

**STRENGTHENING
FAMILIES CONFERENCE 2025**
FREETOWN—SIERRA LEONE



June 26-27 | 9am-3pm
Bintumani Conference
Center, Freetown.



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freetown

Overview

The 7th edition of the Strengthening Families Conference (SFC) is hosted in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 26-27 June 2025. This prestigious event aims to bring together families, community leaders, experts, and stakeholders from around the world to discuss and promote the theme of **"Building Stronger Communities Through Women Empowerment and Children Protection"**.





National Anthem of The Republic of Sierra Leone

01.

High we exalt thee, realm of
the free;
Great is the love we have for
thee;
Firmly united ever we stand,
Singing thy praise, O native
land.
We raise up our hearts and
our voices on high,
The hills and the valleys re-
echo our cry;
Blessing and peace be ever
thine own,
Land that we love, our
Sierra Leone.

02.

One with a faith that wisdom
inspires,
One with a zeal that never
tires;
Ever we seek to honour thy
name,
Ours is the labour, thine the
fame.
We pray that no harm on thy
children may fall,
That blessing and peace may
descend on us all;
So may we serve thee ever
alone,
Land that we love, our
Sierra Leone.

03.

Knowledge and truth our
forefathers spread,
Mighty the nations whom they
led;
Mighty they made thee, so too
may we
Show forth the good that is
ever in thee.
We pledge our devotion, our
strength and our might,
Thy cause to defend and to
stand for thy right;
All that we have be ever thine
own,
Land that we love, our
Sierra Leone.



AFRICA WEST AREA PRESIDENCY



ELDER **ADEYINKA
A. OJEDIRAN**
First Counselor



ELDER
ALFRED KYUNGU
President



ELDER **ISAAC
K. MORRISON**
Second Counselor

The administration of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints within the Africa West Area is overseen by an area president and two counselors, who are members of the Quorum of the Seventy and live in their assigned areas. These leaders serve in their positions under the direction of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.




01. GHANA | 02. NIGERIA | 03. TOGO | 04. CÔTE D'IVOIRE | 05. BENIN | 06. SIERRA LEONE |
07. BURKINA FASO | 08. GUINEA | 09. LIBERIA | 10. NIGER | 11. MALI | 12. SENEGAL | 13. MAURITANIA |
14. WESTERN SAHARA | 15. CHAD | 16. THE GAMBIA

DAY 1 | THURS, 26 JUNE 2025

TIMEBOOTHSEXHIBITION					
9:00 am – 10:30am	– Family Services (Welfare & Self Reliance)	– Saveway Beverages			
	– Family Search	– Shea & More Naturals			
	– Gathering Place (YSA)	– Solidaridad			
	– Self-Reliance Services (Welfare & Self Reliance)	– Moandemah Foundation			
	– Seminary and Institute (S&I)	– Save the Children, Sierra Leone			
	– BYU Pathway`	– National Disaster Management			
	– Church History	– Institute of Development and Humanitarian Assistance			
	– Human Rights & Education	– Yvonne Nics Events			
	– Family Watch International	– Orkosu Organic Herbal Tea			
	– PEF/ Humanitarian (Welfare & Self Reliance)	– Madam Wokie Company Ltd			
	– Enagage Now Africa	– PDC Company – Cowbell			
	– Fino Naturals	– MIMAANU			
	– The Trying Christian	– Chicken Town			
	– Susue Chilli Coconut Oils	– Bread Avenue			
– Capitol Foods					
11:00 am – 3:00 pmOPENING CEREMONY					
TIME		NAME		TITLE	
11:00 - 11:05 5 mins	Introduction of Master of Ceremonies	Grand Opening Ceremony			
11:05 - 11:10 5 mins	MCs Address	Phebean Swill	Master of Ceremonies		
		Khadison Duwai	Co-Master of Ceremonies		
11:10 - 11:15 5 mins	NATIONAL ANTHEM:	Lucy mbayo Lucy gbondo Beracah Lynancy Kamara			
11:15 - 11:20 5 min	Opening Prayer	President Joseph Moses Morgan	Stake President, Freetown Sierra Leone Stake		
11:20 - 11:30 10 min	Opening Remarks	Elder Kenneth Pambu	Area 70, Sierra Leone, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints		
11:30 - 11:40 10 mins	Speaker	Hon. Paramount Chief Sheku Amadu Tejan Fasuluku-Sonsiama III	National Chairman- National Council of Paramount Chiefs (Head of Traditional Authority/Leadership in Sierra Leone		

11:40 - 11:45 5 minsVIDEO PRESENTATION: SIERRA LEONE SUCCESS STORY			
11:45 - 11:55 10 mins	Speaker	Amir Musa Mewa	Head of the Ahmadiyya Mission in Sierra Leone
11:55 - 12:05 10 mins	Speaker	Archbishop Edward Tamba Charles	Archbishop – Roman Catholic, Archdiocese of Freetown & President - IRCSL
11:05 - 12:10 5 mins	Goodwill message – 1	H. E. Bob Sheriff	Ambassador of Liberia to Sierra Leone
12:10 - 12:15			
12:15 - 12:25 10 minsMUSICAL NUMBER: MINISTER DELIGHT ABDUL WAHAB KONNEH			
12:25 - 12:40 15 mins	Speaker	Elder Isaac K. Morrison	General Authority 70, 2nd Counselor - Africa West Area Presidency, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
12:40 - 12:55 15 mins	Guest of Honour Address	Her Excellency Dr. Mrs Fatima Maada Bio	First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone
12:55 - 01:00 5 minsFAMILY PHOTO			
01:00 - 01:10 10 minsMUSICAL NUMBER: NATIONAL DANCE ENSEMBLE			
SECOND SESSION			
01:10 - 02:10 10 mins	Panel discussion – THEME: Strengthening Families through Women Empowerment	Hon Catherine Zainab Tarawally	Member of Parliament Deputy Opposition Whip Chairperson – Gender & Child Protection Committee
		Hon Mrs Mariama Munia Zombo	Member of Parliament An Independent Consultant Gender Advocate
		Madam Isatu Jabbie Kabbah	President of the All-Political Parties Women Association (APPPWA).
		Aminata Turay	Area Organizational Advisor, Sierra Leone, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
02:10 - 02:20 10 mins	Families Values Award	Awardee	Her Excellency Dr. Mrs Fatima Maada Bio

02:20 - 02:30 10 mins		MUSICAL NUMBER: STAR ZEE			
02:30 - 02:35 5 mins	A Call to Action	Mrs. Melrose Karminty	Minister of Social Welfare, Sierra Leone		
02:35 - 02:40 5 mins	Closing Prayer	Musa Mewa, ESQ	Head of the Ahmadiyya Mission in Sierra Leone and Head of Chambers and Practice Director at the law firm of BREWAH & CO SOLICITORS		
ADJOURN					



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES CONFERENCE – SIERRA LEONE

Theme: Building Stronger Communities through Women Empowerment and Child Protection.

DAY 2 | FRI, 27 JUNE 2025

TIME			BOOTHS EXHIBITION		
9:00 am – 10:50am			<div><div>– Family Services (Welfare & Self Reliance)</div><div>– Family Search</div><div>– Gathering Place (YSA)</div><div>– Self-Reliance Services (Welfare & Self Reliance)</div><div>– Seminary and Institute (S&I)</div><div>– BYU Pathway `</div><div>– Church History</div><div>– Human Rights & Education</div><div>– Family Watch International</div><div>– PEF/ Humanitarian (Welfare & Self Reliance)</div><div>– Enagage Now Africa</div><div>– Fino Naturals</div><div>– The Trying Christian</div><div>– Susue Chilli Coconut Oils</div><div>– Capitol Foods</div></div> <div><div>– Saveway Beverages</div><div>– Shea & More Naturals</div><div>– Solidaridad</div><div>– Moandemah Foundation</div><div>– Save the Children, Sierra Leone</div><div>– National Disaster Management</div><div>– Institute of Development and Humanitarian Assistance</div><div>– Yvonne Nics Events</div><div>– Orkosu Organic Herbal Tea</div><div>– Madam Wokie Company Ltd</div><div>– PDC Company - Cowbell</div><div>– MIMAANU</div><div>– Chicken Town</div><div>– Bread Avenue</div></div>		

11:00 am – 3:00 pm				OPENING CEREMONY			
TIME		NAME		TITLE			
11:00 - 11:05 5 mins		Introduction of Master of Ceremonies		Grand Opening Ceremony			
11:05 - 11:10 5 mins		MCs Address		Phebean Swill		Master of Ceremonies	
				Khadison Duwai		Co-Master of Ceremonies	
11:10 - 11:15 5 mins		NATIONAL ANTHEM:		Lucy mbayo Lucy gbondo Beracah Lynancy Kamara		🎵	
11:15 - 11:20 5 min		Opening Prayer		Alhaji Sheikh Abubakarr Conteh		City Imam, Freetown, Sierra Leone	
11:20 - 11:30 10 min		Opening Remarks		Sheikh Ibrahim Barrie		The national secretary general of the Supreme Islamic Council of the Republic of Sierra Leone (SIC-SL)	

