all Ghanaians especially religious people that we are each other's keeper and we must embrace one another for the peace of our dear nation, Ghana. Even in the face of severe tension and pressure from within our communities—particularly regarding



the Wesley Girls' SHS matter—the National Muslim Conference of Ghana led by the National Chief Imam resisted issuing statements that could inflame tension.

When Government instituted the National Day of Prayer held on the 1st of July this year, His eminence Cardinal Appiah Turkson attended the Muslim service recently held at the National Mosque. Same way the Muslims led by the General Secretary of NMCG was present at the Christian service. This was part of the efforts by Government in deepening religious appreciation and respect for one another. We chose dialogue, national unity, and the pursuit of justice through appropriate channels. Silence must never be mistaken for weakness, and peace must never be taken for granted. We wish to thank the many Christian personalities who have stood by us in this quest for religious freedom in our educational institutions.

In view of the statement issued by the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference (GCBC) and the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG) on 25th November 2025, we state the following:

1. The Constitution Is Supreme

The Constitution guarantees every Ghanaian student the right to practice and manifest their religion. Mission schools that accept state funding, state teachers, GETFund projects, and placement through the national system cannot act as private religious enclaves. Institutional identity cannot override individual constitutional rights and national interest.

2. The GES Directive Is Unambiguous

The GES Directive on Religious Tolerance (2015) explicitly prohibits:

- a. Denial of the right of Female Muslim Students to manifest their religion by way of the hijab
- b. Forcing Muslim students into Christian worship
- c. Preventing Muslim students from practicing their faith

The GCBC/CCG position directly contradicts this binding directive.

3. The MoU They Signed Exposes Their Contradiction

The MoU on Government-Assisted Mission Schools, validated 15th April 2024, requires:

- a. Acceptance of diversity
- b. Non-discrimination on the basis of religion
- c. Support for students' religious practices
- d. Respect for fasting and places of worship

It is therefore surprising for leaders who signed a peace-oriented MoU to now defend policies that violate it. It is important to state that Muslims are not asking for a mosque to be built in these mission schools, rather grant them their rights to pray, fast and not force them to attend church activities.

4. Moral Leadership Cannot Be Selective

It is disheartening that institutions claiming spiritual authority would support the oppression of vulnerable students—children who have no power except the protection guaranteed by the Constitution. What is there to gain if we insist on oppressing poor vulnerable students, denying them their fundamental human rights, even if such actions have, in the past, led to the painful death of a Muslim Student, as happened at Adisadel College in 2008? The NMCG have urged all Islamic Schools not to force students of other faiths to participate in Islamic worship.

The Qur'an categorically states that "There is no compulsion in religion" (Qur'an 2:256). For example, in many Islamic SHSs such as T.I Ahmadiyyah, Kumasi, Suhum Islamic Girls SHS and Siddiq SHS, Agona Nyarkrom among others, Christian female students do not put on veils (hijab) even though the hijab is part of the school uniform.

5. Ghana's Peace and Stability is Supreme

We call on all Ghanaians to recognize that, the unique peace we enjoy within a turbulent sub-region, marred by religious violence, cannot be taken for granted. Key elements in this peace have been the fact that, Christians and Muslims are friends with each other from attending the same schools, sleeping in the same room, and eating from the same dining hall. Such friendship cannot be maintained within an environment in which minority religious group's rights are violated.

The call for Muslims to attend their own schools is a call for religious segregation which cannot bode well for religious peace and harmony. Christians in Christian Schools and Muslims in Muslim Schools is a pseudo-apartheid system which can only entrench hatred for one religious group against another, a gas chamber waiting for the hazardous ignition to explode. We choose peace and look up to the country's constitutional bodies to guarantee the religious rights and freedoms of its citizens.

6. Conclusion

Any mission school desiring absolute doctrinal control must voluntarily return public funds invested in the institution, decline the use of state curriculum and textbooks, pay teachers from its coffers and opt-out of national placement. Until then, they are bound by the Constitution and the MoU.

Muslims in Ghana understand the need to collaborate and cooperate with other religious communities for the development of mother Ghana. Particularly, our scriptures tell us to engage Christians (*ahlul-kitab*) for the common good of humanity (Qur'an 3:64).

