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Shrine Wives and Fisher Boys: Drafting Child Trafficking Legislation in West Africa

Just as in the 1980s Ghanaian women's right organizations successfully championed legislation against spousal abuse, in the 1990s anti-child labor organizations focused their attention on the large-scale use of children as domestic laborers and the complex networks of traffic feeding into the domestic labor pool. A number of issues came to the forefront and feature in NGO reports in the late 20th century, in particular the high reports of abuse and violence against domestic workers. International organizations, spearheaded by the International Labor Organization's division on child labor encouraged the adoption of strict controls on child labor and treatment of domestic workers. In response to these initiatives and as part of a regional collaboration to combat child trafficking and child abuse, new legislations has been adopted in Ghana. This paper examines the relationship between campaigning and legislation dealing with the violence against domestic child laborers.