The Newsletter

Ghana School of Law SRC

1st Edition

World Women's Day

Special Feature:

TOP OUTLIST:

Interview with Mrs. Sheila Minkah-Premo

Interview with Mrs. Lauraine Darkwah

Women's Day Opinion Corner

Women of the SRC

The Moot Court Competition

SRC Law Week Celebration



Odupong Agyapong Atta-Agyapong

President
Students Representative Council
Ghana School of Law

n account of the story of the Ghana School of Law can never be complete without highlighting the role of the strong women who keep breaking barriers. Such women include Ms. Sabina

Sabia Bolsong, who graduated top of her class being the recipient of the coveted John Mensah Sarbah Award for best graduating law student at the 2022 Call to the Bar ceremony.

As an SRC, we have proudly embraced equity in fulfilment of the campaign theme for IWD 2023 i.e. #EmbraceEquity. Our exceptional women members contribute in diverse ways to realising the vision of the SRC. We boast of competent women leaders heading majority of our committees and some serving as members. This Newsletter, the first of its kind in the SRC, was designed and prepared by the Editorial Board headed by a Woman; Ms. Joyann Obeng. Again, for the first time in our history, under the same leadership, we are migrating our print journals into a credible online journal where students and non-students will have ready access to articles.

This notwithstanding, there is no denying the fact that, as a profession, there are various issues confronting women such as representation. For instance, gender statistics from the Judicial Service of Ghana indicates that as at 17 October 2022, out of a total of 403 judges across the country, 233 are men whereas 170 are women. Although, the number of female law students, lawyers and judges have increased, only a few women are represented at the Bench.

There is thus the need to consciously ensure that women are well represented both at the Bar and the Bench. This is also a challenge for women to rise to the challenge and take up leadership roles that will ensure equal representation at all levels of the profession.

Happy International Women's Day!

THE EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

his maiden issue of our newsletter seeks to celebrate women.

It is refreshing to read one of ours; one that was borne out of our vision and hard work.

This newsletter was birthed from concerted efforts to see the GSL SRC grow. Without a team of valiant soldiers like you, the newsletter could not have been unveiled on a special day like this-International Women's Day.

I am honoured to be part of this initiative and I use this medium to thank all persons who contributed to making this vision possible. To my selfless editorial team, thank you!

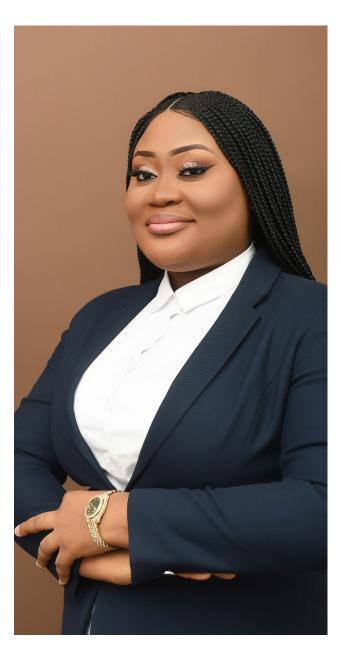
Women, whatsoever you envision, you can achieve; not alone, but with a community of like-minded persons-be it male or female. Stay connected to that community to draw strength to evolve.

This GSL newsletter acknowledges the strides made by women in their endeavours. Through an interview with Mrs. Sheila Minkah–Premo, the female personality for this edition, we are made aware of the digitisation initiatives she intends to embark on as President of the Women's Forum of the Ghana Bar Association ("GBA"). Similarly, we are informed that all women in the legal profession need skills in Information Technology for communication with clients, etc.

Additionally, Mrs. Lauraine Darkwah, a fast-rising legal personality highlights the importance of optimising digital platform research and appropriate communication in the digital space.

The female community of the GSL also receive some directions to navigate uncertain times in their pursuit of the law.

The need for the acquisition of digital skills in this present information age is further emphasised by



Joyann Obeng Editor-in-Chief

the Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration; Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, in her message to the female community of the GSL.

The discourse on this year's theme for International Women's Day ("IWD"); DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality, has been extended to include the vibrant men of GSL. The Women's Day Opinion Corner of our newsletter makes that clear.

The conversation traces the history of women's rights—locally and internationally.

It emphasises the role of the state in bridging the gender divide. Furthermore, it acknowledges governmental efforts at promoting gender equity. The conversation pivots around the role of digitisation in achieving gender equality. The drawbacks and the opportunities of digitisation, inter alia, are also assessed. Indeed, the conversation is endless.

To my mind, communication is indispensable to lawyering and digitisation makes it effective.

In this era of digitisation, where communication largely transpires via the internet, it has become increasingly necessary to remind ourselves of the

rules on communication in our Legal Profession (Professional Conduct and Etiquette) Rules, 2020.

Essentially, a lawyer's communication must be prompt and void of offensive or provocative language. A lawyer must embrace courtesy at all times while communicating, failing which a professional misconduct may be deemed to have been occasioned.

The phenomenal women of the SRC rehashed the theme for this year's women's day celebration. Their remarks deserve commendation.

This newsletter also provides details on the 2023 Inter-Campus Moot Court Competition. I encourage all students to hone their advocacy skills, among others, via mooting.

Undoubtedly, the GSL SRC remains focused on the students agenda and hopes to unwind during the upcoming SRC Law week celebration.

Anticipate!

As we deploy digitisation as a tool for gender equality, may we also embrace civility in our communication via the various media afforded us through digitisation.



GSL Editorial Board ("Q"): Hello Mrs. Minkah-Premo,

We are grateful for your time with us today. Kindly tell us a bit about yourself.

Mrs. Minkah-Premo ("A"): I am a female lawyer who was called to the Ghana Bar in 1989 and after a stint as a teaching assistant at the then Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, I went into private legal practice. I first worked at Akufo-Addo, Prempeh & Co., and then at Akuffo & Co., which later became Apex Law Consult. I took over the running of Akuffo & Co. in 1995 when the founder went to the bench and changed it to Apex Law Consult which I have operated to date. I am also interested in women's law and public policy and have done a lot of consulting work in this area. I hold a Master of Law LLM) in women's law and public policy and human rights.

Q: Congratulations on your appointment as the President of the Women's Forum of the Ghana Bar Association ("GBA").

Please tell us a bit about your new role?

