



Centre for  
Human Rights and  
Restorative Justice

# SIERRA LEONE INTERVIEW CODING REPORT

Sierra Leone Truth Commission

## Abstract

Summary of notes, visualizations, and coding for Sierra Leone interviews discussing the Sierra Leone Truth Commission.

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## Researcher Notes

Interviewees:

- Amputee Wounded Association (2 speakers)
- Government Official Ataya Base Organization
- P FR MWA 006
- P RP 001
- P SG 025 (3 speakers)

Created case classifications and attributes for all interviewees. Information is organized as follows:

- Person
  - Age group
  - Gender
  - Country
  - Education level
  - TRC involvement

Major themes and discussions from the interviews:

- TRC
  - Discussions of the TRC's origins (n=6)
  - Feeling of international pressure and involvement in TRC (n=3)
  - Tried to create peace by bringing the people and warring factions together – apologies and reintegration into communities (n=2)
  - Tried to explain the causes of the conflict (n=1)
  - TRC felt too brief (n=1)
  - Included all sides, persons, gender, and ages (n=6)
    - BUT women did not participate fully due to shame and fear (n=1)
    - People outside country not able to participate (n=1)
  - Government has not fulfilled enough of the recommendations of the report (n=7)
    - Housing construction one of the few recommendations fulfilled (n=2)
  - Should have continued or completed a follow-up report (n=3)
  - Idea TRC about forgiving and forgetting (n=2)
  - Issues addressed (e.g., economy, politics, causes of the war, etc.) (n=8)
  - Need to look at all parties involved and not pin everything on the rebels (n=1)
- Conflict
  - Men major perpetrators and women the major victims (n=1)
  - Causes of the conflict included injustice, corruption, inequality, unemployment, etc. (n=1)
- Memorialization
  - Need to educate future generations about what happened (n=2)
- History

- TRC broadened our understanding of the history of the conflict (n=5)
- Justice
  - TRC did not bring total justice – political and social problems still need to be addressed (n=6)
  - Felt needed judgements on behalf of the victims (n=1)
  - Felt some major perpetrators received amnesty instead of judgement (n=3)
  - Victims suffer while perpetrators have normal lives (n=2)
  - Some justice – people discussing what happened to them (n=1)
- Reconciliation
  - Should have been broader in scope (n=1)
  - Helped various groups reconcile (n=1)
  - TRC fostered peace (n=4)
  - Recommendations that could bring peace but until implemented not real (n=2)

## Code Book for the Sierra Leone Interviews

The following chart breakdowns the codes and child nodes used for coding the Sierra Leone interviews.

Coding Themes	Description
Commission	Discussions or references to the Truth Commission - opinions of, origins, mandate, etc.
Hearings	Discussion or references to TRC hearings
Inclusivity	Discussions or references to TRC inclusivity
Issues Addressed	Discussions or references to issues addressed by the TRC
Mandate	Discussions or references to TRC mandate
Opinion of	Discussions or references to the interviewee's opinion of the TRC
Origins	Discussions or references to TRC origins
Recommendations	Discussions or references to TRC recommendations
Relationship to	Discussion or references of the interviewee's relationship to the TRC
Forget	Discussion or references to forgetting
Forgiveness	Discussions or references to forgiveness
History	Discussions or references to history
Human Rights Violations	Discussions or references to human rights violations
Justice	Discussions or references to justice
Reconciliation	Discussions or references to reconciliation
Truth	Discussions or references to truth
Victims	Discussions or references to victims

Coding Themes	Description
Violence	Discussions or references to violence
Women	Discussions or references to women
Youth	Discussions or references to youth

The most referenced themes in the interviews were:

- the commission,
- reconciliation, and,
- violence.

\*It is unsurprising that discussions of the truth commission were prominent as most of the interview questions were about the truth commission (e.g., its origins, mandate, etc.).

The least referenced themes in the interviews were:

- human rights violations, and,
- truth.

## Data Visualizations

This section contains all data visualization for the Columbia interviews. Data visualizations include:

- Word Frequency Clouds - a visual way to show the top 30 words including stems in the interview transcript. More frequently occurring words appear in larger fonts and less frequently appearing words in progressively smaller fonts
- Hierarchy Coding Charts – a diagram that shows hierarchical data as a set of nested rectangles of varying sizes. Here it is used to represent to demonstrate the most to least reference themes in the interview coding. References are scaled by rectangle size – the bigger the rectangle the more references it has compared to smaller rectangles.
- Matrix Coding Charts – chart that can compare what different demographic groups said about an experience, an attitude, or an issue. Data can help reveal coding intersections between individuals.
- Project Maps – a visual way of presenting project data. Can be used to show connections, gaps, and divergences in data.

