



22nd June, 2026

**Dr. Joseph Whittal,
The Commissioner
Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ),
Old Parliament House, High Street.
Accra, Ghana.**

Dear Dr. Joseph Whittal,

Re: Urgent Petition for Investigation into The Alleged Assault of Miss Patience Chibu, a Student of Nyinahin Catholic Senior High School

We, the undersigned Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) operating within the space of human rights, child rights protection, gender equality, and educational welfare in Ghana, hereby submit this petition to the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) pursuant to Article 218 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and Section 7 of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice Act, 1993 (Act 456).

This petition arises from a deeply disturbing incident at Nyinahin Catholic Senior High School (SHS) in the Ashanti Region, in which a female student was subjected to serious physical assault by a teacher of the same institution. The incident was captured on video, which subsequently went viral, provoking widespread public outrage across Ghana. It is our firm conviction that this assault constitutes a grave violation of the fundamental human rights of the victim as guaranteed under the 1992 Constitution and applicable international instruments ratified by Ghana.

1. BASIS OF THIS PETITION

We submit that the conduct depicted in the video and described in public reports constitutes a *prima facie* violation of the fundamental human rights guaranteed under the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and Ghana's international human rights obligations. The following facts are drawn from media reports, police statements, and publicly available information regarding the incident:

1.1 On or about 8th June 2026, Mr. Eric Buernortey Apaflo, a 39-year-old teacher and hostel caretaker at Nyinahin Catholic Senior High School in the Ashanti Region, physically assaulted Ms. Patience Chibu, an 18-year-old female student of the same school.

1.2 A widely circulated video of the incident shows the teacher repeatedly striking the student, and thereafter allegedly lifting and throwing her to the ground. Bystanders are heard pleading with him to stop, reminding him that the victim is a girl.

1.3 According to the Ashanti Regional Police Command, the confrontation began when the teacher, acting in his capacity as hostel caretaker, confronted the victim and some male students over alleged misconduct within the school hostel. The confrontation escalated and degenerated into the assault.

1.4 The suspect, Mr. Eric Buernortey Apaflo, was arrested by the Nyinahin District Police Patrol Team on 8th June 2026.



1.5 The Ashanti Regional Police Command issued a Medical Report Form for the victim to undergo examination and treatment. Both the teacher and the student have since undergone medical examination.

1.6 The Ghana Education Service has launched an administrative inquiry into the incident.

1.7 The criminal aspect of the case is alleged to be being pushed for a settlement out of court.

2. JURISDICTION OF CHRAJ

CHRAJ is vested with broad constitutional and statutory authority to investigate this matter. Specifically:

2.1 Under **Article 218(a)** of the 1992 Constitution, CHRAJ is mandated to investigate complaints of violations of fundamental rights and freedoms, injustice, corruption, abuse of power, and unfair treatment of any person by a public officer in the exercise of official duties. The suspect in this matter was acting in an official capacity as a teacher and hostel caretaker, a public officer employed under the Ghana Education Service.

2.2 Under **Article 218(e)**, CHRAJ is further empowered to investigate all instances of alleged or suspected corruption by public officers. To the extent that Mr. Apaflo abused his position of authority and trust as an educator, this provision is also engaged.

2.3 Under **Section 7 of the CHRAJ Act, 1993 (Act 456)**, the Commission may investigate complaints made by any person or group of persons, including CSOs, in respect of alleged violations of fundamental rights.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS VIOLATED

The assault on Ms. Patience Chibu constitutes violations of multiple provisions of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, as set out below:

3.1 Article 15 — Protection of Human Dignity

"Every person has inherent dignity and the right to have that dignity respected and protected."

The physical assault visited upon Ms. Chibu, who was struck repeatedly and thrown to the ground, constitutes a grave affront to her inherent dignity as a human being and as a female student. No disciplinary concern within a school hostel, however legitimate, can justify or excuse such degrading physical violence by a person in authority.

3.2 Article 13(1) — Right to Life and Personal Liberty

"No person shall be deprived of his life intentionally except in the execution of a sentence of a court of competent jurisdiction..."

While the victim survived the assault, the severity of the physical force used, including being thrown to the ground, placed her physical safety and bodily integrity in serious jeopardy. Article 13 protects not only the right to life but the physical integrity of persons from arbitrary or unlawful harm.



3.3 Article 14 — Right to Personal Liberty

The unprovoked and sustained physical attack by the teacher constituted an unlawful restraint and deprivation of Ms. Chibu's liberty and physical autonomy. The right to personal liberty encompasses freedom from physical violence and coercion, particularly by persons exercising state authority.

3.4 Article 17 — Equality and Freedom from Discrimination

"All persons shall be equal before the law... A person shall not be discriminated against on grounds of gender..."

