



THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE

HRCSL MONITORS CORRECTIONAL CENTRES NATIONWIDE

In fulfilment of its mandate under **Section 7 (1)** of the **Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone Act, 2004**, the **Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL)** continues to pay close attention to the **human rights situation in places of detention**—including correctional centres, police stations, and juvenile homes.



With support from the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, HRCSL embarked on a **nationwide monitoring exercise** of correctional facilities from **2nd to 24th September 2025**, under the research initiative titled “**Human Rights Behind Bars.**” The objective was to obtain comprehensive data on the **conditions, challenges, and human rights concerns** affecting inmates across the country.



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The monitoring covered **18 Correctional Centres** across Sierra Leone's **five regions**, assessing compliance with **national laws, regional commitments, and international human rights standards**.



Previous HRCSL monitoring visits have revealed persistent challenges, including **overcrowding, inadequate bedding, poor medical facilities, limited access to education, and poor sanitation**—all of which compromise inmates' health, dignity, and rehabilitation, while breaching international norms governing the treatment of persons deprived of liberty.





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This most recent exercise aimed not only to document these issues but also to **analyse structural and systemic factors** affecting correctional management, with a view to developing actionable recommendations for reform.



The **findings and recommendations** from the “Human Rights Behind Bars” project will be shared with relevant **MDAs**, the **Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights**, and **development partners**. The report will also serve as an **advocacy tool** to promote policy and institutional changes that enhance the protection of inmates’ rights and improve overall conditions within correctional facilities nationwide.

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