
Submission by Initiative in Capacity Building Association (ICBA) for the Universal Periodic Review of Sierra Leone

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Introduction

In this submission, Initiative in Capacity Building Association (ICBA) raises concerns over the issue of HIV/AIDS advertisements, politically motivated rape, the political participation of women and violations of the human rights of children. ICBA makes four recommendations for action by the government

B. Normative and institutional framework of the State

National AIDS Secretariat

The government of Sierra Leone established the National AIDS Secretariat to sensitise the public about the prevention of HIV /AIDs. ICBA is concerned that this public sensitization is not tailored to the need of children.

Non-implementation of penal code with respect to rape

The government also has a Ministry of Gender that is supposed to ensure the protection and promotion of women's rights. However, there are many incidents of rape, including of babies and

teenagers. In many instances the families negotiated amicable settlements among themselves and thereby undermined the laws against the crime of rape, including the Gender Act.

No legislation to ensure political participation of women

The government continues to delay the passing into law of a Bill that would ensure 30% of women representation in political positions.

C. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

In 2010, ICBA observed that government advertisement that has been running since 2003 is not children/youth friendly and encourages teenage pregnancy AIDs promo that shows the use of condom, can be misinterpreted by children to try sex experience and can lead to early pregnancy. This may impact on the Rights of the Child and the Child Rights Act.

In 2009, women including a pregnant woman were raped during political fracas in Freetown. This fracas happened when supporter of the ruling parties attacked the secretariat of the opposition party in Freetown. There has been no investigation into this crime and the perpetrator has not been brought to justice.

Since 2007, out of 112 parliamentarians, there are only about 17 women parliamentarians.

D. Recommendations for action by the State under review

1. All HIV/AIDs adverts should take into consideration the protection the rights of children and teenagers.
2. A separate method to sensitise children and teenagers to HIV/AIDS should be developed by the government. Advertisement that encourages protective sex should not be aired during children tv hours.
3. Government should end the impunity for political motivated rape and all those involved in the rape incidents of 2009 should be prosecuted.
- 4 Government should draft and pass into law, a bill that will ensure 30% political participation of women