REPORT ON THE DISTRICT LEVEL MULTI STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS FOR POST- ELECTIONS PEACEAND SOCIAL COHESION

August 2023

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1.0Background/Introduction

Sierra Leone held multi-tier elections on Saturday, 24th June 2023 to elect a President, Members of Parliament, Mayors, District Council Chairpersons and local Councillors in the fifth cycle of post-war elections. Even though the atmosphere was characterized by heightened tensions and isolated instances of violence, the elections were largely described as peaceful. Both local and international observers who followed the entire process – voter registration, nominations, campaigns and polling – have praised the contribution of the security sector in creating the safe and secure environment for Election Management Bodies, citizenry and other stakeholders to participate freely without much hindrance.

In the National Elections Threat Assessment and District Risk Mapping (NETA/DRM) conducted by the Integrated Elections Security Planning Committee (IESPC) in 2021, post-elections disturbances ranked very high. The NETA/DRM indicated that developments surrounding the multi-tier elections suggested that the post-elections climate would experience some disturbances, similar to what happened in previous postelections period. Post-elections disturbances had been so serious that they had led to destruction of properties across the country, strains and breakups in family and communal bonds, banishments, and even deaths amongst others. Stakeholders' response to them had been reactionary, mostly to mitigate the impact of incidents that had already occurred. In anticipation of effectively forestalling their occurrences and/or impact, the ONS, which is the coordinating outfit of the IESPC, included District-level Multi Stakeholder engagements for post elections Peace and Social Cohesion into the IESPC's Activity Plan for the 2023 Multi-tier elections.

Following the announcement of the Presidential elections results by the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone, instances of spontaneous violence, increased political tensions, arson, intimidation and harassment, among others broke out in some parts of the country. To forestall/mitigate this trend, the ONS, under the auspices of the IESPC, rolled out a nationwide district multi-stakeholder' engagements, commencing on Monday, 24th July in Kono, and ending on Thursday, 10th August, 2023 in Freetown. The engagements targeted key stakeholders including political parties, traditional leaders, security sector, youth groups, religious leaders, civil society organisations, Women's Groups, entertainers, opinion leaders, among others.

1.1 Aim

The engagements were aimed at fostering post-elections maintenance of law and order, and consolidate peacebuilding within communities with a view to enhancing national development.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives included:

i. conducting district level engagements with the leadership and representatives of key stakeholders, including those of all the political parties that participated in the multi-tier elections;

ii. engendering sanity, peaceful co-existence and social integration and cohesion in the post-election period.

1.3 Terms of Reference (ToR)

As part of their Terms of Reference, the Resource Persons/Facilitators were encouraged to use community engagements to:

i. identify the electoral threats/disturbances recorded in each district ii.

investigate the main causes for the threats/disturbances

iii. help the communities come up with practical recommendations for resolving the disturbances

iv. seek creative approaches to encourage the locals to embrace forgiveness, peaceful co-existence and social cohesion in their communities

1.4 Methodology

The engagements were divided into two sessions – statements from facilitators/resource persons and an open plenary.

The statements were led by seasoned subject matter experts who provided context to the main issues, and provided responses to questions, comments and observations arising from the participants. They were aimed at consolidating tolerance, unity, peace and harmony within communities, and generating extensive dialogue and provoking thoughts on district specific threats that were recorded before, during and after the elections. The open plenaries provided participants the opportunity to share their experiences, identify the issues that threatened the peace and cohesion of their communities, and proffer practicable recommendations for addressing them.

2.0 Facilitators

A total of eight (8) facilitators and resource persons were drawn from the Office of

National Security (ONS), Inter Religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRC-SL), Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC), Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC), National Commission for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED), Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and the Ministry of Local Government and Civic Affairs (MLGCA).

3.0 Participants

The multi-stakeholder engagements targeted a total of one hundred (100) participants drawn from all walks of life in each district. This included leaders and representatives of all the fourteen registered political parties that contested the multi-tier elections, traditional leaders, security sector personnel, interest groups, faith-based groups, the media, entertainers, drivers and riders' unions, etc. ***See Annex B for Participants List, and the number of persons per institution or organization.***

In some districts, some of the targeted stakeholders do not exist. To ensure that a balanced representation was always present, the Provincial and District Security Coordinators, who coordinated the engagements at each locations, identified relevant stakeholders that were active in their locations to fill the void.

4.0 Engagements

The district multi-stakeholder engagements were held in Kono, Kailahun, Kenema, Pujehun, Bo, Bonthe, Moyamba, Falaba, Koinadugu, Karene, Tonkolili, Bombali, Kambia, Port Loko and WesternArea Districts between 24th July and 10thAugust 2023,respectively.

5.0 Key Findings

The District Multi-Stakeholder Engagements made a number of key findings that have been categorized under generic and specific findings. Analogous or similar threats assembled from all fifteen (15) targeted districts are grouped under "Generic Findings", whilst those that are only connected to specific districts are classified under "Specific Findings."

5.1 Generic findings

The underlisted were findings assembled from all districts:

- Proactive and professional posture of the security helped to thwart, address most of the electoral threats

- Use of thugs/marshals by the APC and SLPP
- Political intolerance between the APC and SLPP
- Violation of campaign timetable and PPRC campaign guidelines •

Use of children in political activities by the APC and SLPP

- Use of social media to spread hate speech, death threats, misinformation, disinformation, etc
- Rampant and excessive use of drugs, especially *kush*, by youths • Intimidation and harassment of political opponents, mostly between APC and SLPP
- Incitement of youths by politicians
- Irresponsible, unhealthy and inciting statements, comments, utterances, bets by some senior politicians, political party leaders, stakeholders and their agents • Provocative messages by APC and SLPP politicians and supporters • Threats of public disorder over the ECSL's delay in the payment of ad-hoc polling staff
- Tribal diatribe, especially Temne-Mende
- Ethno-regional threats
- Massive unemployment and negative mindset of youths

5.2 Specific findings

District	Findings

Kono	• Lack of professionalism of some public sector employees, whose behaviours and actions were used to judge the institutions they represent
Kailahun	• Cross-carpeting politicians trying to prove their worth • Unreasonable oaths *(eg. Beat me if una win)* • Indiscriminate destruction of property belonging to rival political parties, especially APC/SLPP • Defectors targeting and maligning members of the political parties they deserted

	• Use of secret societies to intimidate and/or harass opponents or non-members • Experiences of previous elections created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity

Kenema	• Violence and chaos perpetuated by defectors • Seeming bias, partiality and excesses of security forces, leading to mistrust • Non-implementation of Section 39(1) of the PPRC Act, 2022 • Inadequate sensitisation on the PR system • Pluralistic media coverage throughout the electoral process, even catering for smaller parties who sometimes benefited free coverage • Allegation that SLPP supporters burnt 26 motorbikes that belonged to APC members in Tunkia Chiefdom. • Ostracising APC supporters from their communities by Traditional leaders • Slow administration of justice by the SLP (no investigation into reported cases of battery of supporters and arson in Koya Chiefdom. Perpetrators are moving freely). • Impunity • Most complaints resolved through alternative dispute resolution mechanism • Unwarranted provocation of losers by SLPP supporters •Some chiefs coerced their subjects to declare for the SLPP. Refusal resulted in arrests and investigations, banishments, etc. Reintegration of banished individuals yet to happen. PROSEC East has been tasked to lead the reintegration effort. However, the APC is yet to comply or support the process • Violence against SLPP supporters, including an MP of the SLPP by APC supporters

Pujehun	• Political interference into the operations of security sector personnel *(this saw the immediate transfer of 2 LUCs who could not yield to political pressure or allow politicians get their way)* • Blatant violation of the commonwealth peace pledge that political party leaders signed and pledged to uphold • Intimidation and harassment of women belonging to opposition parties

	• Restriction on the movement of some political parties • Delayed access to justice for political opponents *(an independent candidate whose motorcycle was impounded is yet to gain access to it)* • Excesses of political party youths • Excesses of some traditional leaders, after aligning with political parties • Restriction/limitation on the activities of opposition parties by some PCs • Insincerity of CSOs, traditional leaders and other stakeholders • Long standing family feuds, stakeholder rivalries, unresolved land disputes, etc that metamorphose into political conflicts during elections • Political interference into the work of security forces and other public officials • Exploitation of lingering rivalries, grudges, disputes between families, communities, organisations etc, by senior indigenes who have aligned themselves with different political parties • Inter/intra party squabbles, conflicts • Violence perpetuated by politicians against commercial motorbike riders • Irresponsible bets on outcome of elections *(eg: if you win, kill me)* • Fear of reprisal action for being professional, impartial, neutral, etc • Disrespect against some senior public officials by politically connected youths

	• Open support for incumbent party by some PCs who restricted/limited the activities of opposition parties in their chiefdoms • Lack of neutrality of some public officials and religious leaders • Lack of positive role models to influence community behaviours • Delayed justice

Bo	

	• Insincerity of some politicians, senior political party officials, etc. • Insincerity of political party leaders • Destruction of market stalls and booths, mostly belonging to APC supporters, in the city centre • Abandonment of communities out of fear of what may happen when results were announced • Provocation from traders/market women over hike in prices of essential commodities
Bonthe	• First-time voters were a prominent force in most of the violence, chaos recorded in the district • Destruction of market stalls and booths, mostly belonging to APC supporters, in the township, and burning of perceived APC supporters' house • Political intolerance between officials, members and supporters of the APC and SLPP • Heightened ethnic tension between Mendes and Temnes • Perpetual use of thugs/marshals *(Soja Team)* by the SLPP to intimidate and harass their opponents • Spread of hate speech, tribal diatribe by officials, senior members and supporters of both the APC and SLPP

Moyamba	• Apart from some reported incident of violence in Ribbi Chiefdom, the district remained largely peaceful during the electioneering period • Rampant use of drugs (kush) among youths • Threats of public disorder over the ECSL's delay in the payment of ad-hoc polling staff • Massive unemployment and negative mindset of youths • Massive sensitisation efforts undertaken by women's' groups either prevented or mitigated threats from hate speech and tribal diatribe • Political party activities were largely unregulated due to the lack or low presence of the PPRC in the district • Political pressure on some public officials on how they should do their work • Perceived APC supporters removed from ECSL trainings

	• Destruction of all opposition party banners in Moyamba Town • Threat of reprisal actions against some public officials by senior government functionaries • Known political party activists recruited as ad-hoc polling staff • Violation of campaign timetable and campaign rules and regulations by the SLPP • Arrests of opposition party members who had issue with those of the SLPP • Threat of smaller parties to create a standing army to protect themselves in future • Fear of reprisal actions prevented indigenes from nominating for opposition parties • Section Chief and District Imam threatened and chased away APC supporters in Gbengbebu, Fakunya Chiefdom

Falaba	• It would have been difficult to respond to major security incidents due to the limited number of security personnel in the district • Importation of thugs by the SLPP created tension, fear and insecurity in the district • SLPP supporters in Dankawali, Kamadugu Yira Chiefdom prevented APC supporters from accessing water and electricity provided by government ministers • Rampant use of children in campaigns by both APC and SLPP • Massive mis/disinformation on social media led some communities to flee to the bush
Koinadugu	• Threat of disruption to educational activities in Yagala Village, Wara Wara Yagala Chiefdom due to the unprecedented activities of the former Minister of Works and Public Asset. Following the announcement of the results, the former minister started tearing down some of the investments he had personally made in the community, including primary and secondary schools, because the community votes did not favour him or his interest. For

	instance, he ordered the removal of all the furniture from the schools within a certain deadline, or he would burn them. Also, he threatened to remove the names of some teachers he had personally recruited and brought to the schools. • The involvement of PCs in political events, especially by incumbents, creates room for suspicions about their neutrality, impartiality, and apoliticality • Rampant hate speech, motherly invectives and tribal diatribe • Intimidation of non-indigenes, especially South-Easterners • Importation of crowd by the APC and SLPP • Some people's loyalty to their political parties far stronger than their loyalty to the state • Lingering family feuds, stakeholder rivalries, grudges, unresolved land disputes, etc that metamorphose into political conflicts during elections • Intimidation and harassment of electorates by some PCs • Political party activities were largely unregulated due to the lack or low presence of the PPRC in the district • Political interference into the work of the SLP and other public officials • Negative attitude and behaviour of cross-carpeting politicians; they are mostly more violent than the people they met in their new found party • Attempt by the SLPP leaders, members and supporters to use the SLP against APC members and supporters • Frequent transfer of some SLP personnel who were perceived as not working in the interest of certain politicians
Karene	• Thanks to the proactiveness and professionalism of the security sector, the district was largely peaceful during the electioneering period

	• Lessons learnt from the 10th August 2022 incident helped the security sector to better handle threats during the electioneering period • Hate speech and tribal diatribe against Mendes and other South-Easterners • Political interference into the work of the SLP and other public officials • Mistrust between the LUC and SLPP district structures, who believe the LUC is partisan and bias against them • The Acting PC, Sella Limba Chiefdom and others stakeholders, including the SLPP demanding the immediate replacement of the LUC on allegations that he does not engage or work with local structures. The LUC believes the SLP's resistance to accommodate unreasonable local demands and interference into police operations are the main reasons for the mistrust. • Illegal mining activities involving foreigners, with complicity of local stakeholders, threatening development projects • Lack of institutional collaboration on the issue of illegal mining; for instance, the NMA does not honour DISEC's summons to meetings. He only shows up after arrests are made during raids. • Threats of violence against rival party members and supporters by both the APC and SLPP

	• Political intimidation and violence against SLPP supporters • In some communities, including Makale, Massanga, perceived SLPP supporters were prevented from mining activities, and asked to return to the homes in the south-east • Deliberate misinformation about maltreatment of northerners in the south-east triggered intimidation and harassment of SLPP supporters and south-easterners • Widespread illegal mining activities along the Pampana and Rokel Rivers by foreigners, including Ghanaians and Liberians, has rendered the rivers useless for

Tonkolili	agriculture and other local dependencies

	• Unregulated mining activities and the accompanying environmental and ecological consequences • Use of marshals/thugs to cause havoc and mayhem against rivals by the APC and SLPP • Rejection of the election outcome; thus, outright refusal to acknowledge that there is a government in place • Refusal to pay property and other taxes due to the APC's decision to boycott governance is affecting the Council's revenue mobilisation drive. Should this continue, it will have consequences for the payment of salaries to Councils auxiliary staff • Massive lawlessness and indiscipline; outright refusal to adhere to policies and regulations • SLPP supporters who fled their homes to Massanga have been repatriated by the SLP

Bombali	• Refusal to pay property and other taxes due to the APC's decision to boycott governance is affecting the Council's revenue mobilisation drive. Should this continue, it will have consequences for the payment of salaries to Councils auxiliary staff • Threats of throwing acid at tax collectors • Viable threat of public disorder over delay in the payment of ECSL ad-hoc staff • There is a potent possibility for Mendes and other southeastern tribes to vacate Makeni and other parts of Bombali over frequent incidents of intimidation and harassment • Strong adherence and affinity to Adebayor and his messages • Intimidation and harassment of ECSL staff • Landlords evicting tenants who are SLPP supporters • Intimidation and harassment of public sector officials

	by politicians
Kambia	• Either directly or indirectly, PCs were forced to be partisan • Lack of neutrality, impartiality, and professionalism of some state institutions

	• Political interference and logistical constraints undermined the effective functioning of law enforcement outfits • Intimidation and harassment of public sector officials by politicians and their agents • Tensions and violence resulting from unhealthy inter/intra party rivalries • Bias and partiality in the administration of justice: during the electioneering period, some Local Court Chairpersons openly supported political parties. Whilst those who supported the party that won continue to hold their offices, their compatriots who lost have been removed for involving in politics. • Fear mongering and misinformation on social media • Lack of trust and confidence in public sector institutions • The lack or low presence of the PPRC in the district made it extremely difficult to regulate the activities of political parties
Port Loko	• Provocative comments against perceived SLPP supporters by traders • Frequent squabbles between APC and SLPP car wash youths
Western Area	• Political intolerance between the APC and SLPP • Landlords evicting their tenants because of political differences • Fear mongering, mis/disinformation on social media • Targeting and destruction of ECSL properties • Targeting, harassing and intimidation of ECSL staff

6.0 Recommendations

Like the key findings, participants in the District Multi-Stakeholder Engagements made a number of recommendations that have been categorized under generic and specific recommendations. Analogous or similar recommendations assembled from all fifteen (15) targeted districts are grouped under "Generic Recommendations", whilst those that are only connected to specific districts are classified under "Specific Recommendations"

6.1 GenericRecommendations

The undermentioned were reflected in the recommendations across all the districts:

• PPRC to encourage winning parties to desist from further angering losers • The PPRC to engage the main opposition party (APC) to accept the outcome of the elections

• PPRC to embark on massive sensitization of political parties on the need to eschew the creation and spread of provocative messages

• Senior members of political parties to stop playing bad politics

• Continuous community engagements/ sensitisations

• Politicians to see politics as a development agenda, not a matter of life and death

• Reintroduction of Civics in schools; as it will help to develop patriotism and nationalism

• Effective use of the entertainment industry for massive public sensitisation against hate speech and tribal diatribe

• Central government to allow state institutions and their officials to perform their responsibilities as provided for by the law

• For future elections, the ECSL/PPRC/NaCEED should consider developing and implementing educational programmes targeting would-be first-time voters in order to counter or neutralise the education provided for them by their political parties, unscrupulous politicians, etc.

