



HRCSL INTERACTS WITH OLDER PERSONS AT KING GEORGE VI MEMORIAL HOME

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone through the Directorate of Gender and Children's Affairs on Friday 4th October, 2024 have an interactive dialogue with older persons at King George VI Memorial Home at Grafton.



The dialogue was in commemoration of this year's International Day for the Aged on 1st October, 2024. The day was set aside to raise awareness about the rights, challenges, and contributions of older persons worldwide.

Older persons in Sierra Leone often face a range of challenges, including poverty, inadequate healthcare, age-related discrimination, and social isolation and exclusion.

According to the Director of Gender and Children's Affairs, Madam Gloria Bayoh, the country does not have a culture of taking older persons to safe homes.

She said it was a good initiative to have such a home to take good care of older persons in the country adding "Those without the required resources normally left their parents to suffer and some even abandoned them at home."



During the dialogue session, older persons in the home were given the opportunity to share their experiences on issues affecting their wellbeing and how younger folks can be of help to them.



Many complain about neglect, particularly from those who had brought them to the home but failed to provide support or visit them.

70 years-old Cynthia Maddy said “I have been abandoned by my relatives since I was brought to this home. Nobody is picking my call and this has led to me losing my speech.”

Madam Bayoh assured them of the Commission’s commitment in addressing issues affecting their human rights as older persons.

At the end of the dialogue, the Commission donated some sanitary items to help upkeep the home.

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