



SIERRA LEONE IRELAND PARTNERSHIP  
Éire i gComhar le Sierra Leone



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### **Bishop Henry Aruna, Bishop of Kenema, Sierra Leone, Chair CARITAS SL.**

Bishop Henry Aruna has been Bishop of Kenema since 1st March 2019, having served as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese from 2015. He was ordained a priest in 1993 and ministered in parish and seminary formation in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. Bishop Aruna holds a BA in Philosophy and Humanities, a BD in Theology, a Licentiate in Philosophy (M. Phil) from the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, and a Masters in Education (M. Ed) from Njala University, Sierra Leone, majoring in Educational Administration.

### **Dr. Staneala Beckley, Chair, Teaching Service Commission of Sierra Leone.**

Dr. Staneala Beckley has been chair of the Teaching Service Commission of Sierra Leone since 2015. Prior to that Dr. Beckley has been Regional Chief of Education, UNICEF Office West and Central Africa (2005-2008) Middle East and North Africa (2001-2005) Pakistan (1995-2001), Nigeria (1991-1995). Dr. Beckley was Deputy President of the University of Sierra Leone from 1986 to 1991. Dr. Beckley has a PhD in Teacher Education and Professional Development and a Masters Degree in Psychopedagogy from University of Ibadan.

### **Ms. Carol Hannon, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland.**

Ms. Carol Hannon is the Education Specialist of Irish Aid and draws on many years experience in development co-operation with partner countries of Irish Aid. Ms. Hannon has been a member of the Advisory Board of UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report. The mandate of GEM is to monitor progress towards the education targets in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework.

### **More Seminar Details to Follow.....**

Booking Form. Send by email to: martin@slip.ie by 28th Feb 2020

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Book ticket online at the Eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/education-in-sierra-leone-seminar-sierra-leone-ireland-partnership-tickets-93534759985>



## **Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership**

**In association with Maynooth University**

**Department of International Development**

*Invites you to*

**Strengthening Education in Sierra Leone Seminar**  
***Building an Equal and Inclusive Education For Girls***  
***and Young Women in Sierra Leone***

**Thursday 5th March 2020**

**Renehan Hall, Maynooth University**

**10.00am to 2.15pm**

Tea/Coffee on arrival / registration at 9.30am Concluding with Lunch at 2.15pm.

Booking essential:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/education-in-sierra-leone-seminar-sierra-leone-ireland-partnership-tickets-93534759985>



*"I, therefore, commit my new Government to deliver 12 years of Good quality education by 2030. I commit to ensuring that Girls, Children with Disability and other Disadvantaged Groups have Equal Opportunities to complete the full cycle of Primary and Secondary Education."*

President Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, 17 April 2018

*"In delivering on A Better World the Government will undertake....to prioritise education for girls and scale up our funding to education especially for girls in emergencies, committing to spending at least €250 million over the next five years."*

Irish Aid, Dept. Foreign Affairs and Trade, A Better World Ireland's Policy for International Development, 2018

*"Thanks to the efforts of the Missionaries, the Catholic Church has numerous schools that we intend to maintain in a spirit of co-operation with the Government. As a Church we do not feel put aside in Government education projects, but more needs to be done to strengthen collaboration with State institutions."*

Most Rev Charles A.M. Campbell, Bishop of Bo and President of the Inter-territorial Catholic Bishops' Conference of Gambia and Sierra Leone. June 2018.

## SEMINAR AIMS

The Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership (SLIP) and Maynooth University Department of International Development invite you to take part in a critical examination of the issues to be faced in rebuilding Sierra Leone's education system.

The Government of Sierra Leone has identified education as the key to rebuilding a sustainable economy after thirty years of almost continuous emergency. It has committed 30% of the national budget (UNESCO) to providing free, inclusive, quality education for the first time in the country's history. International partners are investing heavily in the project, too. The Irish Government, through Irish Aid, has adopted education as one of the four pillars of its engagement with Sierra Leone.

This seminar will:

Outline the struggle of a State with little resources to rebuild an education system after decades of neglect and social disruption.

Examine aspects of the systematic obstruction of the progress of women and girls through the education system in Sierra Leone

Acknowledge of the extensive Irish historical involvement in education in Sierra Leone and identify how links are being maintained today, and how they can be grown in the future.

Identify the role of the different sectors, faith based, private and Government schools in delivering new systems and outcomes, for Sierra Leone education  
Salute and encourage a bold initiative towards a better Sierra Leone and show that people in Ireland wish for a better life for our Sierra Leonean sisters and brothers.

## Programme

### 9.30 Registration / Tea & Coffee

10.00 Welcome - Ms. Geraldine Horgan, Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership (MC)

10.05 Introduction to SLIP and Minister—Ms. Elizabeth Smith, Chair (SLIP)

10.10 Opening—Mr. Ciaran Cannon, T.D. Minister for International Development.

10.20 **Session 1: Role of State and Faith-based Institutions in Education in Sierra Leone** Chair Mr. Ibrahim Bah, Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership.

Introduction and Address—Dr. Staneala Beckley, Chair, Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission '*Capacity issues and possibilities for delivery of the GOSL plans for education in particular the pivotal role of teachers and teaching profession*'.

Introduction and Address – Most Rev. Dr. Henry Aruna, Bishop of Kenema Diocese, Sierra Leone '*Opportunities and Challenges in exercising responsibility for the Catholic School network in context of Government's new emphasis on education, in particular education of women and girls*'.

Question and Answer Session

### 11.45. Tea/coffee Break

**12.00 Session 2: Irish Aid and NGO Support for Practice in Education in Sierra Leone** Chair: Ms. Nora Owen, Former Minister for Justice and Equality.

Introduction and Address – Ms. Carol Hannon, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ireland '*Policy Considerations and Priorities of Irish Aid in Sierra Leone*'.

**12.45 Introduction to Practice Posters** Posters from NGOs:

Irish League of Credit Union Foundation, Sightsavers, Concern, Trocaire, Plan Ireland, Goal and Liberia Solidarity Group.

1.15 Final Panel Discussion Questions and Answers (All Speakers)

2.00 Closing: Ms. Elizabeth Smith, Chair Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership

Information Panels, Displays on Facts and Figures on Education in Sierra Leone Displayed around the Seminar Room.

### 2.15 Lunch