• GoSL and security sector to consider crackdown on the kingpins of Kush

• The SLP and the judiciary to expedite the investigation and prosecution of all politically related cases across the country

• To protect the sanctity of the institution, Paramount Chiefs should endeavour to remain neutral, impartial and apolitical at all times. Also, government should

endeavour to create a clear distinction between governance and political programmes, and carefully decide where to bring PCs and other sub-Chiefs onboard

- While losers should accept the outcome of the elections, winners should endeavour to be reconciliatory, embracing and more responsible with their utterances and actions
- The ECSL to expedite the payment of ad-hoc polling staff

6.2 Specific Recommendations

District	Recommendations
Kono	• Winners to create an inclusive governance reflecting a national character • Losers to accept the outcome of the elections and join up with winners to contribute to the national development agenda • The security sector to continue embracing professionalism so that it will be easier to win or harness public trust and confidence. • Political party supporters to eschew violence and other societal vices

Kailahun	• GoSL to focus on supporting the main economic activity of the district. A targeted investment in that sector will create employment opportunities for the district, and contribute to bringing youths and other stakeholders together, thereby distracting them from active involvement in politics • Stakeholders/leaders of political parties accepting defectors should be aware of their tendencies and devise a means of controlling their excesses • Traditional leaders should guard against their subjects use of secret societies to intimidate and/or harass political opponents and non-members • Politicians and political parties to support skills development for youths; not to exploit them for purposes of perpetuating violence

	• Replicate post-elections engagements at both chiefdom and section levels for wider effect
Kenema	• Leaders of both the APC and SLPP to listen to calls from the IRC and other stakeholders • More public sensitisation on the PR system to ensure a better understanding of the system • Review of the percent quota for Parliamentary and Ward representations to cater for wider, diverse, inclusive participation in the governance • The APC and SLPP should begin to realise that they should be serving Sierra Leone, and not their individual interests • Winners to move away from unwarranted provocation of losers

Pujehun	• GoSL and other stakeholders to expedite the resolution of lingering stakeholder rivalries, family grudges, land and communal disputes that have a tendency to surface as political conflicts • Traditional leaders to devise mechanisms that prevent the use of secret societies as tools to intimidating political rivals and non-members • Senior indigenes of the district to eschew or tone down their negative comments/utterances in favour of comments/utterances that promote peace, unity and cohesion • The security forces to consider providing protection for women candidates during electioneering periods • The central government to consider reviewing the *'winner takes all'* syndrome in favour of a more inclusive and representative governance approach. This will reduce the unnecessary and unwarranted tensions, chaos, violence, etc that usually accompany elections • Inclusive development of a comprehensive national development plan that governments, irrespective of party in power, can implement/ carry through

	• Create a mechanism that prevents massive sackings/replacements that occur during change of governments • Restoration of respect for public officials in the district • Prompt investigation and prosecution of cases to address issues of impunity as well as restoring public trust and confidence in the security and justice systems

Bo	• Winners should endeavour to be inclusive to be able to heal some wounds • Security sector personnel and other public officials to enhance their professionalism • GoSL and state institutions should explore a creative, proactive and pragmatic approaches to address the negative use of social media
Bonthe	• To enable their members and supporters to eschew violence, chaos and other vices, politicians should endeavour to live by good examples • The SLPP to moderate the use of Soja Team and its excesses • The ECSL to expedite the payment of ad-hoc polling staff
Moyamba	• GoSL to consider organising a national dialogue programme with all relevant stakeholders, including leaders of opposition parties • GoSL and other stakeholders to commence effective engagements on peace and national cohesion with all registered political parties

Falaba	• Need to bolster the number of security personnel in the district • Efforts should be made to prevent the use of children in political activities • In the interest of peace and cohesion, the SLPP should endeavour to embrace the losers, and be inclusive in the distribution of appointments, etc

Koinadugu	• Peace and reconciliation programmes and efforts should be led by credible and trustworthy individuals • Going forward, the SLPP and GoSL should endeavour to adopt a moderate and people-centred approach in all of their dealings • To ensure continued public trust and confidence in security forces and other public sector institutions, politicians and other powerful individuals should stop interfering into the activities and operations of these institutions • The leadership of security forces should endeavour to fully support their subordinates when those subordinates come against undue pressure from politicians and other individuals • To maximise the professionalism of the security personnel, the leadership of security forces should endeavour to standup for their personnel when they happen to be battling with pressure from politicians

Karene	• Studio engineers should endeavour to censor the type of lyrics that come out of their studios • GoSL to create job opportunities in the district to alleviate the idleness and massive unemployment in the district • To address issues of mistrust between the LUC and some stakeholders in the district, the Chairman DISEC Karene to: o summon a meeting between the LUC and SLPP with a view to investigating the underlying issues for the mistrust and seeking a solution to them. o summon a meeting between the LUC and all aggrieved stakeholders with a view to investigating the underlying issues for the mistrust and seeking a solution to resolving them.

Tonkolili	• While the APC should accept the outcome of the elections, the SLPP should endeavour to be reconciliatory, embracing, and more responsible with their utterances and actions • GoSL and security forces to do something to stop or mitigate the environmental and ecological effect of unregulated especially along the Pampana and other water bodies in the district • The District Council to devise creative strategies to contribute to local revenue generation through the payment of their taxes

Bombali	• PCs to engage the APC on the need to rescind their demands and re-engage in the governance of the state • The PPRC to name and shame politicians and political parties that make and promote hate speech, ethno-regional divide and tribal diatribes • The Independent Media Commission to closely monitor and possibly moderate Hope FM's 'Media Junction' programme that airs at 1200 hours • GoSL to view Sierra Leone as one country; rather than support base and opposition base • Politicians and their agents to stop intimidating and harassing public sector officials • Review laws on the appointment of certain office holders to ensure their independence • Inter-Religious Council, ICPNC and the National Council for Paramount Chiefs to explore the possibility of brokering peace talks between President Julius Maada Bio and APC's Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara soonest. • District and City Councils to consider dialoguing with the Traders Union on the importance of revenue • GoSL should consider the reinvolvement of PCs and other senior community stakeholders into the recruitment of individuals into the RSLAF, SLP and other sensitive outfits to ensure that these key state outfits are staffed by credible individuals
Kambia	• To ensure wider community understanding and acceptance, PCs should cascade messages from the engagement to their subjects • For future elections, the PPRC and SLP should endeavour to enforce compliance of campaign policies and guidelines agreed upon by political parties

	• To mitigate the reckless misuse of social media, GoSL and pertinent stakeholders should devise creative and unorthodox approaches to regulating social media • The ONS, in collaboration with the PCs to explore avenues aimed at mediating fall-outs and lingering conflicts in various communities in the district • The PPRC and PCs to explore the possibility of brokering peace talks between the APC and SLPP • To regain public trust and confidence, public sector officials should consider readopting professionalism, impartiality, neutrality and transparency in discharging their responsibilities • Until a law is enacted to address it, political parties that emerge victorious should consider the possibility of allocating some positions to those political parties they contested against.
Port Loko	• To address issues around youth exploitation by politicians, GoSL and other stakeholders should endeavour to provide youths with formidable skills aimed at making them selfreliant • To ensure their sanctity, politicians and their agents should avoid interfering and/or meddling into the activities and operations of public sector institutions

	• Review laws on the appointment of certain office holders to ensure their independence • Until a law is enacted to address it, political parties that emerge victorious should consider the possibility of allocating some positions to those political parties they contested against. • Inter-Religious Council, ICPNC and the National Council for Paramount Chiefs to explore the possibility of brokering peace talks between President Julius Maada Bio and APC's Samura Mathew Wilson Kamara soonest. • To address issues around youth exploitation by politicians, GoSL and other stakeholders should endeavour to provide youths with formidable skills aimed at making them selfreliant

Western Area	

7.0 Conclusion

The overarching aim of the District Multi-Stakeholder Engagements was to, among others, identify the electoral threats that were peculiar to each district, investigate the causes of those threats and commence efforts aimed at reconciling fractured communities, helping locals embracing forgiveness, peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

The methodology adopted for the engagements proved extremely useful. Apart from providing the rare opportunity of assembling stakeholders from different strata under one roof, it created a platform for them to freely express their views, also allowing for prompt clarifications of allegations made against certain individuals and institutions.

During the engagements, all fifteen districts agreed on a number of threats that permeated the electoral cycle. Key amongst these include lawlessness and indiscipline, political intolerance and intimidation, hate speech and tribal diatribe, tendency of politicians to use thugs/marshals, negative use of social media, irresponsible, unhealthy and inciting statements, comments, utterances, bets by some senior politicians, political party leaders, stakeholders and their agents.

The All Peoples Congress party was absent in most of the engagements in some districts. However, in those places where they participated, the representations were very high. In Kenema and Koinadugu for instance, they were represented by the District Chairmen and Secretaries. In addition, the stakeholders across all the districts commended the professionalism and proactiveness of the security sector during the electoral cycle.

8.0Annexes

Annex A

List of Resource Persons/Facilitators

1. Francis Langumba Keili, Chief of Staff, ONS and Technical Lead, IESPC – **Chairman**
2. Reverend Usman Jessie Fornah, Executive Secretary, Inter Religious Council (IRC) – Member
3. CSP Augustine Kamara, Elections Coordinator, Sierra Leone Police (SLP) – Member
4. Moses Margao, Deputy Executive Secretary, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC) – Member
5. Mrs. Jenneh Amadu, Director of Mediation and Programmes, Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) – Member
6. Sahr Mondeh, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs (MLG&CA) – Member
7. Kalilu Totangi, Chairman, NaCCED – Member
8. Mohamed B. Jalloh, Assistant Research Officer, ONS – Member
9. Musa Ansumana, Team Lead, ONS – **Rapporteur**

Annex B

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- Political parties – 2 participants per party

• Traditional Leaders – 5 participants

• Security Sector ○ Office of National Security (ONS) – 2 participants ○ Sierra Leone Police (SLP) – 15 participants

○ Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) – 5 participants ○ Central Intelligence and Security Agency (CISA) – 1 participant ○ National Fire Force (NFF) – 2 participants

○ Sierra Leone Correctional Service (SLCS) – 2 participants ○ Chiefdom Police Force (CPF) – 2 participants

• District Officers – 2 participants

• Local and District Councils – 4 participants

• Youth groups – 4 participants

• Religious leaders – 3 participants

• Civil Society Organisations – 4 participants

• Bike Riders Association – 4 participants

• Tricycle *(Kekeh)* Riders Union – 4 participants

• Drivers Union – 4 participants

• Traders Union – 4 participants

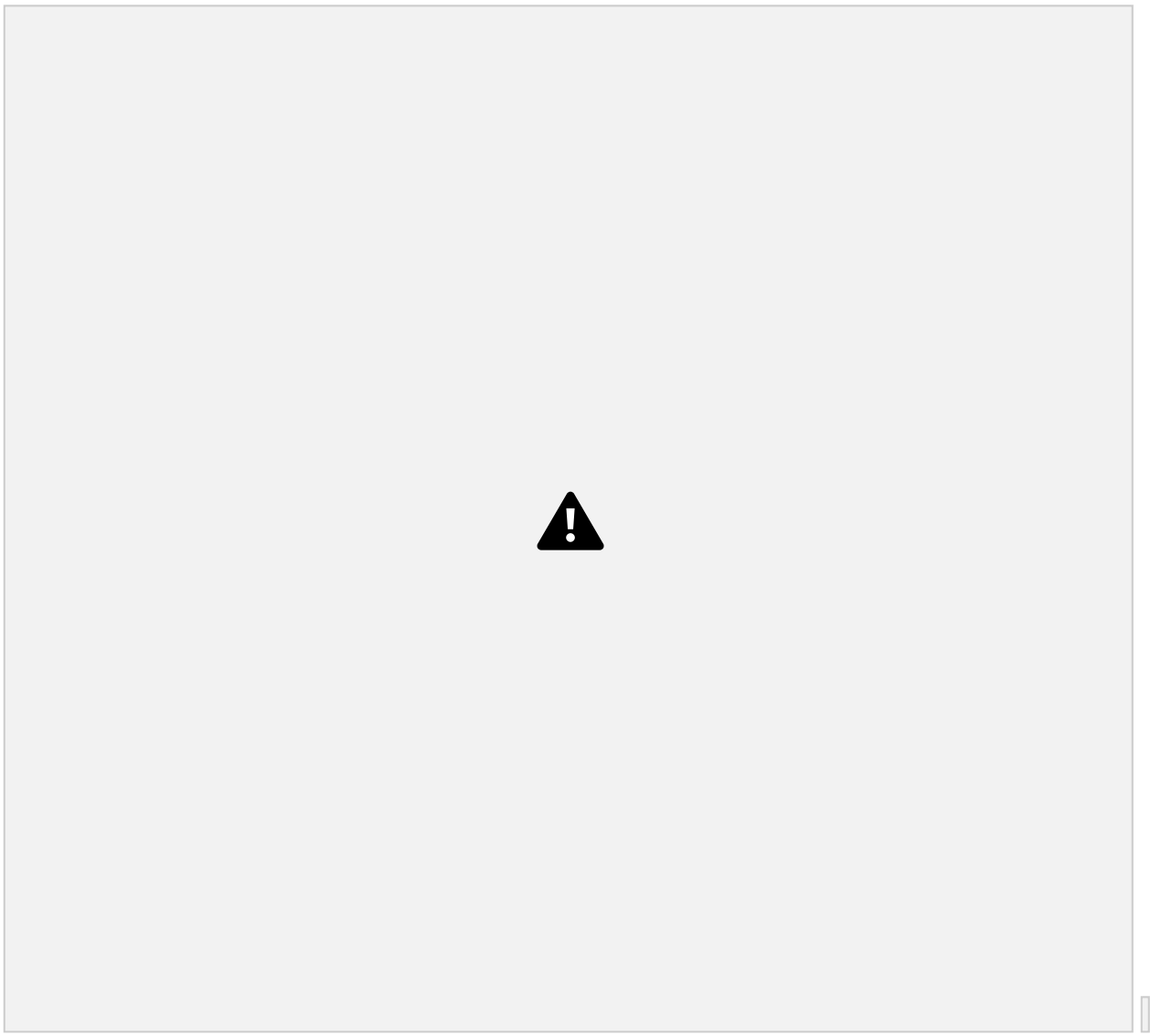
• Women Groups (Market Women Association, etc.) – 6 participants • Entertainers (Artist/DJs Union, comedians, filmmakers, etc.) – 5 participants

