



OUR PLEDGE TO THE SUB-REGION

Sierra Leone Private Sector
Forum (SLPSF)

ABOUT US

My name is Renee Horton-Coker and I chair a group of independent Sierra Leonean and Liberians based in the UK as well as within the region. As individuals we have achieved measurable success and credibility, in the region and abroad.

We know we can and want to be a part of (contribute and influence), the post Ebola recovery in the region.

Our background and experience as individuals is in the private sector. We collectively believe the **private sector has a key role** to play in the rebuilding of the region. A key factor to this is **encouraging private sector investment and involvement (the right kind)** as well as **ensuring business and regulatory structures** are in place to support investment and growth.

TO THIS EXTENT OUR PLEDGE is...

“to be of service, to be active in the re-development of the sub-region specifically within Liberia and Sierra Leone, by engaging the right people with the right perspective”; in essence to be a partner in the implementation of the recovery.

In line with our objectives we aim to deliver on this pledge in two ways:

Firstly, to encourage and be part of a frank and focused dialogue on the errors that have led to the collapse of the indigenous private sector.

Secondly, to inspire and support the Governments and donor partners so that we avoid any action that is geared only to quick wins, which may meet political objectives but may delay or even deter the development of a viable indigenous private sector that is independent of donor support programmes or NGO activities.

In our view, whilst the need for donor support is essential, it is of course only one source of funding. The decline and weakening of the indigenous Private Sector is continually exacerbated by donor funds being ploughed into charities and NGOs, thus destabilising the free market and business environment. Therefore in addition to donor funding there is a need to attract credible and competent investors. Having, the right kind of investor and investment would help develop a fragile and weak private sector.

Therefore as members of the private sector in our various capacities, we commit our efforts to continue to be involved and contribute in the rebuild of our region. THANK YOU.