



## **HRCSL & PARTNERS COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

With support from the Irish Aid/ UNDP, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) today Tuesday 10th December celebrated the International Human Rights Day at the British Council Auditorium.

On this day every year, the HRCSL and its Partners join the international community to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a global document put together by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th day of December, 1948 following the gross abuse of human rights during the World War II.

The theme is 'Stand Up For Human Rights' which has been localized to be 'Stand up for Human Rights and Fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence'.

The commemoration started with a float parade from Siaka Stevens Street, Pademba road unto to the British Council Auditorium where statements from the Irish Ambassador to Sierra Leone, the UNDP Resident Coordinator, 50/50 Group, the Human Rights Working Group, the Commissioner, Right to Access Information, the Nigerian High Commissioner and the Deputy Minister of Justice were delivered.

The official ceremony catered for 138 participants in the hall with 92 Male and 46 female.

The Vice Chairperson of HRCSL, Victor I. Lansana whilst reading the message from the HRCSL called on government:

- and its partners to speedily set up a national laboratory to carry out forensic analysis on rape so that justice would be accurately served to all parties.
- to have a dialogue with our partners in the civil society sector in respect of the Development Corporation Framework (DCF) in order to achieve a win-win outcome for the benefit of our country men and women who remain in desperate need of our various interventions.
- to reopen the constitutional review process towards an enactment of a new constitution of Sierra Leone which would be able to address the many enduring and emerging constitutional issues since 1991.
- to make a public pronouncement on the continuation of the moratorium on death penalty and urges same to take steps to expunge from our law books the death penalty.

The program was chaired by one of the Commissioners of HRCSL, Hassan Samba Yarjah.

Also with support from the Irish Aid/UNDP, the HRCSL in marking the international human rights day in the regions, organized an inter- junior Secondary school quiz competitions.