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Legal Aid, Advice and Representation: Protection of the Rights of Children, Women, the Indigent, Vulnerable Persons; Employment Disputes; Domestic Relations; Dispute Resolution; Compassionate Assistance; Awareness Raising; Advocacy; Research; Capacity Building

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
25th November, 2026

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
25th November - 10th December, 2026

Global Theme: **"UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity"**

Sierra Leone National Focus 2026: **Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity**

Attorneys 4 All (A4A), a legal aid and non-governmental organisation, joins the Government of Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, the United Nations, civil society, and the global community to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, from 25th November – 10th December, 2026: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and International Human Rights Day.

This year, the world speaks with one voice: Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity.

Attorneys 4 All (A4A) fully endorses this focus. Laws alone are not enough. Justice must work in practice. Survivors must be protected, believed and supported. Impunity and the belief that perpetrators can act without consequence must end.

As a non-governmental organisation, we are deeply concerned that too many survivors still cannot access justice. Cases are delayed, survivors are blamed, perpetrators walk free, protection is weak, and reporting is feared. This is impunity and impunity is itself a form of violence.

A4A therefore stands for:

1. JUSTICE THAT WORKS: We call for speedy investigation, prosecution, and trial of all sexual and gender-based violence cases under the Sexual Offences Act 2012 (as amended), the Domestic Violence Act 2007, the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act 2022 and the Child Rights Act 2025. Justice delayed is justice denied.

2. SURVIVORS MUST BE PROTECTED: Protection is not an option, it is a right. Attorneys 4 All (A4A) calls for stronger protection services, safe reporting pathways, medical and psychosocial support and protection orders that are enforced. No survivor should be blamed, shamed or forced back into danger for speaking out.

3. IMPUNITY MUST END: Violence thrives where it is excused, hidden or ignored. A4A calls on families, traditional and religious leaders, schools, communities and the media to break the silence, challenge harmful norms, and hold perpetrators accountable under the law including for physical violence, sexual violence, and other forms of violence.

For these 16 Days, Attorneys 4 All (A4A) commits to:

1. Providing free legal advice and representation for survivors.
2. Protecting women and girls against all forms of physical violence.
3. Legal education in schools and communities to promote prevention, respect and equality.

Attorneys 4 All (A4A) calls on the Government, Parliament, the Judiciary, the Police, traditional and religious leaders, civil society, the private sector, the media and every citizen to take collective responsibility not only for 16 days, but beyond.

To every woman and girl in Sierra Leone: Your body is yours. Your dignity is yours. Your voice matters. Your safety is a human right, not a favour.

To every man, silence is complicity. If you see violence, speak about it. If you hear a threat, report it. If you hold power, use it to protect, not to harm.

Violence has no place in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, or communities.

LET US UNiTE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

END!!!