11:30 - 11:40 10 mins	Speaker	Tonya Waite	Co-chair of the Protect Child Health Coalition and a founder of ESTEEM - USA
11:40 - 11:45 5 mins	VIDEO PRESENTATION: SFC TIMELINE VIDEO 		
11:45 - 11:55 15 mins	Keynote Speaker	Elder Alfred Kyungu	President, Africa West Area Presidency, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
11:55 - 12:05 10 mins	Speaker	Jennifer Hogge Ellsworth	Global Head - Engage Now Africa
12:05 - 12:10 5 mins	Goodwill message – 1	Alhaji Sheikh Abubakarr Conteh	City Imam, Freetown, Sierra Leone
12:10 - 12:15			
12:15 - 12:20 10 mins	FAMILY PHOTO		
12:20 - 12:30 10 mins	MUSICAL NUMBER: KHADISON DUWAI 		
12:30 - 01:30 1 hour	Panel Discussion: THEME: <i>Strengthening Families through Child Protection</i>	Mr. Daniel F. H. Kettor Mr. Abdul Manaff Kemokai Blessing K. J. Kutubu Mrs.Christiana Ogbemoye Oliko	Executive Director - Rainbo Initiative - Sierra Leone Executive Director, Defense for Children - Sierra Leone Child Rights and Gender Activist - Sierra Leone Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.
01:30 - 01:35 5 mins	VIDEO PRESENTATION: SUCCEED IN SCHOOL 		
01:35 - 01:50 15 mins	Speaker	Sharon Slater Greg Slater	President - Family Watch International (FWI) Legal Advisor - Family Watch International
01:50 - 02:00 10 mins	Special Recognition for Her Excellency Dr. Mrs. Fatima Maada Bio	Presentation by Africa West Area Presidency	First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone

02:00 - 02:15 15 mins	Youth Speaker	Grace Ada Browne	Emerging Gender Advocate
		Choreography Presentation	Select Children from Sierra Leone
02:15 - 02:20 5 mins	RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIQUE TEAM		
02:20 - 02:30 10 mins	MUSICAL NUMBER: FAMOUS		
02:30 - 02:35 5 mins	A Call to Action	Bishop Dr. Julius Laggah	Senior Pastor – Harvest International Cathedral, Freetown, Sierra Loene
02:35 - 02:50 15 mins	VIDEO PRESENTATION: TRANSITION TO SFC 2026		
	Liberia take the mantelHandover to Liberia/ Response by Liberia Team	H. E. Bob Sheriff	Ambassador of Liberia to Sierra Leone
		Elder Prince Sonpon Nyanforh	Area Seventy, Liberia, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
		Salomie Weah	National Communications Director in Liberia, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
02:50 - 02:55 5 mins	Vote of Thanks	MCs	Communique Team Announcement
02:55 - 03:00 5 mins	Closing Prayer	Inter-Faith Prayer	
ADJOURN			

About Strengthening Families Conference 2025

01 Families play an important role in creating and sustaining peaceful and inclusive societies indispensable for sustainable and inclusive development.

02 Research reveals that children growing up in stable and supportive families develop positive cognitive, emotional, and social characters thus becoming stable and peaceful adults.

03 There are several important aspects of stable family environments ensuring children's well-being and early socialization, such as secure attachment and the process of the transmission and acquisition of values.

04 Research demonstrates that children who developed secure attachment relationships in their families are more self-reliant and empathetic adults.

There is therefore the need for stakeholders to reaffirm the critical importance of the family as a building block of the Society, and implement initiatives aimed at raising awareness of problems confronting families today.

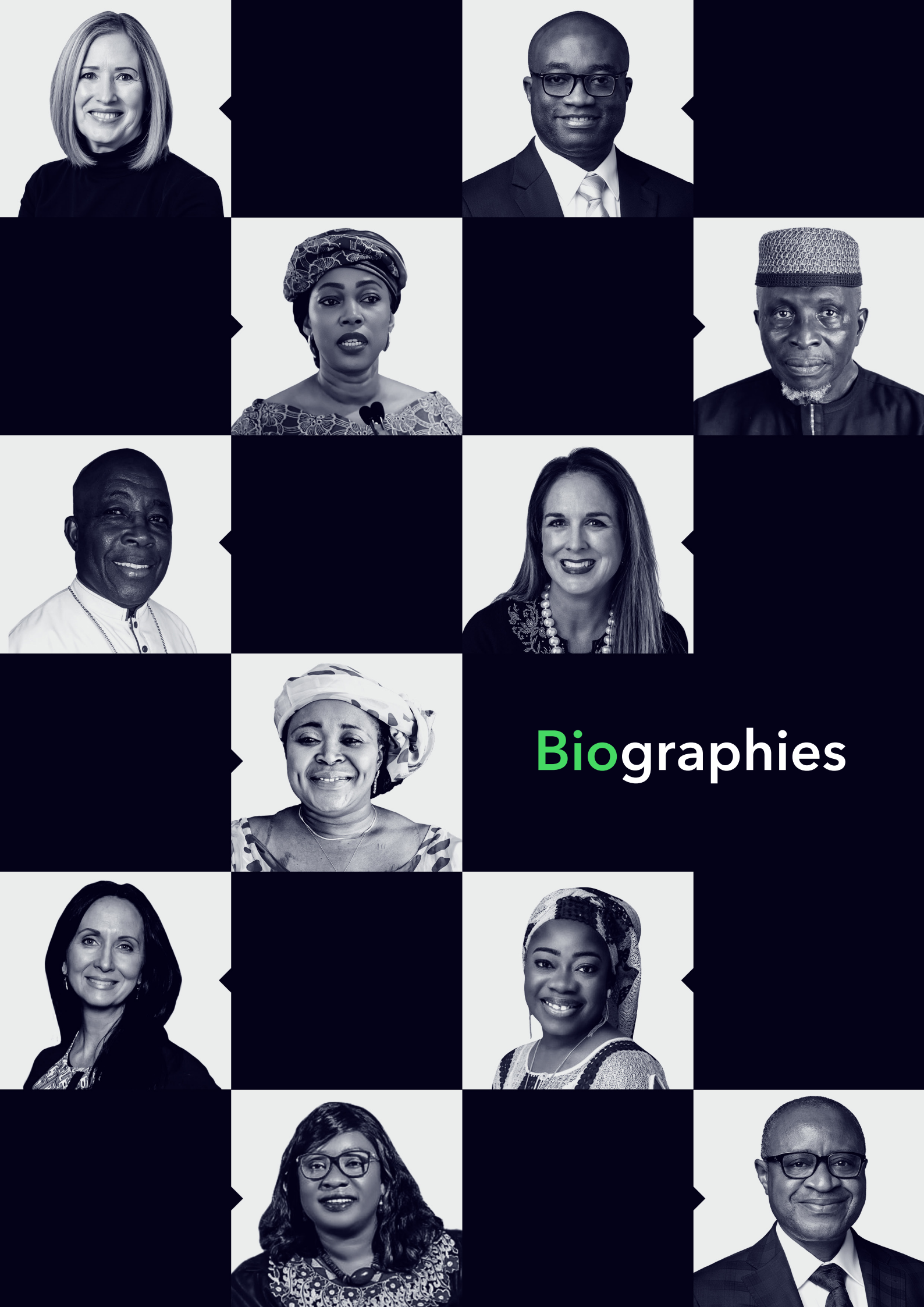
The motivation of organizing the Strengthening Families Conference is to

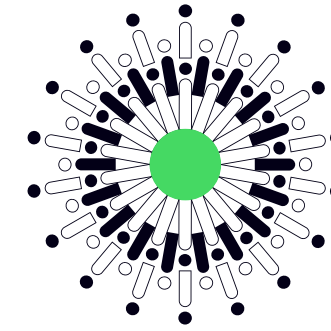
"Promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society".

The family is the core unit of society. As we strengthen the foundation, we will be able to see the structure of the community develop unity with stronger morals and values.



