



**BREAKING BARRIERS:  
FEMALE LEADERS CONFERENCE 2023**  
5th-6th September 2023  
Freetown City Hall

# About SEND Sierra Leone

SEND Sierra Leone is a dedicated non-governmental and non-profit organization (NGO) with a profound vision of creating a Sierra Leone where the rights and well-being of individuals are safeguarded. Our mission involves:



Promoting Good Governance



Amplifying voices

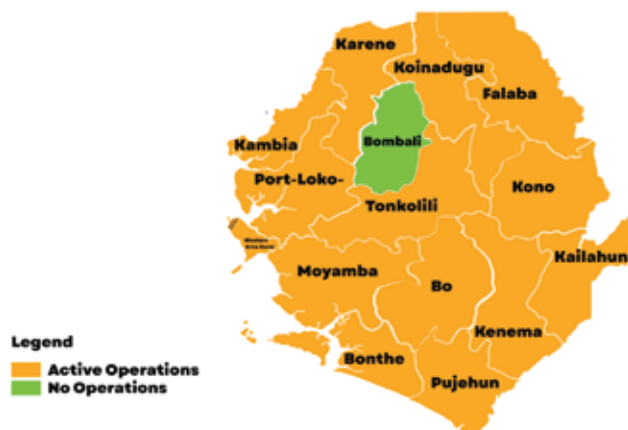


Ensuring accountable essential services



Striving for gender equality

With a comprehensive scope of operations, SEND Sierra Leone actively works in fifteen of the sixteen districts in the country, including Kailahun, Kenema, Kono, Western Area, Bonthe, and Port Loko, where we maintain operational and coordination offices. Through strategic engagement with diverse stakeholders and fruitful partnerships, we play a pivotal role in advancing gender equality and advocating for women's rights. Additionally, we actively support the government's endeavours to promote inclusive governance and foster sustainable development.



Our commitment to the people of Sierra Leone drives every aspect of our work, and we relentlessly pursue positive change and equitable opportunities for all. By working hand in hand with local communities, authorities, and fellow organizations, we strive to build a brighter future where every individual's voice is heard, and their rights are respected and protected.

At SEND Sierra Leone, by working together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of the people we serve and contribute to realizing a more just and prosperous society.



# Background of the Activity

Sierra Leone's commitment to meeting international standards and fostering gender equality is evident through the concerted efforts of successive governments. SEND has taken significant strides in creating a robust legal framework to address inequalities and promote gender parity. Notably, enacting various Gender Acts, such as the Three Gender Act of 2009 and the more recent Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Act of 2022, lays a strong foundation for advancing women's representation and empowerment in governance, commerce, and property rights.

SEND-SL plays a pivotal role in this endeavour by engaging in governance and gender transformative programming across Sierra Leone. Through strategic collaborations with communities, traditional authorities, political parties, electoral management bodies (EMBs), and other partners, SEND-SL advocates for women's empowerment and works towards achieving gender equality for more inclusive governance.

The interventions implemented by SEND-SL have led to remarkable progress in promoting women's participation in decision-making roles at both the local governance level and the national parliament. By fostering a conducive environment for female leaders, SEND-SL aims to build solidarity among women in Sierra Leone, empowering them to take on leadership positions and effect positive societal change.

To further advance the cause of female leadership, SEND-SL proposes a two-day National Female Leaders Conference scheduled for the 5th and 6th of September, 2023. This conference seeks to convene all elected Female Members of Parliament, Councilors, Chairpersons/Mayors, Deputies, and other influential figures. Through this collective platform, SEND-SL aims to strengthen the voice and impact of female leaders, fostering a united front in their pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive Sierra Leone.



Figure 1: Proposed Logo for the Conference

# Objectives of the Activity



Foster networking possibilities and collaborations to build resilient female leaders championing women's movement building and supporting resilience, transformational leadership and governance through experience sharing. .



