



Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone: An Ethnographic Exploration

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Abstract

Transitional justice mechanisms have been employed in Sierra Leone to address past human rights abuses during the civil war and promote peacebuilding. The research employs participant observation, interviews with stakeholders, and focus group discussions in various regions of Sierra Leone. Data analysis involves thematic coding and cross-case comparison. Local perceptions indicate that while the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty programme has been effective in reducing violence, there is a need for more community-based initiatives to ensure inclusivity and reparative justice. The study highlights the importance of integrating traditional healing practices into transitional justice processes to enhance their acceptance and effectiveness within local contexts. Policy makers should consider developing culturally tailored transitional justice mechanisms that incorporate indigenous healing traditions, thereby improving community engagement and outcomes.

Keywords: *African Geography, Transitional Justice, Peacebuilding, Anthropology, Ethnography, Human Rights, Conflict Resolution*

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