

# HE FOR SHE CRUSADERS LIBERIA



## ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2024

**BY: ADMINISTRATION**

## FOREWORD:

### Tamba Forkpah Jedidiah Johnson- National Coordinator



He For She Crusaders Liberia (HEFOSEL) is committed to promoting social justice, gender equality, and fundamental human right of women, girls, and marginalized groups. We are steadfast in advocating against all forms of harmful and inhumane practices as well as lobby for the repealing of discriminatory laws/policies. Additionally, we are

advocating for stronger politic will that will ensure the enactment of anti- FGM law to protect women and girls from undergoing and experiencing FGM. Moreover, we mentor men and boys in the community, private and public sectors as well on school campuses to become ambassadors of positive masculinity and inter-generational agents to amplify the importance for collective community, public private initiative to eradicate gender inequality and negative social norms and practices. Our resilient as being the voice of the voiceless remain uncompromising nearly

8 years now. He For She Crusaders Liberia since its establishment in November of 2017 and subsequent accreditation in 2018 by the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a male led organization to promote social justice and human rights, we main committed to this mandate; our working as a reputable male led organization in Liberia mentoring men and boys in positive masculinity, inter generational dialogue at the place of work, in the community and on school campuses remain unbeaten by any local male engagement organization. He For She Crusaders Liberia has three unique core areas of interventions:

- 1) **Male Mentorship & engagement**—we focus on Positive Masculinity & Fatherhood and inter generational dialogue;
- 2) **Awareness Raising & Capacity Building**—we focus on providing training on Gender Equality, Toxic Masculinity, and awareness on Menstrual Hygiene, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), as well as Promoting Women Political Participation, Men and Youth Economic sustainability to avoid violence.
- (3) **Advocacy and media**—we focus on advocating on citizens’ Rights to access Social Justice; Repealing of discriminator laws/policies; Citizens’ obligation to respect the rule of laws; Enactment of law to the eradicate harmful practices (HPs) such as FGM and SGBV, as well as engage government to promote and protect community land ownership and benefits.

## **Achievements:**

In 2024, under our **Male Mentorship & engagement**, He For She Crusaders Liberia in partnership with Solidarity Center, provided two circles of capacity building training to over 30 industrial labor union sectors leaders on positive masculinity, gender equality, and the protection of women at the place of work. Trainees from those training session did commit to share knowledge with their colleagues at place of work and also to become agents to promote and protect women at the place of work.

### **PARTNERSHIP**

With community engagement, He For She Crusaders Liberia partnered with Men Engage Liberia to engage communities. Over 125 community members (women, men, boys and girls) were engaged and educated on the importance of Inter-generational dialogue for sustainable gender equality. Reputable clergy, imam and community leaders (women and men) shared their experiences with the participants while He For She Crusaders Liberia National Coordinator provided education on the importance of inter generational exchanges. At the end of the engagement, commitments were made by all participants to become agents of change.

### **DIRECT ENGAGEMENT**

Additionally 150 men and boys were directly engaged and educated on positive masculinity Margibi, and Montserrado. These mentored men and boys are now engage in awareness arising on gender equality.

### **OUR AWARENESS RAISING & CAPACITY BUILDING AREA**

He For She Crusaders Liberia partners (ed) with the Coalition of Educational (Education) to create awareness on girls education in Liberia. Facilitated on FGM with West Point Women (what was the main theme of the facilitation on FGM? Was it the cause, effect, or...)

### **ADVOCACY & MEDIA AREA**

HEFOSEL also partner ed with Men Engage Liberia to advocate for the implementation of the drug law and Female Genital Mutilation( FGM). In adherence to our call for anti-FGM law, the government through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and partners are in the progress (process) of introducing an Anti-FGM bill to address FGM in Liberia.

### **Challenges and remedies:**

In 2024, the most pivotal challenge He For She Crusaders Liberia incurred was the lack of donors' direct funding. This greatly restricted the functioning of He For She Crusaders Liberia. However, in the midst of the donor's constraints, the He For She Crusaders Liberia remained focused and determined towards its strategic plan and program focus for the year.

