

MRCG Engages Campaign for Good Governance on Advancing Advocacy for a National Transitional Justice Policy Framework for Sierra Leone.

By MRCG

Under its project, “Engaging Media and Communities to Change the Narrative on Transitional Justice Issues in Sierra Leone,” supported by the Africa Transitional Justice Legacy Fund (ATJLF), the MRCG has engaged the leadership of Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), for the advancement of advocacy for the development of a National Transitional Justice Policy Framework for Sierra Leone.

The policy framework, which, by all indications, is crucial for Sierra Leone, especially in the context of the country’s history of civil conflict (1991–2002), provides a structured, inclusive, and sustainable approach to addressing past human rights violations and promoting long-term peace and reconciliation.

The Programs Director, Mrs. Bernadette French, told MRCG that CGG had initiated conversations around the development of a policy framework on TJ for Sierra Leone, taking into account the various engagements with policy makers and other institutions. She recounted her personal commitment to the process leading to two meetings which were successful at the time, noting that TJ is an ongoing process which needs commitment and support for overall success.

“The general idea at the time, was for CSOs whose works were on TJ, to collaborate with government for the implementation of recommendations from various established TJ mechanisms in Sierra Leone. We also looked at how we can work together to ensure that the government of Sierra Leone domesticate the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP), as it provides a strategic opportunity for Sierra Leone to domesticate the Policy and use it as a guide to develop its own National Policy Framework,” she explained.

For Sierra Leone, a National TJ Policy Framework is not just a legal or political document—it is a blueprint for healing, justice, and sustainable peace. It builds upon the lessons learned from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Special Court for Sierra Leone and provides a path forward to consolidate democracy, human rights, and national unity.

Mrs. French continued that developing policies take time and commitment from interested parties, as various consultations and conversations need to be conducted with a political will to achieve success. “It’s never too late. We all need to work together to advance conversations around transitional justice processes. We need to create more public awareness about it, but most importantly, we need to track our progress as a country on the overall implementation of various recommendations, as TJ should not be treated as a one-off event limited to the TRC and the Special Court, but an ongoing process that involves institutional reforms, accountability, non-reoccurrence, reparations and inclusive development.

She expressed concern over lack of progress in the overall implementation of key TRC recommendations, noting that government in and out have not clearly linked certain developments to the TRC, even where those initiatives were born from the TRC. She underscored that most policy makers also lack full understanding of TJ processes and its critical relevance to present day governance, democracy, and social cohesion. “Our ranking on the fragility and human rights indexes

show that we are still struggling with the legacy of conflict, a National TJ policy framework will guide structured interventions would build existing peace infrastructure,” she noted.

She rounded off calling for long term perspective on TJ, as it cannot be treated as a project with a start and end date, but a process that can be mainstreamed into national development and governance planning. She proposed massive awareness raising at national level, educating interested CSOs on TJ processes, and measuring progress on implementation of TJ recommendations on all established TJ mechanisms in Sierra Leone.