A: I had been chairing the Ghana Bar Association's (GBA) Women and Minors Rights Committee since 2008 and this committee's mandate is to reach outward to women and children to sensitise them on their rights. During this period, I realised that many other countries have set up women lawyer divisions of their Bar since women entered the profession later than men and have challenges peculiar to them. The GBA would usually ask me to meet representatives from such groups when they visited Ghana. I therefore realised the need to have such a group in Ghana and from 2014, my committee would ask for space for women lawyers to meet to discuss their issues during the Annual Bar Conference. We also started to push for it to be formally recognised by the GBA in its Constitution. This was achieved in 2022 when the GBA Women's Forum was formally incorporated into the Constitution of the GBA and I was sworn in as the first President. The objective of the Women's Forum is to look out for the interest of women at the Bar no matter where they work and to advocate for improvement.

Q: It's the time of the year we join UN Women and the United Nations in celebrating IWD 2023 under the theme DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.

What are your thoughts on the theme?

A: Even though women outnumber men in Ghana and several parts of the world, research shows that women are at the lower end of the digital divide and this is a disadvantage. There are also age differences since younger women have better information and access to digitisation as compared to older women. In the meantime, in the current world, one needs to be knowledgeable about the digital economy. There is therefore the need to find ways to enable women to catch up with men in this area. Women lawyers are not left out of this. The older female lawyers have challenges in accessing the digital world and have to depend on younger persons to assist them and such persons can take advantage of them. It is also the case that the algorithms that are used in the digital space were created with men in mind so they sometimes are not very friendly to women and this needs to be addressed. There is a need to adopt strategies at the national and international levels to bridge the digital gap between men and women.

Q: What digitisation initiatives do you intend to embark on as President of the Women's Forum of the GBA?

A: I intend to get some of the agencies engaged in the provision of various digital services to sensitise women lawyers and assist them to access such services. We are hoping to commence this as part of the celebration of IWD by holding a Webinar during the week to discuss such issues. We will get international perspectives on the issue by sharing the TED Talk from a former President of the UK Law Society, where she analysed the issue. We also intend to get resource persons from the National Information Technology Authority (NITA) and the Data Protection Agency to share their perspectives. We will hold other programmes in the course of the year.

Q: In your opinion, what are some of the most important skills and qualities that women in the legal profession must possess in order to succeed in this rapidly changing technological landscape?

A: All women in the legal profession need skills in Information Technology (IT) including word processing; digital means of communication with clients, the courts and others; use of IT for legal research and for holding various meetings by electronic means.

Q: What are some of the challenges women face in the legal profession and how can technology be used to address same?

A: Communication with clients and the courts in the modern world requires knowledge of various systems on how to make this easier. Women should not shy away from learning and utilising such systems. Research and searches using IT are other things that women lawyers need to be conversant with no matter their age. Women lawyers also need to be conversant with cybersecurity issues so people do not take advantage of them.

Q: Advancements in technology and of course COVID-19 led to a rise in virtual courtrooms and remote work. Tell us more about the impact of these technologies in the legal profession.

A: These have had a far-reaching impact on the legal profession and make the need to bridge the digital divide urgent. It has made communication and courtroom work easier but one has to be conversant with the new modern systems to play an effective part. One also has to be careful of cybersecurity issues.

Q: How can we ensure that technology is being used in a way that promotes gender equality and inclusivity in the legal profession?

A: Women lawyers should not shy away from

using these modern systems. They should go out of their way to be tutored even by younger colleagues to enable them use such systems. Where they have insufficient competency, they should get assistance from those more knowledgeable than they are. They should explore the digital world and take advantage of all that it can offer.

Q: The Economist's Intelligence Unit in its 2021 global survey found that the "overall prevalence of online violence against women worldwide is 85%". Online spaces despite the potential for equality are rife with harassment and abuse.

What are your thoughts on ICT-facilitated gender-based violence in Ghana, if any?

A: As indicated previously women should be aware of and careful of online abuse or fraud. They should be conscious of such threats and avoid falling prey to them. Where necessary they should not hesitate to report abuse or threats to do so.

Q: How can the rights of women and girls in Ghana be protected in digital spaces?

A: Women and girls should be cautious and avoid falling prey to fraudsters. They should seek help when they feel threatened and report any threat. Cyber security experts should see women and girls as a group that is vulnerable and can be easy targets and do all to protect them. The courts should also punish such cases that get to them to serve as a deterrent to would-be perpetrators.

Q: What roles should stakeholders play in the digital protection of women and girls?

A: Since women and girls are targeted by abusers, various authorities including the cybersecurity Authorities and the Police should treat reports made by them seriously and investigate to punish such cases. Where there are threats to publish obscene pictures of women and girls, such cases should be taken seriously

and dealt with. Courts should give maximum punishments to perpetrators. The identity of victims should be protected during prosecution to prevent shaming them further.

Q: How do you see the role of women in the legal profession evolving in the coming years, and how can progress be made?

A: Women are in all areas of the legal profession including private practice, academia, working for the government, working in the judiciary, working as consultants, working in the corporate world and with non-governmental organisations. Very few however remain in private practice for a very long time due to several challenges in that area. There is the need for more research to find the problems and to try to address it. For instance, it is alleged that some suffer sexual harassment in the workplace. Those working in large firms also have issues with progressions into partners. The Women's Forum is interested in getting research done in these areas to guide advocacy. Women can aspire to make their mark in all areas of the profession and should be encouraged to do so.

Q: What advice would you give to young women who are considering a career in law, particularly those who may be hesitant due to the perceived barriers of entry or lack of representation in the field?

A: I would advise young women to seek a carrier in the law since they are likely to get employment when they qualify as lawyers. Women are represented in all areas of the profession so they should strive to enter the profession due to the opportunities it offers. There are so many opportunities available in the profession.

Q: What are some of the key digitisation policies of the Women's Forum of the GBA and how can they help bridge the gender digital divide?

A: The Women's Forum from the onset used digitisation to rally women lawyers together. After our first informal meeting in 2014, we

set up a WhatsApp platform to enable us to communicate and discuss issues. The first platform was oversubscribed within a short time so we moved to the Telegram application and made that account our national platform. Regions were encouraged to set up WhatsApp platforms to enable them to discuss regional issues. Some regions that had few women came together on one platform. On these platforms, we share information of concern to women lawyers and seek information from each other. We also advertise training programmes and seminars to encourage women lawyers to strive for the best.

