
Submission by One Family People for the Universal Periodic Review of Sierra Leone

**11th session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
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Introduction

In this submission, One Family People raises concerns about human rights violations in the context of persons living with disability and forced evictions of disabled people.

In section D, One Family People makes seven recommendation for action by the government.

B. Normative and institutional framework of the State

One Family People is concerns about right to housing in pursuant to article 11 (1) of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to which Sierra Leone is a party. States parties "recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions"

Despite the provisions in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, two instruments to which the Sierra Leonean government is a state party, disabled people continue to face challenges, difficulties, discrimination and economic exploitation on a daily basis. The Disability Rights Bill is yet to be enacted by the government. The government is yet to announce a policy that will address the difficulties faced by people living with disabilities.

C. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

In January 2009, One Family People documented the forced eviction of over 150 persons with disabilities disable from a private building in Walpol Street, Freetown. One Family People documented the forced eviction of about 65 persons with disabilities from another government building in October 2009. In these cases they were not given access to alternative accommodation. in the 2009 case, some of those persons evicted sustained injuries during the forced eviction. Further, as there was no alternative accommodation provided for this vulnerable group many ended up on the street. One Family People observed that as a result, about three of the disable people died, some were raped, and some are now exposed to a life of crime, drugs, prostitutions and dealing with unwanted pregnancies.

One Family People continues to write to the government to protect and promote the rights of persons living with disability, with no concrete result.

D. Recommendations for action by the State under review

1. The government should ensure that education is free and accessible to persons living with disabilities and adapted to their needs.
2. The government should establish a specialised school for persons living with disabilities, especially those with visual impairments and those with speech and hearing impairments.
3. The government should provide adequate housing for persons living with disability.
4. The transport system should be tailored to the need of persons living with disability in terms of access and space
5. Government policy should facilitate training and the employment of persons living with disabilities, especially with respect to establishing safeguards against discrimination.
6. The government should develop a policy with a view to enacting legislation to address the institutional discrimination against persons living with disabilities.
7. The government should remove all barriers faced by persons living with disabilities to access medical facilities and equipment needed for them function within the society.