### Word Frequency Clouds

- Amputee War Wounded Association Interview Word Cloud
- Excel list of word cloud findings for Amputee War Wounded Association
- Government Official Ataya Base Organization Interview Word Cloud
- Excel list of word cloud findings for Government Official Ataya Base Organization
- P FR MWA 006 Interview Word Cloud
- Excel list of word cloud findings for P FR MWA 006
- P RP 001 Interview Word Cloud
- Excel list of word cloud findings for P RP 001
- P SG 025 Interview Word Cloud
- Excel list of word cloud findings for P SG 025

### Coding Hierarchy Chart

- Hierarchy coding comparing references
- Excel list hierarchy coding comparing references

### Matrix Coding Chart

- Matrix coding query - Sierra Leone interview coding
- Excel list matrix coding query - Sierra Leone interview coding

### Project Maps

- Project map interviewee classifications and attributes Sierra Leone
- Project map interviewee coding Sierra Leone

## Amputee War Wounded Association Interview Word Cloud

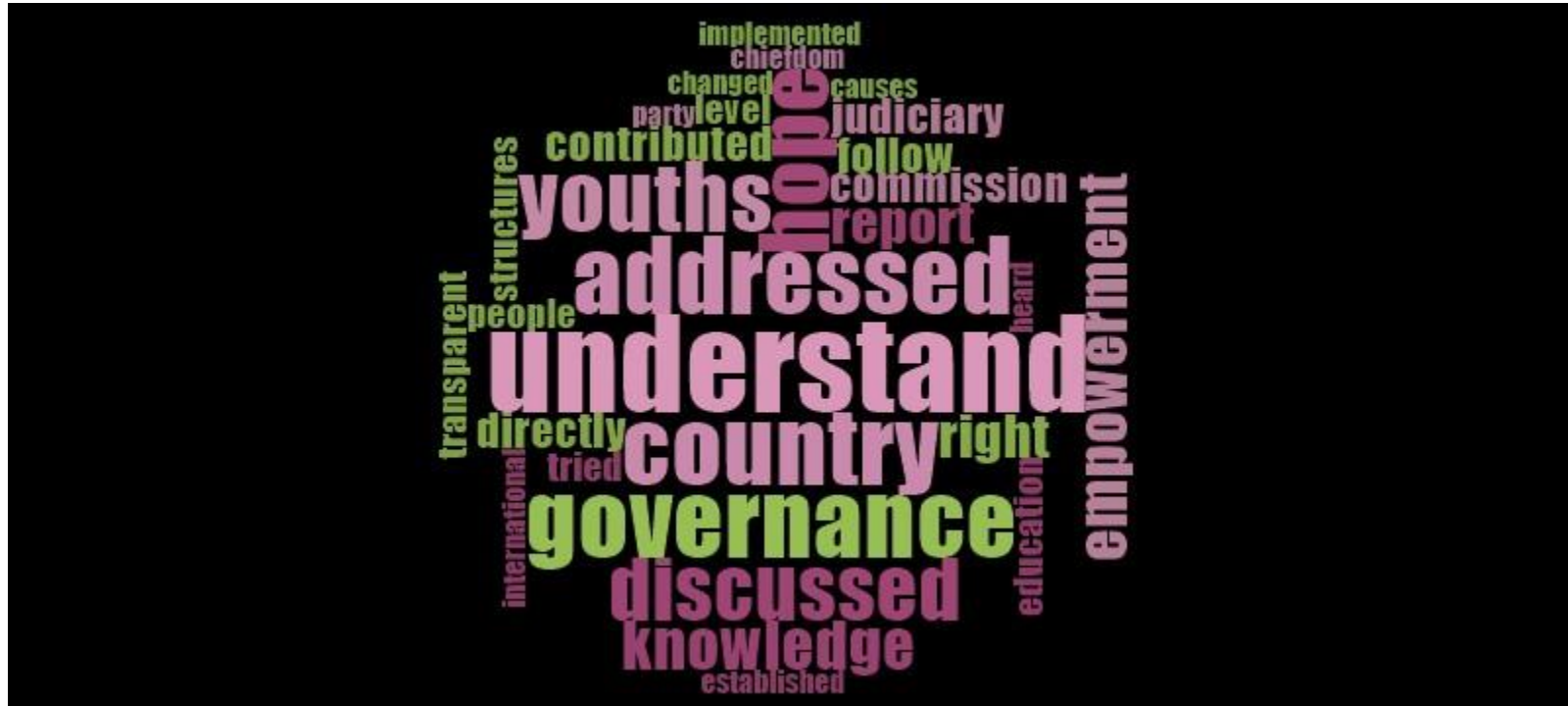




## Excel List of Word Cloud Findings for the Amputee War Wounded Association Interview

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)	Similar Words
recommended	11	24	2.28	recommendation, recommendations, recommended
promises	8	18	1.71	promise, promised, promises
country	7	17	1.62	countries, country
implemented	11	17	1.62	implement, implemented, implementing
involved	8	16	1.52	involved
government	10	14	1.33	government, governments
process	7	14	1.33	process
victims	7	14	1.33	victim, victims
peace	5	12	1.14	peace, peaceful
forget	6	11	1.05	forget
first	5	10	0.95	first, firstly
think	5	10	0.95	think, thinking
forgive	7	9	0.86	forgive, forgiveness
people	6	8	0.76	people
problem	7	8	0.76	problem, problems
