**Report to the United Nations General Assembly on Eliminating and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 16 (SDGS16)**

1. Sierra Leone, as a Sovereign Republic is a State based on the principles of freedom, democracy and justice, and that the social order of the State is founded on the ideals of freedom, equality and justice;
2. That the the principal law is the Constitution of Sierra Leone, 1991 (Act No.6 of 1991) (hereinafter The Constitution). It provides, inter alia, that “… every person in Sierra Leone is entitled to the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual [and] has the right, whatever his race, tribe, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed or sex, … to … freedom of conscience;
3. That the Constitution further provides that “… no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience and for the purpose … the said freedom includes freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom either alone or in community with others and both in public and in private to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance;
4. Also, that “… no person attending any place of education shall be required to receive religious instruction or to take part in or to attend any religious ceremony or observance if that instruction, ceremony or observance relates to a religion other than his own”;
5. That “… [n]o religious community or denomination shall be prevented from providing religious instruction for persons of that community or denomination in the course of any education provided by that community or denomination”;
6. That “… [n]o person shall be compelled to take any oath which is contrary to his religion or belief or to take any oath in a manner which is contrary to his religion or belief”;
7. That The Constitution prohibits any law which is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect, and enjoins every citizen to respect the religion of other individuals;
8. In addition, “[n]o association … shall be registered or be allowed to operate or to function as a political party if the Political Parties Registration Commission is satisfied that [its] membership or leadership …. is restricted to members of any particular … religious faith”;
9. That any “… party [that] has exclusive or particular significance or connotation to members of any particular … religious faith” shall not be registered to participate in any electoral process;
10. That any “party … formed for the sole purpose of securing or advancing the interests and welfare of a particular … religious faith” is prohibited;
11. The Political Parties Act 2002 also prohibits religious bigotry. It provides that no political party shall be registered if it has on its national executive committee members belonging to a particular religious faith;

In conclusion, Sierra Leone has non-discriminatory laws that protect the rights and freedoms of other persons including the right to observe and practice any religion without the unsolicited intervention of the members of any other religion.