



**-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-**

**PRESS RELEASE: “Youth Building Peace: A Clarion  
call for The Creation of Decent jobs for the Youth”**

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**Focus: Create Decent Jobs for the Youth!!!**

**TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

Saturday, August 12, 2017 marks International Youth Day (IYD), a United Nations (UN) sanctioned day for Youth all over the world. Ghana being a member of the United Nations (UN) will by default join the whole world, particularly, its Youth will join several Youth in other parts of the world to commemorate this day. The International Youth Day (IYD) as known today was proposed in 1998 that each year, August 12 be declared International Youth Day and it has been so ever since.

As an annual ritual, 2017 is here with us and Saturday, August 12 has been set aside as the day to celebrate every Youth in our Global Community. This year’s international celebration is anchored on the theme: ‘**Youth Building Peace**’. However, as Young Ghanaian workers’ in the Eastern Region whose major concern has been Decent Work, we wish to tie the international theme to Decent Work. i.e., ‘**Ghana at 60: Mobilising for Ghana’s Future through the creation of Decent Jobs for the Youth**’. Although we the Youth in the Eastern Region desire so much to contribute to building peace for sustained development in our respective communities, we feel we have been denied such opportunities for far and regrettably too long. We ask, can an empty sack stand? Obviously no! For over six decades, we the Youth in the Eastern Region of this country (Ghana) have been rendered complete empty sacks. Hence, our inability to stand for our rights and contribute to effective peace building and development.

In his master piece ‘Things Fall Apart’ Chinua Achebe said, “*A man who calls his kinsmen to a feast does not do so to save them from starving. They all have food in their own homes.*”

*When we gather together in the moonlit village ground it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so.”*

In the light of the above, we the Youth (Young Workers) in the Eastern Region are gathered here today not because we take delight in doing so, again, as we are gathered today, we do not desire to gather here to make merry, furthermore, our gathering here today is not to defy orders, rather, we are gathered today because it is so good and truly so to gather and think consciously about the welfare of one another.

We the Youth in the Eastern Region are of the view that, for a very long time we have not been given our rightful place to make meaningful contributions to national development. If the age-long axiom “ the future of every nation is its Youth” is anything to go by, then we ought to revise our notes as a nation to enable the Youth form part of the process of nation building at all levels.

The devil they say finds work for an idle hand. Just recently, it was reported that a Ghanaian graduate was recruited by the defiant Islamic militant group “ISIS”, this is as a result of frustration emanating from high graduate unemployment in our country. It is so sad to note that, unemployment in our country has become a free “programme of study” for the ordinary Ghanaian; the educated and uneducated alike, as Young educated Ghanaians are struggling to secure Decent Jobs. Meanwhile, the few lucky employed ones’ take home pay that leaves them at the bus stops with many engaged in precarious work due to poor governmental regulations while others who are in one form of employment or the other are not guaranteed their jobs.

To enable us contribute meaningfully to the building of peace and development in all sectors of our economy, we ask that present and future governments ensure that;

- i. our voices are heard
- ii. opportunities and the enabling environment are created for the Youth to own businesses
- iii. real and decent jobs are created for us
- iv. youth are not engaged in precarious work/job

Furthermore, to sum up the above, we the in the Eastern Region of Ghana call on both present and future governments to unconditionally provide for;

- i. opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income
- ii. security in the workplace and social protection for families
- iii. better prospects for personal development and social integration
- iv. freedom for Youth to express concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect our lives.
- v. equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men

We are fully aware of the many difficulties Workers are confronted with, particularly Young Workers, who are exposed to very precarious working conditions due to some factors related to their vulnerabilities. Decent Work/job has for a long time received very little attention from the State and most employers, as such, it is often underestimated. However, we hold the view that the working conditions of everybody, especially Young Workers has an impact on the quality of their lives and pose dire consequences on their future, hence, our constant and humble call for Decent Work/job for the Ghanaian Youth in general.

As we join our Brothers and Sisters in other parts of the world to commemorate International Youth Day (IYD) 2017, we the Youth in the Eastern Region hope that, the coming years will see many of us engaged in decent work backed by effective laws and live a decent life so as to contribute meaningfully to building a peaceful and enviable Ghana.

Long live Young Workers all over Africa!

Long live Young Workers all over Ghana!!

Long live Young Workers all over the Eastern Region!!!

I thank you all.

**11<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.**

**Signed**

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