



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASE



WFD ENGAGES MPs IN MALE ALLYSHIP REFLECTION & LEARNING SESSION

As part of efforts to promote women's empowerment and gender equality, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) on Thursday, October 30, 2025, organized a Male Allyship Reflection and Learning Session at the Conference Hall of the New Administrative Building of Parliament in Freetown.

Welcoming participants, the President of the Parliamentary Female Caucus, Hon. Bernadette Wuyatta Songa, said the purpose of the session was to reconnect, reconstruct, and sustain initiatives that promote women's empowerment. She emphasized that the work of the Female Parliamentary Caucus was focused on advancing gender equality and inclusive governance.

Hon. Songa further highlighted that the concept of male allyship was aimed at strengthening partnerships between men and women in promoting women's leadership and gender equality. She commended UN Women and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy for their constant support to empower women in Sierra Leone.

In her presentation, Madam Bairdu Massaquoi, Lead Programme Specialist for Leadership and Decision-making at UN Women, shared data highlighting existing gender gaps in employment and leadership opportunities. She underscored the importance of the HeForShe movement, a global initiative launched by the United Nations in 2014 to mobilize men and boys as advocates for gender equality.

Madam Massaquoi noted that HeForShe was launched in Sierra Leone in 2017, marking a significant step towards the promotion of gender equity nationwide.

During the reflection session, Hon. Emerson Saa Lamina, Deputy Leader II in Parliament, acknowledged the role men play in advancing women's development. He reflected on the efforts of both former and current Presidents of Sierra Leone in promoting women's empowerment and shared global statistics on women's participation in politics.

Hon. Neneh Lebbie, Deputy Chief Whip II, commended Parliament for achieving the 30% quota for women's representation in politics, describing it as a major milestone in Sierra Leone's democratic progress.

Similarly, Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawally, Opposition Whip I, highlighted the valuable contributions of female MPs in promoting gender equality and social justice in the country.

Male Members of Parliament present, reaffirmed their commitments to supporting women's empowerment, pledging to continue working collaboratively with the Female Parliamentary Caucus and development partners to ensure gender inclusivity in all sectors.

Mr. Paul S. Turay, Deputy Director at the Department of Programmes, Research, and Partnerships in Parliament, delivered a presentation on fostering gender parity and inclusivity in legislative governance.

Moderating the session, Mr. Sheku Lamin Turay, Director of Parliamentary and Public Relations Department emphasized the importance of a sustained dialogue and collective actions to achieve more gender balance and inclusivity in Sierra Leone's governance architecture.

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