Q: How can we draw in men when it comes to advancing equality in the legal profession? In terms of them, being allies or even their own rights, if any?

A: We need to collaborate with men to push for gender equality. As a result, on 15th June 2022 in collaboration with the Institute for Women in Law in Africa, we organised a seminar on the theme "Gender Solidarity and The Legal Profession: The Role of Male Allies in Ghana," at the auditorium of the High Court Complex in Accra. We discussed areas where men could support the push for gender equality in the profession. We intend to hold more such seminars.

Q: This year's GSL SRC Law Week Celebration is themed: "The future of Law Practice in Ghana; Innovation and Technology, Key to Global Demand for Efficient and Robust Legal Advice in a Contemporary World"

What does the future of law hold?

What are likely to be the opportunities and challenges of the legal profession in the coming years?

A: The future of the law is bright since we have a younger generation entering the legal profession with some having proficiency in other areas like medicine, pharmacy and digitisation. Such opportunities create room for specialisation

in the law in other areas of concern. There will be several opportunities for those entering the profession and younger lawyers should take advantage of such opportunities. As the economy, grown specialisation will be called for and general practice will soon wane. The future is bright and promising especially with the addition of digitalisation, which will enable lawyers resident in Ghana to work with others in other counties in specialised areas. The sky is the limit.

Q: What opportunities are available to female lawyers to leverage innovation and technology in the practice of law in Ghana?

A: There are several opportunities available for female lawyers to leverage innovation and technology. Just as many females have taken advantage of the digital economy to launch and run successful businesses, lawyers can also get several digital spaces to offer innovative services for which they can be paid for.

Q: Have you any advice for the female student body of GSL in the face of growing uncertainties as regards which niche of the law to pursue?

A: My advice for the female student body of the GSL is for them to reach out to many women lawyers who have excelled in different areas of

the law to come, talk, and interact with female law students to assure them that they can also make it and to inspire them to achieve their dreams.

Q: Work-life balance for lawyers can be a tough and tricky slope to figure out. From your experience what are some effective strategies for achieving this?

A: You need to be disciplined to balance work and life as a wife and mother or a single parent or guardian of a child. You have to be intentional in how you keep your time, the sort of help you need and how to supervise such help and in ensuring that you create space to give off your best at home and at work. Many have done it and you can do it too.

Thank you for your time.





RISING STAR

INTERVIEW with Mrs. Lauraine Darkwah

GSL Editorial Board (" \mathbf{Q} "): Hello, Mrs Darkwah.

We are honoured to interview you today. Kindly tell us a bit about yourself.

A: Thank you very much, and I am honoured to be interviewed by you. I am a Lecturer at the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA), where I teach Media Law and Legal Environment of Business. I am also an Associate at Ghartey and Ghartey, where my areas of expertise are: Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR), Civil and Criminal Litigation, Company and Corporate Law and International Business Law. I also run the firm's periodic internship program. I am an Assistant Editor of the African Journal of International Arbitration and a Technical Partner of the National ADR Society of Nigeria. Additionally, I serve as one of the Ambassadors for the Ghana Arbitration Lunch Match. I also serve on the Secretariat and Social Media Team for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Ghana Chapter, where I have been privileged to informally mentor several members, including lawyers. I have served as the legal advisor for the Wesley Girls High School Old Girls' Association's 2011 year group for the past six (6) years. I am a passionate writer who has contributed to articles on corporate governance, business ethics, and ADR in the Business and Financial Times. I also have a paper titled "Ethics vis-à-vis Digitization" published in the GH Banker's Voice.

Q: You're only two years at the Ghana Bar, yet you're already making remarkable strides. Briefly walk us through your journey.

A: I must admit that without the Grace of God, I would not have made it this far. My Parents, Husband, Family and Friends have also been of immense support to me throughout the journey. The journey began at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), where I obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Degree. I subsequently gained admission to the Ghana School of Law (GSL). During the four-year journey at GSL, I attended all the Campuses established at the time; GIMPA Campus, Accra Campus and Kumasi Campus in my bid to pass the Bar exam. In 2020, during the "Uncertainties"

of COVID-19, and whilst still at the GSL, I took advantage of an opportunity to pursue an LLM in International Business Law from Osgoode Hall Law School - York University, Canada. I was thus called to the Bar in November 2020 and obtained my LLM Certificate in 2021. After Law School, I focused on learning as much as I could as a Pupil, and subsequently an Associate at Ghartey & Ghartey; while pursuing my interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The combined effect of this has been many open doors for career development and advancement.

Q: Along your career path, what are some of the imperative skills you have honed, particularly digital skills?

A: Prior to my Call to the Bar, one of the skills I honed was optimising digital platform research. Appropriate communication in the digital space was also one of the skills I built. Through consistent engagements, I also built a social media community made up of people with similar interests and career goals. These skills served as a Launchpad after the Call to the Bar as I continued to work on visibility in the Digital Space through Publications, virtual (online) speaking and mentorship appointments, as well as engagement of a community of like-minded professionals and students on LinkedIn.

Q: What are the most important skills and qualities that women in the legal profession must possess to succeed in this rapidly changing technological landscape?

A: In my view, there are three (3) essential skills and qualities that women in the legal profession must possess to succeed in this rapidly changing technological landscape:

- Women must be willing to commit to learning and evolving to ensure that they are abreast with all current trends in the technological space;
- Women should focus on crafting a niche and developing an authentic voice both online and offline. It is important to be known for some specific subject area(s). It makes you

a relevant and trusted voice; and

3. Women must be adventurous and curious. This quality will propel us to challenge the status quo, explore unique areas of the law and operate in difficult environments.

Q: We join UN Women and the United Nations in celebrating IWD 2023 under the theme DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.

What are your thoughts on the theme?

A: Since the Pandemic, this is the first theme that speaks directly to one of the most remarkable outcomes of the Pandemic - Digitisation. The Pandemic precipitated the long-ignored relevance of digitisation. The digital space has become a powerful tool that cannot be ignored. It has currently provided a platform which unifies the world. It provides a level playing field for both males and females, and as such, it has become a vital tool for gender equity since the focus in the digital space is "capacity" and not the gender of a person. The theme for this year is particularly significant because it calls on all women to take advantage of innovation and digitisation to achieve their set goals. The Call is to all women; no woman should be left out!

