

**BANK OF SIERRA LEONE**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**5 AUGUST 2021**

**DIRECTIVES ON PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES  
ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS**

Pursuant to the powers granted to the Bank of Sierra Leone (hereinafter referred to as "the Bank") under Section 53 (1) of the Banking Act, 2019, and Section 49 (1) of the Other Financial Services Act, 2001, the Bank of Sierra Leone hereby issues the following Directives applicable to licensed banks and other financial institutions:

1. All banks and other financial institutions are hereby required to ensure that all regulated financial services are provided without any discrimination based on sex and/or marital status.
2. All banks and other financial institutions shall provide fair and equitable conditions to secure credits for all persons without prejudice to sex and/or marital status.
3. All banks and other financial institutions shall eliminate any practice harmful to the rights of women in terms of access to banking and financial services.
4. All banks and other financial institutions are hereby advised that contravention of the above Directives shall constitute a violation of the above stated Acts and shall be liable to penalties in accordance with Section 117 of the Banking Act, 2019 or to a fine as may be determined by the Bank of Sierra Leone, or to both.
5. These Directives shall come into effect on the date that they are published in the Gazette.

**Ibrahim L. Stevens (Dr.)  
Deputy Governor, Monetary Stability**