Annex C

Photographs of

Engagements Kono

Engagements



The Chairman, Francis Langumba Keili making opening statements at the Kono Engagements

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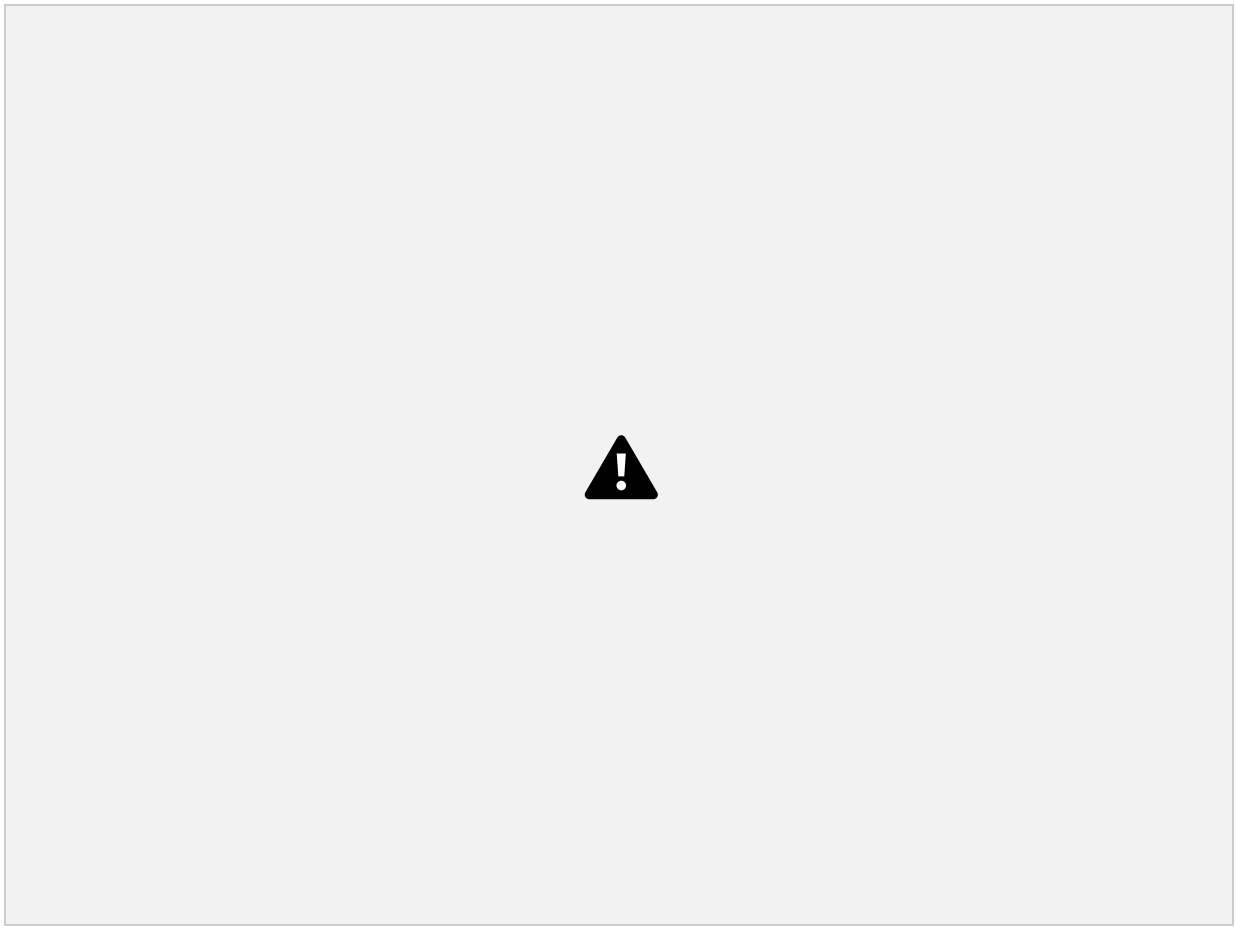
Kailahun Engagements



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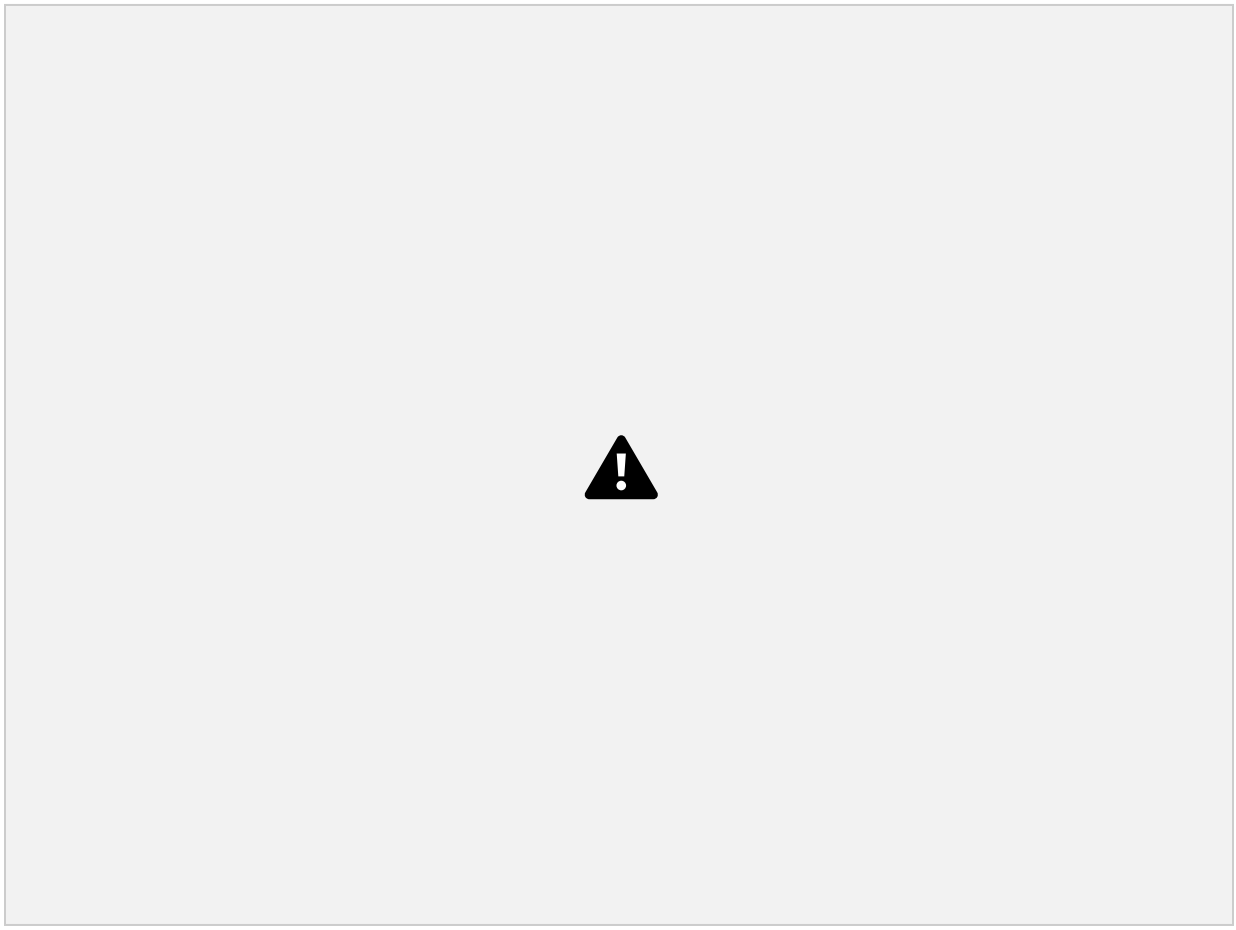
Kenema Engagements



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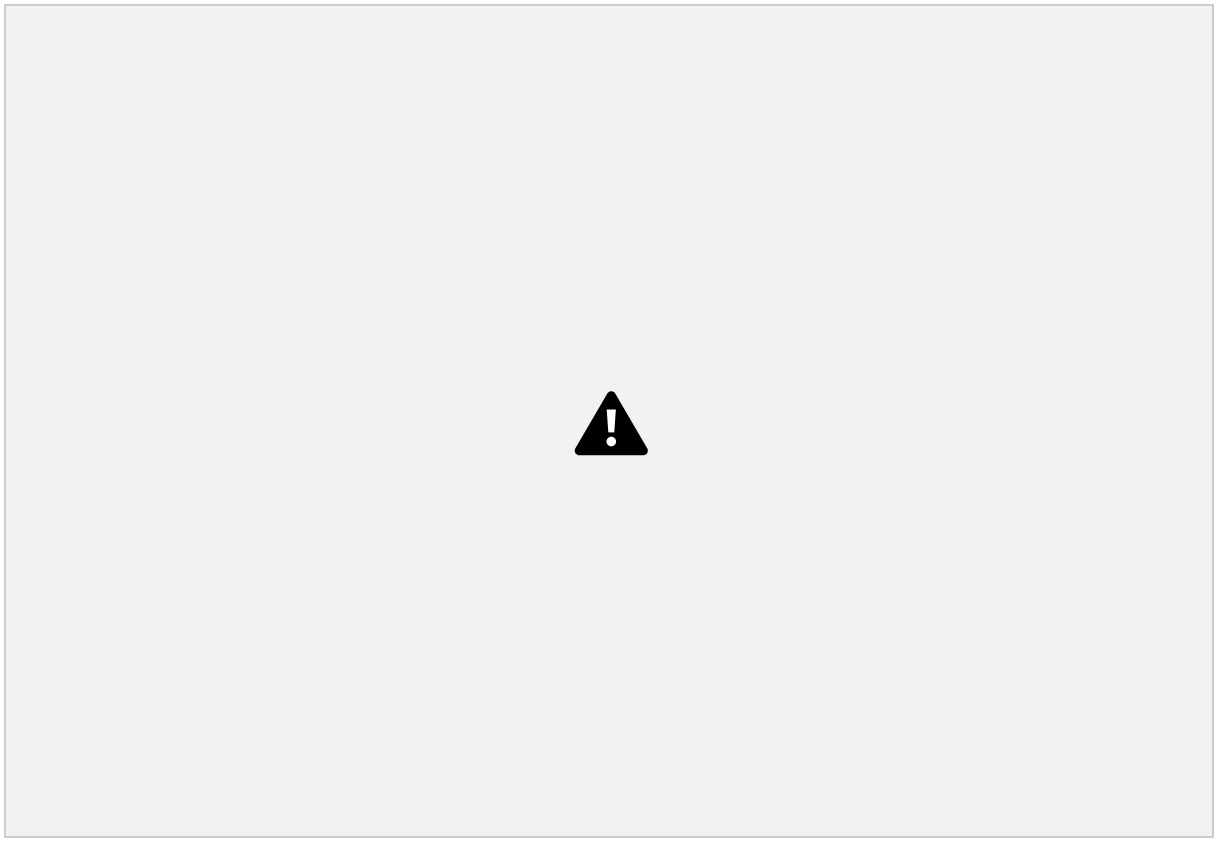
Pujehun Engagements



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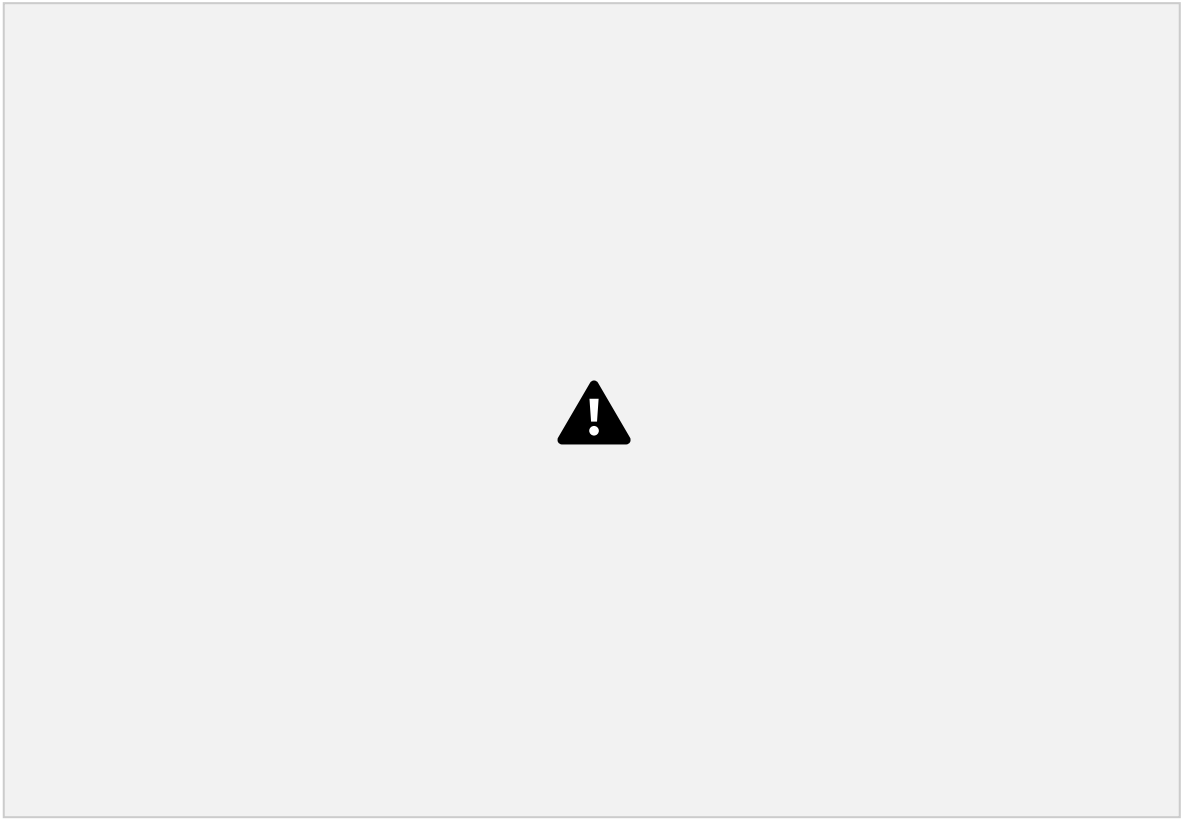