Q: Given your experience as a lawyer, tell us how you have leveraged digitalisation as a tool to enhance your career.

A: I have leveraged digitisation as a tool to enhance my career in a number of ways. Firstly, apart from obtaining a Master's Degree virtually, I continue to take online courses to gain more knowledge in my area of specialisation. Social media platforms have also allowed me to engage with professionals at various levels. I am a beneficiary of LinkedIn's leverage, and as I always do, I encourage every professional to build a professional presence there. I have gained several career opportunities, such as speaking engagements as well as collaboration, and mentorship opportunities.

Again, Conferences which were hitherto only held

In-person now have virtual options; attending such conferences has greatly expanded my network.

Finally, digitisation has made research such a breeze. With the click of a button, I am able to locate the latest case in any area of law.

Q: What are some of the challenges women face in the legal profession, and how can we unlock the full potential of technology to address them?

A: One of the significant challenges women face in the legal profession is maintaining a healthy work-life balance. With the advent of digitisation, women have had the unique opportunity of working remotely while juggling other personal responsibilities.

Imposter syndrome, the inability to accept one's accomplishments or an intense feeling of self-doubt, is also rife among a section of women in the legal profession. Modern technology has provided women access to a global community of individuals eager to support and cheer on other women as they strive to realise their full potential.

It may interest you to know that racial discrimination still exists beyond the shores of Ghana. Some legal vacancies may be skewed towards persons of a particular race, thus excluding a large number of women. With digitisation, one's skills, talents and capabilities are usually evaluated before the question of race is

Q: Advancements in technology and, of course, COVID-19 ushered in a new experience of virtual courtrooms and remote work. Tell us more about the impact of these technologies in the legal profession.

A: Order 1Rule 1 (2) of the High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2004, CI 47, highlights the underlying principles, and requires the rules to be interpreted to achieve: speedy trial and effective justice, avoidance of delays and unnecessary

expense, effective and final determination, and avoidance of a multiplicity of proceedings. The advent of Virtual Courtrooms and remote work has enabled both the court and officers of the court to abide by this rule. Virtual Courtrooms and remote work are, however, just a fraction of the various technologies that emerged after the COVID-19 Pandemic.

There have been many other improvements in the legal practice. Artificial Intelligence now gives the prospects of success on points of law in cases and provides straightforward advice on pertinent matters. "Out of Court settlement", has also taken a different outlook as Online Dispute Resolution is gaining ground in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Space.

There have been fears that technology will take over the jobs of legal professionals in the near future. This is a topic subject to endless debate. Nevertheless, I am of the firm belief that no Robot can fully replace a human being. To ensure that this statement remains true, we must take advantage of technological advancements to supplement our practice and improve our legal skills.

Q: This year's GSL SRC Law Week Celebration is themed: "The future of Law Practice in Ghana; Innovation and Technology, Key to Global Demand for Efficient and Robust Legal Advice in a Contemporary World."

What opportunities are available to female lawyers to leverage innovation and technology in the practice of law in Ghana?

A: There are innumerable opportunities available to female lawyers both in Ghana and on the international front. Currently, many Master's and Doctoral courses are being offered online. Previously many women may not have been able to leave their children and families to study abroad. The use of technology, however, solves this problem. I encourage all women to take advantage of these courses to sharpen their skills and knowledge.

Women can also take advantage of the many job opportunities on the international front. Some of these job openings do not require one's physical presence thus; one can excel as a female Lawyer without necessarily being present at in one's

work place throughout the week.

Q: Have you any advice for the female student body of GSL in the face of growing uncertainties regarding which niche of the law to pursue?

A: Explore, Explore and Explore!. You wouldn't want to pursue one niche only to realise a few years later that you have no interest in that area of law. I will urge all female students to take advantage of all internship opportunities and the advantage of having approachable lecturers to explore as many areas of the law as possible. After the Call to the Bar, once you enter a law firm for pupillage, offer your services for work in all areas of law. In a matter of months or a few years for others, you would have discovered your niche. While working at discovering your niche, remember that nothing stops you from pursuing a particular niche because it is male-dominated. As a Christian, I will encourage female law students to pray about it as well. God is well able to direct your path. The practice of law is developing rapidly, and there is room for each and every one of you at the table of your chosen niche.

Q: How can all students collaborate to drive efforts for technology and innovation improvements in Law practice in Ghana?

A: We must understand that we are all from different backgrounds and have diverse skills and abilities. Thus, it is essential to embrace teamwork in driving efforts for technology and innovation improvements in Law Practice in Ghana. Now is actually the best time to start working on such innovations as life takes a different turn right after the Call to the Bar. . I can't wait for the latest legal technology to be developed by the current crop of students at the Ghana School of Law. You are more than capable! You can do it! Happy International Women's Day to you!

Thank you for your time.





Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration

Dear women, young ladies and girls,

oday, the 8th of March, is a day for us to be proud of, to celebrate the strong women that have paved the way for us and the strong women that we are becoming, and it is an honour to wish you all a happy International Women's Day.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day, "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality", seeks to recognise and celebrate women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education.

Dear female students of the Ghana School of Law,

The theme is in line with this year's SRC Law Week Celebration: "The future of Law Practice in Ghana; Innovation and Technology, Key to Global Demand for Efficient and Robust Legal Advice in a Contemporary World"

As women in law, no one should be excluded nor be left behind in the acquisition of digital skills in this present Information Age. The need for inclusive and transformative technology and digital education is therefore crucial for a sustainable future.

On this note, I wish to appreciate the young ladies and women in the Ghana School of Law for their perseverance and determination in pursuing a career in law.

Let us continually break the glass ceiling in areas that were considered male dominated to ensure a sustainable future.

Thank you.

Women's Day Opinion Corner







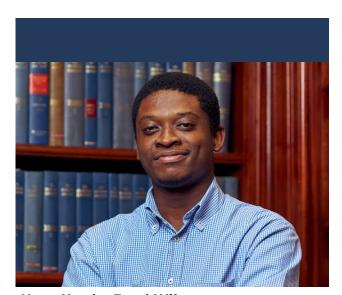
David-Kratos Ampofo (Part 1 UPSA Campus Group A)

As we celebrate International Women's Day 2023 with the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality," it is important to acknowledge the significant strides made toward gender equality in the legal profession. However, it is also crucial to recognise that there is still a long way to go.

