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However, a sad reality of female slavery known as Trokosi or Female Ritual Servitude still exists in areas of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and parts of Nigeria to this very day. I first learned about this reality from a young girl who stood on the terrace of her home and shared with me the stories of the "stolen" Trokosi girls. From the Ewe words tro (" god ") + kosi ("

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The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to eliminate stereotypes and harmful practices, for example the criminalization of female genital mutilation and efforts to secure the release of women and girls in servitude in trokosi (ritual servitude) shrines.

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I attended a workshop two days ago which was organised to disseminate details on a study of Trokosi practice in Ghana conduct-

ed by researchers from the University of Legon, Ghana. Tro means deity and kosi means slave or wife so Trokosi translates as slave or wife of the deity. The practice of Trokosi involves holding young girls in servitude to appease the deities whom their families have offended.

As recently as 2013, there were between 4,000 and 6,000 women and children under bondage as trokosis in Ghana. And despite strong legislation against FGM, the national average remains at about 4 per cent, with prevalence as high as 16 per cent in the Upper West region. The most prevalent HTP in Ghana is the marriage of children.

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Ritual servitude is a practice in Ghana, Togo, and Benin where traditional religious shrines (popularly called fetish shrines in Ghana) take human beings, usually young virgin girls, in payment for services, or in religious atonement for alleged misdeeds of a family member. In Ghana and in Togo it is practiced by the Ewe tribe in the Volta region; in Benin it is practiced by the Fon.

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Wisdom Mensah - The Conversation

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Female Ritual Servitude

Some communities in the southern Volta Region and certain districts of the Greater Accra Region still practise an outlawed custom, which involves ritual servitude and sexual exploitation of girls. The custom requires a family to offer a virgin daughter as a trokosi to a traditional fetish shrine to ward off the punishment of the gods for crimes or moral wrongdoings committed by a family member.

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While institutional slavery has been banned worldwide, there are numerous reports of female sex slaves in areas without an effective government control, such as Sudan and Liberia, Sierra Leone, northern Uganda, Congo, Niger and Mauritania. In Ghana, Togo, and Benin, a form of (forced) religious prostitution known as trokosi ("ritual servitude") forcibly keeps thousands of girls and women in ...

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Trokosis' children grow up in servitude too, and the priests who fathered them don't care for them. "I wanted to run away, but I had to stay to save the lives of my young siblings who were ...

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