



CSOs Conference on 'Building Civil Society Resilience and Protecting the Civic Space ahead of the 2023 Elections in Liberia'

Conference Resolution

1. We the civil society organizations and independent activists working on human rights, political participation, and electoral integrity across Liberia met in Monrovia, at the Sinkor Palace Hotel, from June 8 -9, 2023 at a conference to assess the state of the civic space under the theme of 'Building Civil Society Resilience and Protecting the Civic Space ahead of the 2023 Elections in Liberia'.
2. We acknowledge the increase in political participation, mainly the increase in women political participation, the growing culture of civic engagement and participation among Liberians as evidenced by the increased number of civil society organizations, media outlets, and political parties in the country.
3. We note the existence of laws and regulatory policies that support the free exercise of the right to free speech, access to information, and the right to associate and assemble peacefully. We also note that the application of some of these laws, such as the Liberian Code of Laws Revised Volume II, Title 5, Association Law, continue to undermine the free exercise of these rights, and limit the space for civic participation and engagement in Liberia.
4. We note with grave concern and alarm the rise in incidents of political violence in the country, the forceful disruption of peaceful protests by security forces and political party activists, and harassment of journalists and activists in the country. We see these as serious threats to the existence of a vibrant and sustainable civic space for the exercise of the rights of free speech, association, and assembly, and of the press; and the advancement of our democracy, generally.
5. We desire a more open and viable civic space that protects fundamental rights, facilitate civic engagement and inclusive political participation during and after the 2023 elections.
6. Now therefore, as civil society organizations and independent activists, we
 - 6.1. Request the Government of Liberia to reform the current regulatory regimes for non-governmental and civil society organizations, and remove the requirement for

- sectoral clearance for the accreditation of organizations by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning;
- 6.2. Encourage the government to fully implement the Local Government Act of 2018, and strengthen the county service centers to increase access to documentation services, such as identification and business registration services, in all counties;
 - 6.3. Call on the government to improve public safety and ensure the security and protection of all citizens, especially civil society activists and journalists during and after the elections;
 - 6.4. Encourage political parties and candidates to denounce violence and run peaceful and violence-free campaigns in line with the commitments of the Farmington River Declaration of April 2023 and the Protocol between the National Elections Commission and Registered Political Parties to address Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWiE/P Protocol) of February 2022;
 - 6.5. Encourage political parties and candidates to respect the rights of women, people with disabilities, and minorities; and ensure that people from these marginalized groups are protected from abuses, attacks, and harassments during the exercise of their right to engage and participate in political processes;
 - 6.6. Encourage the National Elections Commission to deepen engagement with civil society organizations and provide adequate civic and voter education across the country to engender informed participation from all sectors of the society—including women, people with disabilities and the minorities;
 - 6.7. Demand speedy and robust investigation and prosecution of individuals who incite and participate in electoral and other forms of political violence, and individuals who harass and attack journalists and activists during and after the elections; and
 - 6.8. Encourage state-owned and independent media to provide equal access to all political parties, candidates, and civil society organizations; and provide balanced coverage of the campaign activities of all political parties and candidates during the elections.

Done at the Sinkor Palace Hotel in Monrovia, Liberia on the Ninth Day of June in the year A.D. Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

Bomi County ~~Thomas Washington~~ Thomas Washington

Bong County J. Aaron Sackie Fenhah

Gbarpolu County Lydia V. Balla

Grand Bassa County Mercy Johnson

Grand Cape Mount County Jenneh Kenner

Grand Gedeh County Atilas A. Kan

Grand Kru County Ben C. Nafie

Lofa County Muhammed Kanneh

Margibi County Friday Edwin Cusor

Maryland County Tyrone Wallace

Montserrado County Joanna Korpo Ballah

Nimba County Steve M. Gwir

Rivercess County Emmanuel Teah

River Gee County Abu M. S. Diallo

Sinoe County _____


Press Union of Liberia Daniel Nyatorah Jr.

National Union of Organizations of the Disabled Gabriel T. Soh Sr.


Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia SD Tang


Southeastern Women Development Association Helena Turu

Western Region Women Network Veronica Sangar-Jensen

CSOs Human Rights Platform Emma Y. Boldo 

Liberia Election Observation Network Augustine S.M. Tamba 

Election Coordinating Committee Barwanda O. Williams 

National Civil Society Council of Liberia Lorella A. Popotai 

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