While technology has undoubtedly provided opportunities for women in the legal profession, we must also acknowledge that it is not a silver bullet to solve all gender-based discrimination issues. In some instances, technology has been used to perpetuate discrimination, such as through biased algorithms and the dissemination of harmful stereotypes.

Therefore, as law students and future legal professionals, we must use technology thoughtfully and ethically to promote gender equality. We must advocate for transparency and accountability in developing and implementing technology in the legal industry. We must also recognise the value of human interaction and empathy in the legal profession and ensure that technology is not used as a substitute for these essential qualities.

In conclusion, while technology has the potential to promote gender equality in the legal profession, it is not a panacea. As future legal professionals, it is up to us to use technology thoughtfully and responsibly and continue to advocate for gender equality in all aspects of the legal profession.



Nana Kwaku Essel Wilson (Part 1 UPSA Campus Group B)

It is great to know that the world is focusing on women's rights and needs today. However, there's a lot more to do in Africa.

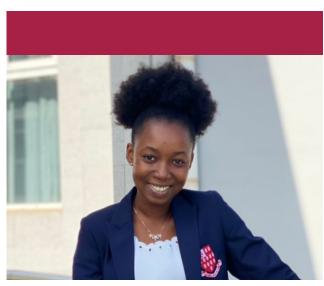
The social net that caters for the vulnerable in society is almost non-existent. Unfortunately, some women in positions of power fail to utilise the opportunity they have to increase the digital space for women. About 54% of Ghanaians are women. Out of this number, only few are able to participate in the digital space.

For example, our Communications Minster arbitrarily ordered the disconnection of unregistered sim cards without taking into consideration the challenge that the average Ghanaian woman had to go through in an attempt register her sim. Many of them had to spend the whole day just trying to register a sim card. Many of them weren't able to through no fault of theirs.

However, they suffered the consequences when the Minster ordered the disconnection of about 5 million sim cards.

How do we ensure equality when some of

the women who have been entrusted with responsibility fail to do the things which ensure gender equality? The truth is, it is our mothers and sisters who suffer more when things aren't right.



Audrev Hannah Arthur (Part II Accra Main Campus Group C)

From its inception in the 1900s till date, International Women's Day has had a clear message; a call to acknowledge and strengthen women's riahts while celebrating achievements of women.

Over a century later, we stand again to honour the pacesetters and non-conformists who

challenged the status quo and rendered the perceived impossible within reach of the modern woman.

This Year's Celebration is under the theme, DigitALL; Innovation and Technology for gender equality. It is a call for recognition of the presence and impact of women in the digital circles and an avenue to do more.

Ghana has taken a bold step in the right direction by promoting STEM education, but much work remains.

It is my fervent hope that other matters and dangers that persist in the haven of technology and which negatively affects women will be considered as well.

That this year's celebration will move beyond speeches and selfies to solid steps being taken to ensure that women are still protected as we progress.

That we will capitalise on what it means to be women in this technology-driven world and accept that, the modern woman needs not only opportunities to unearth potential but protection from the predators that lurk in digital spaces too.

Kwame Sanahene

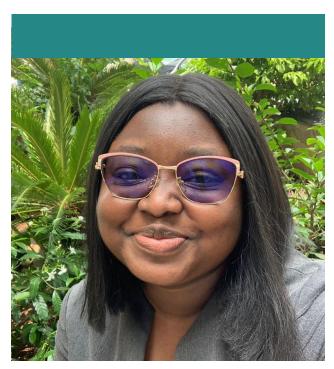
(Part 1 Upsa Campus Group B)

opinions, connecting with peers, leisure, health, co-creators, designers and with product testing. among others, digital technology is critical to The end result is that most women are not able lives. However, there is huge digital divide as to access digital products and services. This women have lower levels of access to digital does not only widen the gender digital divide but technology than men.

to meet the needs of women. For instance, toolkit with best practices that support women women's digital literacy levels, contents innovators, designers and implementers. relevant to them, easy internet connectivity,

data limitations among others should all be considered in digital research and development. Notwithstanding best practices, designs mostly From access to career information, expression of suit male counterparts. Women are left out as also puts women at a further disadvantage.

To help women equally and close the digital Design of digital products and services need gender divide, there is a need to develop a



Sefakor Asuo (Part II Kumasi Campus Group A)

Throughout history, many notable individuals have fought for women's rights, advocating for better social, cultural, economic, and political systems that benefit women. For example, Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist, fought for girls' education in her region, while Maya Angelou, a world–renowned feminist, fought for equal pay and opportunities for women. These advocates have paved the way for better treatment of women in society.

Today, technology plays a significant role in improving women's lives and rights. It provides a tool for communication and addressing prejudices against women, education, access to resources, and achieving academic and professional aspirations. With remote employment and flexible work options, women can reconcile work and family duties, and digital platforms give women new opportunities to launch their enterprises and pursue entrepreneurial endeavours. Technology has also enhanced women's access to healthcare globally, especially in rural and distant locations, through telemedicine and mobile health apps, thereby improving overall health outcomes for women.

Despite the many benefits of innovation and technology, they have also exacerbated existing

inequalities in society. Digital technology and media for instance, promotes communication by providing various platforms for people to connect and share information. It also shapes perceptions by influencing the way people think about and understand the world around them. Social media platforms, news outlets, and other digital media sources are powerful tools in shaping public opinion and discourse. The language and narratives that are portrayed by the media can impact how people perceive certain groups or individuals, including women. In recent times, digital media has been utilised in ways that do not promote the feminist cause, such as changes in how certain terms are used to be more inclusive of marginalised groups. For instance, language that was previously associated with feminity is now being rephrased to be more inclusive of people who exercise their choice in gender. This can be seen in the replacement of terms like "mother" with "birthing person" and "breastfeeding" with "chest feeding". It can be argued that these changes don't fully recognise the importance and value of the traditional experiences and celebration of motherhood. This is further demonstrated by the Hershey Company's campaign to commemorate International Women's Day where they altered their packaging to celebrate an individual who identifies with She/Her pronouns.