### **PARTNERSHIP WITH NETWORK ORGANIZATION**

Partnering with network organizations such as the Solidarity Center, the Liberia NGOS Secretariat, West point Women for Development and Health Organization and men Engage Liberia enabled He For She Crusaders Liberia to have implemented some of its activities.

During the period under review, HEFOSEL coordination with other Organizations yielded fruitful results. For instance: Partnering with Solidarity Center and West Point Women for Development on Capacity Training with men on positive masculinity to protect women at the place of work was realized. While still the process of implementing a partnership activity with Health Organization and Men Engage Liberia was also achieved. (Community engagement on inter generational dialogue and FGM awareness) partnering with Solidarity Center capacity training with men on positive masculinity to protect women at the place of work was realized while partnering with West Point Women for Development and Health Organization and Men Engage Liberia, community engagement on intergenerational dialogue and FGM awareness was achieved. Affiliating media house such as ELBC 99.9 FM, ECOWAS radio 91.3FM, fabric FM 101.1 and Spoon,. Advocacy and awareness were held / carried out through affiliating Media houses such as: ELBC 99.9 FM, ECOWAS Radio 91.3 FM, Fabric Radio FM 101.1 & Spoon FM. The mode of transmission were: Press release and Radio & Television Talk Shows. With the aim of calling for Justice and Rule of law to protect the rights of women ,girls and marginalize/underprivileged groups. FGM, advocacy was held through insurance of press releases, and hosting of radio/television talk shows calling for social justice and rule of law to protect the rights of women, girls and marginalized/underprivileged.

### **Safeguarding our staff in the midst of financial crisis.**

We were fully aware of the enormous tasks ahead as well as challenges; as a vigorous and experienced organization, we made use of the **do no harm theory to protect our staff, volunteers and beneficiaries on the field.** The do no harm theory tactic employed, improved our staff and volunteers enthusiasms to devote themselves towards advocating and conducting awareness and building the capacities of local community people, students, and other stakeholders knowledge on SRHRS and gender equality, menstrual hygiene management, HPs (FGM) and positive

masculinity/fatherhood. **We are cognizant of the fact that, we are not there yet, gradually, we will get there.**

### **To accomplish our goal, we need more partnership/ collaboration**

Finally, to respond to the challenges ahead, He For She Crusaders Liberia needs more partnership/collaboration including financial and technical support to further enhance its drive towards more men engagement, promoting gender equality, positive masculinity and fatherhood awareness.

He For She Crusaders Liberia needs the concerted efforts of the Board members, like-minded individuals, national and international partners to assist us realize our vision.

**Tamba Forkpah Jedidiah Johnson --- Founder and National Coordinators**



### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

I, on behalf of He For She Crusaders Liberia administration, staff, local County Coordinators, and volunteers, extend sincere gratitude to you the chairman (Peter Musu Collins) and members of the Board. Your enthusiastic follow-ups and supervisory role enabled us to have effectively ended 2024. Sirs, we are forever grateful for the push that keeps us focus and positive.

**Teamwork:** We are so very grateful to Solidarity Center and the Women NGO Secretariat for affiliating with He For She Crusaders Liberia to have conducted three capacity training on Positive Masculinity to over 40 Lobar Union leaders (men & women) within the industrial areas during the year 2024. This partnership resulted in having male female allies to protect women in the place of work. Additionally, He For She Crusaders Liberia is also grateful to Men Engage Liberia for the partnership and providing financial support to ensure us implement some of our community engagement with women, men, boy and girls focusing on intergenerational dialogue and positive masculinity during the year 2024. The dialogue was a success with participants committing their commitment and signing up as agents for positive change.

**Media Collaboration:** Collaborating with the Print and Electronic media was a great success. He For She Crusaders Liberia remains eternally grateful to the Electronic Media (The Liberia Broadcasting Corporation (ELBC 99.9FM), Farbric 101.1FM and Spoon 105.5, Sky Television and Radio, The Atlantic Broadcasting Corporation (ABC 105.1FM), The ECOWAS Radio 91.5FM for airing our press releases as well as allowing us to conduct talk shows and special interviews on issues of vital national concerns. These advocacies contributed greatly national decision making such as arrest of perpetrators of S/GBV and FGM violators mostly in Margibi County. Also to the print media (online mostly) for amplifying and promoting our stories to have reach the wider reading population.

