



PRESS RELEASE

SEND SIERRA LEONE CALLS FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL ENABLE WOMEN TO ACTUALIZE THEIR FULL POLITICAL AND LEADERSHIP POTENTIALS.

Kenema, 11th November 2020.

The United States has, for the first time, elected a woman as Vice President of the country. This historic achievement adds to the remarkable political gains' women have made in different parts of the world, including the African continent which elected a woman president in the name of Ellen Jonson Sirleaf.

As an organization that has women's empowerment as one of its fundamental goals, SEND Sierra Leone welcomes the election of Senator Kamala Harris as the first woman Vice President of the United States. We cease this moment to call for greater involvement of women in politics and decision making in Sierra Leone and across the African continent.

With the support of our donor partners, we as an organization have supported several women across the Eastern region of Sierra Leone to participate in decision making and contest for leadership positions at different levels of governance. This action has over the years encouraged thousands of women to join women network groups such as the Kenema Women in Governance Network, Kailahun Women in Governance Network, Kono Women in Governance Network and the Eastern Region Women in Governance Network among others.

It is our view that the advancement of women will not be possible if the State and political parties do not create an enabling environment for women to participate in politics and democratic processes freely. We strongly believe that women are not only prepared to participate in politics and decision making but to take up leadership and governance positions if political parties and the State create the right conditions.

We, once again, would like to cease this historic moment in world politics to remind policymakers, political parties and the Sierra Leonean state of the need to do more so that women can have equal opportunities that will enable them actualize their full political and leadership potentials.