Biographies





HIS EXCELLENCY **JULIUS MAADA BIO**

President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Biography of His Excellency Julius Maada Wonie Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
Full Name: His Excellency Julius Maada Wonie Bio
Date of Birth: May 12, 1964
Place of Birth: Tihun, Bonthe District, Sierra Leone
Current Position: President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
Inaugural Date: May 12, 2018 (5th President of Sierra Leone)

Early Life and Education

His Excellency Julius Maada Wonie Bio was born on May 12, 1964, in Tihun, Sierra Leone. He is a product of Sierra Leone's educational system, with a strong commitment to academic excellence. Bio pursued higher education at the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics. He then furthered his education at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom, where he graduated as an officer of the Sierra Leone Army. Military Service and Leadership in Sierra Leone's Peace Process

Bio's military career began in the 1980s, and by 1996, he had risen to the rank of Brigadier General in the Sierra Leone Army. He became widely recognized for his leadership in a turbulent period in the country's history. On January 16, 1996, following the overthrow of the country's previous military government, Bio led a military coup that brought him to the helm of the National Provisional Ruling Council

(NPRC). As Head of State, he played a pivotal role in facilitating the peace process that eventually brought an end to Sierra Leone's devastating civil war.

Under his leadership, Bio championed the transition to a democratically elected government. His decision to hand over power to a civilian government in March 1996 is widely regarded as a significant contribution to the country's return to peace and stability.

Political Career and Presidency

After stepping down from his military leadership in 1996, Bio shifted his focus to politics, joining the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). He ran for the presidency in 2012 and, after a determined campaign, was elected as President in 2018.

His inauguration on May 12, 2018, marked a new chapter in the country's journey toward democratic consolidation and sustainable development. As the 5th President of Sierra Leone, Bio's leadership has been characterized by his commitment to human capital development, good governance, and national transformation.

Key Initiatives and Achievements as President

- **Free Quality Education Program:** Upon assuming office, President Bio launched the Free Quality Education program, a flagship initiative aimed at providing free education from primary to secondary school for all children in Sierra Leone. The program prioritizes girls' education, particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, ensuring that young Sierra Leoneans are equipped with the skills needed to thrive in the 21st century.
 - **Fight against Corruption:** Bio has led an aggressive campaign to tackle corruption in Sierra Leone. His administration has strengthened the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), improving its capacity to investigate and prosecute corrupt activities. Under his leadership, the government has recovered significant amounts of looted funds, marking a success in improving financial accountability and transparency in the public sector.
 - **Economic Reforms and Technical Education:** In line with his vision for a competitive and self-reliant nation, President Bio has prioritized technical and vocational education, launching the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education. This initiative is aimed at empowering Sierra Leone's youth with the necessary skills to thrive in the global job market, especially in sectors such as renewable energy, information technology, and engineering.
4. **Governance and Institutional Reforms:** In his first term, President Bio has streamlined government operations by establishing a Single Treasury Account (STA), which centralizes all government revenues and expenditures. This reform has improved financial management, ensuring the effective use of public funds for development programs.
- **Sierra Leone's Leadership in ECOWAS** Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio was chosen on Sunday to be the next chairman of the West African economic bloc, ECOWAS. This appointment highlights Sierra Leone's growing influence in regional governance. Under President Bio's leadership, the country has become a strong advocate for democratic

governance, peacebuilding, and regional integration.

As the new Chairman of ECOWAS in June 2024, President Bio is set to lead the bloc toward greater economic collaboration, security cooperation, and democratic stability in West Africa.

In addition to his leadership in ECOWAS, President Bio has strengthened Sierra Leone's presence on the global stage. As a member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Sierra Leone, under Bio's leadership, has been an advocate for peace, security, and human rights across the globe. Sierra Leone's membership on the UNSC has allowed the country to play a significant role in peacekeeping and conflict resolution, reinforcing Bio's legacy as a leader committed to regional and international peace.

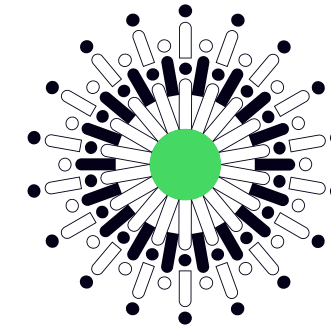
• Vision for the Future

President Bio remains focused on ensuring that Sierra Leone continues its path of economic growth, good governance, and regional leadership. His government's priorities include further development of human capital, the promotion of foreign direct investment (FDI), and the expansion of infrastructure, especially in energy, agriculture, and technology sectors. Bio's leadership continues to inspire a new generation of Sierra Leoneans who are poised to contribute to both the national economy and regional cooperation.

Personal Life

President Bio is married to Fatima Maada Bio, and together they have children. He is known for his humble beginnings and remains deeply connected to his roots in Bonthe District, Sierra Leone. Outside of politics, President Bio enjoys reading, sports, and spending time with his family.





HER EXCELLENCY **FATIMA MAADA BIO**

First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone

First Lady, Madam Fatima Maada Bio is motivated by pan-Africanist ideals. She is a strong believer in women empowerment as key to sustainable development. She pursued her passion for women empowerment as First Lady by staging a peaceful protest against gender based violence. It was a historic march as First Ladies from different African Countries came together in unity in a protest march on the streets of Freetown in December 2018. This was the beginning of her very powerful campaign themed “Hands Off Our Girls”.

Born into the madingo tribal circle, she knew who her husband would be at age 10. She narrowly escaped Child marriage and started philanthropic work at a very tender age of 16. She relocated to London where she pursued her passion for charity work. Her personal story is her main motivation and she has traveled the world providing support to vulnerable children, especially in Africa.

First Lady Fatima Bio has Bachelors of Art degree in Performing Art from the Roehampton Institute of London and in Journalism from the University of Arts, London College of Communication. Worthy of note about Sierra Leone’s illustrious first lady is the niche she has garnered for herself through hard-work over the years in the entertainment

industry as an actress, script Writer, executive producer and a multi award winning face of Nollywood industry. Among her barrage of prominent features in cinema is the ‘Mirror Boy’.

First Lady Maada Bio has received several awards including;

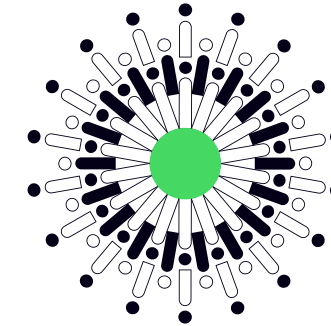
01. Honoured with the Warrior Award at the International Women of Power Luncheon in California, U.S.A. for her bravery and outstanding contribution towards women and girls in Sierra Leone.

02. Honoured as one of the most influential people of African descent under 40 in New York, United States.

03. Miss Africa in 2000

04. “Best Supporting Actress” for the movie Mirror Boy in 2011 “Best Actress Award” from the Black Ethnic, Fashion and Film.

In line with her husband’s vision, First Lady Bio believes education is key. Her philanthropic character is inborn and she is a fantastic role model that leads by example. Her greatest strength is her ability to achieve any goal she sets. Some say it is divine, but people close to her say it is pure, undiluted hard work, while others insist it is a combination of both divine intervention and hard work.



ELDER **ALFRED KYUNGU**

Africa West Area President

General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day Saints.

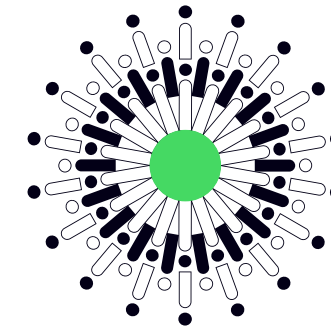
Elder Alfred Kyungu Kibamba was born in Kamina, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Elder Kyungu received a bachelor of science degree in social sciences and international relations from the University of Lubumbashi in 1993. In 1996, he received a master of science degree in social sciences and international relations from the University of Lubumbashi.

Elder Alfred Kyungu has worked in several positions for the Democratic Republic of the Congo government, including youth coordinator, private secretary, and administrative councilor. Prior to his call as a mission president, he worked for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as coordinator and regional director for seminaries and institutes. At the time of his call as a General Authority Seventy, he had been working for the Church as a family history manager.

Elder Alfred Kyungu has served in a number of Church callings, including district executive secretary, district clerk, branch Sunday School

president, institute teacher, ward Sunday School teacher, counselor in a bishopric, high councilor, ward Sunday School president, counselor in a stake presidency, and president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Mbuji-Mayi Mission from 2016 to 2019.

Elder Alfred Kyungu was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 3, 2021. At the time of his call, he had been serving as a member of the Third Quorum of the Seventy in the Africa Central Area. He served as a member of the Third Quorum of the Seventy in the Africa Southeast Area from 2011 to 2016. He served at Church headquarters as an area assistant to the North America Central Area and as an Assistant Executive Director in the Temple Department. He is currently serving as president of the Africa West Area.



ELDER **ELDER ISAAC K. MORRISON**

Second Counselor in Africa West Area Presidency

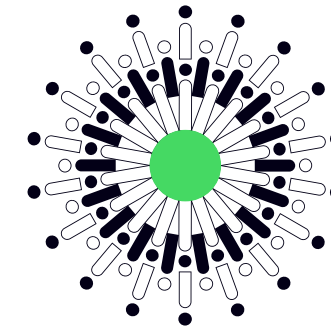
General Authority Seventy of The Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Elder Isaac Kofi Morrison was born in Takoradi, Ghana. Elder Morrison received a higher national diploma (HND) in building construction from Takoradi Technical University (TTU) in 2000 and a bachelor of science in operations and project management from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) in 2009. In 2018 he received a master of science in strategic management and leadership from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST).