**Networks:** Thanks to the Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform of Liberia, the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, the National Coalition Against Harmful Practices for the alliance and solidarity during the year 2024.

**Government:** To the government ministries and agencies, specifically the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Ministry of Justice Human Rights Division and SGB Crime Union for partnering on fighting S/GBV in 2024. We were successful in our fight to have brought perpetrators to Justice.

Margibi and Montserrado Counties. Our association with these structures further created wider avenue for information sharing, joint advocacy and better collaboration in ensuring social justice for women, girls and marginalized groups at all levels. Furthermore, we also appreciate our network members mostly the SGBV Alert group being managed by Gender Ministry, the National Civil Society Council of Liberia Chart-room, the Civil Society Network on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights- Female Gender Mutilation and Civil Society Human Rights Platform of Liberia for working over the time to have ensured that women, girls and marginalized groups voices are heard and rights restored through justice proceeding.

**Finally:** To our staff, county coordinators and volunteers, He For She Crusaders Liberia forever remain grateful to all of you for your support and level of professional work. We salute and encourage you to keep up the brilliant job during the year 2025.

## **OUR ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNTY CHAPTER COORDINATORS**



Miss. Ruth N. Vandii --- Administrator & Finance

Rev. Fr. Richard B. Kepehe ---**Bong Coordinator**

Mr. Boakai Yamah **Lofa Chapter Coordinator**

Mr. Jericho W. Zeah **Nimba Chapter Coordinator**

Mr. Alex Yonly Sr. **Grand Gedeh Chapter Coordinator**

Mr. Jeremiah Villizu -- **Margibi County Chapter Coordinator**

## **Mr. Peter Musu Collins-BOARD CHAIR DISPATCH :**



My fellow board members, the founder and national coordinator, the administrative staff, our distinct county coordinators, our donors and partners, the government through ministries of Gender and Justice, our media colleagues, our effective volunteers and alliances, I greet you all. Firstly, may I appreciate God Almighty for His blessings and directions that have kept us going. Indeed, I am thrilled by the level of achievements over the last six years contributing to policy change and minds transformation. This noble organization was birthed in November of 2017, accredited by the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as Non- Governmental, Non- Political, and Non-for Profit male led organization, works remain remarkable. Through the special grace of God, and with our collective efforts, we have established 7 county structures with functioning activities in Lofa, Bong, Grand Geded, Nimba, Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount and Margibi counties. Each county has a coordinator and volunteers who are working tirelessly to ensure that violence against women and girls is eradicated in Liberia. It is no doubt that our works over have contributed and is still contributing extraordinarily towards national peace and stability, human dignity, gender equality, women political participation and access to the rule of law. Our teams in each of the 7 counties are up to the task and equally providing awareness on harmful practices and at the same time, advocating for the total adherence to the ban of FGM in Liberia and other harmful practices.

Our successes over the years came as the result of our hardworking and industrial national coordinator- Mr. Tamba Forkah Jedidiah Johnson. This young gentleman has demonstrative beyond doubt administrative and motivational style of leadership. His resilient and energetic passion is the secret behind our gains. Based on his enabling level of leadership role, our county teams have effectively creating awareness on the importance of male mental health, including Menstrual Hygiene Management -breaking the silence on menstrual flows in counties and erecting and equipping centers with sanitary pads; Our teams in other counties equally conducting capacity building training on positive Masculinity and Fatherhood for boys on school campuses, educating boys/men and women and girls on the importance of SRHR (specially on body autonomy), creating awareness on gender equality, reporting and following up cases on SGBV and other human rights violations at courts and ensuring speedy trails and advocating gender equality mostly for women

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rights to equal space for political participation. Our advocacy on women political participation had resulted to the huge supports men to women at all levels. These support to me, show that, men support to women is important in ensuring gender equality and increasing women/girls and marginalized groups voices at all levels. **This is what “HE FOR SHE CRUSADERS LIBERIA is working towards ensuring a society free of marginalization, where women, girls, and marginalized groups will enjoy their fundamental freedom”**

I am snooty to further indicate that in the year 2024, He For She Crusaders Liberia (HEFOSEL) through our robust National Coordinator and his teams, under our male engagement and awareness raising programs, reached 5,500 men and boys in Liberia. on school campuses, intellectual centers, in communities including the private and public spaces. This milestone achievement, the Board remains grateful to all of our county chapter coordinators and volunteers.

