



## Media Reform Coordinating Group-Sierra Leone

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### MRCG WELCOMES THE NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY, APPRECIATES THE GOVERNMENT FOR FULFILLING A MAJOR RECOMMENDATION IN THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC) REPORT

(Freetown: 18th January 2026). The Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) joins the Government and people of Sierra Leone and civil society partners in observing **today, 18 January 2026**, as the first *National Remembrance Day*, declared by His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio. This day of reflection honours the victims, survivors, and families affected by Sierra Leone's civil war (1991–2002) and reinforces the country's collective commitment to peace, national unity, and democratic cohesion.

National Remembrance Day is not merely a date on the calendar—it is an opportunity for reflection, education, and reaffirming Sierra Leone's commitment to “**never again**” returning to conflict. The MRCG stands ready to support media efforts that uphold these values. Accurate coverage can help citizens understand the depth of the country's journey and the value of peace.

Since 2020, with support from the Africa Transitional Justice Legacy Fund (ATJLF), the MRCG has implemented a project entitled “*Engaging the Media and Communities to Change the Narrative on Transitional Justice Issues in Sierra Leone.*” The project aims to engage the media and communities to raise public awareness about transitional justice mechanisms and shift the narrative on Transitional Justice (TJ) Issues in Sierra Leone.

Since the project's inception, the MRCG has trained over two hundred (200) reporters and has commissioned about 4 fellowship programs where selected reporters have, over the years, produced media content (including articles, short videos, animation, etc.) on the implementation of recommendations from the TRC report and other existing TJ mechanisms. Today, we appreciate the Government for implementing a recommendation from the TRC report.

The MRCG also continues to remind the Government that in the Kumrbai Ferry village, Northern Sierra Leone, where it works, there is a significant Peace Monument, with the inscription “**PEACE WAS BORN HERE,**” which, according to its residents, the peace Sierra Leone enjoys today originated there. The MRCG calls on the Government for a facelift of that community and an annual peace celebration in the village.

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