He worked for the Church in various positions since 2004, including as a Ghana MTC instructor, meetinghouse facilities manager, Accra Ghana temple facilities manager, Africa West Area operations and maintenance manager, and Africa West Area materials management manager. Prior to his call as a mission president, he had been working for the Church Africa West Area leader and member support.

Elder Morrison has served in a number of Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Nigeria Port Harcourt and Nigeria Uyo Mission, Gospel Doctrine teacher, seminary teacher, elders quorum president, counselor in a bishopric, bishop, counselor in a stake presidency, stake president, Area Seventy, and mission president.

Elder Isaac K. Morrison was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 2, 2022. At the time of his call, he had been serving as the president of the Ghana Cape Coast Mission. He served as a member of the Third Quorum of the Seventy in the Africa West Area from 2018 to 2020. He is currently serving in the Africa West Area Presidency.



ARCHBISHOP **EDWARD TAMBA CHARLES**

Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of
Freetown, Sierra Leone. President-IRCSL

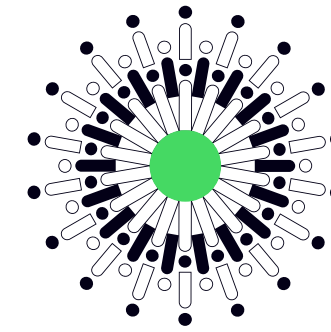
Edward Tamba Charles was born in Kainkordu, Diocese of Kenema, Sierra Leone. He studied at Saint Kizito Minor Seminary in Kenema, then later studied at the Saint Paul's Major Seminary in Gbarnga, in Gbarnga, Bong County, Liberia from 1978 until 1985. Later in his life, he studied at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy from 1991 until 1996, where he graduated with a Licentiate in dogmatic theology.

Archbishop Edward Tamba Charles was ordained a priest on 4 April 1986. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Kenema, Sierra Leone and served in that capacity until 15 March 2008. He was appointed archbishop on 15 March 2008 by Pope Benedict XVI and was consecrated at Freetown on 14 May 2008. When the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bo was erected on 15 January 2011, he became Archbishop of Freetown.

Before the erection of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bo in 2011, he was the archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Freetown

and Bo, in Sierra Leone, from 15 March 2008 until 15 January 2011. While a priest, he served in various roles and locations including: Vice-Administrator for the Cathedral of St. Paul from 1986 until 1989, Professor of Philosophy at St. Paul's Major Seminary, Gbarnga, Liberia from 1989 until 1991, Vice-rector of St. Paul's Major Seminary, Makeni, Sierra Leone from 1996 until 1998, Acting Rector of St. Paul's Major Seminary Freetown, Sierra Leone from 1998 until 2002 and Rector of St. Paul's Major Seminary, Freetown, Sierra Leone from 2002 until 2008.

Archbishop Edward Tamba Charles is currently the president of the Interreligious Council Sierra Leone (IRCSL) and chairman of the Catholic Bishops in Sierra Leone. His has contributed to the development of religious growth in Sierra Leone which has blessed the lives of many families and individuals.



HON. PARAMOUNT CHIEF **SHEKU AMADU TEJAN FASULUKU- SONSIAMA III**

National Chairman- National Council of Paramount Chiefs (Head
of Traditional Authority/Leadership in Sierra Leone)

Hon. Paramount Chief Sheku Amadu Tejan Fasuluku-Sonsiama III Paramount Chief was born in Kayima, Sandor Chiefdom, Kono District in Sierra Leone. He holds B.Sc. Agriculture General from Njala University College, University of Sierra Leone. He also holds a Pre. M.Sc. Certificate and M.Sc. in Forestry, both from the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania.

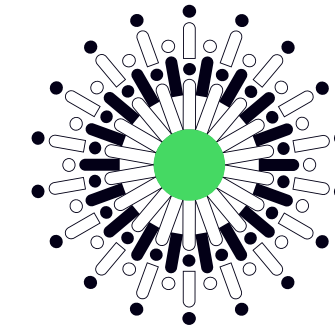
Hon. Paramount Chief Sheku Amadu Tejan Fasuluku-Sonsiama III started his professional career as an assistant in Conservation of forests- Forestry Division under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security. He later worked as a part-term Lecturer for wildlife Conservation and Management, in the Department of Biological Sciences, Njala University and later a part-term Lecturer at the Eastern Polytechnic in Kenema District for three (3) years.

Growing as an expert in rainforest conservation, Hon. Paramount Chief Sheku Amadu Tejan Fasuluku-Sonsiama III served as the Coordinator- Gola Rainforest Conservation Programme with three Components: forest conservation, community Development and conservation education in Schools and rural

communities funded by British Aid money, Royal Society for the protection of birds in UK, Government of Sierra Leone and the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone. During this period, he was called as the Regional Forestry Officer- Eastern Region in Kenema, Sierra Leone where he served for 5years.

In 2005, Hon. Paramount Chief Sheku Amadu Tejan Fasuluku-Sonsiama III became the Chairman for Sandor Chiefdom Committee, in Kono District. Seven (7) years later he became the Regional Chairman of the Council of Paramount Chiefs-Eastern Region, comprising of 44 (forty-four) paramount Chiefs in Kono, Kenema, and Kailahun districts and then became the Honourable Member of Parliament for Kono District Paramount Chiefs.

He is currently the National Chairman- National Council of Paramount Chiefs of Sierra Leone (Head of Traditional Authority/Leadership in Sierra Leone), Paramount Chief of Sandor Chiefdom, Kono District, board member for the Minerals Advisory Board and National Lands Commission. His profile is full of experiences both in private and public sectors and his competence is obvious both on paper and on the job.



ALHAJI SHEIKH **ABUBAKARR CONTEH**

Chief Imam, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Alhaji Sheikh Abubakarr Conteh was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He is a former muslim missionary and was affiliated with the Rabita muslim world league, Makkah. He has participated in and given many trainings to Muslims in Sierra Leone including missionaries that served like him.

Alhaji Sheikh Abubakarr Conteh worked as the Deputy Director (Distance Education) at Freetown Teachers College and was responsible for the overall strategic direction and operational management of the institution's distance learning program. His responsibilities encompassed a wide range of areas, including curriculum development, faculty training, instructional strategy implementation, and ensuring the quality of long-distance learning experiences. He also played a key role in enrollment management, and fostering partnerships to expand distance learning opportunities.

Alhaji Sheikh Abubakarr Conteh also served as a president of the Inter-Religious Council Sierra Leone IRCSL for many years. As an Imam, he is a representative of the Sierra Leone Muslim community, leading prayers and representing their interests. He is known for his work in fostering peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims and promoting religious tolerance and national unity.

Alhaji Sheikh Abubakarr Conteh has dedicated years to his role as religious leader, making him a significant figure in Sierra Leone's religious and political landscape.



JENNIFER HOGGE ELLSWORTH

Execu4ve Director of Engage Now Africa

Jennifer Hogge Ellsworth is the Execu4ve Director of Engage Now Africa, where she leads strategic ini4a4ves across Ghana, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, and Namibia to strengthen families and protect children through maternal health services, an4-human trafficking programs, literacy and vocational training, and sustainable poverty eradica4on. With over two decades of leadership experience in interna4onal development, Jennifer directs ENA's maternal and child health strategy that includes designing clinics, building the capacity of healthcare workers, and advancing nutri4on and family care systems in some of the most underserved communities in Africa.

Jennifer's career has been defined by her commitment to family-centered policy and faith based humanitarian action. She has worked to represent pro-family initiatives at global conferences at the United Nations. She worked as an advisor for LDS Philanthropies, serving as a liaison to the Humanitarian Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where she managed a global humanitarian portfolio and advised donors on high impact giving. She is an Adjunct Professor at the Center for National Security Studies at Utah

Valley University. Jennifer holds a Master's in Public Policy from Brigham Young University and completed coursework at the Center for Anticipatory Intelligence from Utah State University and Cambridge University.

Her life's work is driven by the conviction that strong families create resilient nations. As a mother, mentor, and leader, Jennifer believes that strengthening families is both sacred calling and a global imperative—and she continues to work across borders to bring hope, healing, and eternal principles into public service.



MRS MELROSE KARMINTY

Minister of Social Welfare, Government of Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Melrose Karminty was born in Moyamba District in the Southern Province of Sierra Leone. She attended the Queen of the Rosary Secondary school in Bo. She completed her undergraduate studies at Njala University College and her master's degree at London Southbank University in the United Kingdom (U.K), where she graduated with distinction in International Development Studies.

