

DATE

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection  
P.O. BOX MBO 186,  
Ministries, Accra – Ghana

**Re: International Day for Street Children 2021: Access to services for street children**

Dear HON. MINISTER Adjoa Safo,

On International Day for Street Children, I am writing to draw your attention to the importance of taking action so that street-connected children can access the services they are entitled to, both during this pandemic and as we navigate an exit from it.

All children have the right to access essential services such as education, healthcare and protection services, no matter where they call home. Street children, already vulnerable before the onset of the pandemic, have always struggled to access these essential services, not least because they often don't have the required documentation.

During the pandemic, street children have needed access to these services even more than ever. Pushed to the margins, they have seen their livelihoods disappear, their health put at risk and they are faced with rules and restrictions on being out in public spaces. At the same time, access to these needed services has become much harder as healthcare and child protection systems are overstretched, schools have been closed and learning partially moved online.

On this International Day for Street Children, I write to you to ask you to put street and homeless children and youth at the centre of your response during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, through the following actions:

1. **Ensure that street children have access to essential services**, including education, child protection and healthcare during the pandemic when access is already restricted.
2. **Remove barriers for street children to access essential services**, such as requirements to be registered, have identity documents or a fixed address in order to access services.
3. **Prioritise investment in access to essential services for street children** as they navigate recovery from the pandemic.

Please do not hesitate to contact Safe-Child Advocacy ([info@safechildadvocacy.org](mailto:info@safechildadvocacy.org) or 0540264454 / 0244881844 ) and Adamfo Ghana ([info@adamfoghana.com](mailto:info@adamfoghana.com)) if you want to discuss further the putting in place of measures to keep street and homeless children and youth safe.

I hope you will take this opportunity to demonstrate our country's commitment to protecting all children and to prioritize investment in essential services for street children.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[You can include your phone number & email address]