



## PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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### PRESS RELEASE



#### PARLIAMENT COMMEMORATES WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

The Parliament of Sierra Leone, together with UNICEF, has joined the world in celebrating World Children's Day on Thursday 20/11/2025 in Committee Room One Parliament Building in Freetown.

The theme for the event is "My day, my right." The essence of the event was to keep raising awareness on the right of children across the country.

Earlier, the Speaker and the Leadership of Parliament made statements in the Chamber of Parliament in order to raise awareness and commemorate international children's day.

During the commemoration, the Chairman of Parliamentary Committee on Legislative Services, Hon. Abdul Sulaiman Marray-Conteh applauded the organizers for the event. He reminded participants that lawmaking, representation, and oversight are their key functions as Members of Parliament. He stated the tireless efforts made by Parliament, including the enactment of laws for the protection and safety of children and women across the country.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, Aminata Sannoh, re-emphasized government's commitment in the protection of children.

Representative from UNICEF, Rudolf Schwenk said the rights of children must be protected and that children should not face discrimination. He added that, these are not privileges but fundamental rights that must be given to the children. He continued that enough resources should be allocated to address the concerns of children across the world. He reaffirmed that UNICEF remains fully committed to protecting the welfare of children at all times. “We will ensure the rights of children are always promoted”, he ended.

Wally Bangura, a child from Kambia District highlighted the significance of the day, saying it is a day to reflect on the rights and protection of children all over the world. She said, children have enough and unique characteristics and that if children are given the chance, society would be a better place. She said, the child rights act makes provision for the safety of children across the country.” Some children could not go to school because of distance or crowded class rooms”. She ended by asking for more support to ensure children are always protected.

Joseph Lebby, a child from Bo District, in his submission called on Parliament to establish parliamentary children's caucus in order to ensure children's voices are heard. He added that, Parliament should find ways to ensure greater accountability to ensure resources meant for children are utilized judiciously.

In a question and comment session, Legislators highlighted the significance of protecting children, they referenced tireless commitments made by Parliament in the enactment of progressive legislations, such as the Child Rights Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, to protect the fundamental rights and dignity of children across the country.

Sulaiman Bah, Principal Public Relations Officer moderated the programme and went to highlight some of the significance of the day's event.

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