THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE

HRCSL CONCLUDES REGIONAL TRAININGS FOR CSOS ON DISMANTLING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AMONG KEY POPULATIONS

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), through its Directorate of Education, Communication and Training, has concluded regional training workshops for civil society and human rights organisations on dismantling stigma and discrimination among key populations.



With support from the Global Fund through World Vision International and the National AIDS Secretariat (NAS), the training took place at the NAS conference hall at Belliar Park, Dwarzark in Freetown from the 12th-14th October 2026 and at the City Council Hall in Bo from 19th-21st October 2026, bringing together 80 participants comprising 33 females and 47 males.

The sessions were led by HRCSL's Director for Education, Communication and Training, Mr. Richard Tamba M'Bayo and the Deputy Director Mrs. Millicent

Kargbo, urging participants to be inclusive in their approach and implementation of activities, especially with key populations.



The training focused on strengthening the capacity of CSOs to pay more attention to effectively address and prevent stigma and discrimination against key populations.

Participants were taken through various topics, including dismantling stigma and discrimination, HIV epidemiology, stigma index, human rights and inclusive approaches, public leadership and stigma reduction, vulnerable populations in Sierra Leone, and advocacy and engagement for social justice, among others.

Director-General of the National AIDS Secretariat, Abdul Rahman Sesay, expressed his delight in collaborate with the Commission in ensuring access to services for vulnerable groups, especially persons living with HIV and helping them in breaking down barriers.

He commended HRCSL for working to improve rights issues as it relates to HIV and urged participants to make good use of the knowledge acquired by paying more attention to issues affecting the rights and wellbeing of key populations.

The initiative enhanced the understanding of HIV-related human rights issues among CSOs and shed light on the stigma and discrimination faced by key populations.



With this intensive training sessions, participants expressed gratitude to the Commission and NAS for the timely intervention of the initiative and the knowledge they have fully grasped on concerns related to addressing HIV and the challenges faced by key populations.

Participants promised to use the knowledge gained to help in create a more inclusive approach to human rights advocacy by ensuring that no one is left behind.

Through this capacity building initiative for CSOs and human rights organisations, HRCSL and partners strive to foster inclusive policies and practices

that promote diversity, inclusivity, and equality in accessing healthcare services for key populations.

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