My profound gratitude goes to our partnerships: **Solidarity Center, Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia and Men Engage Liberia** for the alliance and confidence imposed in us to have supported our activities in 2024, I am guaranteed that we didn't abused your confidence imposed in HEFOSEL. Once more thank you.

Finally, to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Protection and the Ministry of Justice and Civil Society Organizations, thank you for the moral and professional supports and also thanks to ELBC and other media bodies for the coalition, He For She Crusaders Liberia forever remain grateful to you for the partnership. May you be blessed.

**Peter Musu Collins**  
**Board Chairperson**

## **ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND**

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He For She Crusaders Liberia (HEFOSEL) was established in November of 2017, accredited/incorporated by the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018, and active works started in August of 2018 as a non-governmental, non-political and non-for-profit male led organization.

**Core areas of interventions:** HEFOSEL has three thematic pillars, they are: (1) **Male Mentorship & engagement**—our focus is on Positive Masculinity & Fatherhood and intergenerational dialogue; (2) **Awareness Raising & Capacity Building**—our focus is on providing training on Gender Equality, Toxic Masculinity, and awareness on Menstrual Hygiene, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), as well as Promoting Women Political Participation, Men and Youth Economic sustainability to avoid violence and (3) **Advocacy and media**—our focus is on advocating on citizens' Rights to access Social Justice; Repealing of discriminator laws/policies; Citizens' obligation to respect the rule of laws; Enactment of law to eradicate harmful practices (HPs) such as FGM and SGBV, as well as engage government to promote and protect community land ownership and benefits.

**Structural:** He For She Crusaders Liberia has 5 Board Members overseeing the running and activities of HEFOSEL as the highest decision making body; A National Coordinator who serves as the head of Administration and secretary to the Board; An Administrative and Finance Coordinator, Programs and Project Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, County chapter Coordinators, staffs and Volunteers.

Currently HEFOSEL is working in Lofa, Nimba, Margibi, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount, Montserrado and Bong counties. We are working with over 5,500 boys and men, women and traditional leaders in schools and at the community levels within the above mentioned counties.

In 2024, under our mentorship/male engagement and awareness raising programs, we provided mentorship on positive masculinity on school campuses and community with focus on Gender Equality, Intergenerational initiative and promotion of women political participation. HEFOSEL considers gender equality, women political participation and human dignity (SRHR- right to body autonomy) as essential social tool for sustained national peace and security and empowerment of both women and men. HEFOSEL believes in providing education to all sections especially

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vulnerable young women, marginalized groups and adolescent girls & boys to explore their opportunities to rise above their challenges and develop into economically independent, confident and successful leaders.

HEFOSEL is accredited by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection- MGCSP, and its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) nationally, our work is directly in support of SDGs 4 (Equality education) and 5 (Gender Equality) and PAPD pillow 1 “**Power to the People**”.

HEFOSEL envisage a **society free of marginalization and violence in which women/girls and marginalized groups can enjoy their human rights to life, justice, alliances and dignities.**

**2024 Summary of Projects/Programs Activities:**

<b>Donor:</b> Men Engage Liberia <b>Duration:</b> 1 Month November – December 2024 <b>Location:</b> , Montserrado and Margibi	
<b>Project A- Title:</b> Amplifying advocate for HPs (FGM) eradication and Promoting Positive Masculinity	
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. Conduct capacity building on advocacy and provide for local advocacy	Completed
2. Conduct media engagement on the abolished HPs (FGM) practice	Completed
3. Conduct consensual dialogue session with key CSOs to rally supports to advocacy against discriminator laws and	Completed
<b>Overall performance :</b> <b>Excellent</b>	
<b>Observance of International Men’s Day Support</b>	Completed
<b>Donor:</b> NONE – He For She Crusaders Liberia underwrite the cost ( Media engagement)	
<b>Duration:</b> 1 Day November 19 <b>Location:</b> Montserrado	

**Problems/Constraints:**

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During the period under review, HEFOSEL experienced technical and financial problems. However, we managed to work and improvise. Our program and finance teams did not have any opportunity for technical support/training.