Under the inclusion initiative, it is important to include all marginalised groups. It serves as a platform to promote equality and recognise the woes, values, achievements and experiences of such individuals and groups. Nonetheless, it must be noted that in the bid to promote activism, the rights of other groups must be regarded in the process in a way that does not cause oppression and prejudice. Therefore, as the International Women's Day was established to acknowledge and celebrate the experiences of women across the globe, we must adopt digital technology and media to promote true equality and social justice for women, and show solidarity and support that is befitting of this occasion.

As fictional character; Sam Wilson said in the movie series: "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier," every time something gets better for one group, it gets worse for another. Therefore, we must strive for true equality and not perpetuate injustice against any group in the fight for inclusion and progress.



Joel Telfer Jnr (Part II Accra Main Campus Group A)

Dear fellow female colleagues,

On this International Women's Day, I would like to highlight the theme of innovation and technology for gender equality. As men, we recognise the importance of supporting our female counterparts and promoting gender equality in all aspects of society, including the legal field.

We must embrace innovation and technology to create more inclusive spaces for women in the legal profession. Whether it is through remote work or virtual events, we must find new ways to empower and uplift women in the legal community.

As we celebrate the achievements of women, we also acknowledge the ongoing struggle for gender equality. By working together, we can overcome barriers and create a brighter future for all women.

So on this day, I urge you to continue to advocate for your rights, stand up against injustice, and support your fellow female colleagues. Let us come together and utilise technology and innovation to create a more equal and inclusive environment for women in the legal profession.

Happy International Women's Day!

Albert Bempong (Part II Accra Main Campus Group B)

business and people communicating easily with target of abuse and defamation.

of women to be protected.

Women must come together to confront the ills of the digital space that confronts them.

It is necessary for women to explore all avenues The digital space is an excellent space for legally available to them to fight, protect and promote their safety as done in the case of each other, however many women have been the Sintim vs Ocloo, 2021, where the plaintiff took on the defendant over a defamatory post made on Facebook. This case serves as a basis and It is very important for the rights and privileges a wonderful example for women to seek legal help where they are abused or suffer any form of injustice within the digital space.

OF THE SRC





t is beautiful indeed that our maiden SRC digital newsletter collated by the Editorial Board, debuts today. This current administration is a testimony of how leadership has evolved and embraced feminine inclusivity, with three members of the Executive Council being women, several Congresswomen, a number of committee heads being women, and of course, a strong female Editor-in-Chief. I urge all women, particularly women like you and me, who have ventured into a male-dominated profession to be guided by these words:

"As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it." — Sandra Day O'Connor

Benjamina Bernice Amihere

General Secretary Students Representative Council Ghana School of Law Bring you greetings on the occasion of International Women's Day.

This is a day set aside to celebrate the achievements of women in various social, political, educational and cultural fields across the globe.

Therefore, we celebrate the gallant women of the Ghana School of Law in recognition of how far they have come in the pursuit of their ambitions.

Since time immemorial, the patriarchal society has stifled the realisation of the aspirations of women. However, over the past decade, the world has witnessed some societal evolution accommodating of gender balance and most importantly equity.

I believe that as women embrace the wind of equality and desire to get to a place of equity, acknowledgement of factors such as geography, culture and religion, which impact the trajectory of a person's life must be made.

Additionally, society has within it various tools to empower the disadvantaged through deliberate actions.

This desired destination is rehashed in the theme for this year's celebration #EmbraceEquity.

I charge you ladies of GSL to rise up for equality and most importantly equity!

I entreat our fathers, husbands, brothers and sons to continue to support us in our quest to ensure a society of equal opportunities and one whose values are underpinned by equity among other principles.

Happy International Women's Day! #IWD 2023 #EmbraceEquity



Jamila Isa Munkaila

Vice President (Greenhill Campus)

Hello Colleagues,

It is a joy seeing women making strides in every facet of life.

I would like to remind us all of the incredible strength and resilience we each possess.

As we celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women around the globe, we must also recognise the ongoing struggle for gender equality.

We look forward to an era where the gender divide is bridged.

As your Vice President, I urge you to continue to push for progress in your personal and professional lives. Stand up for your rights, speak out against injustice and support other women on their journeys. We must work together to create a world where every woman has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background, race, or socio-economic status. Remember that we are strengthened by our differences and lasting change is created through diversity.

Additionally, do not hesitate to engage the Ghana School of Law SRC on all questions pertaining to the SRC. We look forward to more women's engagement on our socials. You may conveniently engage the GSL SRC via:

Email: srcghanaschooloflaw@gmail.com

Twitter: @srcghlawschool

Instagram: @srcghanaschooloflaw YouTube: @srcghanaschooloflaw LinkedIn: @srcghanaschooloflaw

Happy International Women's Day!



Stacey Freduah Sefah

Vice President (UPSA Campus), Part II Accra Main Campus Group A





Gertrude Emefa Donkor (Part I UPSA Campus Group B)

Introduction

The digital age has ushered in unprecedented opportunities for women and girls to access education, employment, healthcare, and other resources. However, the advancement of technology has also created new forms of inequality and heightened existing threats to the rights and wellbeing of women. This article seeks to examine the various challenges faced by women in the digital age, the causes of these challenges, and the various strategies that can be used to address them.

The Challenges Faced by Women in the Digital Age

In the first place, gender-based violence is a challenge faced by women in the digital age. Gender-based violence is defined by the United Nations as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." The digital age has created new avenues for gender-based violence, cyberbullying and cyber harassment which can take many forms such as online stalking, sextortion, and revenge porn, and cyber-intimidation. A report by the United Nations found that 70% of women have experienced some form of online harassment, including cyberbullying and cyberstalking. Women are also more likely to be victims of "revenge porn" and "doxing", which is the sharing of personal information online without their consent. According to a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 4 out of 5 women have experienced online genderbased violence. In addition, report by the World Health Organization shows that, the prevalence of online gender-based violence is highest in low and middle-income countries, where access to the internet is most limited. Again, Reports by the Pew Research Center shows that nearly one-third of women have experienced some form of cyberbullying and harassment. These

forms of online harassment can lead to serious psychological distress, as well as physical harm in some cases.

Furthermore, the digital age has also seen an increase in the lack of privacy for women. Women are more likely to have their personal data shared without their knowledge or consent. This can lead to a breach of privacy and can have serious consequences, such as identity theft or financial loss.