The gendered dimension of this assault is significant. Bystanders were heard specifically reminding the teacher that the victim is a girl, implying that the force used was excessive and inappropriate even by the perpetrator's peer observers. The assault reflects gender-based violence, a form of discrimination expressly prohibited by Article 17(2) and (3) of the Constitution.

3.5 Article 26(2) — Protection from Dehumanising Customary Practices

Article 26(2) prohibits any customary practice that dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and mental wellbeing of a person. While not a customary practice per se, the normalisation of corporal violence within educational institutions mirrors prohibited dehumanising practices and must be categorically rejected and remedied.

3.6 Article 28 — Rights of Children

"Parliament shall enact such laws as are necessary to ensure that... children and young persons are protected against exploitation, discrimination, or mistreatment..."

Although Ms. Chibu is 18 years of age, she is a student in a secondary school environment where duty-of-care obligations are heightened. The spirit and intent of Article 28 extends to all young persons within the educational system who are especially vulnerable to abuse by persons in authority. The State has a positive obligation to protect students from violence within school premises.

3.7 Article 35(5) — Directive Principles: Protection of Children and the Vulnerable

Article 35(5) of the Directive Principles of State Policy enjoins the State to actively promote the welfare of all persons in Ghana and to ensure that every citizen is protected from abuse. This provision, read together with Article 12(1), imposes an obligation on all state institutions, including educational bodies, to uphold the rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

4. RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Ghana is a State party to several international human rights instruments that are also applicable to this matter:

(a) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989 — Articles 19, 28(2), and 37 obligate State Parties to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence while in the care of teachers or any other persons, and to prohibit cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.



(b) **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** — Article 10 guarantees equal access to education in a safe environment, free from gender-based violence.

(c) **African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Banjul Charter)** — Article 5 guarantees the right to the respect of dignity and prohibits all forms of exploitation and degradation, while Article 18 protects women and children from discrimination and violence.

5. GROUNDS FOR THIS PETITION

We submit this petition on the following grounds:

(I) The assault was carried out by a public officer, a teacher employed under the Ghana Education Service, in the exercise of his official functions, thereby bringing the matter squarely within CHRAJ's mandate under Article 218 of the Constitution.

(II). The criminal investigation currently being conducted by the Ghana Police Service does not foreclose a parallel human rights investigation by CHRAJ.

(III) The incident raises systemic concerns about the protection of students, and particularly female students, from violence in Ghana's educational institutions that require independent human rights scrutiny beyond this singular case.

(IV). The absence of adequate institutional safeguards and the apparent normalisation of teacher violence in schools warrants CHRAJ's broader systemic investigation and recommendations.

5. RELIEFS SOUGHT

In light of the foregoing, we respectfully urge the Commission to:

6.1 Formally investigate the assault of Ms. Patience Chibu at Nyinahin Catholic Senior High School as a violation of her constitutional rights under Articles 13, 14, 15, 17, and 28 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

6.2 Make findings of fact and determinations of law regarding the human rights violations perpetrated against the victim and any institutional failures that contributed to the incident

6.3 Recommend appropriate remedies and reparations for the victim, including psychological support, medical care, and any other forms of redress deemed just and appropriate.

6.4 Issue a formal recommendation to the Ghana Education Service and the Ministry of Education to develop and implement a comprehensive Policy on Violence Prevention in Educational Institutions, with particular focus on gender-based violence, student protection, and the conduct of teachers acting in loco parentis.

6.5 Recommend that the Ghana Education Service take administrative action against the suspect.

6.6 Recommend legislative and policy reforms to ensure that the prohibition of corporal punishment and physical violence in schools is explicitly codified, robustly enforced, and complemented by effective reporting and redress mechanisms.



CONCLUSION

The assault of Ms. Patience Chibu is not an isolated incident of individual misconduct. It reflects a wider pattern of tolerated violence within educational institutions that must be met with the full force of Ghana's constitutional human rights framework. Schools must be safe spaces for all learners, particularly girls, and teachers must be held to the highest standards of care, responsibility, and respect for students' rights.

We trust that CHRAJ, as the guardian of human rights and administrative justice in Ghana, will treat this petition with the urgency and seriousness it deserves. We stand ready to provide any further information, documentation, or assistance that the Commission may require in the discharge of its mandate. This petition is submitted in good faith in the public interest and in furtherance of the protection of human rights in Ghana.

We respectfully submit this petition.

Signed:

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COPIED:

1. The Minister for Education, Republic of Ghana
2. The Director-General, Ghana Education Service
3. The Ashanti Regional Director of Education
4. The Inspector-General of Police, Ghana Police Service
5. The Headmaster/Headmistress, Nyinahin Catholic Senior High School



6. The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE)
7. The Media (For Public Record)