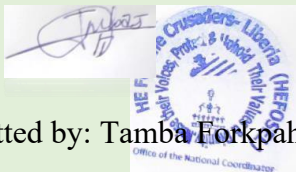
### **Conclusion:**

Although we encountered both financial and technical difficulties during the period under review, we can comfortably say that significant progress has been made in projects implementation. Thanks to the team for the sacrifices made.

### **Recommendation:**

We hereby recommend the following:

- That the Board kindly consider fun-raising strategies to sustain our office rent payment in Montserrado, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, Bong, Grand Cape Mount and Margibi Counties
- That the Board kindly seek more financial opportunities to ensure buying more office equipment to make our counties more proactive.
- That the Board kindly consider HE For She Crusaders Liberia getting her own land and build its headquarters as a sustainable plan.
- That the Board consider adding two more persons, mostly women on the Board to make it seven (7) instead of the current five (5) members for more strategies and fun raising initiative.
- That the Board kindly approve our membership with FEMNET-- a global women group and the payment of US100 as annual due



Submitted by: Tamba Forkpah Jedidiah Johnson  
National Coordinator and Secretary to the Board

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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**A dialogue on Intergenerational belief and practice amongst men, women, boys and girls to influence positive behavior at local, community and national levels  
December 2024.**



Participants listening



Facilitator providing education

Integrating intergenerational belief and practice amongst men, women, boys and girls at all levels is pivotal towards exhibiting the repetition of positive masculinity, gender equality and social introduction to avoid insolvency act amongst the youthful generation. Liberia population comprises of nearly 75 percent of young people. These young people need mentors to influence their behaviors positively at homes, schools and in the larger society. Gradually, the older mentors and impactful generation are facing-out without serious consideration being given to mentoring of successors in many communities and homes. Due to the lack of mentors and coaches to positively impact the young people behavior, unwholesome practices have engulfed the young people activities and actions further placing a huge dark-cloud over the future Liberia. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection on November 24, 2024, held a press conference at the start of the 16 Days of Activism, at which time, reported over 2,000 incident cases of S/GBV in Liberia. Out the reported number, 65 percent was rape cases with survivors between the ages of 0-17. Large percent of perpetrators often were male. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection during the press conference held did call for swift male (men and boys) engagement to address the alarming rate of S/GBV incidents in Liberia. The Government of Liberia has made some significant stride in addressing S/GBV, such as, the establishment of the S/GBV Taskforce team to response to incidents, regular conduct of GBV taskforce meetings at counties and national levels to report and follow up on cases at the court for litigation; however, S/GBV is still on the increase

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in Liberia. The 2024 observance of the 16 Days of Activism which was held under the Global Theme: **Towards Beijing +30: UNiTE To End Violence Against Women and Girls** with a National Theme: **Let's Join Hands to End Violence Against Women and Girls to Achieve Beijing +30**, He For She Crusaders Liberia being the lead national organization involve with men mentoring and engagement partnered with Men Engage Liberia to conduct many activities amongst which was intergenerational community engagement dialogue with over 125 community men, women, school going boys and girls in Margibi County. Reputable imam and pastors including community leaders (women and men) shared their impactful experiences with the younger people motivation them on importance of positive masculinity in the lives of the family and society. Additionally, Tamba F. J. Johnson, the founder and national coordinator of He For She Crusaders Liberia led a brainstorming and interactive dialogue session with the participants. He stressed the importance to intersperse intergenerational dialogue often between the older generation and younger generation, stating that, the older generation is gradually facing out and the need for successors is fundamental to sustain trace of positive social behavior at homes, communities and society. Participants being thrilled, pledged their commitment and signed up to be agents of change, mentors to their families and friends. Additionally, a call was made for continues awareness and engagement with community members on intergenerational dialogue to further enlighten others.