The Causes of Digital Inequality and the Threats Faced by Women

Digital inequality is caused by a range of factors, including the gender wage gap, a lack of access to technology, and the prevalence of gender stereotypes. The gender wage gap is a major cause of digital inequality, as it limits women's ability to access and use technology. For instance in Ghana, according to a report released by the Ghana Statistical Service ("GSS") themed "Ghana 2022 Earnings: Inequality in the Public Sector", the difference between the average net salary of men and women is assessed at GH¢165. This means that the gender pay gap is 6.0 percent. Men have a higher average monthly net salary, of GHC2,669, while women have an average of GH¢2,504. The average monthly net salary of women is lower than that of men in all 16 regions. This means that lack of access to technology due to poverty or gender-based discrimination contributes to digital inequality of the sexes. The gender wage gap and a lack of access to technology limit women's ability to access and use technology, which in turn heightens existing threats to the rights and wellbeing of women. Additionally, the prevalence of gender stereotypes, online harassment and abuse, and other forms of online violence can be major threats to women's rights and wellbeing. Many females are likely to shy away from the use of digital channels for fear of being victims of the cyber harassments stated above.

According to a report by the International Telecommunications Union, an estimated

3.6 billion people do not have access to the internet, with the majority of them living in low and middle-income countries. Of those without access to the internet, the majority are women. Additionally, the gender gap in access to digital infrastructure is widest in Africa, where women are three times less likely to have access to the internet than men. In some other cases, women may be unable to navigate their way around digital channels due to its technicalities.

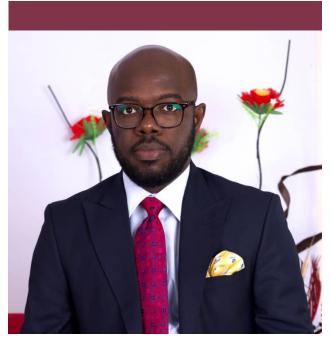
Strategies for Addressing Digital Inequality and the Threats Faced by Women

In order to address digital inequality and the threats faced by women, a range of strategies must be implemented. Firstly, the gender wage gap should be addressed in order to allow women equal access to and use of technology. In addition, access to technology must be improved, coupled with sensitisation drives and trainings, particularly in rural and underdeveloped areas. Secondly, gender stereotypes must be challenged and gender-sensitive policies must be implemented to encourage the patronage of more females. Thirdly, online harassment and abuse must be addressed, through stricter policies and enforcement of same. Finally, awareness-raising campaigns should enforced in order to increase understanding of digital threats and how to protect against them.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is evident that the digital age has generated unmatched opportunities for women and girls, while also introducing new forms of inequality and heightened threats to the rights and wellbeing of women. In order to address these issues, a range of strategies must be implemented, including addressing the gender wage gap, improving access to technology, challenging gender stereotypes, addressing online harassment and abuse, and raising awareness. It is essential that these strategies are implemented in order to ensure that women and girls can take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by the digital age.





Yaw Biney (Part II Accra Main Campus Group A)

DIGITAL WOMEN

Itisindisputable that women, phenomenal women as they are aptly described by the phenomenal Maya Angelou, constitute more than one half of all the people on Earth. However, their contribution to global wealth falls below 40% according to a report issued by the McKinsey Global Institute in 2015. The implication is that women who make up at least 50% of the global working population are unable to reach their maximum economic potential, thereby putting a severe strain on the world economy. The absence of economic parity between men and women is what has generally been framed as Gender Inequality.

Apart from being a grave economic issue, gender inequality also poses a major social and moral challenge to humanity. The McKinsey Global Institute report also found that tackling the matter of gender inequality to close the gender gap could add a whopping USD12 trillion to the global economy by 2025.

It is noteworthy that, the problem of gender inequality is grimmer on the African continent and in other parts of the developing world where the divide in the labour market between men and women is much sharper and wider than the world average. In those parts including Ghana, women generally lack good education and skills training. They usually work in the unskilled, labour—intensive and low—paying sectors of the economy. Politically, they are not sufficiently represented although they form the largest voter group on the electoral register. Access to healthcare and other essential services such as potable water and improved public housing is extremely low.

Hitherto, the legal system had been structured in a manner which did not adequately cater for women's rights. It was in the mid-1980s that Ghana began to seriously address gender inequality through some form of corrective legislative action when it passed for instance, the Intestate Succession Law, 1985 (PNDCL 111). This single piece of law revolutionised women's property rights within the Ghanaian social context. It enabled widows to insist on enjoying significant benefits of their economic contributions within the domestic setting on the demise of their spouses, intestate. It did place surviving spouses, especially women, in a stronger economic position to continue taking care of the household, including the education of any surviving children.

The promulgation of the 1992 Constitution further guaranteed property rights of spouses and women's rights under articles 22 and 27. Other pieces of legislation such as the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651), Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732), etc. were all intended to help the country to address the debilitating gender inequality situation. The Superior Courts in their various decisions continue to positively pronounce and enforce women's rights buoyed by the objective of assisting to

remedy the gender divide. A case in point would be **Mensah v. Mensah [2012] 1 SCGLR 391** where the Supreme Court held that the principle of substantial contribution shall no longer control the distribution of marital property upon dissolution of the union. The court for the first time, in that suit recognised unpaid work such as washing, cleaning, cooking and childcare usually carried out by the female spouse as sufficient contribution to entitle her to one-half of the spousal property.

In its bid to effectively address gender inequality, the state of Ghana continues to make interventions such as the provision of highly subsidised education for children in public schools. The girl child especially is encouraged to take up learning in Science and Technology. The state is implementing various schemes to provide financial and technical assistance to micro and small-scale businesses owned by women. There is also an improved drive through law and policy to prevent and punish violence against women in the domestic household and at the workplace. There is also a massive drive to digitalise the economy with aim of assisting women and the less privileged classes to fully participate in economy to markedly improve their own incomes as well as the country's Gross National Product.

Digitalisation is increasingly being recognised as an effective and less costly tool to enable the masses of women to fully exploit their economic potential and achieve maximum contribution to personal and global wealth. A heightened participation of women in the digital economy would tremendously shrink the gender wealth gap and radically transform the world's economy, according to the World Bank. Digital technologies and the various virtual platforms have been found to be highly reliable in fostering global trade and commerce. They readily allow traders and businesses to reach a wider market instantly and at relatively very low cost.