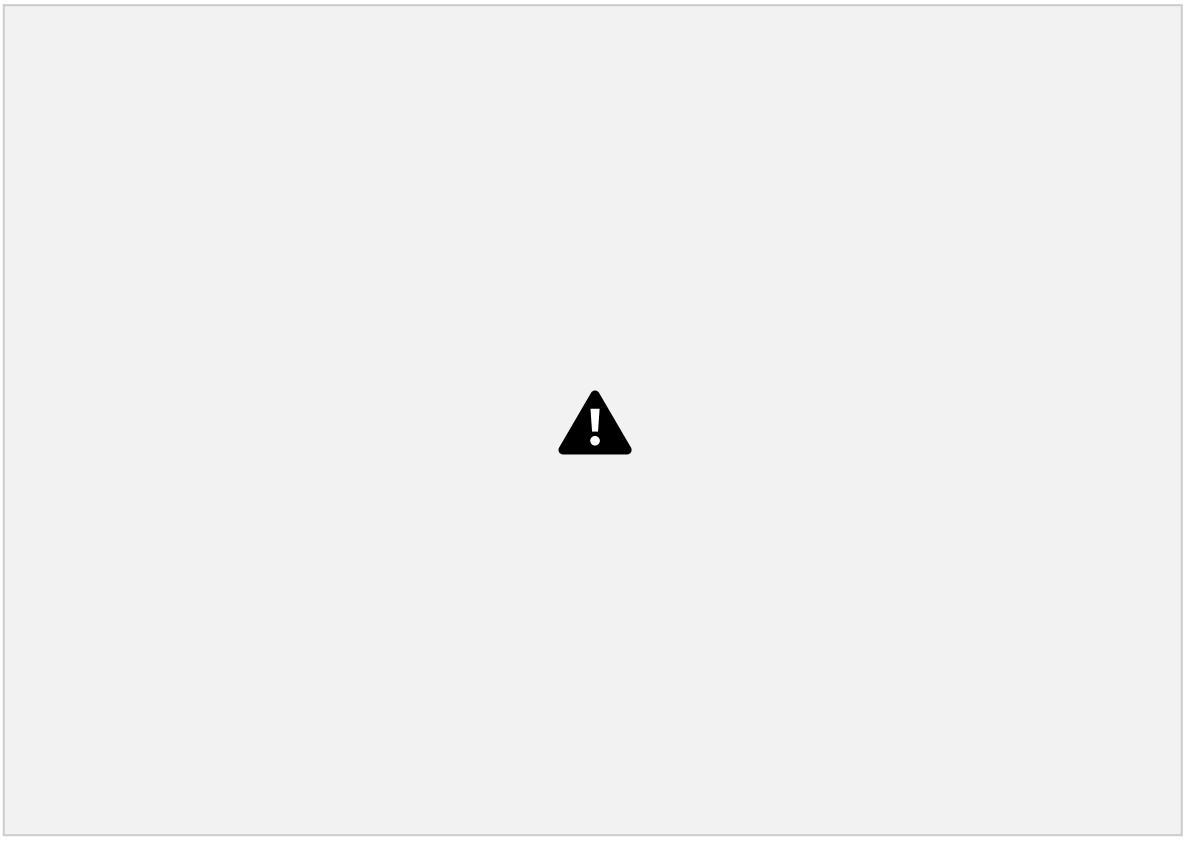

Bo Engagements

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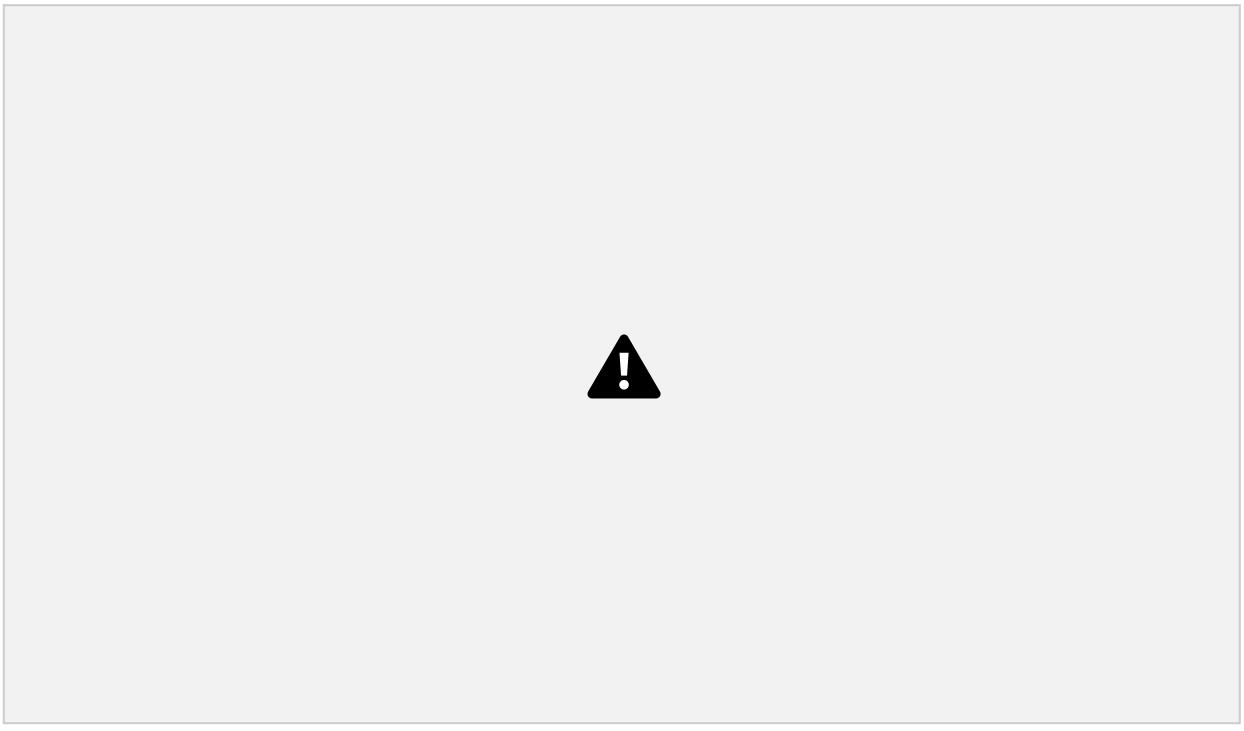

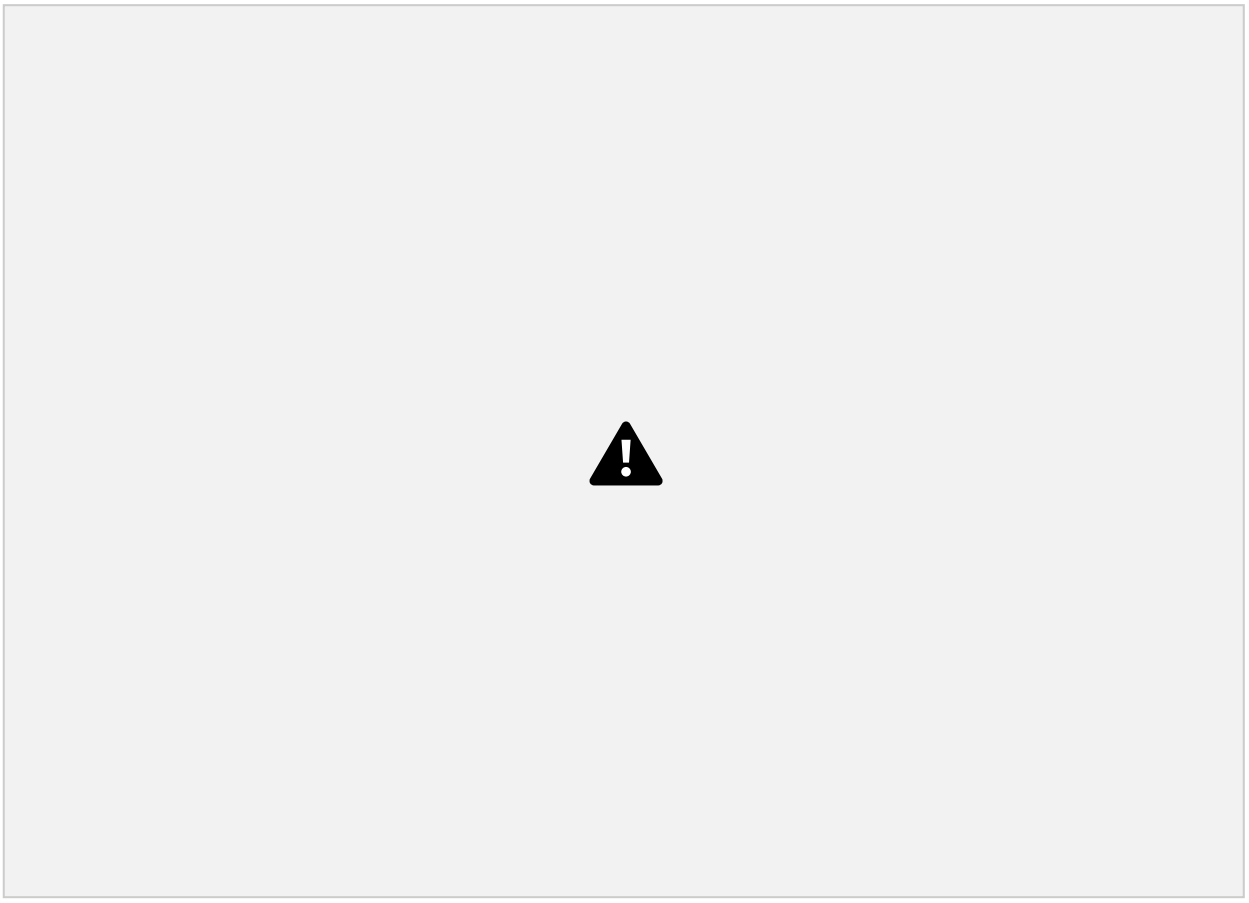

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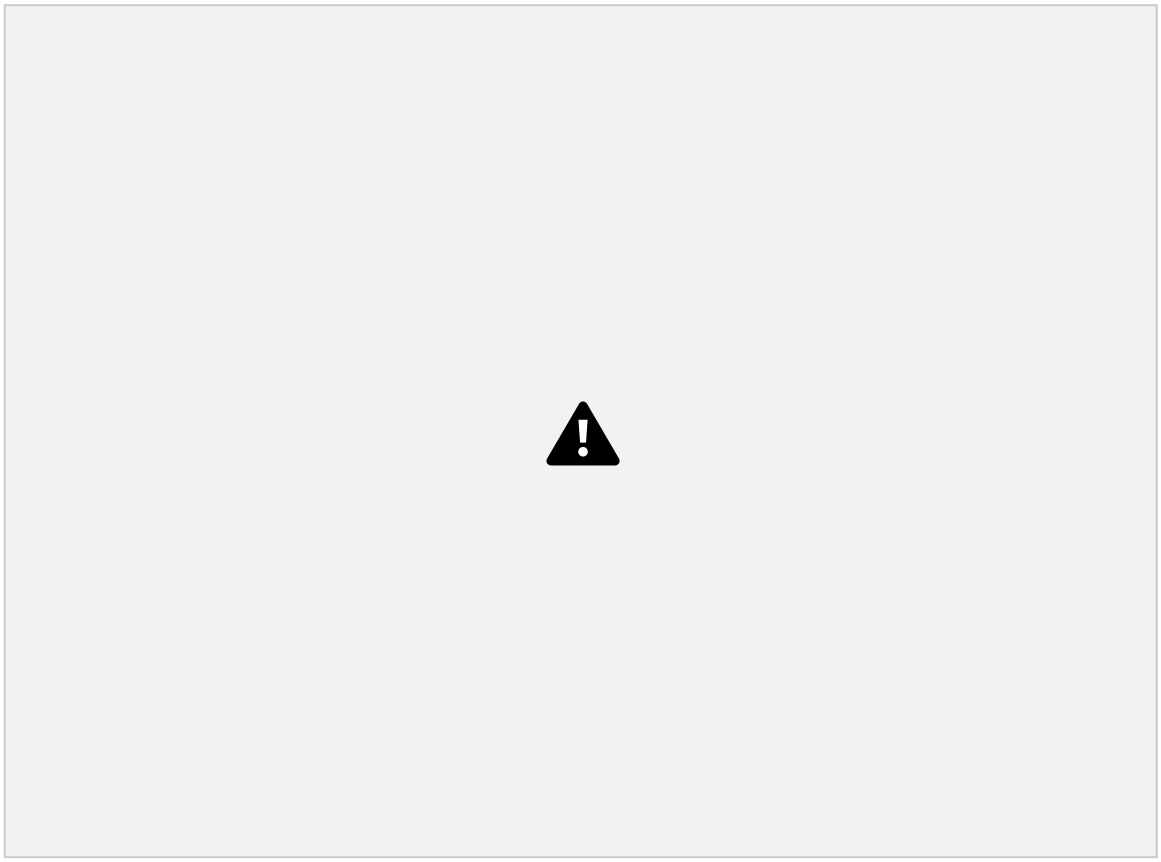

