

An open message to the Afrikania “Mission” from Mama Lorella Rouster of Every Child Ministries:

Everybody has a right to freedom of religion and everybody has a right to their own opinions. But don't insult me or your fellow countrymen on this issue, speaking out of both sides of your mouth at the same time. Out of this side you say trokosi servitude does not exist. Out of the other side you insist it's a glorious practice. So have you made up your mind yet? Which way is it? I'm insulted when you say both at once. Don't treat me like an imbecile. Even worse, don't treat your own countrymen that way. Do you realize that you are talking to the girls and families who experienced this horror?

The trokosi system has succeeded in keeping almost all its victims uneducated and illiterate. But don't think that your words do not come to the ears of those the trokosi system has victimized. The trokosi-fiashidi system flies in the face of the law of Ghana that forbids forced servitude in all forms. It flies in the face of the Ghanaian Constitution which guarantees freedom of religion to every citizen. It flies in the face of human rights and human decency. It flies in the face of development, repressing the areas in which it is practiced. Ghanaian citizens are to be commended for fighting against it.

It flies in the face of Ghana's standing in the international community. The response of some who support trokosi flies in the face of reality and truth.

I challenge all former trokosi who have now been liberated to SPEAK UP. You, above all people know the truth about trokosi's existence. You know whether it is good or not. LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD!

For hundreds of years this horrific practice has flourished because it was taboo to speak about it or against it. I beg of you, don't let that continue!

John 3:19-21

I know it hurts to get rid of a part of your culture. Slavery was a part of our American culture, too. You know how much it hurt. It hurt the places from which the slaves came-like Ghana, and it hurt the countries where they were forced to serve in agony. Slavery was a part of our culture, too. I think most Americans are glad we got rid of it.

There are so many good aspects of Ghanaian culture. You don't need to preserve slavery in order to preserve your culture. Preserve the rich heritage of your languages, your Andrinka symbols, the great body of wisdom embodied in the parables of the elders, your colorful arts like kente weaving and other crafts that require great skill, your rich heritage in music, drumming, and dance, to name only a few. Trokosi is an outdated and inhumane practice not worthy of the great Ghanaian people. I urge you to leave it behind and present the best face of Ghana to the world.