

AT 22 YEARS: THE WOMEN'S MANIFESTO FOR GHANA **SALUTES THE WOMEN OF GHANA**

The Women's Manifesto for Ghana marks 22 years today, September 2, 2026. On this day, we want to salute all those who, with a spark of determination lit a path toward justice.

That path built on the conviction that women everywhere deserve equal opportunity, respect, and the power to shape their own destinies and made demands for change. From that moment, advocates, leaders, young and old and everyday changemakers have worked tirelessly to challenge inequality and open doors that were once closed.

The **Manifesto** remains a living and solid political non-partisan document which sets out critical issues of concern to women in Ghana and makes demands for addressing them.

It had 10 sections at the time. However, it has been revised over the years into a 2nd edition and a 3rd edition. The third edition revised in 2025 has 12 sections to reflect evolving challenges and emerging aspirations.

Twenty-two years ago, on September 2, 2004, The **Women's Manifesto for Ghana** was launched to serve as a platform of a common set of demands for the achievement of gender equality and equity. It allowed women to articulate their concerns in the 2004 national elections and beyond. The document is a gender equality milestone rooted in the belief that every woman deserves equality, respect, recognition and the right to their own and collective future. The vision was anchored on demands for civil, social, and political rights for the marginalised, especially women, where their voices must be heard, their dignity and contributions respected, and their rights fully recognised. Over the past 22 years, this vision has grown into a powerful

movement joined by varied stakeholders. Countless voices have risen in agreement challenging inequalities, dismantling barriers, pointing to injustice, identifying fault lines and inspiring generations of Ghanaians and others beyond.

The 22-year landmark is not just a celebration of time passed, but of progress made as well. It honours the tireless advocates and activists, community leaders, policymakers, the media, the youth and everyday women who have stood firm against discrimination and injustice. It reflects the victories in the passage of gender-based legislations and in other sectors of women's empowerment and national visibility as demanded in the **Manifesto**.

This anniversary is more than a marker of 22 years; it is a testament to resilience and progress. It celebrates the courage of women who refused to be silenced, the dedication of advocates who fought for reforms. This milestone is not simply about the passage of time; it is a tribute to the victories won and the lives transformed. It honours the women who stood at the frontlines of change, the allies who amplified their voices, and the communities that embraced the vision of a more equitable and inclusive nation – the Hallmark of the **Manifesto**.

Marking these twenty-two years is also a stark reminder that social change does not come in a hurry: there is still a very long mileage of unfinished work facing the struggle for gender equality. Persistent inequalities demand our continued commitment — to safeguard rights, expand opportunities, stop the roll back of gains and achievements and ensure that every woman is not discriminated against or suffer gender-based violence.

Yet, this anniversary is also a call to action as advanced in the **Manifesto**. While we celebrate the strides taken, we acknowledge that the journey toward full equality is ongoing. We must continue to amplify women's voices,

protect their rights as demanded within the current twelve (12) sections of the 3rd Edition of the **Manifesto**.

Twenty-two years on, our resolve must remain stronger than ever. The fundamental nature of women's rights is not contestable and there is strength in organisation for collective action. We must keep advocating for the normalisation of gender equality for a future where equality is not considered as an exception.

Yet, this is also a moment of reflection and renewed purpose. The fight for equality continues, and the challenges ahead demand the same courage and unity that have carried us this far. We must keep pushing boundaries, calling for implementation of the **Manifesto** demands, and advocate for spaces where every woman can thrive without fear or limitation.

Twenty-two years on, as we acknowledge the advances made, our resolve must focus on demanding for a more robust implementation plan so that we ensure a future where equality is a living experience and not a promised mirage.

Happy 22-Year Anniversary