Mrs Melrose Karminty also holds a diploma in project management. She taught at Methodist Girls High School and Technical

Institute and served as a program specialist for the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program, implemented by the Government of Sierra Leone with the support of the World Bank, together with other international institutions and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).

She also served as UN Women's program specialist before taking on the role of Acting Country Manager. As a key gender consultant for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Somalia, the honourable minister contributed to the creation of gender policies. In 2017, she went back home and helped her party create the 2018 New Direction Manifesto. Following the 2018 elections, she joined the Governance Transition team. She served as the government's first deputy minister of works and public assets and later served as deputy minister of local government in the previous administration.

With her experience and excellent performance, she is now the minister for social welfare, leading a ministry that requires a great deal of competence as hers. She now contributes immensely in empowering and transforming the lives of vulnerable or underprivileged persons and families including young people, women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.



BISHOP DR. JULIUS LAGGAH

Senior Pastor, Harvest Intercontinental Cathedral, Freetown. General Secretary, Harvest Intercontinental Ministries-Unlimited (HIM-U).

Bishop Dr. Julius Laggah was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He holds a Diploma in Theology from the Assemblies of God Bible College in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He furthered his studies in Christian leadership, obtaining a Bachelor of Ministry and Master of Ministry degrees from the Christian Leadership University in the USA. His commitment to theological excellence culminated in a Doctor of Theology from the Newburgh Theological Seminary in Indiana, USA.

Bishop Dr. Julius Laggah is a dynamic spiritual leader, visionary, and transformative figure in Sierra Leone's religious and educational landscape. As the Senior Pastor of the Harvest Intercontinental Cathedral in Freetown, he has led a thriving congregation, inspiring and mentoring thousands through his powerful teachings and leadership. Additionally, he serves as the General Secretary of the Harvest Intercontinental Ministries-Unlimited (HIM-U), overseeing the coordination of churches in over 30 countries worldwide. He is also the Bishop of the Second Diocese, with jurisdiction over Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Ghana, where he provides spiritual oversight to more than 150 churches and 14 public schools in Sierra Leone. With a vision to expand the reach of the gospel, he has embarked on an ambitious mission to plant 1,000 more churches in towns and villages across the region.

Beyond his ecclesiastical duties, Bishop Dr. Julius Laggah is a strong advocate for Christian media and education. He is the founder and CEO of Destiny Radio Station (FM 94.1), a leading Christian broadcasting platform in Sierra Leone, widely recognized as The Voice of Harvest.

Bishop Dr. Julius Laggah's influence extends beyond the church, as he has played a significant role in national peacebuilding efforts, youth empowerment, and social transformation in Sierra Leone. He has been actively involved in interfaith dialogues, conflict resolution initiatives, and humanitarian projects, fostering unity and development within communities. His leadership in these areas has earned him recognition both locally and internationally.



GREG S. SLATER

Legal advisor – Family Watch International (FWI)

Greg Slater has served as a volunteer for, and the senior legal advisor to, Family Watch International (FWI) for more than 25 years. He has used his extensive international legal experience to support FWI's objective to help governments across the globe to enact laws and policies that strengthen families and protect the innocence of children. His legal experience includes analyzing and influencing a variety of international treaties and regional agreements that address social, commercial and/or economic issues.

Professionally, Greg spent 27 years with Intel Corporation in various executive roles. Before retiring in December 2024, Greg served as

Intel's vice-president of global regulatory affairs with a focus on international trade, manufacturing incentives, and technology policy. Greg has served on various external boards and industry committees during his career and advocated on many policy issues to a variety of audiences, including: The World Trade Organization, the U.S. Congress, the American and African Bar Associations, China's State Council Legislative Affairs Office, the U.S./India ICT Dialogue, and APEC's Committee on Trade and Investment.

Greg is a member of the BYU Law School Alumni Board, and he and his wife are members of the Advisory Board of BYU's International Center for Law and Religion Studies. Greg has lived in various countries, travelled extensively, and is fairly proficient in French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian.



SHARON SLATER

President – Family Watch International (FWI).

Sharon Slater is the president of Family Watch International (FWI) (familywatch.org), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Mrs. Slater also chairs the UN Family Rights Caucus (UNFRC.org) and for 25 years has served as an informal consultant to over 70 UN Member States on life, human sexuality, and family policy issues.

Mrs. Slater has been invited to the White House to advise the Trump administration where she learned that the U.S. government had been using FWI's Resource Guide to Talking Points and UN Consensus Language on Life & Family Issues to guide US foreign policy positions.

Mrs. Slater has directed multiple widely-acclaimed documentaries including "The War on Children: The Comprehensive Sexuality Education Agenda," (waronchildren.org) "Cultural Imperialism: The Sexual Rights Agenda" (sexualrightsagenda.org) and "Porn Pandemic: The Devastating Impact on Marriage, Children and Families (PornPandemic.org). Mrs. Slater is currently directing a series of videos on transgender issues (transgenderissues.org) and is the author the book "Stand for the Family: A Call to Responsible Citizens Everywhere," (StandfortheFamily.org) also known as the "Family Defense Handbook."

Mrs. Slater's extensive involvement in international adoption issues, including her own family's efforts to adopt three Mozambican AIDS orphans, inspired her to lead the development of FWI's Families for Orphans project.

Sharon's vision is now becoming a reality through a growing Internet-based international coalition to defend the family. Thousands of people around the world have joined this coalition, pledging to support efforts to protect the family and family values by signing the "I Stand for the Family" petition online.



GRACE ADA BROWNE

Emerging Gender Advocate.

Grace Ada Browne is a vibrant and purpose-driven 17-year-old student of St. Joseph's Senior Secondary School, Freetown. She has served in various leadership roles (Head Girl, President of the Literary & Debating Society-LDS and Class prefect) within her school. She also provides community service where she is often using her voice to encourage dialogue around issues affecting young people.

Grace is an aspiring change maker who believes the foundation of a healthy society lies within the strength and unity of a family. Her perspective on family life is grounded in the belief that when families are strong, societies flourish. Grace is known for her confidence, compassion, and clarity of thought. She is very passionate about advocating for women and girls. The has been evident in her commitment at a very tender age to promoting gender equality and nurturing strong family values. This reflects her belief, that empowered women builds empowered, peaceful and stronger communities.



SHEIKH IBRAHIM BARRIE

Islamic leader - Sierra Leone

Sheikh Ibrahim Barrie is a leader in the religious and political spheres of Sierra Leone. He started his basic education at Nuriah Islamic school in Koidu Town, Kono and advanced to complete his secondary education at the Islamic African Center in Khartoum, Sudan. Sheikh Barrie completed his undergraduate studies with a B.A (Hons) in Mass Communication at the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (IIUM) and furthered to acquire a Masters in Library and Information Science (MLIS) in the same university.

Sheikh Ibrahim Barrie has used his skills and knowledge to mediate national peace and provide holistic benefits to many people especially the Islamic community which has gone a long way to inspire and guide the personal and social growth of many people.

He is currently the national secretary general of the Supreme Islamic Council of the Republic of Sierra Leone (SIC-SL), an executive member of the Interreligious Council of Sierra Leone (IRCSL), Commissioner - representing (IRCSL) at the Independent Media Commission (IMC), secretary general of the Alhuda Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Services - Freetown, secretary general of the Islamic Center for Education, Daawah and Research

(ICEDR) and an administrative member and program presenter at the Voice of Islam Radio station (VOI) in Freetown.

Sheikh Ibrahim Barrie is very active in education, media, religious and community development and humanitarian Services. He is dedicated to help and labor for religious freedom, and human and gender equality.



MUSA MEWA, ESQ

Civil and criminal law practitioner.

Musa Mewa is the Amir and Head of the Ahmadiyya Mission in Sierra Leone. He is the Head of Chambers and Practice Director at the law firm of BREWAH & CO SOLICITORS. He is a highly skilled and experienced civil and criminal law practitioner and burgeoning practitioner on Sierra Leone Law with successes in advising corporate clients on optimal legal planning and strategies, along with expertise in contract negotiation, arbitration, litigation, and compliance issues for private & public institutions in Sierra Leone.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Politics, an LLB, and a Master of Arts in Communication and Media Studies from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. His thesis topic was "The Impact of

Media Reporting of War Crimes Trials on Civil Society and Post-Conflict Justice in Sierra Leone: A Case Study of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) Trial". Mr. Mewa also holds a Master of Laws in International Dispute Resolution from University of London, UK. He is Sierra Leone's designated Arbitrator and Conciliator for the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. He lectures the law of Contract and Jurisprudence & Legal Theory at Njala University and Paralegal studies and Ethics, Constitutional & Administrative Law, and Media Crime and Justice at Fourah Bay College University of Sierra Leone.

In July 2022, he was appointed Amir and the first Sierra Leonean to head the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at in the country and he has since then given exceptional leadership to the Jama'at, and support to the Muslim and inter religious community in Sierra Leone.



