



## HRCSL MOBILE COMPLAINT HEARING IN MATTRU JONG & GBADO TOWN

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) has concluded mobile complaints hearing in Mattru Jong, Bonthe District and Gbado Town, Kenema District, with support from UNDP and Irish Aid. The mobile complaints hearing is part of the Commission's mandate to investigate and inquire into complaints.



The hearing was held from 8th – 12th November where the commission documented complaints from residents in the two districts.

In Mattru Jong, residents of the community expressed gratitude to the commission for the hearing. Beatrice Sylvialie described the presence of the Commission as timely— “We the women have been suffering in silence for far too long and we hope that this complaint hearing will signal light at the end of the tunnel.”

The Vice-Chairperson, Victor Idrissa Lansana Esq. however stated that human rights are universal which means it is for everyone regardless of their race, colour, sex, belief and more. He also noted that “human rights are given by law and are also restricted by law”, therefore he admonished citizens to enjoy their rights but to remember that right goes with responsibility.

Gbado is the chieftdom Headquarters Town of Kandu-Leppiyama Chiefdom. The town with a population of over a thousand is a cosmopolitan area as people from the south and east of the country converge to carry out mining activity. According to complaints received from residents, Leppiyama had been deprived for decades from getting the Chiefdom Development Funds and therefore requested the commission's intervention.



The Chairperson of the Commission, Patricia Narsu Ndanema reinforced the commission's mandate which is to protect and promote human rights in the country. She also spoke on the Sexual Offences Act of 2012 as amended in 2019, cataloguing some of the key provisions in the document.

"This is not the first time we are holding this hearing. The Commission was set up for people to have a place to report human rights issues. We are here to listen to your concerns and find ways of solving them," she said.

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