

Geneva, 12 September 2025

60<sup>th</sup> HRC Session

Item 3 – ID with the Special Rapporteur  
on contemporary forms of slavery,  
including its causes and consequences

Speaker: Mr. John Kanyiti Tomah

Oral statement submitted by  
**Dreikönigsaktion – Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar**

With the support of  
**Care for Deprived Communities**

This NGO coalition welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur as it highlights the worrisome involvement of children in hazardous forms of work related to mining<sup>1</sup>.

In Ghana, Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Activities (ASSMA), mostly characterized by illegality and commonly called GALAMSEY, currently recruits thousands of child workers around the country<sup>2</sup>.

The resulting serious human right violation, range from health risks, unacceptable long hours of hard labor, denial of basic education to violent clashes with the national army and police patrols<sup>3</sup>.

We express our deep concern for this situation and its effects on the present and future of Ghanaian youth.

In line with the report of the Special Rapporture, we recommend member states to:

1. Allocate adequate resources to legislate and enforce policies to eradicate child exploitation in mining<sup>4</sup>.
2. Secure access to universal, quality and free education for all children<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, 22 July 2025, A/HRC/60/28, § 21, p. 6.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.evidencity.com/child-labor-and-illegal-gold-mining-in-ghana>

<sup>3</sup> Idem.

<sup>4</sup> See Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, 22 July 2025, A/HRC/60/28, p. 16.

<sup>5</sup> Ibidem, p.18.

3. Support the youth with employable skills through capacity building, vocational and skills training<sup>6</sup>.

Thank you.

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<sup>6</sup> Idem.