Envision transformative leadership and enhancing strategic decision-making in Sierra Leone; and equip Female Leaders with the willpower and ability to conceptualize actions that transform society towards equality and prosperity.



Develop capacities for transformative policy and legislative development, advocacy and lobbying skills.



Leverage new technologies to develop strategies across digital and social media platforms to build movements that advance equitable engagement and development.

# Expected Outcome of the Activity



The action will form a cohesive female leadership network, uniting Female Elected Councilors, Chairpersons/Mayors, and MPs, Female Ministers and other Female Appointees of Departments and Agencies, Network women, young women, and other stakeholders).

Through interactive sessions, experience sharing, and mutual learning, the network will strengthen support among female leaders, fostering motivation for increased women's participation in politics, governance, and decision-making processes.

# Methods and Strategies

In delivering these objectives, SEND-SL has developed different topics to be discussed and moderated by empaneled, seasoned and experienced Sierra Leonean personalities.

Following several consultations, there are four panel discussions which would be held during the Conference and would be moderated and empanelled by a diverse group of Sierra Leonean men and women.

## **Panel 1: Envisioning Women's Transformative and Ethical Leadership in Sierra Leone**

### **Panel Discussion:**

1. Prominent female leaders discuss the qualities and attributes of transformative and ethical leadership.
2. Exploring the intersection of ethics, visionary leadership, and strategic decision-making for societal transformation.
3. Case studies of successful transformative leaders and the impact of their leadership on governance and development.

### **Moderators**

1. Estina Taylor
2. Patrick Salia

### **Panelists**

1. Dr Williette James
2. Dr Isha Fofanah Ibrahim
3. Mrs Sunkari Kamara
4. Fatmata Sorie Esq
5. Hon. Catherine Z. Tarawally

## **Panel 2: Building Resilient Female Leaders: Championing Women Networks and Supporting Mental Well-being for Transformative Leadership**

### **Panel Discussion:**

1. Female leaders share their experiences building resilience and overcoming challenges in leadership roles.
2. Strategies for fostering support networks and mentorship opportunities among female leaders.
3. Addressing mental health and well-being concerns in leadership positions to enhance transformative leadership.

### **Moderators**

1. Mrs Asmaa Kamara James
2. Dr Charles Silver

### **Panelists**

1. Dr Elizabeth Alieu
2. Yasmin Jusu Sheriff Esq
3. Dr Bernadette Lahai
4. Hon. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr
5. Fatmata B. Turay
6. Hon. Rosemary Bangura

### **Panel 3: Inclusive Governance for Sustainable Development**

#### **Panel Discussion:**

1. Female leaders explore the importance of inclusive governance in achieving sustainable development goals.
2. Strategies for incorporating gender perspectives in policymaking and development initiatives.

#### **Moderators**

1. Mabel Kabba

#### **Panelists**

1. Madam Aminata Bangura
2. Hon. Tawa Conteh
3. Asiatu Conteh
4. Beatrice Koroma
5. Hon. Rebecca Yei Sam
6. Hon Nyie Koffie

### **Panel 4: Women's Political Participation and Representation in Sierra Leone**

#### **Panel Discussion:**

1. Female leaders explore the importance of inclusive governance in achieving sustainable development goals.
2. Strategies for incorporating gender perspectives in policymaking and development initiatives.

#### **Moderators**

1. Fatima Sesay
2. Wurie Kargbo

#### **Panelists**

1. Madam Harriette Turay
2. Madam Amie Momoh
3. Hon Sia Mahawa Tommy
4. Hon. Mariama Zombo
5. Rugiatu Neneh Turay
6. Hon. Nanette Thomas

### **Guest Lecture: Harnessing Technology and Social Media for Transformative Leadership and Building Movements**

#### **Delivered by**

1. Hon. Salmata Bah



# FEMALE LEADERS CONFERENCE

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Empowering female leaders  
for transformative leadership  
and governance in  
Sierra Leone