

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Date: 10<sup>TH</sup> March, 2024**

Home Leone is a British charity registered in the UK. They are based in Destiny Village, Newton, just outside Freetown, Sierra Leone. Their operational concept in Sierra Leone was to help families by rehabilitating them from the slums, provide vocational training, accommodations and job creation. The beneficiaries built the houses and Home Leone promised them ownership after twenty years.

The families especially, the men were employed by Home Leone to work on private clients constructions. They were paid very little money after Home Leone's deductions for various services such as; rent for accommodation, water supply, electricity supply, school fees etc. Home Leone also raises funds in the UK to support the project and donors usually donate gifts for the beneficiaries however, Home Leone would either sell them to the beneficiaries or to outsiders.

A few years ago, some of the men realised that they have been exploited by Home Leone and started asking questions and Home Leone's officials reacted by dismissing and evicting some of them. Those who are still there have no employment and have been constantly harassed over the past few years. Home Leone has changed the initial Tenancy Agreement and is asking the beneficiaries to vacate the properties or pay a huge amount of money to stay which of course, they cannot afford. Few Government Authorities and some Human Right organisations are fully aware of the issues and have failed to protect these citizens from exploitation. Nigel Hyde, the founder of Home Leone has always told the beneficiaries who stand up to them that they will always loose because they are little and poor people.

I have interviewed some of the beneficiaries and they are very dissatisfied with their terms and conditions of living. As a Christian Charity, I am very disappointed in the way Home Leone treats its beneficiaries. They are selling a fantastic and compelling concept to their donors and the rest of the world but the reality is the complete opposite. They provide their beneficiaries with false hope and their real objective is to make as much money as they can at the expense of vulnerable young men and women. It is evident that the officials of Home Leone have no respect for Sierra Leoneans especially, the poor and vulnerable.

Last week, the Civil Rights Defenders was notified that some of the beneficiaries were beaten up, arrested and detained by law enforcers. Women were victimized, harassed, almost stripped naked, arrested and detained with no access to their children. How can we allow such behaviour? If the government and law enforcers cannot protect these people, what hope do they have? The CRD therefore condemn the inhuman treatment of Home Leone and the Law Enforcers.

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Allan S. Tuboku-Metzger  
Chairman