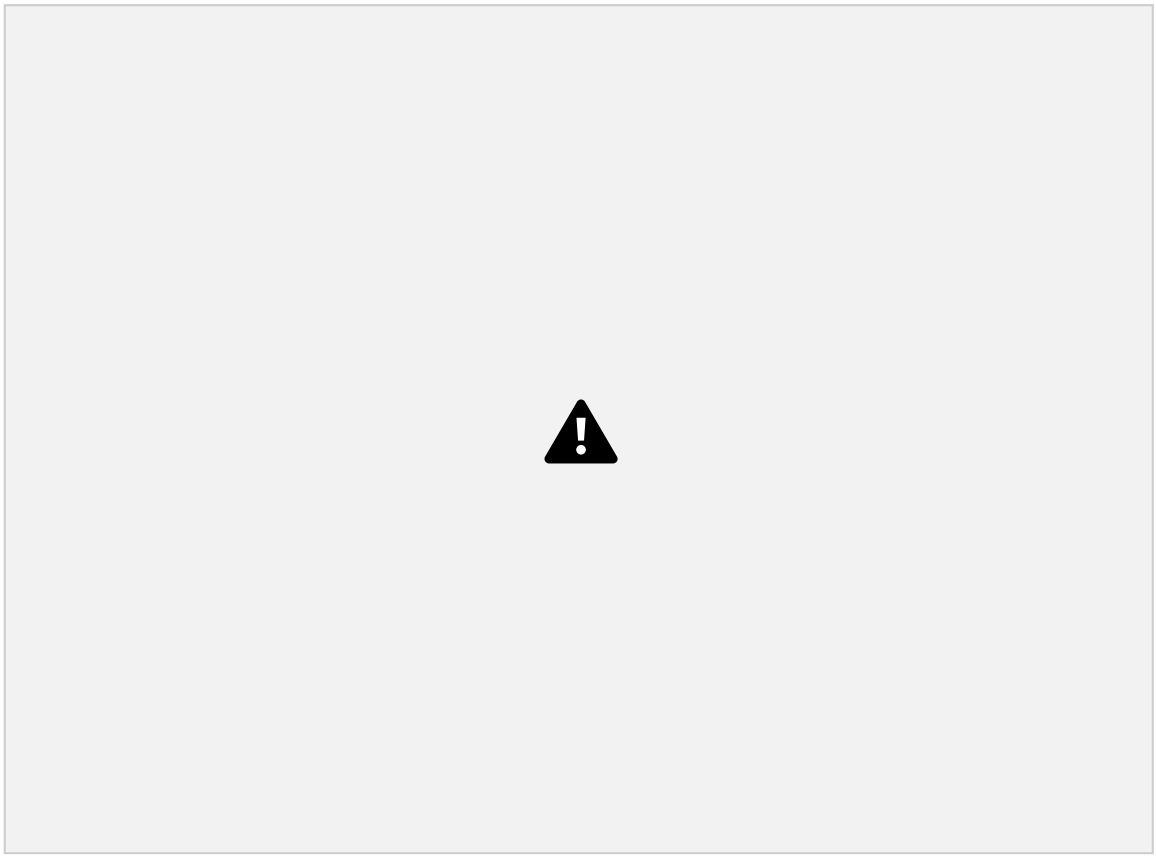

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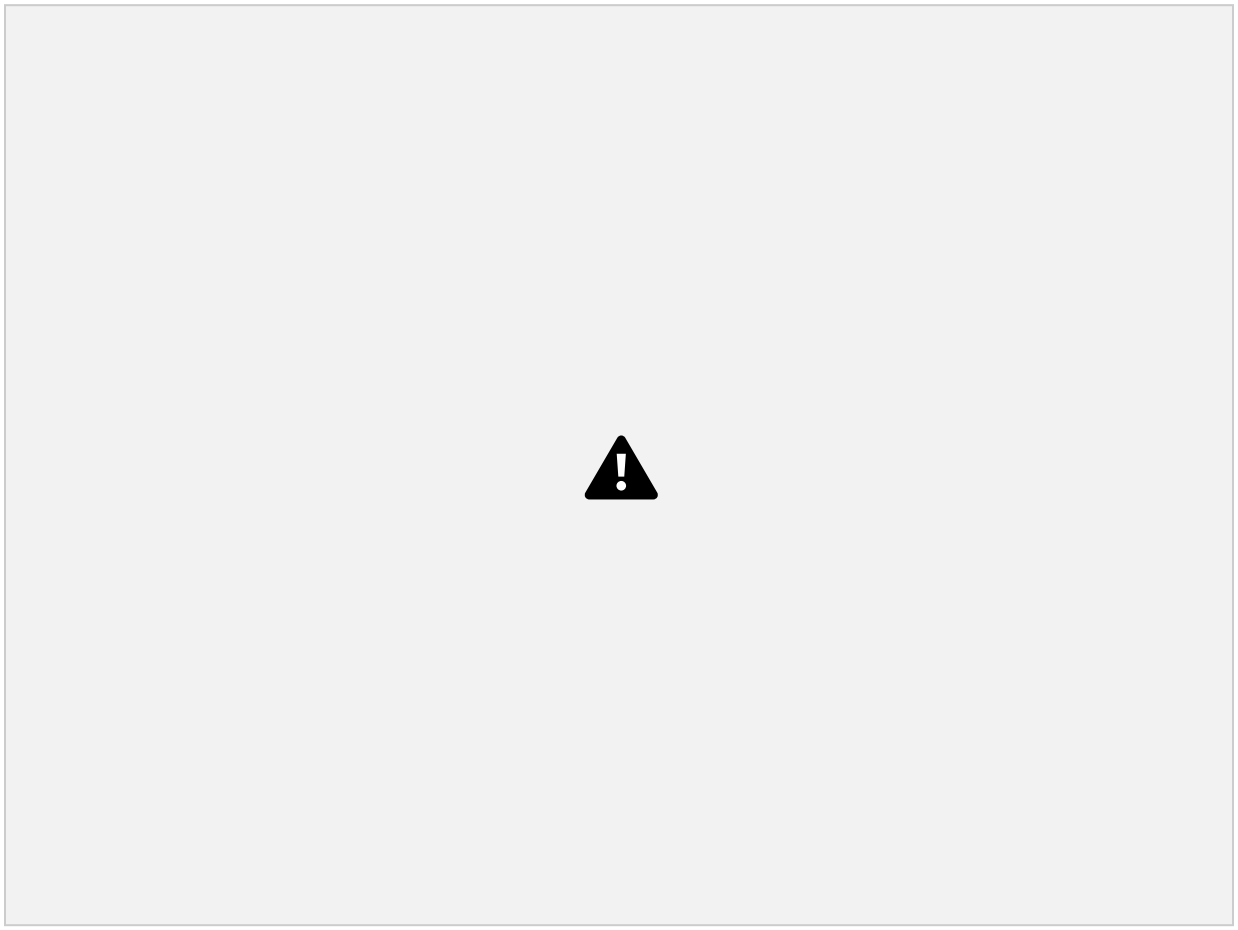

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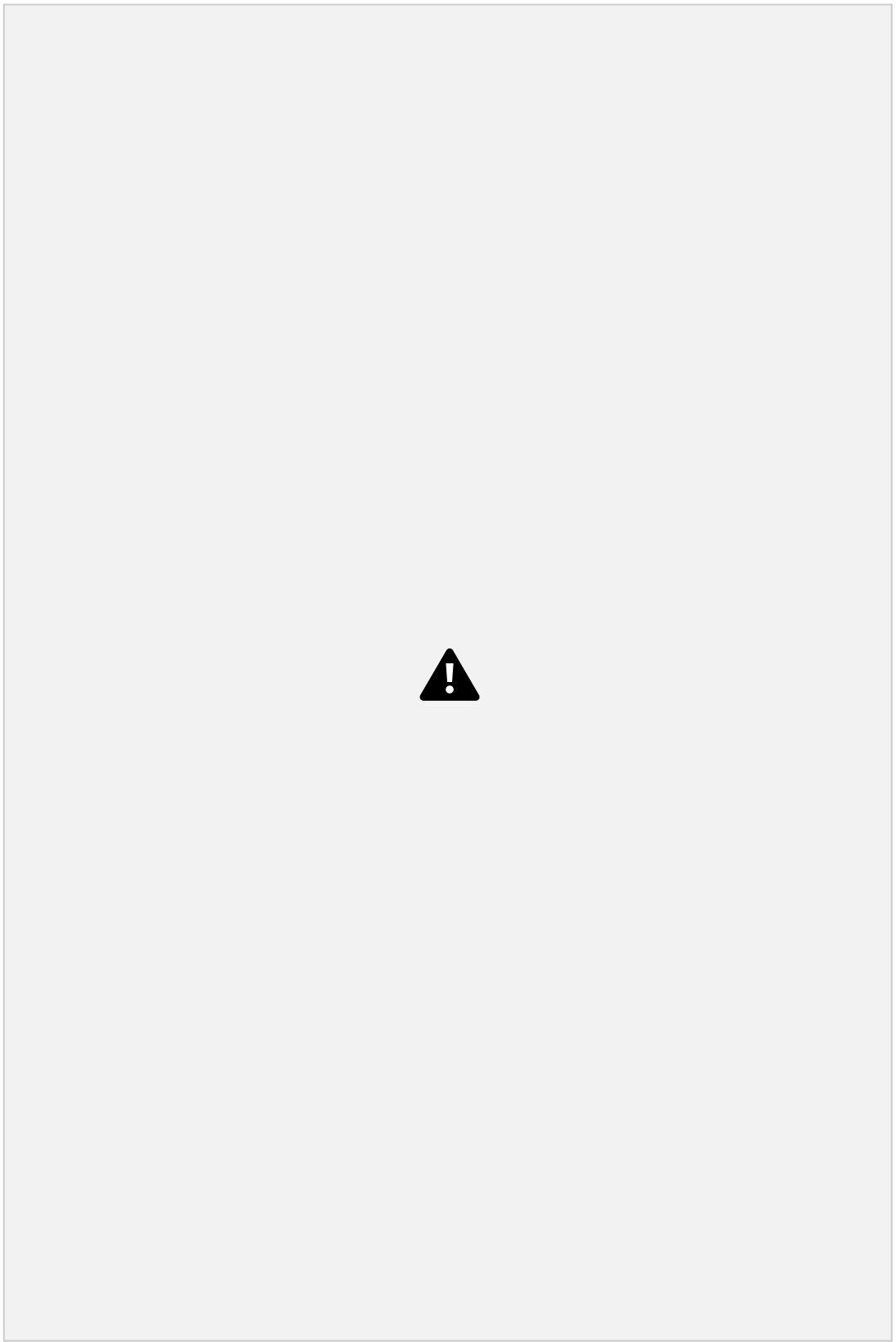