transparent	11	8	0.76	transparent
children	8	6	0.57	children
free	4	6	0.57	free
perpetrators	12	6	0.57	perpetrators
report	6	6	0.57	report
established	11	6	0.57	established, establishing
give	4	6	0.57	give, giving
organizations	13	6	0.57	organization, organizations
started	7	6	0.57	start, started
benefit	7	5	0.48	benefit, benefited, benefits
help	4	5	0.48	help, helped
means	5	5	0.48	mean, means
talking	7	5	0.48	talk, talking
addressed	9	5	0.48	address, addressed
brought	7	5	0.48	brought

## Government Official Ataya Base Organization Interview Word Cloud



## Excel List of Word Cloud Findings for Government Official Ataya Base Organization Interview

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)	Similar Words
understand	10	15	1.68	understand, understanding
addressed	9	12	1.34	address, addressed
country	7	12	1.34	countries, country
governance	10	12	1.34	governance, government
hope	4	11	1.23	hope
youths	6	11	1.23	youth, youths
discussed	9	10	1.12	discuss, discussed, discussing, discussions
empowerment	11	8	0.89	empowerment
knowledge	9	8	0.89	knowledge, knowledgeable
report	6	7	0.78	report
right	5	7	0.78	right
commission	10	6	0.67	commission
contributed	11	6	0.67	contributed, contributions
directly	8	6	0.67	directly
follow	6	6	0.67	follow, followed
judiciary	9	6	0.67	judiciary
education	9	5	0.56	educate, education
level	5	5	0.56	level, levels
people	6	5	0.56	people
structures	10	5	0.56	structure, structures
transparent	11	5	0.56	transparency, transparent
tried	5	5	0.56	tried
causes	6	4	0.45	causes
changed	7	4	0.45	changed
chiefdom	8	4	0.45	chiefdom, chiefdoms
established	11	4	0.45	established, establishing
heard	5	4	0.45	heard
implemented	11	4	0.45	implemented
international	13	4	0.45	internation, international
party	5	4	0.45	parties, party

