



## **NHRC STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

The Commission joins women-led organisations and women and girls in The Gambia and around the world to commemorate the 2024 International Women's Day which is observed annually and globally on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Day not only recognizes and celebrates the remarkable achievements of women in all spheres of development, including in academic and Science and Technology, but also serves as a reminder to Governments, policy and law makers and political leaders about the numerous challenges women and girls continue to face in the enjoyment of their fundamental human rights and their quest for gender parity and equal treatment with men in law and in reality.

This year's global theme for the commemoration is: **'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress'** while the national adopted theme is **'Count Her In, Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress'**. The theme underscores the need for a world and a Gambia which create an enabling, equitable, inclusive environment for women and girls to thrive unhindered, value the voices and contributions of women and provide them the opportunity to reach their maximum potentials without discrimination, violence and exploitation.

We wish to recognize the contributions and achievements of our women in the areas of health, education, business enterprise, academic, science and technology, the Judiciary, the media, agriculture, and other areas. We celebrate the women who are breaking barriers and shattering the glass ceiling in a male-dominated society. We honour the sacrifice of women in the rural areas who, against all the odds, continue to labour for the future of their children and the betterment of their communities.

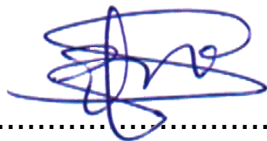
We remain cognisant of the numerous challenges our women and girls face in The Gambia, despite representing about 52 per cent of the populations. They remain underrepresented in nearly all the decision-making spheres, including in the Boardrooms. Women constitute only 8.6 percent (5 women)

of the elected officials in the National Assembly and about 10 percent (2 out of 22 Ministers) in the Cabinet. While they form the majority in the informal economy, their representation in the formal economy is very small. Patriarchy, gender-based violence, and harmful traditional practices such as FGM and child marriage continue to inhibit the potentials of women and hamper the lives and wellbeing of the girls.

As we commemorate International Women’s Day, we wish to remind the Government of its obligations to create a more inclusive, diverse and equitable society, put in place initiatives for the empowerment and advancement of women, vigorously enforce and implement laws which protect women and girls from all forms of discrimination and violence, prioritise gender-responsive financing, increase public spending on essential services and social protection, and work with all stakeholders to prioritize an inclusive culture that accommodates people from different segments of the society, including people with disabilities.

The Commission reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that women and girls live in an equitable, inclusive and non-discriminatory Gambia, and would continue to nurture a culture of respect for fundamental human rights, particularly the rights of women and girls as guaranteed by the rule of law.

Happy Commemoration to all the Women and Girls in The Gambia



Signed: .....

Emmanuel D. Joof  
Chairperson