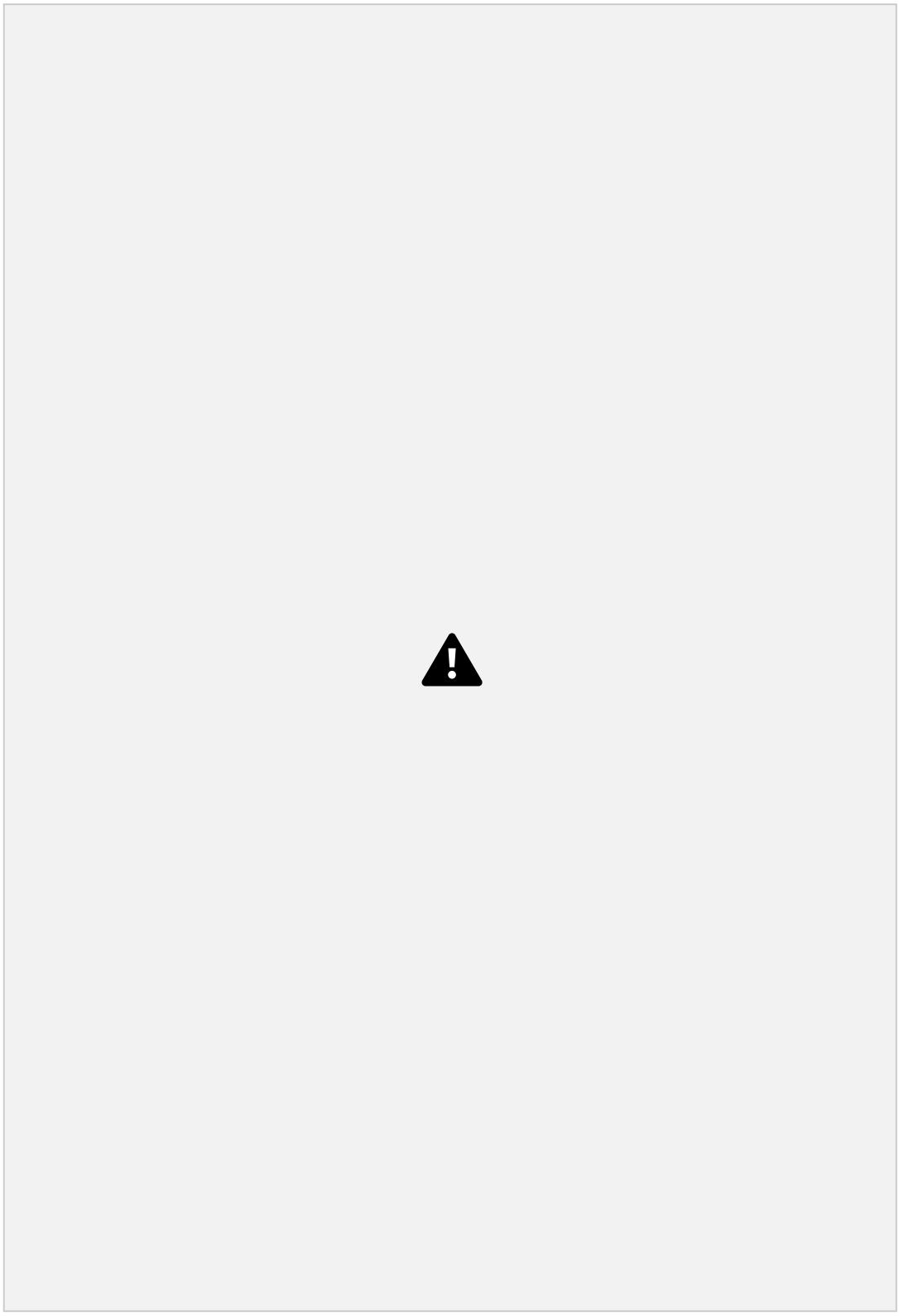

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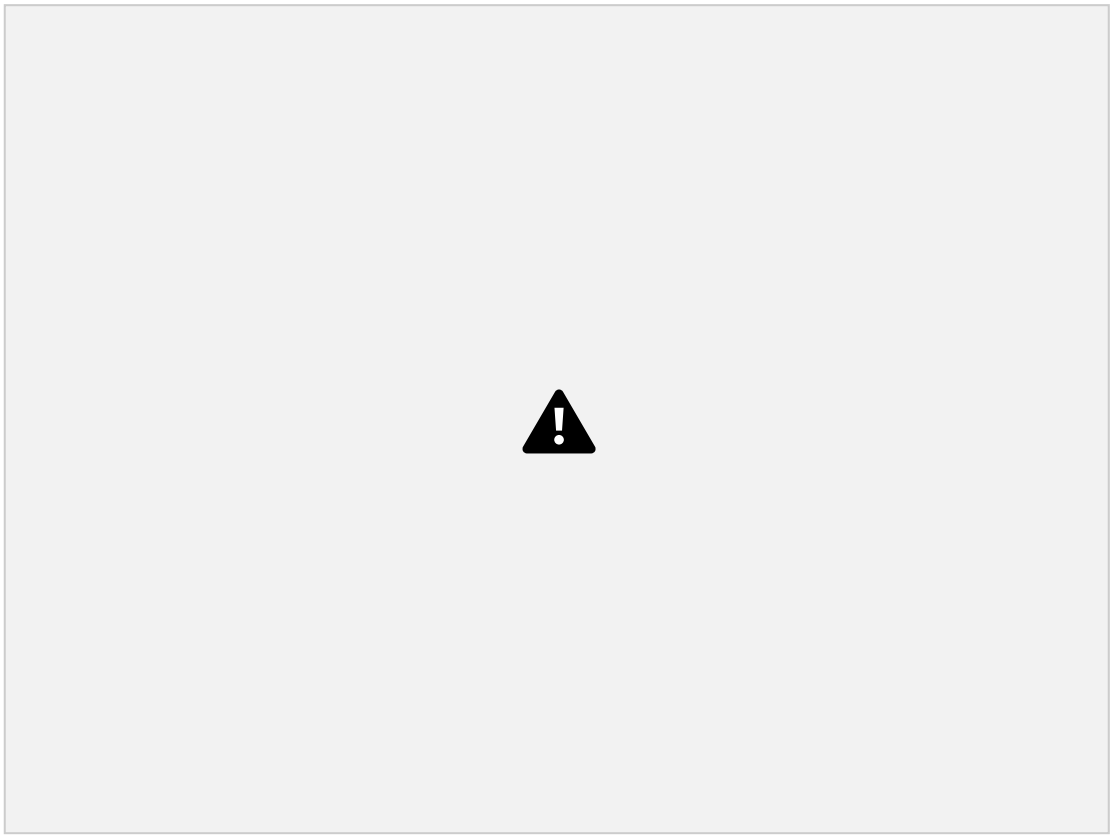
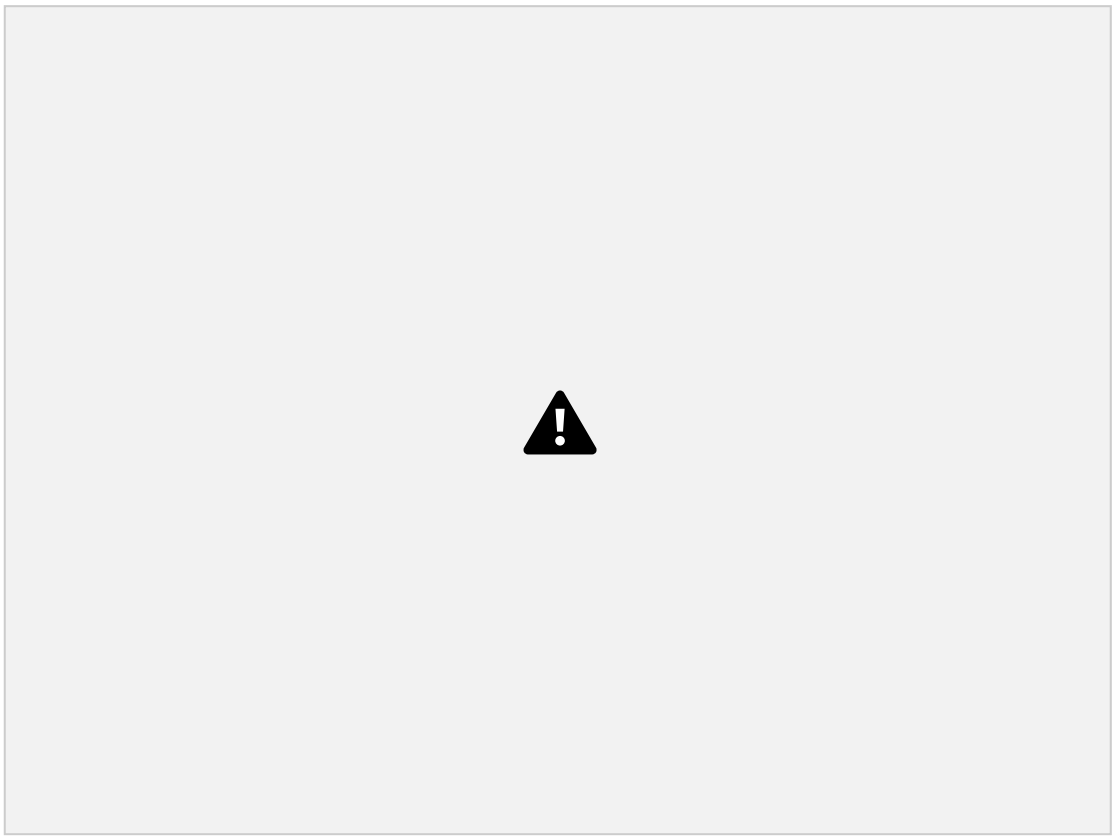
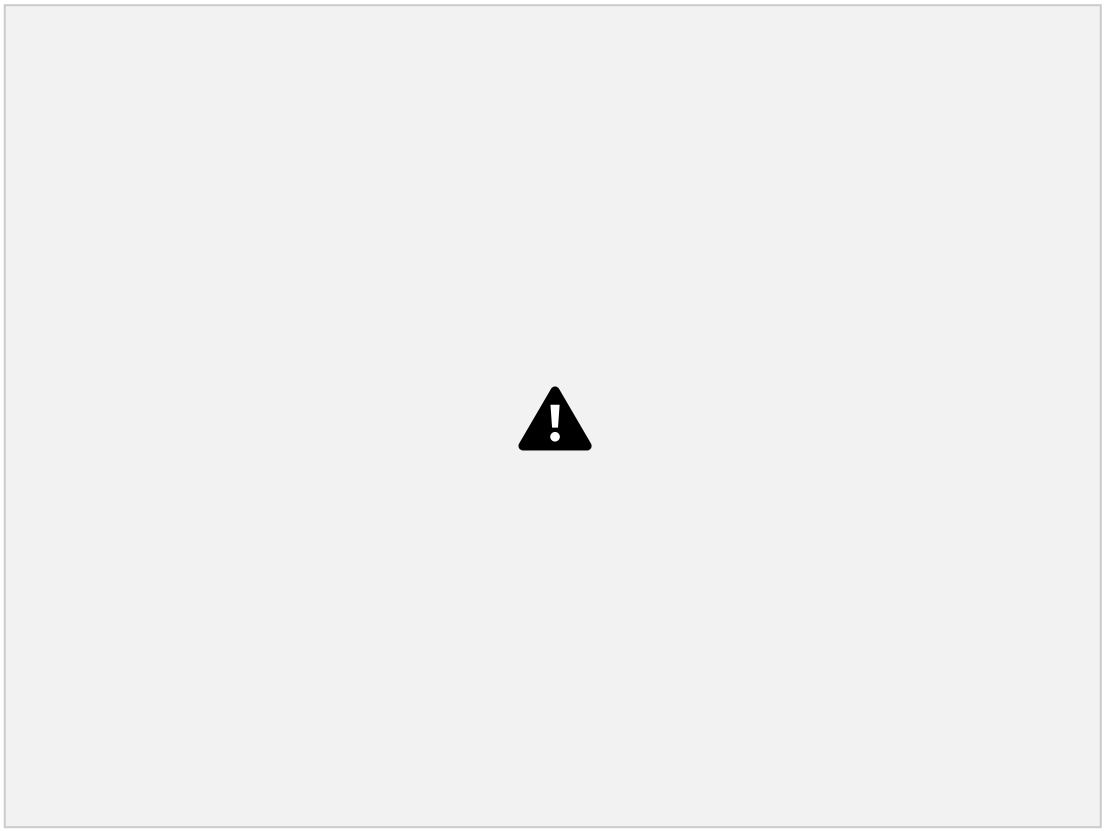
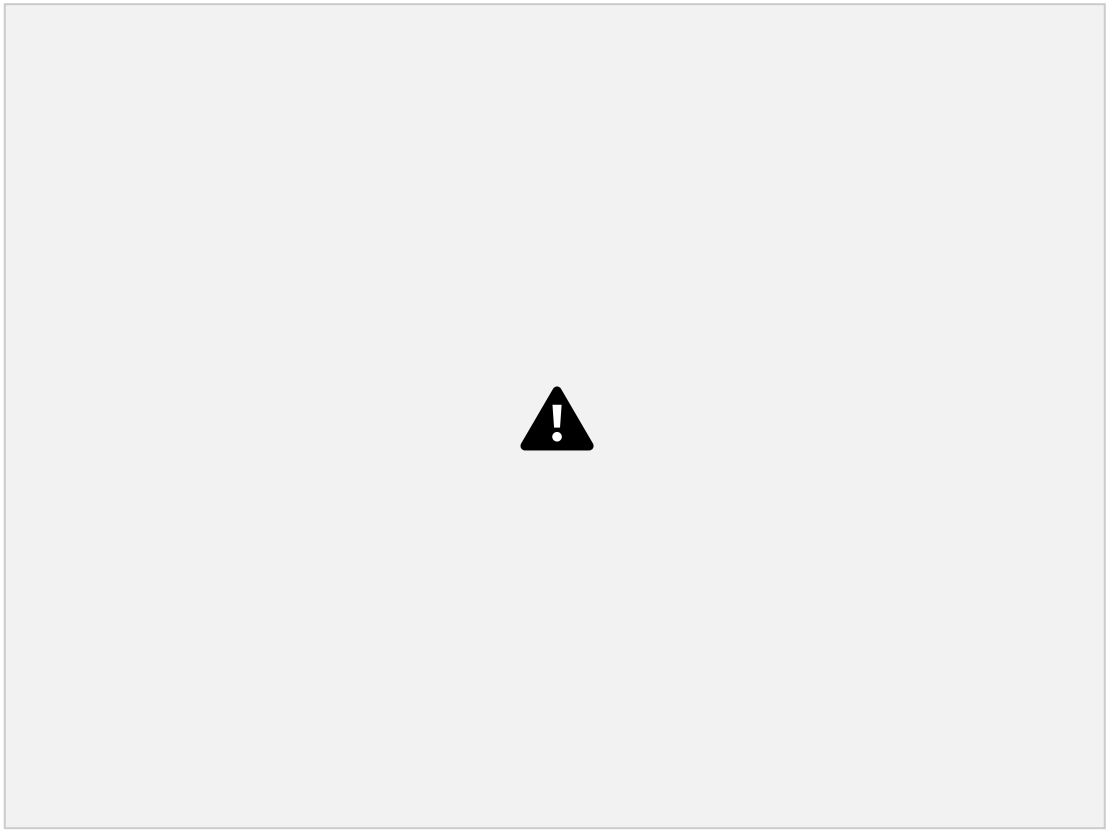


