



## **Child Rights Coalition - Sierra Leone (CRC-SL)**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**21ST JUNE, 2020**

### **CRC-SL CALLS FOR A MORE SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO ADDRESSING SEXUAL PENETRATION AND RAPE**

The Child Rights Coalition - Sierra Leone (CRC-SL) is outraged by the alleged multiple rape of a five-year old girl that resulted in her death. We express our deepest condolences to the family.

We draw Government's attention to the alarming number of sexual violence cases that are being investigated, awaiting trial or in trail at the Family Support Unit and various Offices of State Counsels across the country. There has been no significant improvement even with the establishment of the '116' toll free line for sexual violence. These cases require urgent action. Justice delayed is justice denied.

We join other organisations to call for swift justice for all pending cases of sexual penetration and rape, including the case of this deceased five-year old girl. We demand consideration for appropriate sentences for the perpetrator as provided in the Amended Sexual Offences Act 2019.

We also call for a more systemic approach to dealing with sexual penetration and rape that considers streamlining access to justice, remodelling prevention approaches that cover changing social norms and parenting skills, and addressing other health and social issues that affect the safety and security of girls and young women in the family and community.

#### **CONTACT:**

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*Child Rights Coalition – Sierra Leone is a civil society coalition of over 100 national and international organizations working to promote child rights in Sierra Leone. The Coalition, established in 2007 has been monitoring implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Optional Protocols to the UN CRC, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other child rights conventions in the country.*