After years of brutal conflict in Sierra Leone there existed a need to confront the past. The nation wanted to know what precipitated the wave of vengeance and mayhem that swept across the country. How was it that the people of Sierra Leone came to turn on each other with such ferocity? Why did so many abandon traditions of community and peaceful coexistence? Why were long held and cherished customs and taboos so wantonly discarded? What needs to change? How will we effect the change?

The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Sierra Leone explores these questions.
The Final Report of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission does not only expose perpetrators and identify victims but also serves as a mirror through which all Sierra Leoneans can examine their own roles in the conflict.

The Commission’s findings encourage the Sierra Leonean nation to confront the past. They reinforce the belief that the past must never be forgotten. The Commission’s recommendations touch on every aspect of the lives of Sierra Leoneans. They represent the hopes of Sierra Leone’s children and youth as well as the yet unspoken hopes of future generations.

The Commission heard the voices of a large number of victims, perpetrators, other witnesses to conflict and various stakeholders. Victims who came forward to testify displayed considerable bravery in order to relate their stories to Sierra Leone and the world. Some of the stories of victims and others are provided on the website.

The TRC invited the public to contribute essays, poems, slogans, songs, drama, paintings, or any other media expressing a vision for Sierra Leone’s future. Each contributor, as indeed each Sierra Leonian, has a role to play in his or her own sphere in advancing the causes of peace and unity.

YOUR VISION. YOUR FUTURE!