Peace Museum: Objectives of the Museum

Introduction
The Peace Museum Project seeks to establish a museum about the civil war on the site of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Like all museums, the Peace Museum will seek to educate and entertain its visitors. In order to design the museum, however, it must first be decided what the specific objectives of this Museum will be.

The Peace Museum Project Management Team is responsible for designing the Museum. This document sets out the objectives they have chosen to guide them in their design decisions. In summary, the Museum’s objectives are to honour the war’s victims; to document and narrate the war’s history and the story of the peace; to prevent future conflict; and to advance Sierra Leone’s human rights culture.

Honour the war’s victims
The scale and severity of the loss caused by the war demands a response. Although nothing can ever replace what was lost, there are three responses that can go some way to compensating the war’s victims. These are reparations to the victims, accountability for the perpetrators and a public acknowledgement of the loss. The Peace Museum will stand as a testimonial to the suffering of the war’s victims. Through learning about people’s experiences through the war, visitors to the Museum will empathise with them and help to restore some of the dignity that the war robbed from its victims.

Document and narrate the war’s history and the story of the peace
The conflict is an indelible part of Sierra Leone’s history. It is of such gravity that events before the conflict are often seen in its light and much of the country’s recent history is seen as post-war reconstruction. The Museum will ensure that the events of the war itself are properly documented to preserve the integrity and authenticity of the country’s history. Further, the Museum will actively tell the conflict’s story to all citizens and all those interested in Sierra Leone. This includes not only the history of the conflict, but also the history of the efforts made to build a lasting peace. Peace treaties, other diplomatic and military efforts to end the war and the various post-war institutions all made their own contributions to secure peace and this deserves to be remembered.

Conflict prevention
Following the conflict, Sierra Leone has dedicated itself to never allowing such violence to revisit the country. As an institution the Peace Museum can provide a physical and intellectual space to ponder the root causes of the conflict and to discuss the nation’s ongoing commitment to preventing future conflicts. The Museum will strengthen people’s understanding of the value of peace and monitor the ongoing process of reconciliation. While the previous two objectives already cover the idea of the Museum as an institution for remembrance, this objective sees the Museum as an institution able to generate new knowledge and construct a better future.

Advance Sierra Leone’s human rights culture
Prior to the war few groups spoke publicly about the need for respect for human rights and about the government’s and civil society’s role in defending them. During the conflict, the atrocities were increasingly seen within the framework of human rights abuses and in the post war period there has been a widespread acknowledgement that human rights abuses were one of the conflict’s main causes. This was epitomised by the structural weaknesses of the national judicial system. Substantial effort is being made by many actors to enhance
and entrench the respect for human rights within national culture and institutions. The Museum can contribute to this work. As a place of memory it will have the responsibility to use the past to promote understanding of the present. In this way, the Museum will advance the culture of human rights in Sierra Leone and strengthen the capacity of the national judiciary to promote good governance and a just society.

Peace Museum: Target Audiences of the Museum

Introduction
The Peace Museum project seeks to establish a museum about the civil war on the site of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The Museum will target all people in Sierra Leone, as well as those from the sub-region and internationally who are interested in learning about the civil war. Although the Museum will try and make its content and activities appropriate and interesting to as many of these people as possible, there are a number of groups who merit special attention in the design process.

This document picks out those target groups who are of particular relevance to the objectives of the Museum or who may have specific requirements or interest that the Project Management Team will consider in the design process.

Target Audiences

- victims of the civil war (including those who became disabled as a result of the war),
- children who will be learning about the history of the civil war for the first time,
- human rights activists,
- lawyers,
- academics (both domestic and international),
- national institutions,
- tourists (both domestic and international),
- the general public (some of whom may be illiterate, or may not know English or Krio well).