

Executive Director's Statement on International Youth Day

Today, on **International Youth Day, August 12**, Women & Youth Development International (WYDI) proudly stands with young people across Liberia and around the world in celebrating their courage, creativity, and boundless potential.

Youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but they are change makers today. From driving innovation in our communities to speaking out against injustice, young women and men are at the forefront of building a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future. Yet, too many of them still face barriers, including limited access to education, economic opportunities, and safe spaces to thrive.

At WYDI, we believe that empowering youth is not optional, but it is essential. Our programs in **economic empowerment, gender equality, GBV prevention, legal justice, food security, and environmental conservation** are rooted in the conviction that when young people are given the tools, knowledge, and platforms to lead, they can transform their communities and their country.

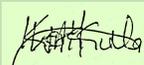
On this day, we reaffirm our continued commitment to:

- **Investing in youth skills and leadership through capacity building and mentorship.**
- **Championing and amplifying youth voices in governance, policy, and civic engagement.**
- **Breaking barriers that hinder young people, especially young women, from reaching their full potential.**

To all the young people of Liberia, your dreams matter, your voice matters, and your future matters to us. WYDI will continue to walk alongside you by **amplifying your voices, defending your rights, and creating pathways for you to lead change.**

To our partners, stakeholders, and the government, let us work together to ensure that every young person can thrive in dignity, equality, and peace. **Happy International Youth Day!**

– **Watta A. Kerkula-Weah** –



Executive Director, Women & Youth Development International (WYDI)