TONYA R. WAITE

Founder of ESTEEM

Mrs. Waite is a long-time advocate of children, teens, marriage, and family wellness. For over 25 years, she has worked on the front lines to deliver high-quality risk avoidance programs. She lives in Longview, Texas, with her husband, Justin, and a few chickens, goats, and horses. After seven wonderful years, Tonya was

released as the stake communication director. Tonya and her husband teach the senior youth Sunday school class.

In 2004, she led a community coalition of parents, coaches, nurses, pastors, and teens in the development of the ESTEEM curriculum (Encouraging Students to Embrace Excellent Marriage), which is centered around content that promotes risk avoidance. ESTEEM is currently being used in 77 Texas public school districts and, starting this year, seven districts outside of Texas. In 2006, Tonya and Justin initiated the VOW-Healthy Marriage program, a 12-hour course designed to rebuild marriages at risk of divorce and train mentors to facilitate Engaged Couple Workshops.

Tonya has been interviewed by and quoted in Reader's Digest, the New York Times, and Newsweek. She has been on the BBC, NPR, and The Today Show, including a one-hour special on ABC's 20/20 Primetime. She has served as an Executive Board member for the Texas Coalition for Healthy Families (TCHF) and was a founding member of the National Alliance for Relationship and Marriage Education (NARME), The Abstinence Council of Texas (ACT), and is a board member of ASCEND, a national sexual risk avoidance organization. She is a co-chair of the Protect Child Health Coalition. She is currently serving as a board member with the ZONTA club of Longview, working toward eliminating child marriage and human trafficking.

She just returned from a trip to the United Nations, CSW69—Commission of the Status of Women, where she shared research on the importance of healthy family formation for the next generation.

Tonya is passionate about developing and directing programs that strengthen family and marriage and help young people reach their goals.



MADAM ISATU JABBIE KABBAH

Politician and Advocate for
Women and Children's Rights.

Isatu Jabbie Kabbah is a notable Sierra Leonean politician and advocate for women and children's rights.

President of the All-Political Parties Women Association (APPWA), championing women's involvement across Sierra Leone's political spectrum.

- Former women's leader of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).
- Former Women's Leader for the National Grand Coalition (NGC)
- President of the Eastern Region Women's Network (ERWEN).
- Women's Leader - Mandingo Union Women's Wing
- CEO and Founder of the Ahmad Tejan Kabbah Foundation for Peace and Democracy.

In October 2023, she was appointed Presidential Adviser on Gender by President Julius Maada Bio to promote policies for gender inclusion and equality.

In May 2008, she got married to former President Alhaji Dr. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. As the wife of former President Kabbah, she has leveraged her role and influence to advance gender Equality and governance issues.

Isatu Jabbie Kabbah is a prominent Sierra Leonean leader whose who was born in Kono, eastern region and did her secondary education at the Queen of the Rosary secondary school in Bo southern region. She later enrolled at Fourah Bay College, Universality of Sierra Leone. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She also did her Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and Management at IPAM.

Mrs. I.J. Kabbah further continued with her Master's degree in Gender and Development Studies at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. Her leadership career spans political leadership, gender advocacy, and public service. As APPWA president, former SLPP women's leader, Presidential Gender Adviser, and wife of former President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, she has significantly influenced policy and raised awareness on women's empowerment and national unity in Sierra Leone.

Mrs. I.J. Kabbah is blessed with three lovely daughters and six grandchildren.



MASTER *of* CEREMONIES

PHEBEAN **SWILL**
Master Ceremonist

KHADISON **DUWAI**
Co-Master Ceremonist



PHEBEAN SWILL

Presenter, news anchor &
Youth Ambassador

Phebean Swill is one of the most inspiring, influential young Sierra Leoneans and a youth Ambassador. Ambassador Phebean Swill holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Broadcasting and Journalism from the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology – Sierra Leone Campus; and a Diploma in Mass Communication from the Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

She launched her career into broadcasting in 2009 at age 17 starting as a Disk Jockey at Eagle Africa Radio, entertaining listeners of community radio stations. The young Phebe quickly climbed the ladder and in 2010/2011 she was the only female club DJ in Freetown – DJ Swill. Not long after, she took up news reading for distinguished radio stations while also serving as Mistress of Ceremony for entertainment galas. The rest they say is history.

Phebean Swill has been a broadcast journalist for over 16 years. The youth ambassador has inspired many young people today in the field of journalism and broadcasting. She is also a social entrepreneur, who is the CEO of WOW Group Limited, the umbrella company that

consists of WOW Cinema; WOW Cosmetics; WOW Properties, WOW Furniture and Decor, and WOW Studio - a content creation production company; uses her storytelling skills as a filmmaker to create content to influence positive behavioral change through edutainment.

To fight against child marriage and promote girl child education, Phebean produced a movie titled Wath E'Behra, based on the true story of Haja Zainab Hawa Bangura, current Director General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi. Phebean has been using this movie to organize community engagements and keep the conversation to end child marriage and the promotion of girl-child education alive. She does this through community screenings. She uses the movie to influence parents and guardians to send their girls to school.

Phebean is today a presenter and news anchor at Africa Young Voices (AYV) television and radio. Phebe Swill is today the indisputable Queen of the mic and camera; a solid broadcaster and household name in Sierra Leone and beyond, a talented and sensational actress and passionate entrepreneur.



KHADISON DUWAI

Head of Strategic Communications,
Office of the First Lady, The Presidency,
Republic of Sierra Leone.

Khadison Duwai is a Gospel Minister, Youth Leader, Digital advertisement professional, an award-winning actor and the Founder and business manager of Overtone SL group of companies. He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB HONS) from the Fourah Bay College - University of Sierra Leone. Khadison Duwai has grown to become an inspirational figure to many young Sierra Leoneans through his impactful work in his NGO- the Overtone Organization and his sensational heart-healing vocals through gospel music.

Through his music and professional work, Khadison Duwai has worked with international artists such as MOSES BLISS, shared the stage with EBUKA SONGS, ADA EHI, SINACH, UCHE from Nigeria, and CHARISMA from the Joyous Celebration. He has also represented Sierra Leone internationally on multiple platforms including EXPO 2020 in Dubai, UAE.

Also recognized for his exceptional and well-delivered cinematic acting roles, the multiple award winner has been casted in three major films in Sierra Leone, with the movie company: Lema's Diary, a movie company that tells authentic Sierra Leonean stories.

Currently, he serves as the Strategic Communications Coordinator, Office of the First Lady - Republic of Sierra Leone. Through this, he closely works with Sierra Leone's esteemed First Lady, who is currently a global icon advocating for equality and the rights of women and girls, through her flagship program, the "HANDS OFF OUR GIRLS INITIATIVE".

PANEL DISCUSSIONS



MR. DANIEL F. H. KETTOR

Executive Director - Rainbo Initiative.

Daniel Fayia H. Kettor is a prominent Sierra Leonean development professional. He acquired a Bachelor's Degree in Development and Economics from the Institute of Advanced Management

and Technology. Mr. Daniel has worked in a variety of managerial positions and has extensive knowledge and experience in pioneering globally impactful initiatives.

He is the executive director for Rainbo-Initiatives and a development professional with over 18 years experience in the Not for Profit Sector. He leads an organization that is a global example of a local Initiative. Passionate about ending Sexual and Gender-Based (SGBV).

Mr. Daniel provides strategic vision and overall leadership to Rainbo-Initiative. With a wealth of experience in the field of GBV, he is a passionate advocate for survivors' rights and a driving force behind the organisation's mission. Mr. Daniel works closely with

the team to ensure effective programme implementation, resource mobilization, and collaboration with stakeholders.

Beyond his organizational leadership, Daniel is an active advocate for community issues. Notably, he has been vocal about the situation in Yenga, a border town in Sierra Leone. As a vigilant indigene of Yenga, he has urged the Sierra Leonean government to address the security status of the area, emphasizing the need for national attention and resolution. Through social media and business platforms, he continues to raise awareness on critical issues affecting Sierra Leone and mobilizes support for community-driven initiatives.



MR. ABDUL MANAFF KEMOKAI

Executive Director, Defense for Children- Sierra Leone.

Abdul Manaff Kemokai is a Sierra Leonean and holds an MSc. Degree in Development Studies from the Njala University College, University of Sierra Leone. He has also completed a Masters of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights from the University of Geneva.

Mr. Kemokai has over the years gained substantial knowledge and experience in the field of child rights and policy development. He drafted the first National Standards for the Protection of Children in the Criminal Justice System in Sierra Leone in 2006 and the National Referral Protocol on Gender Based Violence against children in 2008. He has been part of working groups or taskforces set up by the government of Sierra Leone to draft several national policies and bills that have been passed by the government of Sierra Leone. This includes the Child Rights Act 2007, the Sexual Offences Act 2012, amended in 2019,

the child justice strategies and the current Child Rights bill 2025. Mr. Kemokai was part of the Technical and Scientific Committee that supervised the drafting of the Guidelines on Action for Children in the Justice System in Africa in 2011, which has been adopted by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Children. Mr. Kemokai developed the Child Welfare and Protection Policy of the Republic of Liberia in 2018.