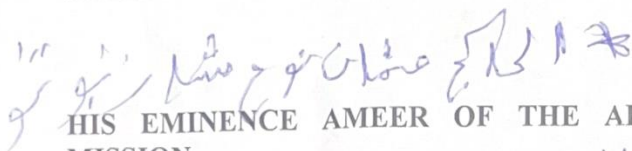
Therefore, the National Muslim Conference of Ghana (NMCG) believes in constructive inter-faith relations that inures to the benefits of national development. The NMCG reaffirms its trust in the courts and the constitutional order. We will respect the final ruling, and we expect all religious bodies to do the same. Ghana belongs to all of us. Our children must learn to live together, not segregate in the name of religion.

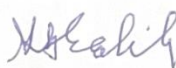
We remain committed to peace—but peace anchored in justice, fairness, and respect for constitutional rights and humanity.

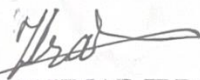
Please find attached the MOU facilitated by the National Peace Council, developed by religious bodies, signed by leaders of Religious Bodies and endorsed by the GES.

May God bless our homeland Ghana.

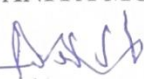
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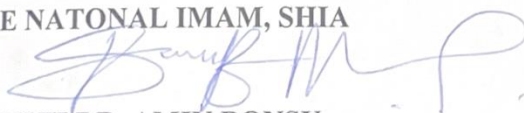


HIS EMINENCE AMEER OF THE AHMADIYYAH MUSLIM
MISSION
MAULVI MOHAMMED BIN SALIH 


SHEIKH ALHAJI UMAR IBRAHIM IMAM
NATIONAL IMAM, AHLUS SUNNAH WALJAMAAH


SHEIKH ABDUL WADUD HARUN
LEADER, TIJANIYA MUSLIM MOVEMENT, GHANA


SHEIKH ABUBAKAR AHMED KAMALDEEN
THE NATONAL IMAM, SHIA


SHEIKH DR. AMIN BONSU
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, GHANA MUSLIM MISSION


ALHAJI INUSAH MOHAMMED BABA
GENERAL SECRETARY, NMCG



Memorandum of Understanding

Agreed and Adopted

by

**Government Assisted and
Private Mission Schools**

Validated on 15th April 2024

**Developed by Conference of Managers of Education Units (COMEU)
and Facilitated by the National Peace Council**

1. PREAMBLE

The partnership between Government and the Missions in the provision and management of Unit Schools date back to pre-independence period. Since the days of the castle Schools to the advent of Mission Schools, Government has recognized the immense contributions of the Missions in the provision of educational services to the populace. The state has also demonstrated its readiness to partner the Missions in the overall management of schools especially the ones initiated by them.

Thus, it is common knowledge that there has existed a complementary relationship between the state and the religious organizations in the provision of education, health care and other social services for the citizenry. Additionally, each school is shaped by its identity through its culture and ethos. Constitutionally, Ghana is a secular state, and all citizens have the freedom to practice and profess any religion of their choice, with their religious liberty protected. Article 25 of the 1992 Constitution indicates that, all persons have the right to equal educational opportunities and facilities with the view to achieving full realization of that right.

Furthermore, mission educational institutions and other Bodies have increasingly been sensitive in creating a genuine cordial, safe, healthy and inclusive learning environment and a culture of tolerance in diversity in running the schools, without compromising their Vision and Mission.

However, the tranquility enjoyed by these bodies has recently been threatened by few events including misinformation in some schools which has the potential to damage the cherished harmony that had existed over time.

This MOU is binding on all Government Assisted/Private Mission Schools .

2. PURPOSE OF MoU

This MOU aims to provide guidelines for Government Assisted/Private Mission Schools that enables a safe learning environment, preventing discrimination on religious grounds to enhance greater social cohesion and promotion of national peace.

