



24 June 2016
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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-second session, 13 June – 01 July 2016**

**Item 6
Consideration of UPR reports**

SIERRA LEONE

Mr. President

Amnesty International welcomes Sierra Leone's steps towards abolishing the death penalty,¹ including the current moratorium in place on executions and the commutation of several death sentences.

However, Amnesty International is deeply disappointed at Sierra Leone's rejection of recommendations aimed at protecting and promoting women and girls' human rights, including by prohibiting by law female genital mutilation and removing the measures that exclude pregnant girls from the educational system.²

Mr. President,

¹ Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Sierra Leone, A/HRC/32/16, 14 April 2016, recommendations 111.1 (Spain), 111.2 (Switzerland, Belgium, Montenegro, France), 111.3 (Benin), 111.13 (Portugal), 111.16 (Djibouti), 111.91 (Djibouti), 111.92 (Germany), 111.93 (Portugal), 111.94 (Mozambique), 111.95 (Panama), 111.96 (Switzerland), 111.97 (Uruguay), 111.98 (Australia).

² A/HRC/32/16, 14 April 2016, recommendations 111.48 (Poland), 111.73 (Belgium), 111.74 (Ireland), 111.75 (Canada), 111.76 (Jamaica), 111.106 (Lebanon), 111.107 (Maldives), 111.108 (Zambia), 111.109 (Slovenia), 111.111 (Spain), 111.112 (Australia), 111.113 (Congo), 111.115 (Cabo Verde), 111.116 (Botswana), 111.117 (Switzerland), 111.118 (Czech Republic), 111.119 (Uganda), 111.120 (Angola), 111.121 (Algeria), 111.123 (Croatia), 111.124 (Czech Republic), 111.125 (Japan).



The ban on pregnant girls attending mainstream schools and taking exams has, in some cases, been enforced through humiliating and degrading physical checks. Girls have had to endure having their breasts and stomachs touched in public by adults at the schools to see if they are pregnant. This kind of procedure imposed on the girls is a serious violation of their right to physical integrity.

The ban on pregnant girls going to mainstream school and sitting exams not only stigmatizes the girls and discriminates against them, it also risks destroying their future life opportunities by violating their right to education. It fails to take into account the high levels of sexual violence in Sierra Leone and the difficulties girls face in accessing sexual and reproductive health services and information. We call on Sierra Leone to lift the ban on pregnant girls attending mainstream school and taking exams, as recommended during this UPR.³

In closing we wish to express our regret that Sierra Leone rejected recommendations to adopt measures to guarantee the human rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to decriminalize same-sex relation between consenting adults.⁴ We call on Sierra Leone to reconsider its position on these recommendations.

Thank you Mr. President

³ A/HRC/32/16, recommendations 111.73 (Belgium), 111.74 (Ireland), 111.75 (Canada), 111.76 (Jamaica), 111.201 (Germany).

⁴ A/HRC/32/16, recommendations 111.80 (Canada), 111.81 (Netherlands), 111.82 (France), 111.83 (Argentina), 111.84 (Colombia), 111.85 (Chile).