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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**30<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

**IPU Engages MPs on Raising Awareness on Violence against Women**

Inter-Parliamentary Union in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Parliament on Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at the Conference Hall of Parliament's Administrative Building, engaged MPs on raising awareness on violence against women and girls and stigmatization of Ebola survivors.



*MPs taking lectures on gender based violence*

According to the parliamentary chairperson of the IPU, Hon. J.K. Smith, their aim is to equip MPs with the relevant knowledge on how to treat Ebola survivors by way of shaping public opinion on gender based violence in the country.

She briefed MPs on the background of the IPU and the enacted gender laws, decrying the abuse of women and girls. Hon. Smith encouraged MPs that their responsibility is not just to do oversight and make laws but also to approach other state authorities like the police to see that the laws that have been enacted to protect women and girls are effectively implemented.

The one day training program also focused on national, regional and international legal frameworks to tackle violence against women and girls; access to protection; justice and

support services for victims of gender based violence and Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone. It also looked at ways of preventing violence against women and girls and ending stigmatization of survivors in the community.

Dr.Thomas R.A. Winnebeh, resource person and Lecturer from Njala University, engaged MPs on various aspects of gender based violence. MP's welcomed the initiative from Parliament and the IPU in understanding gender based violence and promised to replicate what have been learnt in their constituencies.