3. PRINCIPAL GUIDELINES

THAT THE RELIGIOUS BODY IN WHOSE NAME THE SCHOOLS EXIST SHALL:

i. Promote Safe and Healthy School Environment

Promote a safe and healthy learning environment for learners, teaching, and non-teaching staff in accordance with the law and regulatory framework of the schools. The schools shall ensure the following:

a. Unity of Purpose and Peace

That in the pursuit of our religious practices, government assisted schools and all their stakeholders should be guided by an abiding commitment to national peace, unity and development of the schools and the country as a whole.

b. Acceptance of Diversity

The acceptance that people have different religious beliefs and interpretations and that these do not pose a threat to the beliefs and identities of a school. It is to effectively manage diversity that government assisted mission schools and all their stakeholders should be guided and directed in their religious endeavours by a steadfast dedication to national peace, unity, harmony, tolerance, toleration, and the growth of both the school and the community at large.

c. School Environment

That Heads of schools shall create an environment where students feel welcomed without fear of discrimination and or victimisation on religious or any other grounds.

d. Values and Ethos

That no student is forced to select/choose a school against their will hence the said student must be abreast with the culture, values, ethos and the rules and regulations of the school of choice.

e. Mission Educational Institutions

Mission schools emphasize a culture of tolerance, inclusivity, and cooperation while maintaining the vision and mission of their parent religious bodies.

f. School Rules and Regulations

Rules and regulations of the schools should be made readily available and accessible to the general public. Pupils/students, parents and guardians should be taken through orientation on all rules and regulations including fasting, religious place of worship and dress code.

g. Fasting

On the issue of fasting, students should be allowed to fast, however, permission should be sought by parents/guardians from school authorities and requisite counselling provided before the period of fast commences. Students will, however, abide by all school rules and regulations. Any health-related effects of the fast, on the other hand, are not the school's responsibility.

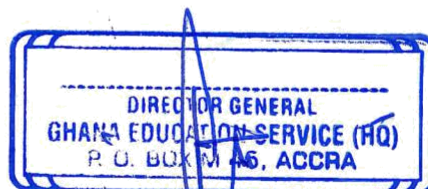
h. Religious Place of Worship

In the case of religious place of worship, mission-based schools could make available space of worship in toleration of diverse religious beliefs hence encouraging an environment of religious tolerance values which do not conflict with teaching and learning. This does not create an obligation to build a special place of worship.

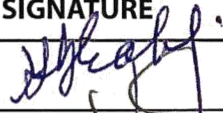
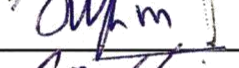
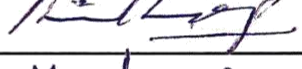
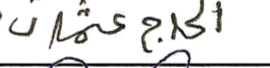
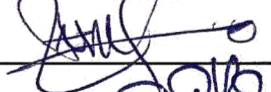
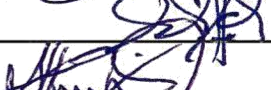
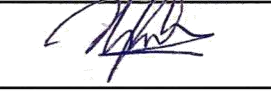
i. Dress Code/Uniforms

Only Prescribed Uniform and or mode of dressing of the particular mission-based school must be respected and parents together with their wards must abide by the given directives.

Endorsed by:
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
GHANA EDUCATION SERVICE



11TH APRIL, 2025

NO.	MISSION	NAME OF HEAD OF MISSION	SIGNATURE
1	AHMADIYYA MISSION	Maulvi M. BIN SALIH Hfrah	
2	A.M.E ZION CHURCH	Rev. Dr. Hilliard Dogbe	
3	ANGLICAN CHURCH	VENERABLE ANTHONY MORKEHEHE EIWULEY	
4	ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH	REV. STEPHEN WENGEAM	
5	GHANA BAPTIST CONVENTION	REV. ENOCH THOMPSON	
6	THE CATHOLIC CHURCH	MOST REV MATTHEW KWASI GYAMFI	+ Matthew Gyamfi
7	EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	RT. REV. DR. COL BDK AGBEKO	
8	OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHIEF IMAM	مفتي محمد صالح المنجد	
9	METHODIST CHURCH	MOST REV DR PAUL K BOATE	
10	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	Rt. Rev. Dr. ABRAHAM N.O. KWARYE	
11	SALVATION ARMY	COL. SETH AGYEI APPENTENG	
12	GARRISON EDUCATION	EBL MY BORBI	
13	POLICE EDUCATION	REV. THOMAS KOFI ARBOH	