Mr. Kemokai was the first CSO leader that mobilized CSOs in 2007 to submit the first alternative report to the report of the government of Sierra Leone on UNCRC to the UNCRC Committee in Geneva and later established the Child Rights Coalition that is now the official CSO group recognized by the UNCRC Committee and the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child for submitting periodic reports to State party's report on UNCRC and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Respectively. He is currently the Executive Director of Defence for Children Sierra Leone and former President of Defence for Children International and chair of the International Executive Council (Board).



HON CATHERINE ZAINAB TARAWALLY

Member of Parliament, Deputy Opposition Whip. Chairperson of the Gender and Child Protection Committee.

Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawally was born in Makeni Bombali district in the northern region of Sierra Leone. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration, as well as qualifications including a Bed, HND, and an OND Certificate. Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawally is a journalist by profession.

She is a Member of Parliament and serves as a dedicated representative for the 037 Constituency in the Bombali District, North Region of Sierra Leone. Her advocacy is rooted in a strong belief in accountability and a genuine concern for the well-being of her constituents. Hon. Tarawally is particularly passionate about addressing pressing issues such as inadequate health facilities and the lack of access to clean water, affecting women, youth, and children.

She firmly believes that by empowering women and effectively utilizing available resources, fostering stronger international relationships, and creating better employment opportunities, these challenges can be tackled for the benefit of all Sierra Leoneans.

Hon. Catherine Zainab Tarawally consistently advocates for accountability and respects others' opinions and qualities. As a testament to her leadership, she was appointed as the deputy chairman of the Human Rights Committee in the House of Parliament. Additionally, she serves as a Member of the Fisheries and Marine Resources Committee and the Local government and Rural Development Committee.

Hon. Tarawally actively works towards enacting effective legislation and providing oversight to ensure efficient service delivery to her constituents and the wider Sierra Leonean population. She works so hard to achieve equality and empower all people especially the disprivileged and unnoticed.



HON. MARIAMA MUNIA ZOMBO

*Member of Parliament.
Gender Advocate.*

Hon. Mariama Munia Zombo is a Politician (Member of Parliament), an Independent Consultant, a Communicator for Development and Advocacy Specialist, Gender Advocate, Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist, and Business Entrepreneur, with a Public Health and Development background.

Her qualifications include Master of Science in Development Studies, Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Science in Education (Biological Sciences) degrees. She is fully engaged in women empowerment, Consulting services and Entrepreneurship. Her experiences and knowledge span from Strategic Programming and Operations, Grants development/ Management, Programmes and Team Management, to

Environment, Climate Change action, Gender Advocacy, Women/ Girls rights, Training, Communication for Development, Public Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Food and Nutrition, Community Management of projects, Youth and Women's Livelihoods, Child Protection, Education, and Psychosocial care.

In the last 30 years, she has held full- time jobs in the Parliament of Sierra Leone, with UNICEF, Plan International, Child Fund, the National Commission for War-affected Children, and as a Government School Teacher. She has also worked as a consultant for several agencies and organizations in Africa. Hon. Mariama Munia Zombo is actively engaged in empowering all people to reach their deserved socio - human status no matter the circumstance and wherever you may be.



BLESSING K. J. KUTUBU

Child Rights and Gender Activist.

Blessing K. J. Kutubu is a Child Rights and Gender Activist and national spokesperson for the Children Forum Network; the umbrella children's organization in Sierra Leone, under the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs. She is currently a honors one student, of the faculty of Arts, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. She holds a global Children's Rights Award of Defence for Children International, Geneva Switzerland.

Blessing K. J. Kutubu is a She Leader, DCI ambassador, member of the Advisory Board of Plan International Youth Advisory Panel, and A Girls Engage Academy cohort mentor. She is a public speaker, debater and a poet, and uses these platforms to advocate for the rights of Children, girls and women. With commitment, passion and hardwork in Sierra Leone, she has represented children and girls of her

nation on both national and International platforms; Sierra Leone Parliament, as the speaker who passed the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment bill into law, on the International Day of the Girl Child during the girls parliamentary takeover.

She was a girl champion at the 1st African Union Pan-African conference on Prioritizing girls and women's education at the African Union headquarters, youngest (16) Sierra Leonean speaker and delegate at the United Nation's 67th session on the commission of the status of women. All with passion and smart advocacy skills acquired from her grassroot, during community outreach, campaign, local and national engagements and many more activities. She has and is always committed to fighting for the rights of children and girls.



MRS. CHRISTIANA OGBEMOYE OLIKO

*Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs,
Nigeria*

Mrs Christiana Oliko (née Omerejo) was born to late Chief Sunday Omerejo and

Late Mrs Festa Omerejo on 26th December. She hails from Okoboh, Abuja in Abua Odual LGA of Rivers State, Nigeria. She is a holder of a Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PDGD) from the University of Abuja, Nigeria and a Master of Science Degree holder (Msc) in Social Work from the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Ogbomoso Oyo State, Nigeria.

Her First duty post as Child Development Officer was in the then National Commission for Women, where she assisted in the initiation and formulation of Programmes and policies for women, Children, and other vulnerable persons. Owing to her hard work, commitment and dedication to duty, she rose to the position of Deputy Director Social Welfare, and has over the years overseen the affairs of Women Development Department, Community and Social Intervention Department, and currently the Nutrition Services Department of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs.

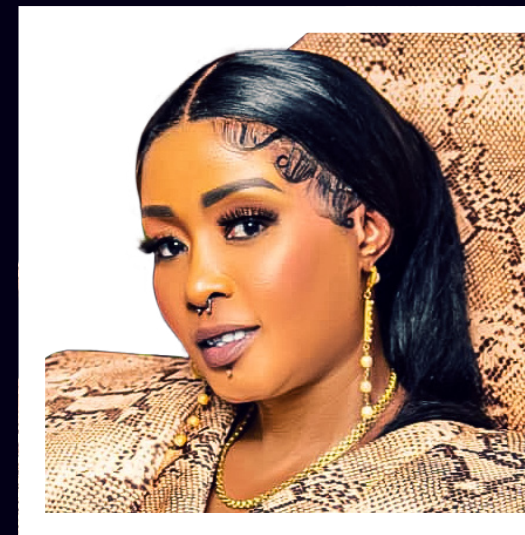
She is passionate about Humanitarian and Community Development Services aimed at enhancing the quality of life of vulnerable persons in the society. She is vast in knowledge and widely traveled. organization in Sierra Leone, under the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs. She is currently a honors one student, of the faculty of Arts, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

PERFORMERS



SPECIAL INVITED ARTISTE FOR SFC 2025

01. STAR ZEE | 02. MINISTER DELIGHT KONNEH
03. KHADISON DUWAI | 04. FREDERICK (FAMOUS)



STAR ZEE

Musician – Dancehall Artiste.



Multiple award-winning hip-hop and dance hall artiste, Star Zee, was born Linda Samai. She is the daughter of late Mr. Patrick Samai (former vocalist in the military dance band) and late Mrs. Sombo Samai (medical nurse). She was born and raised in Freetown. Her love for music is from childhood, Star Zee enrolled in various performing arts group and was first exposed to the music industry at the age of 14 when she joined the Stress Inc Records.

After passing all the auditions in Stress Inc Records, Star Zee was automatically introduced in a group called Ladies Day out (L.D.O). By then L.D.O comprised of 4 female artistes (Star Zee, Lady Felecia, Julie and Thelma). In December 1998, the group (L.D.O) released an album titled "Focus on Africa". Star Zee's inputs on that album brought her great fame in the music industry in Sierra Leone and beyond. She, however, went solo in 2003 and hasn't looked back.

After the launch of her solo career, Star Zee has released five albums, the last of which is titled "Collabo." She toured in the United Kingdom,

Australia and performs regularly with other artistes from her country and outside its shores, including a performance with Nigerian star Patoranking. Star Zee was signed to EMPIRE MUSIC in 2013 and she released songs like Number 1, E @ You, Success amongst others under the label.

With over two decades of vibrant presence in Sierra Leone's music scene, Star Zee has established herself as a powerhouse in the realms of hip hop and dancehall. Renowned for her captivating lyrics, captivating performances, and undeniable talent, she has become a household name among music lovers across the country and beyond. Throughout her illustrious career, she has released multiple hit songs that have resonated with fans and dominated the airwaves. Her music not only showcases her lyrical prowess but also highlights her influence as a trailblazer for women in the industry.

