## Female Ritual Servitude The Trokosis In Ghana

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the first mention of the word trokosi can be traced to the work of a b ellis in 1890 writing on the topic of priesthood in the ewe speaking people of the gold coast as far back as the early 1900s a protest letter was submitted by a native of the gold coast to the colonial secretary of native affairs calling for an end to a practice that marginalized dehumanized and treated young virgins as slaves consecrated to the gods unfortunately in 2009 the fight still continues the authors bring light to an issue greatly in need of critical scrutiny this book poignantly elucidates firsthand accounts of the voices of the trokosi victims the geographical spread of the practice interrogates the social context in which the practice thrives traces the travailing journeys of the victims discusses the liberation efforts and rehabilitation programs examines the role of civil society in confronting the system and closes with the tensions within the discourses that support or reject the trokosi system

true stories of god s love and faithfulness for the broken and abused a couple of years ago i was shocked to find out that little virgin girls under the age of nine are given to fetish priests to serve horrific lives as slaves to atone for the crimes or sins of another family member they are beaten raped starved and overworked no affection or kindness is allowed and they live with no hope of ever being freed as they are isolated from anyone who offers help ruled by forces that control them they live in fear the stories in this book are told by trokosis who have been liberated through the help of international needs and liberated from their fear and suffering by their new found love and faith in jesus linda m gillard is the author of trokosi slave of the gods the author recently traveled to west africa to gather information on the ancient practice of trokosi and to interview liberated slaves who now live as free women it was an unforgettable experience for the author and needed to be told the culture of enslaving little girls is shrouded in secrecy and is still carried on today it is estimated that over 30 000 women and children are still enslaved in west africa

this book explores the kinds of christian service or diaconia that develop in non institutionalized practices for supporting survivors of indigenous ritual servitude or trokosi in africa drawing on empirical research from ghana it examines the possibilities of freedom equality and dignity for liberated trokosi and the manner in which these women s experiences

constitute a repudiation of dominant patriarchal family systems with close attention to the work of indigenous parachurches which function outside of institutionalized churches in challenging the contemporary practice of ritual slavery and offering its survivors a lived space in which they need not remain hidden as they seek restoration and integration into wider society ritual servitudes and christian social practices in ghana will appeal to scholars of sociology theology and religion with interests in gender contemporary ministries and african religion

although research on the roles and status of women and children in africa has expanded over the past two decades there is still a lack of comprehensive reality based and sophisticated analyses and documentation of the important issues and debates in this area this collection of original and thought provoking essays remedies these shortcomings by providing an eclectic informed and contextualized account of the nature and consequences of the oppression and abuse of women and children in africa in addition it provides a critical review of a broad range of policies and interventions that are being pursued by statutory and non governmental organizations to improve the quality of life of these two groups based on survey data case studies literature reviews and firsthand accounts this collection brings together some of the most significant new contributions to our understanding of how and why african women and children are oppressed by society the contributors to this volume consist of a well known team of scholars from the social sciences and humanities who are mostly citizens of several sub saharan countries together their lively contributions cover a wide range of topics including a comparative critique of females and gender status traditional institutions and violation of women s human rights and unequal access to power in addition the contributors examine constraints upon women s participation in politics the feminization of poverty prostitution patriarchy and marriage the inadequacy of gender neutral policies in housing delivery systems the impact of parental separation and divorce on children child abuse and child streetism

the routledge companion to gender and borderlands maps the relationship between gender and borderlands at a global scale and sets the agenda for developing a global composite field of gender and borderlands studies this interdisciplinary collection seeks to understand the complex nexus at which gender and the borderlands intersect

modelling radical relationality at epistemological ontological and activist levels going beyond border studies frequent site at the u s mexico border this book examines the power relations of borderlands as they play out in influence and reflect gender dynamics contributors draw on case studies from around the world and their chapters span diverse fields from anthropology literature and history to political science religious studies sociology and the arts the routledge companion to gender and borderlands is an indispensable resource for scholars and students engaged in border studies gender studies and the wide range of interlocking disciplines that inform and enrich these fields chapters 1 15 and 20 of this book are freely available as a downloadable open access pdf at taylorfrancis com under a creative commons attribution non commercial no derivatives cc by 4 0 license

they are in different countries but share the same hell maria is one of 14 women lured from mexico to seattle washington with the promise of a job then held by force in a brothel and required to sexually service men 12 hours a day anna is a young mother from the ukraine who left her husband and children there to take a job as a housecleaner in italy where she was put in a barred guarded house and forced into prostitution nadia is an 11 year old girl in africa kidnapped and forced to have sex with a militiaman daily with a machete ever ready nearby should she refuse all three women are part of horrific sex slavery that has drawn the attention of officials in countries around the globe it is not rare officials say it is increasing at least partly due to the billions of dollars it brings in for organized crime the u s state department estimates 800 000 victims mostly women and children are trafficked for sex trade across nations each year and millions more are trafficked within countries including the u s britain spain and the netherlands as a seattle times reporter explained when maria s case hit the news there the reality is that sex slaves for the most part are young women and teenaged girls who come from almost every one of the world s poorer countries and end up in almost every country where there is a combination of sexual demand and money but they are also in undeveloped africa in prisons internationally locked in forced marriages or sold to men by parents in this book parrot and cummings outline the scope and growth of the sex slave market today and explain the history with various elements including economic political cultural and religious that make this trade difficult to fully expose quell combat and shut down we hear from girls and

women around the world describing how sexual enslavement has tortured them physically emotionally and spiritually whether they suffer at the hands of prison guards in turkey criminals in washington or buyers dealing with parents who sell their daughters for the sex slave trade in greece belgium or france the authors also describe national and international efforts and legislation passed or in design to stop sex slavery successful countries and regions are spotlighted then parrot and cummings point out actions still needed to stop the sex slavery trade

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