The Non State Actor project provides an innovative approach of support to electoral processes and consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone. It aims to create an atmosphere of political tolerance and of non-violence by investing in the influence that political parties and other non-state actors have on Sierra Leone’s political process. It also seeks to promote greater political participation in particular by women. It is funded by a 5 million USS from the UN Peace building Fund.

APPWA encourages Women to Stand for Office

The launch of a pool of female aspirants for the 2012 elections. The Programme was chaired by the PPRC Registrar, who urged the participants to focus on promoting women’s political participation across party lines. The Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs assured the women of the President’s commitment to achieve a 30% minimum quota for women and stated that his Ministry will continue to work with APPWA to promote gender equality.

Launching the aspirants profile form, the First Lady, Sia Nyama Koroma, congratulated APPWA and thanked them for the initiative. She acknowledged the important role women play in the consolidation of peace and urged APPWA to continue to work together to promote common issues and strengthen democracy in Sierra Leone.

APPYA Sensitizes Youth Gangs in East End

On 10 March PPRC in collaboration with APPYA organized an interactive sensitization session on non violence and political tolerance with cliques and gang groups at Bombay Street in the East End of Freetown. Many well known gang groups such as Red Flag, MOB among others were present. Issues discussed ranged from the emergence of cliques and gang groups and how politicians have taken advantage of the situation. In lively deliberations, youths discussed how to realize their potential and contribute to national development. APPYA and PPRC strongly encouraged the youths to acquire skills relevant for today’s job market.

The leaders of the gang groups maintained that violence had been an integral part of their lives, but also said that, thanks to sessions like these, they would encourage each other not to let politicians keep misusing them. All agreed that PPRC should redouble its efforts to conduct political tolerance campaigns nationwide, and requested that the 10% Affirmative Action for youth representation at all spheres of politics be implemented.

National Commission for Democracy meets Kono Communities

Throughout the week, a team from NCD, led by Commissioner Edward B. S. Dumbuya visited communities in Kono district to discuss political tolerance, national unity and cohesion. Amongst other hotspots, the team visited Tombudu, Koquima, and Koidu city.