However, the evidence garnered so far show that women are still largely under-represented in the digital economy. Some of the reasons accounting for it are that, in developing economies such as Ghana, women are less likely to take up skills training in science, mathematics and engineering. The education

system has been very slow in leading women to study science, technology and innovation. The low level of digitalisation and the deployment of digital solutions within the society also make it difficult to persuade women to venture into the digital space to exploit its benefits. In spite of its wide availability, the internet is also prohibitively costly in most parts of the developing world. And this represents a major bane to women's participation in the digital market place.

I take the view that, women could still harness the enormous advantages of digitalisation despite all the obstacles enumerated above as a faster and cheaper means to close the gender gap. Women need not do this alone. Men and women in every sector of the economy and at every level in the society ought to help women to take advantage of all the opportunities the internet and the digital economy have to offer. The food service, fashion and art, education, healthcare, technology and many economic sectors hold a legion of micro/small/ medium-size businesses owned or serviced by women. Enrolling these businesses on internetbased digital platforms would enable women benefit immensely from a wider market reach, better sales and marketing. The potential growth will have a cascading effect on every facet of the society. The world Bank reports that 40% of all shop owners on the Chinese virtual trade platform called Alibaba are women. This has contributed in no small way to the transformative effect on the gender pay gap in the Chinese society. Women in the global south must take a cue.

I cannot end this brief article without commenting on a regressive trend that may detract from our efforts to encourage a greater women's presence in the digital space with the aim of improving livelihoods in a safe and enduring manner. Increasingly, some females and males from the developing world are rather commoditising nudity, risqué and violent content on the internet. This is not a surefire means of substantively earning a better quality of life in the digital economy. Our participation in the digital space ought to be focused on resolving real problems of society in a manner that promotes sustainable economic growth, self-worth and welfare for all.



The study of law is a rigorous one. It is one that is not confined to the classroom, where lectures are given; or to the library, where cases are read; or to homes, where studies are engaged. It is an all-encompassing study of disciplines that is both theoretical and practical.

There is the need to integrate students of the law into legal practice to complement academic work and foster a more practical appreciation and comprehension of the law. One of such avenues is MOOTING, where real-life courtrooms are simulated for practice. The immediate effect of Mooting is to equip students with advocacy experience and skills ahead of the Advocacy Moot Court Bar Exams.

However, the long term effect is the development of skills such as the readiness to meet and solve tasks, the ease of research on legal matters and the confidence imbued into students for advocacy through oration.

It is in this light that the 2023 Inter-Campus Moot Court Competition is being held. Each campus is to be represented by a team of 10 members. Two contests shall be held to determine which team makes it to the finals and the campuses that do make it to the final shall be engaged in the final contest earmarked for the SRC law week. The Competition envisages mind-stimulating legal arguments and rebuttals by teams,

representative of each of the campuses, poised to be crowned winners. Indeed it promises to be an exciting competition; one that will not only reveal the hard work, teamwork and preparation that has gone into the competition but one that confers absolute bragging rights on the winning campus' team.

The Academic Affairs and Moot Court Committee, a team of dedicated and hardworking students, led by Joel Oheneba Afari-Acquah, have been unrelenting in putting their shoulders to the wheel to ensure that beside matters of academics, the 2023 Inter-Campus Moot Court competition is one of a kind and all issues, incidental, are laudably taken care of.

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- 1. Joel Oheneba Afari-Acquah (Head of Committee)
- 2. Theophilus Kwampong Abuah
- 3. Regina Apaloo
- 4. Maureen Kyere
- 5. Amanda Asante Agyeman
- 6. Oliver Fobi
- 7. Prosper T. N. Nwachukwu
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- 9. Adjei Sampson Amponsah
- 10. Judith Abena Boaduwaa Asante
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Joel Oheneba Afari-Acquah

Head, Academic Affairs and Moot Court Committee.



SRC Law Week Celebration

Ghana School of Law - Makola



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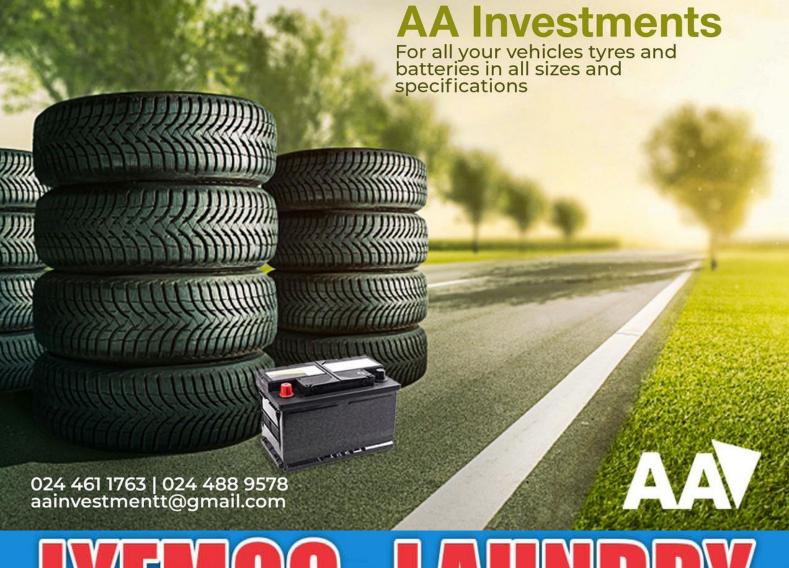












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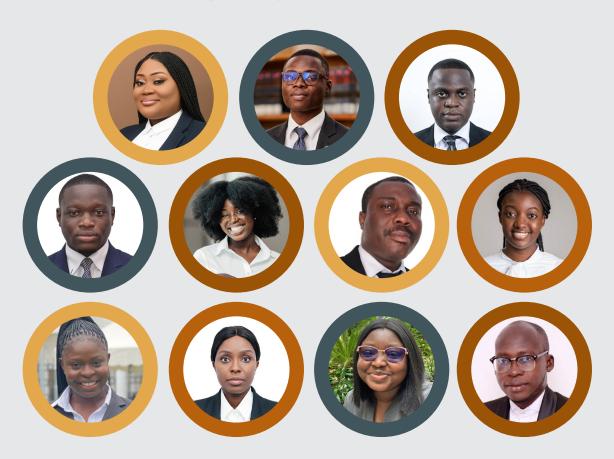
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