Star Zee's enduring relevance and her dedication to her craft continue to inspire aspiring artists, making her a true icon of Sierra Leonean music culture.



DELIGHT KONNEH

Musician – Gospel Artiste.



Delight Konneh, an award winning and passionate gospel music minister hailing from Sierra Leone, was born on December 25, 1993, in the vibrant city of Bo.

Minister has been featured in programmes with SINACH, MOSES BLISS, EBUKA SONGS, GUC, JERRY OMOLEH, UCHE AGU SIMSOLA from Nigeria, JOE METTLE from Ghana and CHARISMA from South Africa's Joyous Celebration. In 2018, he was also featured in a concert with MUYIWA RIVERSONGZ from the UK, sharing a stage in Sierra Leone.

Born to a Muslim parent who are Mandingo and Mende, Delight's journey despite all the odds led him to embrace gospel music as his calling. His musical odyssey began with a profound desire to share the message of faith, hope, and love through the power of music. Growing up in Bo, Minister Delight Konneh navigated the diverse cultural influences of Sierra Leone, shaping his unique musical style. His commitment to spreading positivity and spirituality through his songs became evident as he embarked on his music ministry. Married to a remarkable and beautiful

wife, Delight finds unwavering support and inspiration in the journey of life and music. His wife, a pivotal force in his career, stands as a testament to the strength of their partnership and shared commitment to his musical endeavors.

As a prolific songwriter, he has demonstrated a unique gift for crafting lyrics that resonate with the hearts of his listeners. His ability to capture profound spiritual experiences and translate them into poignant melodies has garnered him recognition and admiration within the gospel music community.

Throughout his illustrious career, this worshipper has been honored with multiple gospel awards, a testament to his musical prowess and the positive impact his work has had on the audience. These accolades stand as a reflection of his dedication to excellence in the realm of gospel music.

As a dedicated gospel music minister, Delight Konneh continues to make a profound impact, not only in Sierra Leone but also beyond its borders. His life's mission is to touch hearts and souls, fostering a deeper connection with the divine through the medium of music. Delight Konneh's story is one of resilience, faith, and the transformative power of music that transcends cultural and religious divides.



PETERS (FAMOUS)

Musician – Highlifel Artiste.



Frederick Dapaye Peters, popularly known as Famous, is a celebrated Sierra Leonean highlife and hip-hop artist known for his dynamic sound and influential presence in West African music. With a career spanning decades, Famous has established himself as a household name, respected both nationally and internationally for his artistic excellence and cultural impact.

Famous blends traditional highlife rhythms with modern hip-hop and contemporary African influences. He also makes music that resonates with diverse audiences and represents Sierra Leone on the world stage.

He is signed to Forensic Records and has released multiple albums, including the award-winning "Noto Alman Go Lek U". Famous has performed and hosted shows across Africa,

Europe, and North America, sharing stages with internationally acclaimed acts. He has also secured high-profile collaborations and partnerships with major brands as a sought-after ambassador. Famous has over the years accumulated multiple prestigious awards and accolades, solidifying his place as one of the most influential artists of his generation.

Famous has released seven studio albums, including the award-winning "Noto Alman Go Lek U" which won the prestigious All Works of Life (AWOL) Artist of the Year award in 2012.

OPEN & GOODWILL MESSAGES



H. E. BOB SHERIFF

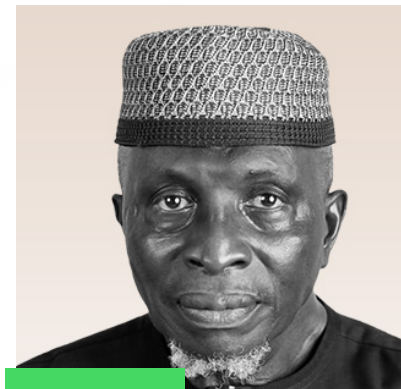
Ambassador of Liberia to Sierra Leone

Bob Sheriff is Liberia's Ambassador to Sierra Leone. Born in Liberia, Bob Sheriff has grown in the public sphere of the Liberia community. He is well known and associated with the Grand Cape Mount County, where he pioneered developmental, educational, political, social and cultural issues emulating from the county. He is a strong believer of peace and longstanding relations in business both in the public and private sector.

With Liberia's longstanding bilateral ties with Sierra Leone, Ambassador Sheriff serves with integrity, patriotism, and commitment to strengthen regional cooperation under the Mano River Union framework. He was commissioned by President Joseph Boakai in May 2025. The commissioning ceremony emphasized the

importance of strengthening ties between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

As a high-ranking diplomat, Ambassador Sheriff is focused on helping his country and Sierra Leone build peace internally and externally. His skills go beyond mediating peace and stability on a national level, he is a champion in creating and maintaining global peace, unity and a stable life for all.



**ALHAJI SHEIKH
ABUBAKARR
CONTEH**

Chief Imam, Freetown, Sierra Leone



**ELDER KENNETH
PAMBU**

Area Seventy and a member

Elder Kenneth Pambu was named an Area Seventy and a member of the Third Quorum of the Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the April 2023 general conference.

Elder Pambu has served in a number of Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Nigeria Port Harcourt Mission, high councilor, counselor in a bishopric, and stake president. Elder Pambu received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Njala University in 2005, an accounting diploma from the Institute of Public Administration in 2007, and a master of business degree in finance from Njala University in 2012.

Kenneth Pambu was born in Jojoima, Sierra Leone, on April 20, 1978. He married Susan Kangoma in 2014. They are the parents of five children. Elder and Sister Pambu reside in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

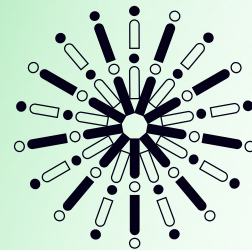
STRENGTHENING
families
CONFERENCE



— THE FAMILIES — **AWARD**

THIS CROWNING EVENT IS MORE THAN JUST A MOMENT OF CELEBRATION; IT IS A POWERFUL RECOGNITION OF EXTRAORDINARY FAMILIES, LEADERS, AND CHANGEMAKERS WHO EMBODY THE VERY ESSENCE OF UNITY, RESILIENCE, AND POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN SOCIETY.

**HONORING FAMILIES. UPLIFTING
COMMUNITIES. INSPIRING GENERATIONS.**



GOING FORWARD

The Conference on Strengthening Families intends to create an ongoing, cooperative, catalytic environment where the tools of action and real change are both sought for and imbedded at every level. This Conference is not intended to be merely an outlet for philosophical or social observation. Focused action and tangible improvement are expected.

As partner organizations, and every person within them, we invite a courageous commitment toward measurable and sustainable efforts to strengthen family structures within Sierra Leone and throughout West Africa. The Conference intends to educate all levels of society, highlighting the Family as the most effective catalyst for positive gains in social issues.



COLLABORATORS FOR SFC 2025,
FREETOWN–SIERRA LEONE.

SCAN TO SHARE
YOUR FEEDBACK

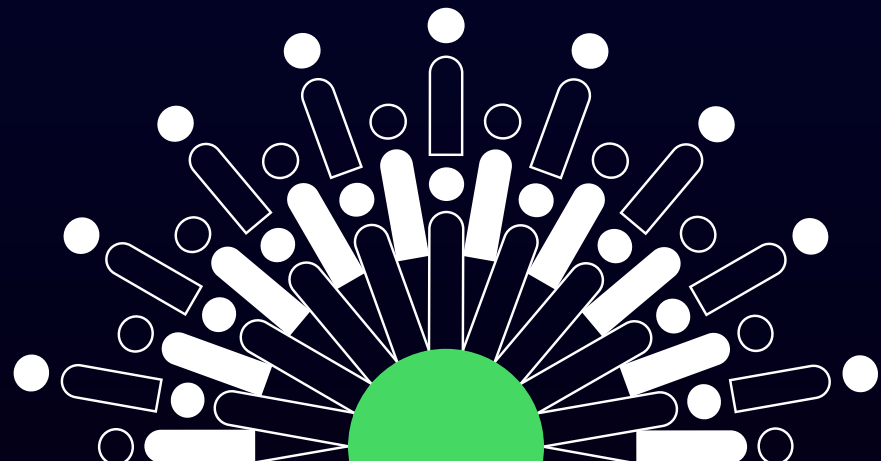
YOUR OPINION MATTERS



ENGLISH



FRENCH

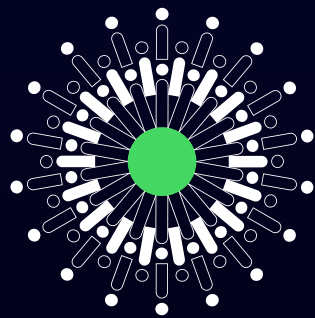


NOTE

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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.[illegible]



For additional info. please visit
www.strengtheningfamily.org
www.TheChurchofJesusChristAfricaWest