



THE FIFTY-FIFTY GROUP OF SIERRA LEONE
50 OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown, Sierra Leone

GENDER PARITY THROUGH TRAINING & ADVOCACY

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PRESS RELEASE

Freetown: The Fifty -Fifty Group, Women serving organisations and its CSO partners express grave concern over the recent report of two male Members of Parliament who were allegedly involved in activities aimed at disrespecting, intimidating and harassing two female members of Parliament.

The Fifty-Fifty Group was established to support gender equality and parity of men and women at decision making levels, particularly at the political level as a means to promote sustainable development and good governance. Sustainable development Goal 5 indicator 5.5.2 requires states to 'ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political life'. This cannot be achieved when women's roles as decision makers are ridiculed or their efforts to deliver with integrity and professionalism are deliberately thwarted to present an unfair picture of incompetence.

Therefore, actions geared towards intimidating and harassing women in decision making positions by their male counterparts contradicts the commitment made by our government towards promoting gender equality. It also questions our obligations towards treaties and conventions that include the Convention against All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the African Charter on Women's Rights, The Maputo Protocol, UN Resolution 1325 and 1820, and the 1991 Sierra Leone Constitution amongst others.

We welcome the initiative of the leadership of the Sierra Leone Parliament to establish a committee to investigate the incident and urge that all previous related matters are equally addressed. As we condemn these actions in no uncertain terms we hope that due process will be observed.

The Fifty-fifty Group, Women serving organisations and its CSO partners stand together to support the House of Parliament and the public service to adopt a gender lens in their recruitment, promotion, budgeting and representation. We note that development will continue to be challenged if the majority of its population are not included and recognised as equal partners at the decision making level.

Haja Alimattu Abdullah

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The Fifty -Fifty Group seeks to increase the level of female participation in political and public life and ensure equivalence in the local councils, parliament, cabinet and other decision-making institutions of the State and to provide leadership training and literacy classes for women throughout the country.



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1. The Fifty-Fifty Group
2. Women's Forum
3. Campaign for Good Governance (CGG)
4. Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE)
5. African Women Leaders Network (AWLN)
6. Women Shadow Parliament
7. Legal Access Through Women Yearning for Equality Rights and Social Justice (LAWYERS)
8. Sky Women's World Network
9. Bambara Town Women's Organisation
10. Market Women Association
11. Mano River Women Peace Network (MAWOPNET)
12. Women's Advocacy and Agricultural Development Organisation (WAADO)