



HRCSL HOLDS STRATEGIC INTERACTION WITH IRISH AMBASSADOR

Commissioners and the Executive Secretary of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) on 25th April 2019, had strategic engagements with the Irish Ambassador to Sierra Leone and Liberia Catherine Campbell at the Embassy residence in Freetown.

The purpose was to rekindle their relationship and also to extend appreciation for the support given to the HRCSL over the years.

In her brief statement, the Chairperson of the Commission Mrs. Patricia Narsu Ndanema described Irish Aid as their traditional donor who has been very supportive to the work of the commission over the past years. She said that 'Making Rights Real' which is the Commission's motto is the collective responsibility of all, whilst expressing her gratitude for Irish Aid's involvement in the realization of human rights in the country over the past years through various form of interventions.

She further gave a brief on the Commission's key strategic priorities geared towards achieving the Commission's Vision. She informed the Irish Aid Team of the Commission's plan to set up an office in the North West Region with the aim of giving rights holders the space to enjoy the Commission's services. The Chairperson however graved the indulgence of the ambassador to continue their support to the commission for the realization and enjoyment of human rights in the country.

Also speaking, the Vice Chairperson Victor Lansana, Commissioners Dr. Gassam Abess, Simitie Lavaly, Hassan Samba Yarjah and the Executive Secretary Joseph Benmanking Kamara all made meaningful interactions geared towards rekindling support to the HRCSL for the realization of human rights in Sierra Leone.

In her remarks, Ambassador Catherine Campbell congratulated Commissioners on their appointments and expressed her commitment to work with them. She also highlighted the positive reactions by the international community following the long awaited appointments of them.

The Ambassador mentioned Ireland's interest in human rights protection especially on gender issues and pointed out that while the government of Sierra Leone has shown commitment to the realization and respect for human rights, the Commissioners should play a great role in holding duty bearers accountable for rights violations. The Ambassador informed commissioners of Ireland's support to their work.