

The African Women Leadership Network Sierra Leone Chapter (AWLN-SL) 50 OAU Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown, Sierra Leone C/o The Fifty Fifty Headquarters <u>Email-awInslsierra@gmail.com</u>

11th August 2022

PRESS STATEMENT

AWLN Condemns Riotous Conduct and Calls for Peaceful Dialogue

The African Women Leadership Network-Sierra Leone chapter is gravely concerned over the incidents of violence that occurred in various parts of the country on the 10th August 2022 resulting in the loss of life of civilians and security personnel.

As an organisation, we condemn all forms of violence in the exercise of our right to protest. We implore all Sierra Leoneans at home and abroad to engage in discussions and activities that will build national and social cohesion, peace and development.

We should develop and strengthen institutions, systems and processes that are impartial fair and trusted to air out and resolve our differences.

Sierra Leone has been acclaimed as a peaceful nation drawing from the eleven years civil conflict and the resilience to manage our differences over the years.

We implore all to open the space for dialogue to discuss issues of concerns but also bring to book those responsible for the riotous conduct.

AWLN is hopeful that this incident is the beginning of a positive chapter in our history, where we do a self-reflection, and design mechanisms that will build, strengthen and unify us as a nation.

We pray for God's guidance and wisdom during these challenging times.

African Women Leaders Network was established by the African Union and United Nation in support of a call to Action for Africa's transformation through the 2030 agenda. AWLN's mission is to: **enhance the leadership of women for the transformation of Africa with a focus on governance, peace, stability, sustainable development, economic empowerment and women's access to finance.**

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