



## **HRCSL EMBARKS ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON SGBV**

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) with funding from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Thursday May 4 embarked on community engagement at Adonkia in Freetown on strategies for the elimination of sexual and gender based violence.

The Human Rights Commission is aware that in spite of the enactment of legislations to protect women in particular, from violence, SGBV continues to be major cause for concern across the country. In 2013 and 2014, the HRCSL observed in its State of Human Rights Reports that in Bo, Kenema, and Makeni, parents and community leaders instead of referring SGBV cases to the Family Support Unit for investigations and subsequent prosecutions, compromised the cases by allowing perpetrators to either marry the victims or pay a modest fine.

The community people were engaged on topics like Women's Rights & Gender Based violence and the domestic violence Act.

Similar engagements will be carried out in Bassa town, Matotoka town, Tonkolili District, Masombo community, Bombali District, Kongbora-Bauya, Moyamba District, Tikonko community in Bo District, Nyanyahun Gbuyama in Kailahun and Ngeluhun town, Kenema District.