



TRAINING OF TRAINERS OF DISTRICT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES ON TREATY BODY REPORTING COMPLAINTS HANDLING AND INVESTIGATION

Regional Training of Trainers of District Human Rights Committees on Treaty Body Reporting Complaints Handling and Investigation; Monitoring, Research and Reporting; Gender Analysis and Human Rights; Resource Mobilisation; Advocacy and Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.

District Human Rights Committees (DHRCs) are a loose coalition of human rights and pro-democracy organizations/civil society groups in districts acting as a unit in partnership with the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) to protect and promote the human rights of all persons in Sierra Leone.



Commissioner Hassan Samba Yarjah giving a talk to the Participants

The rationale for bringing the DHRCs under the supervision of HRCSL in Memoranda signed in February 2018 was for the purpose of complementarity; giving the latter's broad mandate and the scarcity of its human and material resources to adequately reach out to the length



and breadth of the country. Also to foster collaboration among them, induce joint program planning and implementation, enhance solidarity, and maximize synergy to addressing issues of human rights across the country. Through the committees, HRCSL could also enhance the multiplier effect of training of trainers programs at the level of the committees where HRCSL has limited or non-presence.

To this effect, on the 19th and 20th March 2020, at the WAGA hall at Baiima Road in Bo District, the HRCSL conducted two days Training of Trainers for District Human Rights Committees on treaty body reporting and international mechanisms, complaints handling and investigation; monitoring, research and reporting; gender and human rights and reporting; resource mobilization; advocacy and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.



The Participants were drawn from the whole country. There were three (3) participants per district and a total of 42 participants (33 male and 9 female). The goal of the training was to build the capacity of DHRCS in the training areas targeted above, strengthen partnership



between HRCSL and DHRCs and for participants to replicate the training to other DHRCs members in their districts. Key notable achievements during the training are as follows:

- The training of Trainers workshop for DHRCs in the country was able to bring the DHRCs together after about a period of seven years since the United Nations handed the DHRCs to the Human Rights Commission.
- The Training enhanced District Human Rights Committees to understand the full concept of Human rights, to properly understand the mandate, powers and functions of the Human Rights Commission and most importantly understand how they can collaborate and function with the Commission.
- The training also brought together all the district Human rights Committees in the country and they were able to network, relate with each other and discuss strategies for collaboration among themselves.
- The training also increased the DHRCs capacity on human right work, national, regional and international human rights instruments and frameworks, advocacy and resource mobilization, complaints handling and investigations which will ensure that their operations as civil society groups are effective and efficient.
- The Training also empowered the DHRCs to begin to discuss their transformation into the development of a national character, which if developed will give civil society a stronger and unified voice in the governance structure in the country.