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## Traditional Leaders engagement (FGM practitioners)

**"We are ready to forgo the practice of FGM, but need sustained alternative livelihood" said some Traditional Women held April 2024**



Photo from the monitoring and awareness visit

The Practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is still on going in many parts of Liberia. It is still being regarded as secret heritage belief that cannot easily be abolished. The practice of FGM when performed, echoed to respect and upholding to their ancestors belief and practice. The traditional leaders suspended and ban of the FGM activities in Liberia. In the wake of ensuring strict adherence to the to the ban and suspension of FGM, the Women Point Women For Health and Development in collaboration with He For She Crusaders Liberia in April 2024, did a joint monitoring visit and conducted an awareness on the ban of FGM activities. During the awareness and monitoring activity, it was established that engaged practitioners were total unaware about the ban and suspension of FGM. Engaging them further, were Nelly Cooper the Executive Director of the West Point Women For Health and Development and Tamba F. J Johnson National Coordinator, He For She Crusaders Liberia. Information was provided on the February 4, 2022 policy document that was done and signed by the traditional leaders in Gbarnga city Bong County suspending the practice of FGM activities for three years all FGM in Liberia.

Additional information was also provided on the February 6, 2023 ritual ceremony held banning FGM activities in Montserrado, and subsequently in Nimba, Bong and Grand Gedeh Counties.

Furthermore, traditional leaders were informed about the February 6, 2024 closure of FGM activities in Lofa County. Following these information, the traditional leaders were shocked to

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have learned about these information that were provided and hidden from them by their leaders at the national level. In their remorse response and to our amazement, they said, " We are not aware of all of these information, our leaders did not reach to us, as the result, we are left in the stage of being unaware. We are so happy to be informed on these going on processes. We all agree that our children need to be allow to make decision either go or not go into the Sande activity. For us, with these information, we are willing to leave the practice but asking for alternative livelihood."

To ensure that our traditional mothers are being treated with relevant respect, the government needs to prioritize budgetary allotment in buttress to Development partners' support. We need to ensure that our mothers are being supported adequately. FGM activity can be eradicated if government and development partners' can consider working with and through adequate national NGOs and CBOs to keep engaging our mothers and providing those needful information.

## **MALE BUILDING TRAINING**

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## Over 30 Labor sectors Unions leadership knowledge enhanced on positive masculinity and Males roles in protecting Women at place of work held in June and November 2024



Working session of participations supervised by facilitators

Sexual exploitation and abuse, unfair wages and limited protection for women at the place of work are some of the many constraints women are faced with in many industrial areas of Liberia. Evidence suggests that engaging men as allies in promoting gender equality, challenging harmful norms and creating a more inclusive and equitable work environment is crucial for sustainable change.

The Solidarity Center partnered with He For She Crusaders Liberia to train over 30 industrial labor unions sectors leaders in Liberia on Positive Masculinity and Gender Equality. The leaders were trained in various subject matters that includes: Gender stereotypes and their repercussions; Men's role in perpetuating and instigating discrimination; Men identifying their role as mentors to affect their behaviors and promote positive Male behavior and gender parity and human rights at union and place of work; positive masculinity and Males roles in protecting Women at place of work. Solidarity Gender Consultant and He For She Crusaders Liberia national coordinator who is a gender expertise and consultant facilitated these trainings. Participants from their different working sessions on male see women from the context of the community, society and how male see men from the context of the community and society in addressing gender stereotype and promoting gender equality. Finding from all of the groups showed that cultural orientation and

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societal misconception are key interplaying factors contributing to increase violence. Women are often being regarded as lesser persons, as such, men often use their supremacy nature keep violating women. The trainings enlightening their minds resulting to change of mind. All of the unions' leaders having understood the context of human rights at the place of work and the importance of positive masculinity, all of the participants committed themselves to protecting and promote women rights and advocate for a conducive working environment for women using their various Unions.

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# SUPPORTING ALLY

Promoting Youth Vocational Skill Training in Liberia, in observance of International Youth Day in August 2024



Certificating congratulate



Staff of YEAH and guests during the program

Vocational skill training is crucial to national development/ growth. Liberia has a huge percentage of young people who are seeking for opportunities to improve their lives. The government of Liberia is unable to meet up with the growing demands to provide opportunity for all of the young people of Liberia who are seeking opportunity in vocational skills. In support to the government efforts, some Civil Society organizations are contribution to the said growing demand amongst which is the Youth Education and Humanity of Liberia -- YEAH-- Liberia.