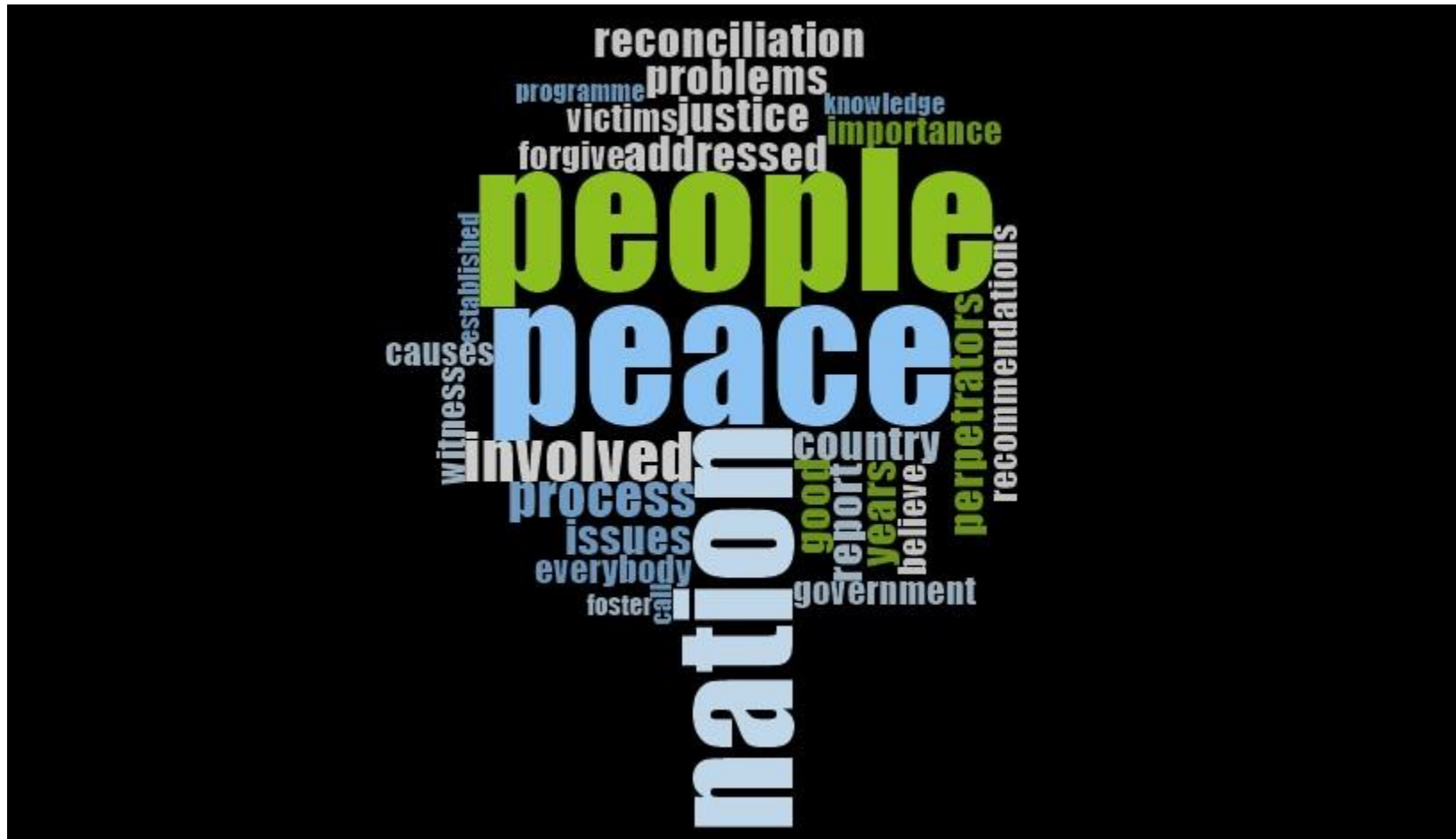
P FR MWA 006 Interview Word Cloud



## Excel List of Word Cloud Findings for P FR MWA 006 Interview

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)	Similar Words
people	6	25	2.29	people
think	5	20	1.83	think, thinking
happenings	10	15	1.37	happen, happened, happening, happenings
country	7	14	1.28	countries, country
recommendations	15	12	1.10	recommendation, recommendations, recommended
implemented	11	11	1.01	implement, implemented
peace	5	11	1.01	peace
process	7	11	1.01	process
reconciliation	14	11	1.01	reconciliation
things	6	11	1.01	things
factions	8	10	0.91	faction, factions
government	10	10	0.91	governance, government, governments
continue	8	9	0.82	continue
accept	6	8	0.73	accept, accepted, accepting
brought	7	8	0.73	brought
community	9	8	0.73	communities, community
involved	8	8	0.73	involved
testify	7	8	0.73	testified, testify, testifying
women	5	8	0.73	women
addressed	9	8	0.73	address, addressed
civil	5	7	0.64	civil
broaden	7	6	0.55	broaden, broadened
children	8	6	0.55	children
given	5	6	0.55	given
hearings	8	6	0.55	hear, hearings
society	7	6	0.55	societies, society
suffered	8	6	0.55	suffered, suffering
time	4	6	0.55	time
working	7	6	0.55	work, working
allowed	7	5	0.46	allowed

