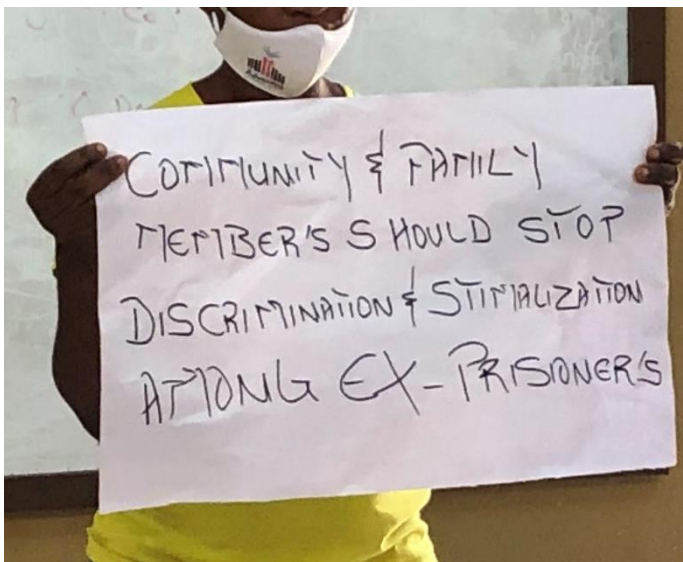


Workshop on Legal Rights and the Impact of COVID-19 on Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls

AdvocAid in partnership with **UN WOMEN** organized a day workshop for 18 newly released women and girls. The purpose of the workshop was to create a platform for these women to **share their stories on the COVID 19 pandemic impacts** on both newly and formerly released women to assess legal aid services, levels and trends of violence and current situation of **women in prisons**.



The UNWOMEN Program Specialist spoke to theme 16 of activism and encouraged the **women to speak for their rights**.

The formerly incarcerated women and girls developed advocacy messages to target key stakeholders on issues relating to their **legal rights**.

The formerly incarcerated women and girls took **photographs** with these messages displayed on placards and was shared on **social media**.

AdvocAid will catalogue these messages to develop **policy briefs and advocacy messages** targeting policy makers and key stakeholders for **law reform**.



The **advocacy messages** the women developed are the following:

1. **SGBV** crime related cases could be investigated thoroughly.
2. Government should look into the **overcrowding** in prison and release **petty offence** cases.
3. The **arrest rights** of women and girls must be protected.
4. Police officers should stop asking female suspects for **money**.
5. Community and family members should stop **discrimination and stigmatization** among ex-prisoners.
6. The **justice system** should be fair to all and government should have **optional sentences** for minor crimes (e.g. community services, farming, skill training).
7. Government should listen and investigate complaints coming from the public towards the **police**.
8. **Decriminalized petty offences** like loans or debts to avoid overcrowding in prison.
9. The **family visitation** should be a priority and easy access.
10. Police officers should treat female suspects with **respect** in prisons.
11. Government should provide enough **food, water and medical facilities** for prisoners.
12. Women and girls under arrest have **right to legal representation**.
13. Not all cases should be charged to court (minor offences) and **minimize sentence** for women and girls who come in contact with the law.
14. Government should look into **petty offences** to be settled at police level and not at court level.
15. Stop **rape** against women and girls in detention.
16. Improve on **hygiene conditions** for women and girls in detention.
17. Provide **child friendly services** in detention center.

