

HRCSL undertakes training on Treaty Body Reporting

The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Wednesday November 23rd began a two day training at Njala Venue on Treaty Body Reporting for Commissioners and Staff of HRCSL, Civil Society and relevant line Ministries and Departments.

Speaking during the opening of the training, Commissioner Jamesina King of HRCSL said in order for the Commission to achieve its mandate in supporting government in its treaty body obligation , the HRCSL in collaboration with the OHCHR, contracted the services of a consultant from OHCHR, Monica Nascimento E. Silva to conduct the training from November 23rd to 24th 2016.

Commissioner King further stated that in November 2015, the HRCSL established the Treaty Body Unit in the Directorate of Monitoring and Research. Among other roles, the treaty body unit is responsible for directly interfacing with the international human rights systems both regionally and internationally as well as prepares and produces all alternative reports on behalf of HRCSL in compliance with regional and international reporting obligations in resonance with human rights law.

It is however reported that State Parties are rarely in full compliance with their reporting requirements under their various treaty obligations. States are required to periodically submit reports on their compliance with International human rights treaties to which they are a Party to and have a reporting requirement. Building the capacity of the staff of HRCSL, MDAs and Civil Society in terms of Treaty Body Reporting would capacitate them in preparing their alternative reports as well as enables them to meet their reporting obligations on all regional and international treaties.

Commissioner King stated. The training will enable HRCSL and partners to develop new ways of interacting and interfacing with international reporting mechanisms as well as understand clearly the structural template required in the production of alternative reports in compliance with international reporting obligations. One of the mandate of HRCSL as stated in section 7 (e) of its Act is to ' advise government concerning preparation of periodic reports required by international human rights treaties or agreement to which Sierra Leone is a party'.