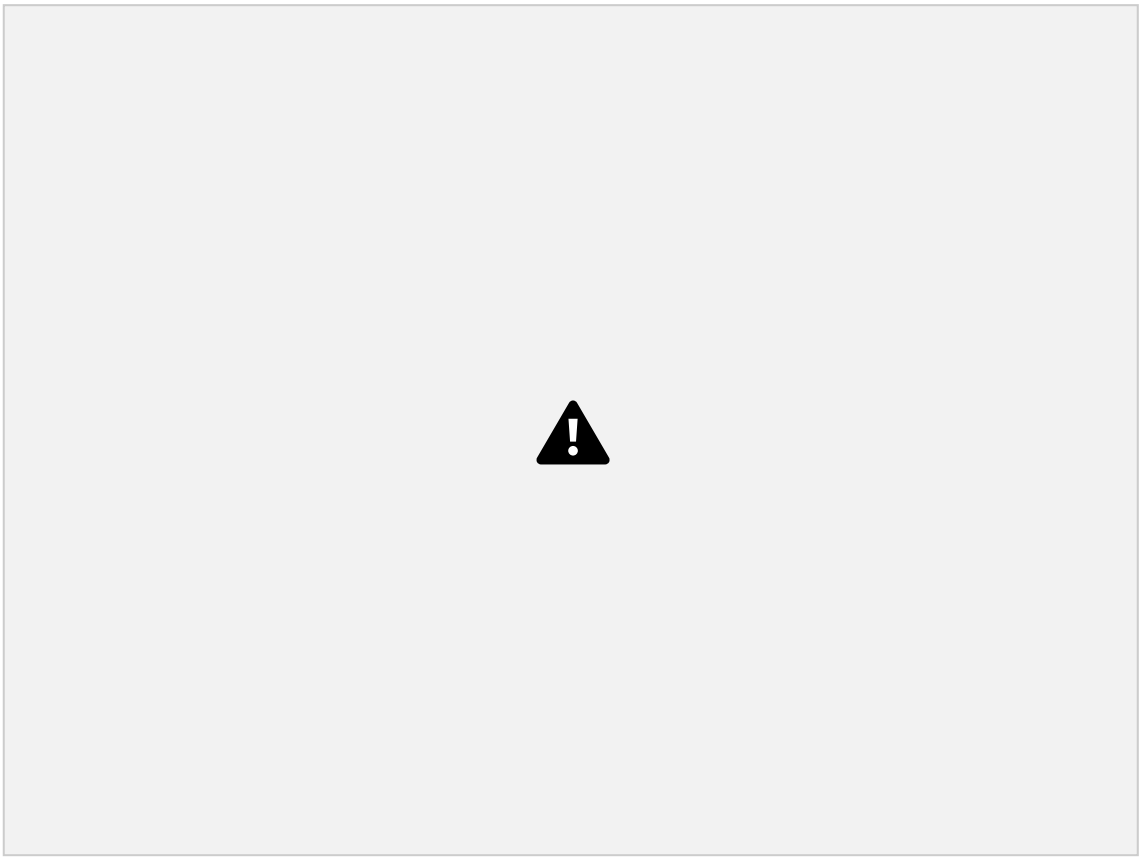


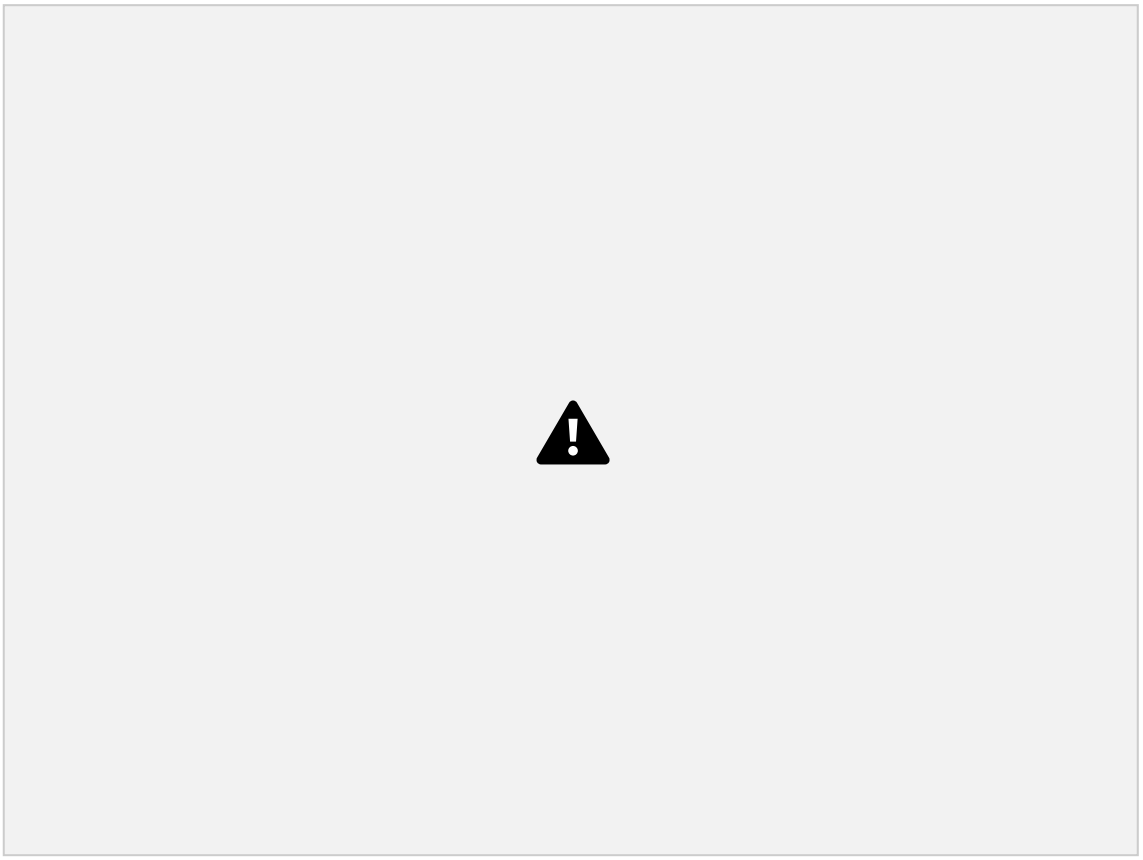
Tonkolili Engagements

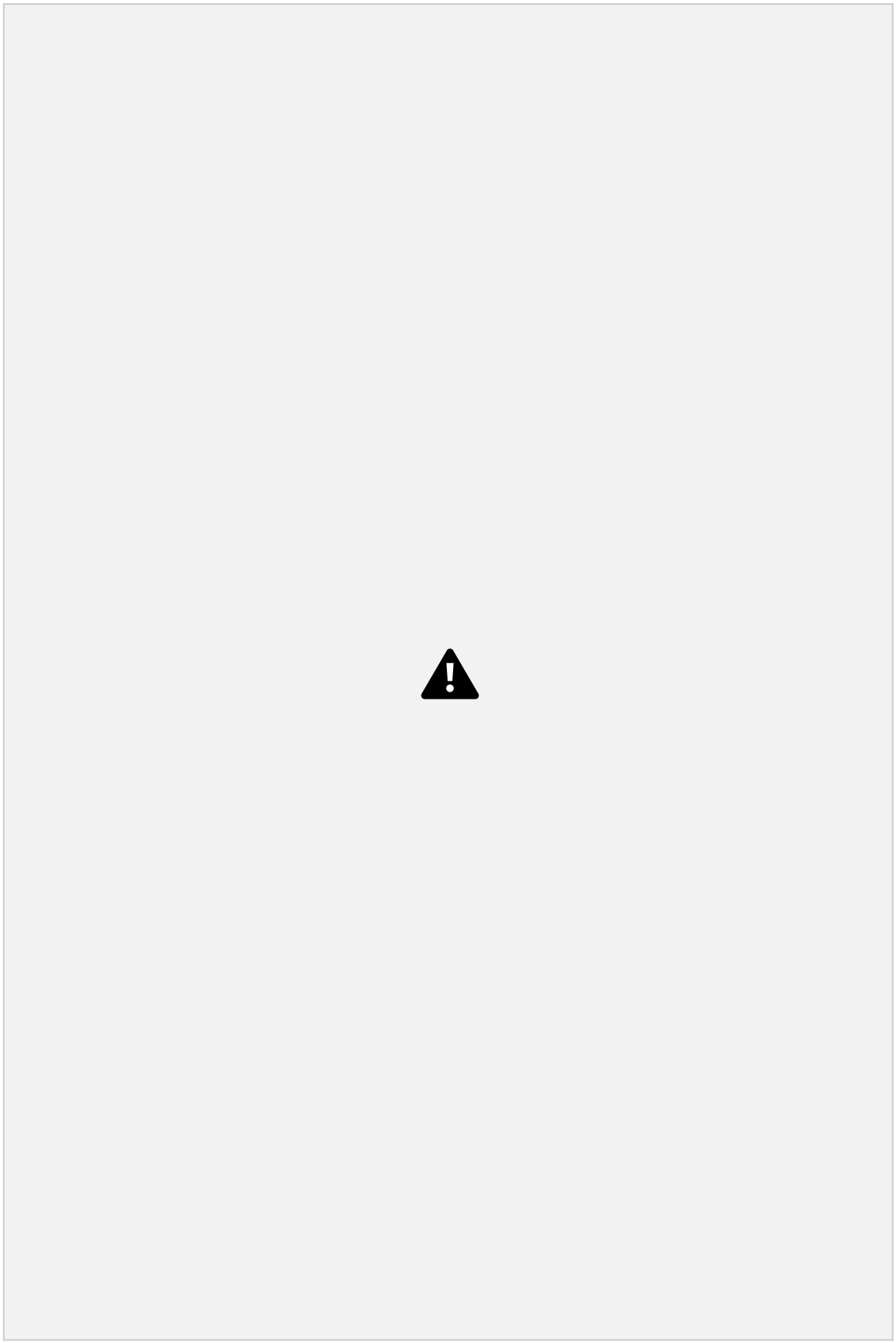


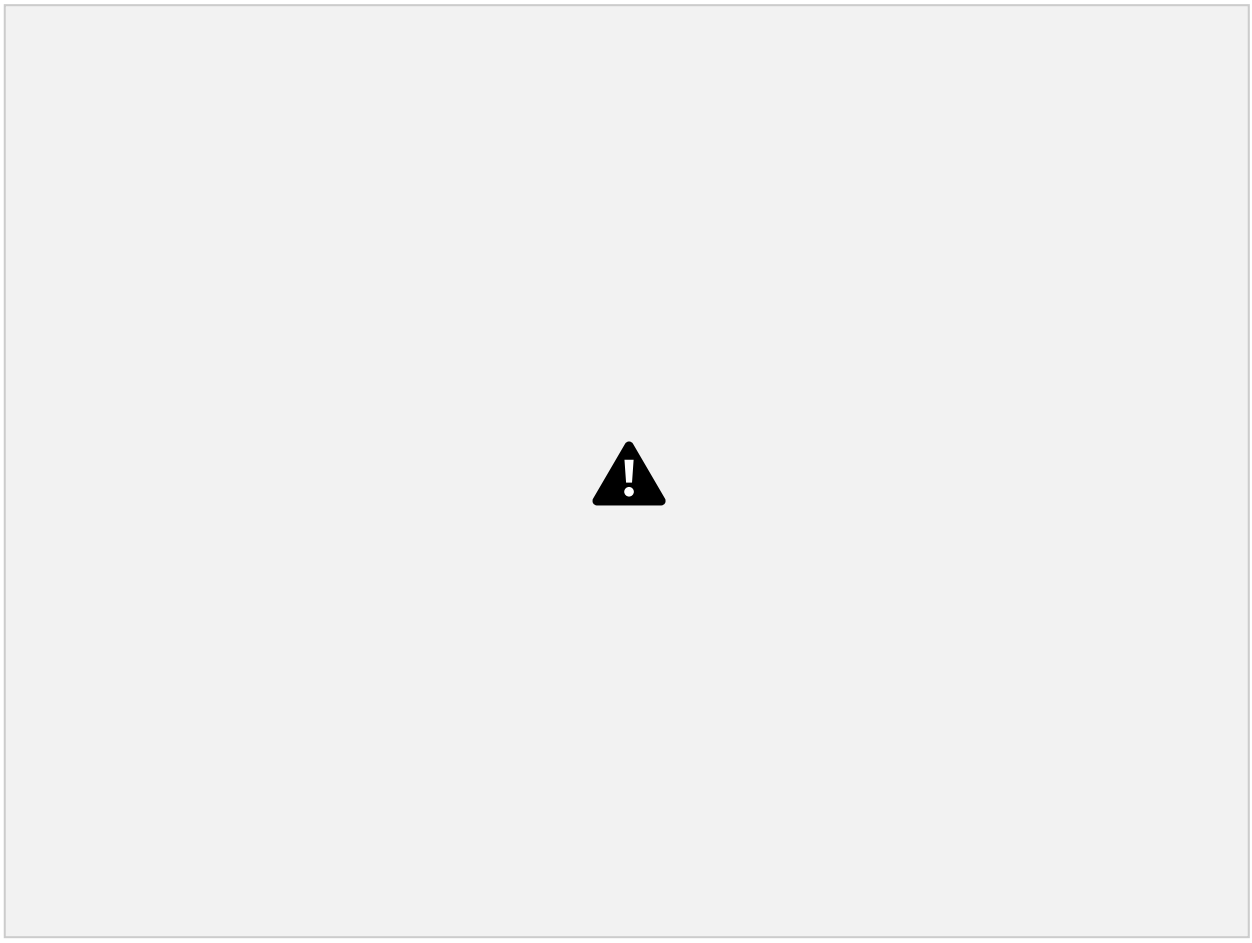


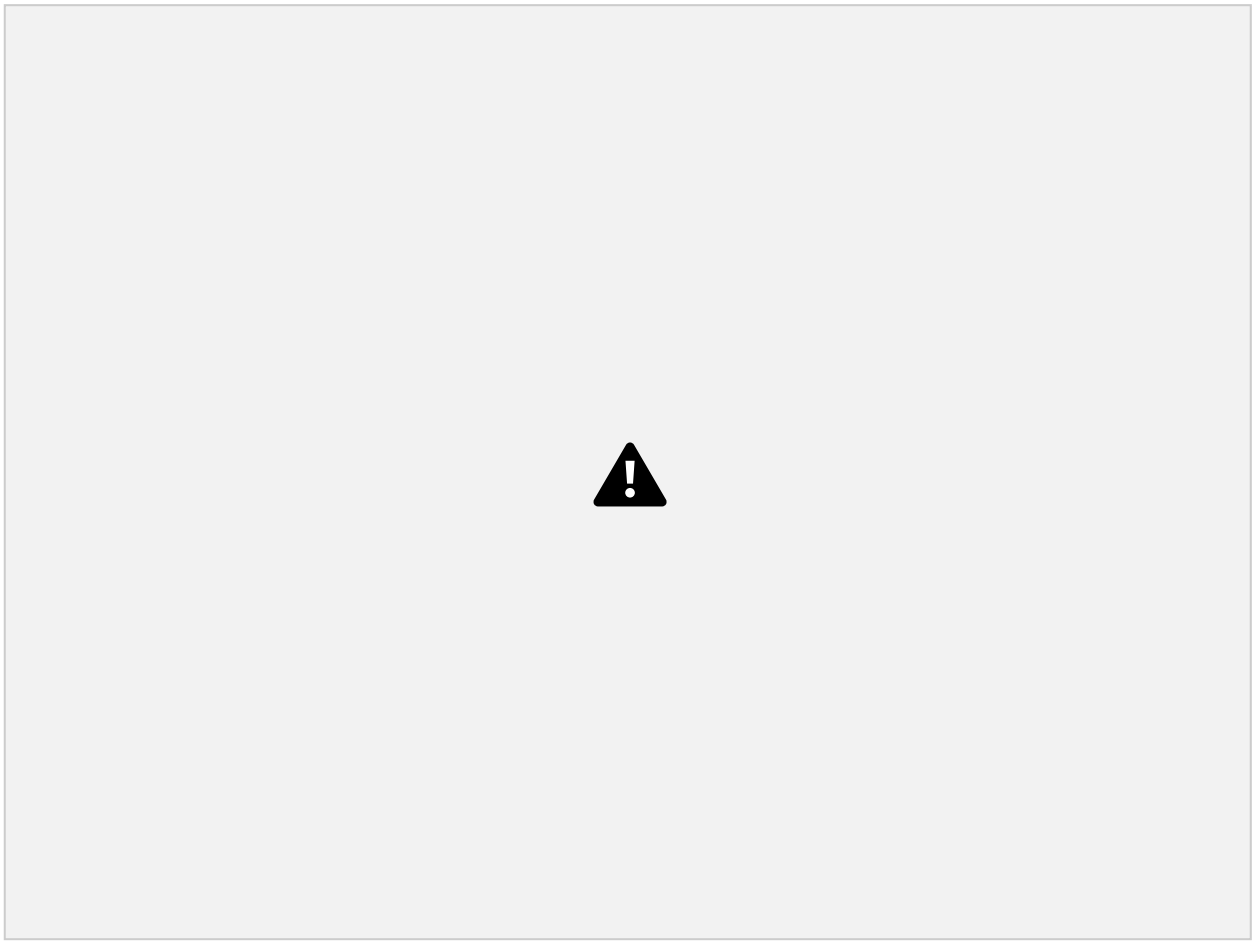
Bombali Engagements

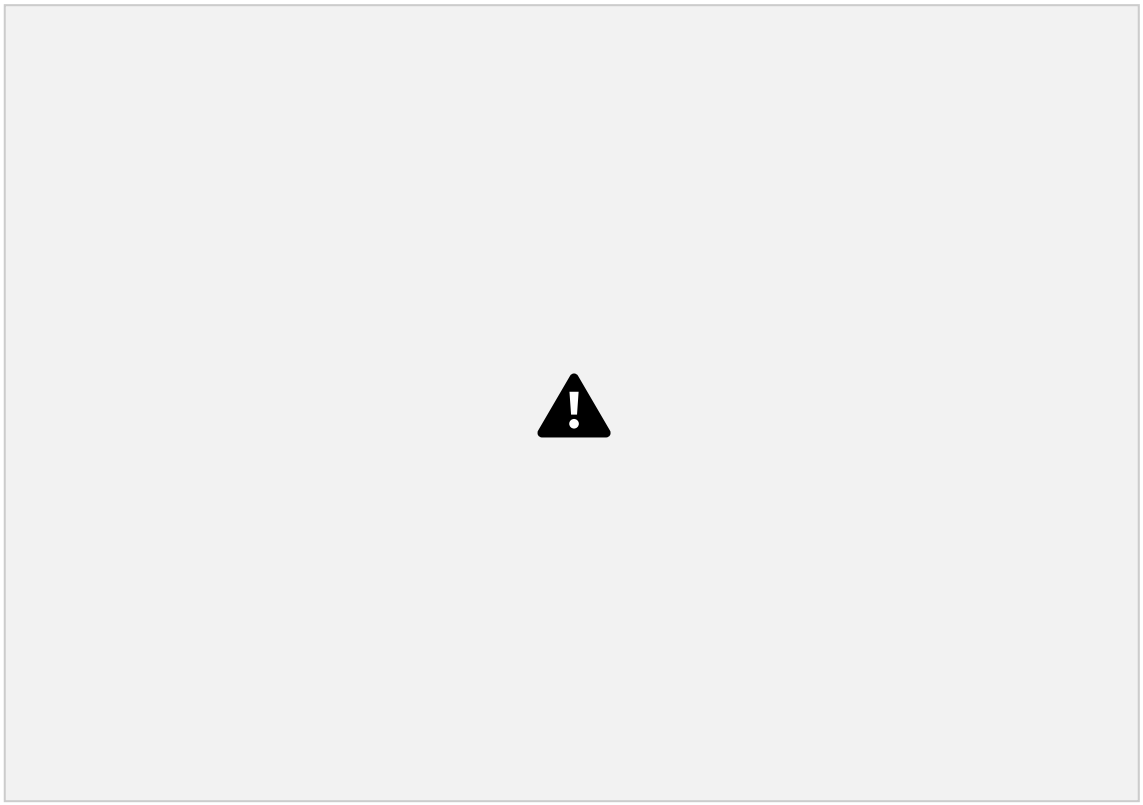


