

A Nation That Cares for Its Own

Social wellbeing & youth development

A young man with real talent and no work spends his days with nothing to do, until the emptiness of the hours is filled by the kush dealer who's always nearby, and always patient.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A nation is measured not only by what it produces but by how it cares for those least able to care for themselves — and on that measure, Sierra Leone has fallen short, not from a lack of compassion, but because the state has treated wellbeing as a luxury to address once everything else is done. It never is. The young drift toward drugs and trouble for lack of anywhere else to put their energy; the mind is neglected while we tend the body; children live and sleep on our streets; and our elders are too often left to cope alone.

WHAT WE'RE PROMISING

A state that treats the care of its people as a duty, not an afterthought — the young with somewhere to belong, the mind cared for as seriously as the body, the disabled treated with dignity, children reclaimed from the street, and no family struggling entirely alone.

HOW WE'LL MAKE IT REAL

- We'll revive community sport across the country — rehabilitating playing fields, supporting community leagues, restoring real sport to schools — because a young person on a football field is not on the street and not on kush, and giving the young somewhere to belong is among the cheapest, most effective crime and drug prevention a country can buy.
- We'll retire the colonial-era law that still governs mental illness and replace it with a modern Mental Health Act — for a nation of eight million people, we have had, for most of our history, a single psychiatric hospital and a handful of specialists, and that neglect falls hardest on the young carrying the heaviest burden of trauma and addiction.
- Sierra Leone already has a strong disability-rights law and a commission to enforce it, passed over a decade ago; what's been missing is the will and the resources to make it real rather than words on a page. We'll properly resource that commission, enforce the accessibility rules already on the books for public buildings, transport and services, make sure disabled children can actually attend school, and open up the employment incentives the law already provides — with a particular duty to those who lost limbs in our own war, since the violence that maimed them was done to the whole nation through them.
- For the children living on our streets, we'll use a proven sequence rather than periodic round-ups that solve nothing: trained outreach teams who build trust, temporary shelters, patient family tracing, and case management that follows each child rather than losing them after a single intervention — backed by a properly trained and deployed corps of social workers, because a protection system without social workers is a policy without hands.
- And we'll stand beside families, communities and faith institutions rather than try to replace them — supporting the churches, mosques and community groups already doing this work, and stepping in directly only where families genuinely cannot cope.

"A nation is measured by how it treats those least able to care for themselves. Wellbeing is not a luxury to address after development; it is what development is for."