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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **Presentation on Statelessness to the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights**

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with other stakeholders in development, has engaged the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, Chaired by Hon. Komba E.S Boyah on the “statelessness” of people.

The one day workshop which was held at Committee Room One, Parliament Building, attracted Members of Parliament and other stakeholders in raising awareness on statelessness around the world.



*Chairman, Human Rights Committee in Parliament making a statement*

In his opening remarks, the Human Rights Committee chair, on behalf of the leadership of Parliament, thanked and appreciated the organizers, noting that some ten million people around the world are affected by statelessness and seven hundred and fifty thousand are found in West Africa and basically, denied education, work and even some times, medical facilities.

He said conflict of nationality has affected many people around the world and that in order to address this challenge, MPs should make laws to protect them.

Mohamed Usman Koroma, Programme Manager, NaCSA, briefed MPs on the objectives of the workshop, for creating awareness on statelessness. He made a power point presentation on the causes and consequences of statelessness, as did Madam Anne Marie Sidique from Internal Affairs Ministry.

Furthermore, Officer -in- Charge UNHCR, Ms. Moijama Siafa defined statelessness as not having nationality anywhere. She said the 1954 convention relating to the status of stateless persons, talked about the need for their protection.

She also mentioned the statelessness of refugees as in the 1951 convention.

The workshop resolved that proper legislation be put in place by law makers to address the issues of statelessness and research be carried to determine whether Sierra Leone has people of statelessness in the country.

Members of Parliament appreciated the one day dialogue forum in raising awareness on statelessness and promised to work with MDAs in actualizing the proposals of statelessness conventions for the country.

Movies on statelessness in West Africa climaxed the one day dialogue forum.