



Humanity to Others

## SIERRA LEONE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS UNVEILS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR NATIONWIDE CELEBRATIONS IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD SOCIAL WORK MONTH-MARCH 2024

**Freetown, 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024:** - In anticipation of World Social Work Month, the Sierra Leone Association of Social Workers (SLASW), a professional organization dedicated to promoting the social work profession, advocating for social justice, and addressing critical social issues in Sierra Leone, is proud to announce its collaboration with social work societies of different universities across the country to celebrate and promote the profession. This year's celebration will localize the global theme, "Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change," through a series of events focusing on key social issues.

### 1. REGIONAL CELEBRATIONS ON EMERGING SOCIAL ISSUES:

#### i. **The Western Area (Urban) Regional Celebration: Drug Abuse, Mental Health, and Psychosocial Support (March 1st, Freetown)**

- Partnering with the Social Work Society of Fourah Bay College (FBC) to hold a symposium on mental health awareness.
- Promoting mental health awareness, addressing stigma, and developing effective support services for individuals and communities.

#### ii. **The Western Area (Rural) Regional Celebration): Gender Equality, the Girl Child, and Women's Empowerment: (March 8th – 15th, Freetown)**

- Collaborating with the Social Work Society of Milton Margai Technical University (MMTU) for a workshop on gender-based violence and social justice.
- Addressing gender-based violence, promoting women's rights, and advocating for social justice.



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**iii. The Northern Regional Celebration: Child Welfare and Protection: (March 18th-19th, Makeni)**

- Partnering with Social Work Societies of Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology (EBKUST) and the University of Makeni (UNIMAK) for an Awareness Rally and Symposium on child welfare and protection.
- Enhancing child protection systems, promoting child rights, and addressing issues of child abuse and neglect.

**iv. The Southern and Eastern Regional Celebration: Climate Change and Sustainable Environment: (March 21st/22nd, Bo and Kenema)**

- Joining forces with Social Work Societies of N'jala University and Eastern Technical University for a Rally and Discussions on Climate Change.
- Exploring strategies to promote and protect a sustainable environment.

**2. NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE 2024:**

- March 22nd to 28th in Freetown.
- Aiming to discuss the regulation of Social Work, review proposed bills, and address ethical standards.
- Preceded by weeklong activities, including an inter-association football gala with SLASW and a National Conference and Dinner event to foster networking would climax the celebration.

SLASW invites all social work professionals, academics, government representatives, and stakeholders to actively participate in these events, contributing to the advancement of social work practice in Sierra Leone.

Signed:

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