



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Parliament Building - O.A.U Drive, Tower Hill, Freetown | admin@parliament.gov.sl | www.parliament.gov.sl

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PRESS RELEASE



CSPS CONCLUDES TWO DAYS TRAINING FOR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING MANUAL

The Centre for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies (CSPS) concluded a two-day training session on Tuesday, 03/09/2024, for a cross-section of Parliamentary Staff on the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Manual.

As a critical tool for the Parliament of Sierra Leone, this comprehensive training manual is immensely valuable in enriching the knowledge and awareness of its participants regarding gender-related matters and their crucial role in parliamentary policies and programs.

Through its systematic and in-depth approach, the manual equips parliamentarians and staff with practical insights. When applied, these insights lead to a deeper understanding of how gender dynamics influence legislative decisions and their subsequent impact on society. This understanding enables more informed and effective decision-making.

The manual's ultimate objective is to catalyze a transformative change within the Parliament. It aims to create an environment where gender-responsive policies and programs are integral to the legislative process. By embracing gender perspectives and inclusivity, parliamentarians, and staff can contribute to developing legislation that addresses all citizens' diverse needs and concerns, regardless of gender.

The training manual also serves as a catalyst for fostering gender equality, women's empowerment, and social progress. As participants engage with the material, they gain insights into best practices and strategies for promoting gender-responsive governance, thus fostering a more equitable and just society. This empowerment through knowledge and understanding is a powerful tool for shaping a brighter and more inclusive future for Sierra Leone.

This manual serves as a beacon of progress and a roadmap for the Parliament of Sierra Leone. It is a call to action for the parliamentary staff to actively incorporate gender considerations into every aspect of its legislative work. By embracing this tool, the Parliament takes a significant step towards creating a gender-responsive institution that reflects all citizens' needs, aspirations, and rights, thereby shaping a brighter and more inclusive future for Sierra Leone.

Giving tutorials to the selected Parliamentary Staff on how to use the Training Manual, the European Union Technical Assistance to Parliament Adams Fusheini encouraged the participant to also begin the training by providing an overview of the comprehensive understanding of the concept of Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment. He also called on the participants to contextualize these concepts within international legal standards, agreements, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He called for an emphasis on their relevance in relation to Sierra Leone's national law and within the parliamentary context.

The EU Technical Assistance also encouraged participants to always facilitate discussions and interactive sessions to help them identify and comprehend essential gender concepts. It explained how these concepts serve as guiding principles for achieving sustainability and accountability, safeguarding basic human rights, and promoting gender equality within institutions and at various levels of governance. He called on the parliament staff to encourage participants to discuss real-life examples to enhance their understanding.

Contribution to CSPS Curriculum: He highlighted the importance of participants' active contribution to the Centre for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies (CSPS) curriculum and encouraged them to align the curriculum with gender equality and women's empowerment objectives, making it more inclusive and relevant.

In his presentation on the capacity skills gap assessment, Fallah Kamanda, the Deputy Director of the Centre for Strategy and Parliamentary Studies in the House of Parliament, shared a survey they conducted on the subject. The survey aims to assess the peculiar capacity needs of female members of Parliament to understand their strengths, needs, and areas where support is needed to enhance their effectiveness.

He disclosed that Kenema has the highest female representation at 19.4%, while Bo follows at 16.1%. Districts such as Bonthe, Moyamba, Bombali, and Tonkolili each have an equal representation of 9.7%.

He called for increased awareness about the importance and benefits of gender budget analyses, which could encourage more individuals to seek knowledge and training in this field.

Therefore, the Deputy Director of CSPS recommended that participants prioritize these top three training delivery methods - presentations, group discussions, and debates - when designing and delivering training programs for this audience. "Incorporating these preferred formats could help ensure higher engagement, better knowledge retention, and more favorable training outcomes," he said.

Cementing the two-day training, the Deputy Director expressed profound thanks and appreciation to all the participants for attending, adding that he made no mistake in selecting participants from various departments. He expressed optimism that participants would definitely put the training into practice. He appreciated the EU Technical Assistance to Parliament for facilitating the training.

Parliamentary and Public Relations Department, Parliament of Sierra Leone.

Contacts: +23278495023/+23276625960/+23278426851/+23278697776/+23277473804

Website: www.parliament.gov.sl