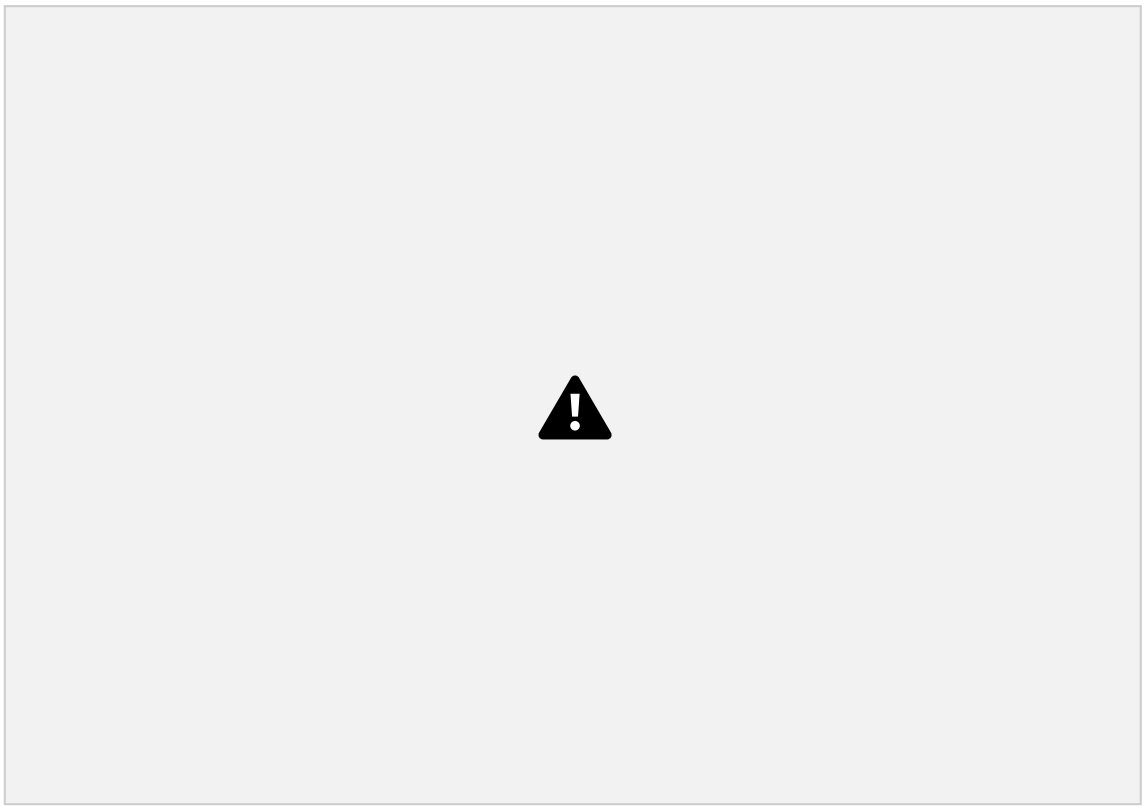




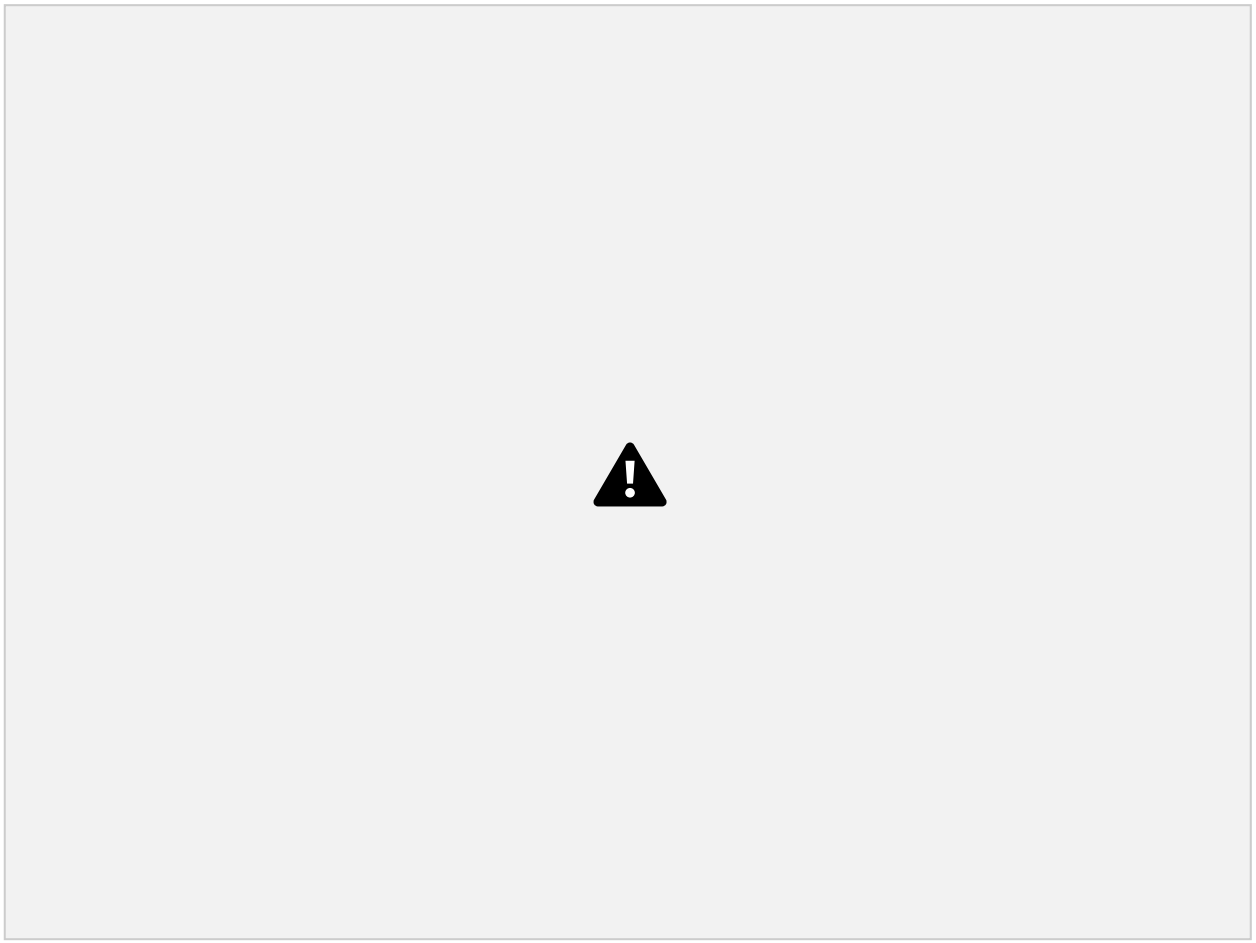


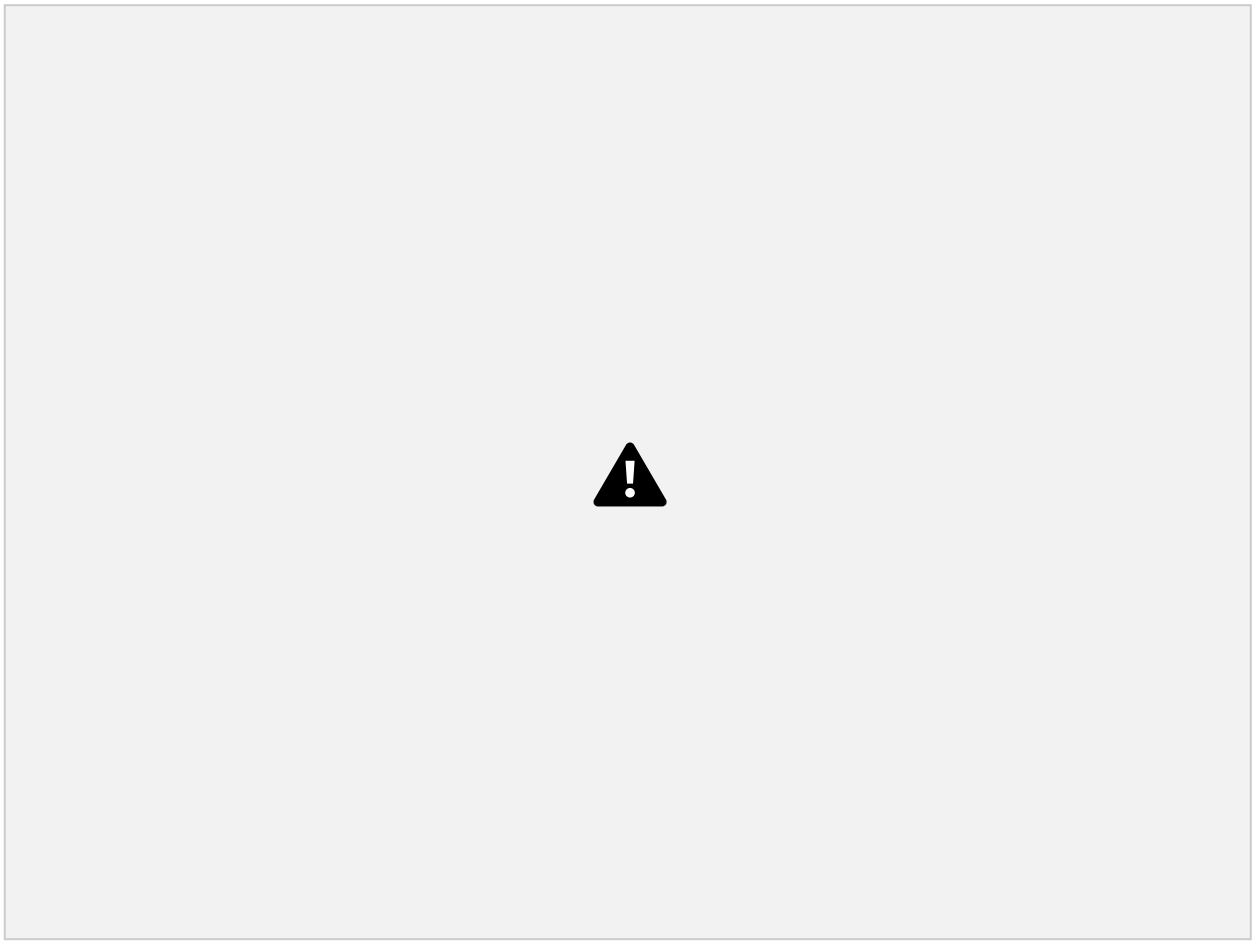
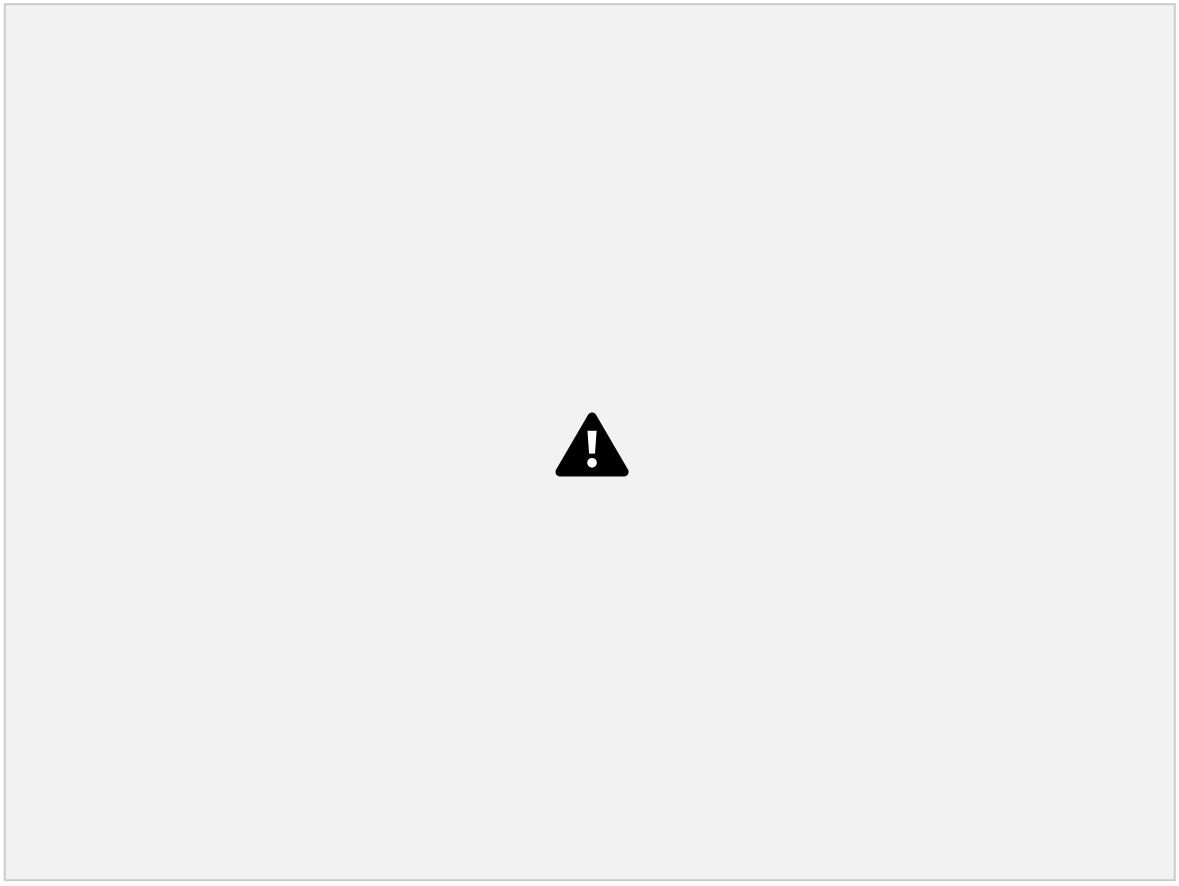
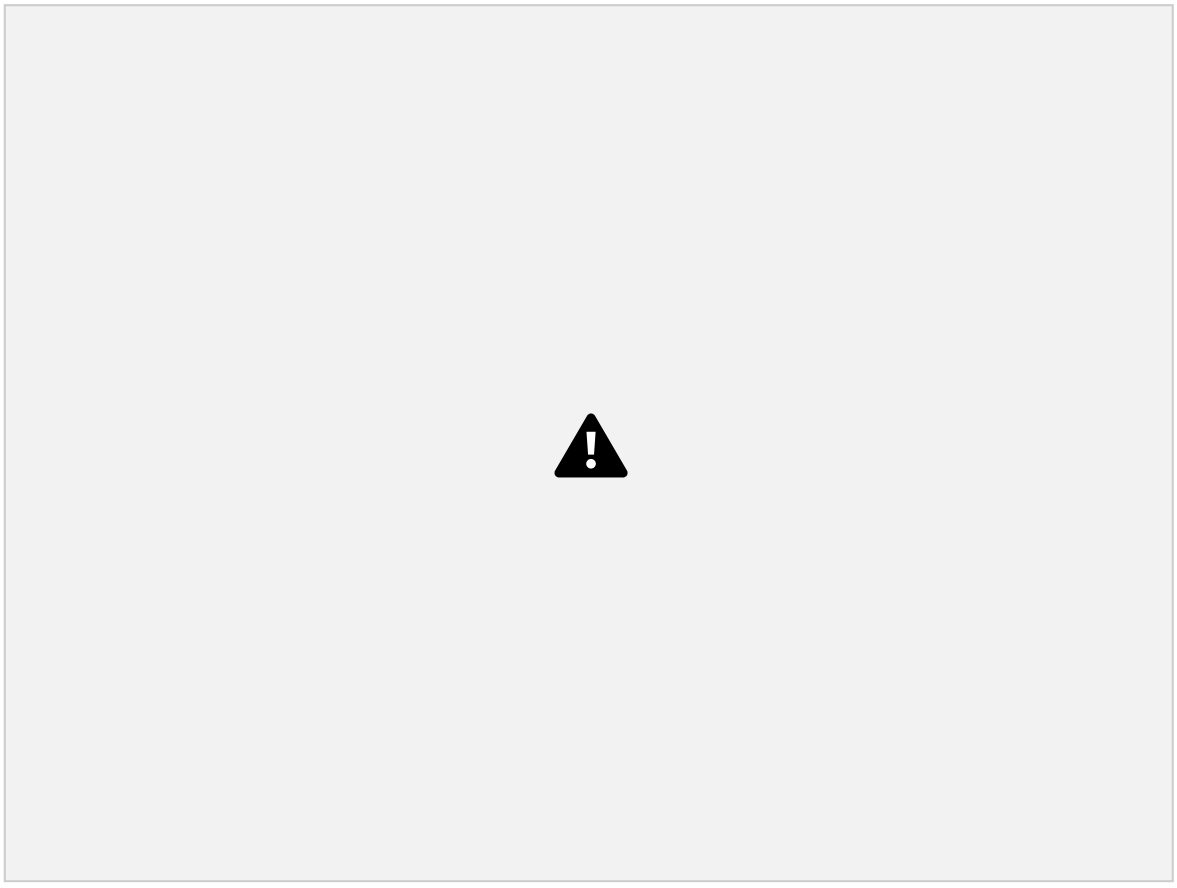






Port Loko Engagements





Western Area Engagements