In observance of the 2024 International Youth Day, Youth Education and Humanity of Liberia -- YEAH—Liberia graduated over 30 young girls and boys from its vocational skill training program. As a partner, He For She Crusaders Liberia through its founder and National Coordinator served as a guest of honor. He motivated the graduates on the importance of gender equality and making used of vocational education/skills. Tamba said, that the world has 1.6 billion young people constituting 16 percent of the world population and the youth of Liberia constitutes about 65 percent of the Liberian population. Further speaking, he stressed the importance for youth people to always consider taking advantage of available opportunities in advancing themselves, noting that, the world is not a global village with huge competitors. “If you are prepare now, the future is

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yours with less stress to navigate your way and if you not prepare now, the future is equally yours with regret and huge struggle.” Tamba further said, “We believe that in order to have a balance society, gender equality must be promoted and supported by all persons. So, if Liberia should become a vibrant society, young people need to be trained in technology and vocational skills. This means, we need to prioritize youth empowerment at all levels. YEAH-Liberia was appreciated for level of support toward youth vocational education.”

### **Appreciating Men who contributed to Youth Empowerment in Liberia in August 2024**



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## PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**The Episcopal Relief & Development USA and the Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief & Development held partnership meeting in June 2024 with He For She Crusaders Liberia and Men Engage Liberia on possible men engagement pilot project**



**Photos from the partnership meeting held**

Unsafe masculinity activities have interplayed and hugely impacted the increase of gender based violence at all levels in Liberia. Usually, males are considered as prime perpetrators of violence against women and girls. Engaging and involving males as key allies in addressing GBV will limit the occurrences of violence. The Episcopal Relief & Development USA supporting and working on Gender Based Violence project in Liberia through the Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief & Development have realized that, male engagement is equally pivotal. In June 2024, the Episcopal Relief & Development and the Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief & Development held a partnership meeting with He For She Crusaders Liberia and Men Engage Liberia leaders. The organizations expressed their mutual commitment and interest to collaborate on a pilot project on male engagement in Liberia in the future. He For She Crusaders Liberia would be considered as lead organization on the pilot project on male engagement in Liberia closely working along with the Men Engage Liberia and supervised by the Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief & Development. The success of the pilot project would be rolled out to other countries that the Episcopal Relief & Development is financially supporting.

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## Media



The Rights and protection of each and every human being irrespective of status, creed and sex, or geographical location are secured under various human rights protocols/instruments. Liberia is a member to the United Nations human rights body, the Africa Union human rights chapter and other world bodies. As a member and a signatory to these international and regional bodies, Liberia is obligated to strict adherence to protocols emanating from (Human Rights, the Maputo Protocol on Human and Peoples’

Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW), etc. To ensure that the government is in compliance to the protection of all citizens against all forms of inhumane practices, relentless engagement and reminder is pivotal. In 2024, Women, girls and boys including marginalized groups experienced all forms of abuses and violations of which rape was overwhelming in Liberia. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social recorded and reported over 2,000 case of S/GBV incidents. 65 percent of those cases reported were rape linked of which survivors were between 0-17. Liberia does not a well-functioning SGBV roadmap. The 2020/2021 S/GBV roadmap expired in 2022, the expiration of the roadmap further defueled the fight against S/GBV in Liberia. Additionally, the four DNA machines purchased in under the Spotlight 1.0 is currently not function. The lack of functioning DNA machines is also serving as an impediment to the justice system, as evidences are barely fund through scientific means. Both the survivors and alleged perpetrators rights are often violated. In many instances, alleged perpetrators are held in imprison without stipulated due process. He For She Crusaders Liber, as ally to the Media, used various media platforms to engage and remind the government of Liberia on its obligation protect all citizens mostly women, girls and boys including marginalized group whose rights are guaranteed in the 1986 Constitution of Liberia under Article III Fundamental Rights. These advocacy initiatives obligated the government to take some concrete actions to address issue of violence in Liberia.

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