P RP 001 Interview Word Cloud



## Excel List of Word Cloud Findings for P RP 001 Interview

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)	Similar Words
peace	5	21	2.46	peace
people	6	21	2.46	people
nation	6	18	2.11	nation, national, nations
involved	8	9	1.06	involved
process	7	8	0.94	process, processes
addressed	9	7	0.82	address, addressed
country	7	7	0.82	country
good	4	7	0.82	good
issues	6	7	0.82	issues
justice	7	7	0.82	justice, justices
perpetrators	12	7	0.82	perpetrators
problems	8	7	0.82	problem, problems
reconciliation	14	7	0.82	reconciliation, reconciliations
report	6	7	0.82	report
years	5	7	0.82	years
forgive	7	6	0.70	forgive, forgiveness
government	10	6	0.70	government, governments
recommendations	15	6	0.70	recommendations, recommended
victims	7	6	0.70	victim, victims
believe	7	6	0.70	believe
causes	6	6	0.70	caused, causes
everybody	9	6	0.70	everybody
importance	10	6	0.70	importance, important
witness	7	6	0.70	witness, witnessed
call	4	5	0.59	call, called, calling
established	11	5	0.59	established
foster	6	5	0.59	foster, fostered
knowledge	9	5	0.59	knowledge
programme	9	5	0.59	programme, programmes

P SG 025 Interview Word Cloud



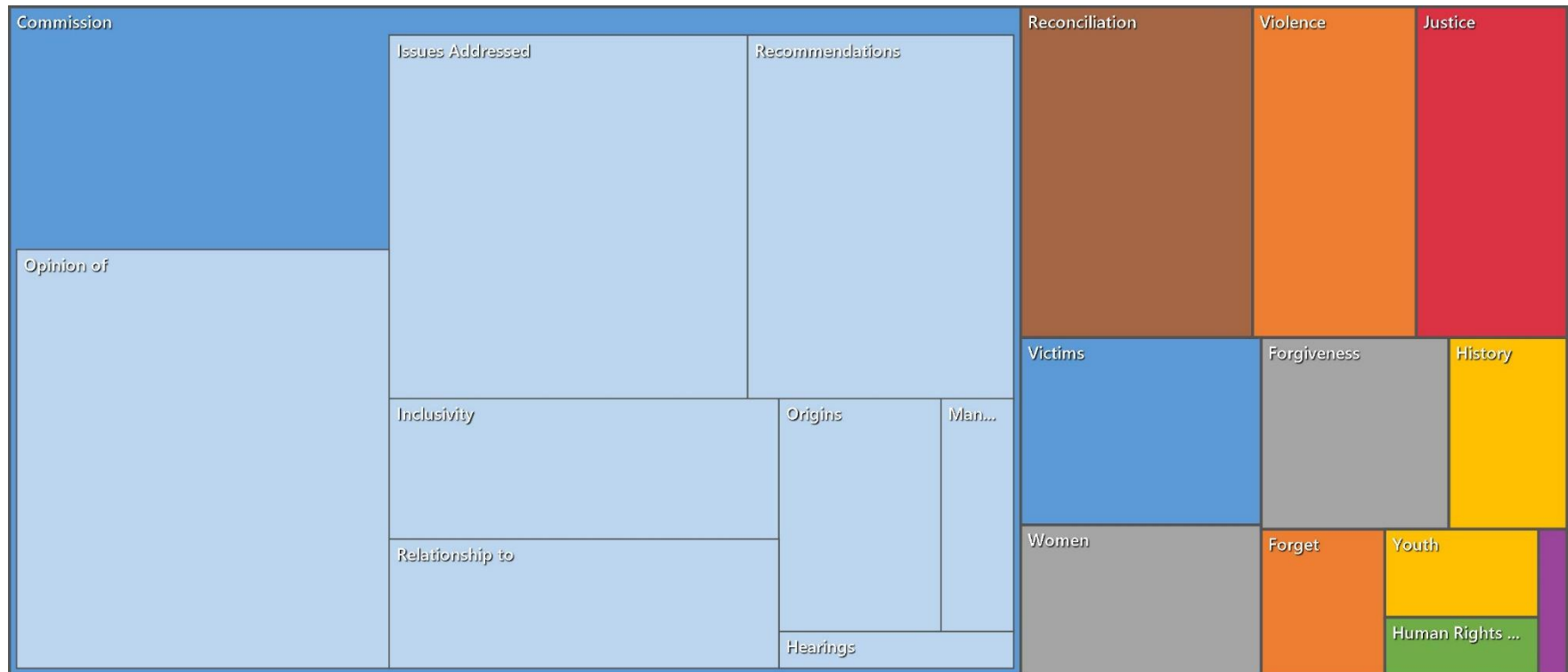


## Excel List of Word Cloud Findings for P SG 025 Interview

Word	Length	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)	Similar Words
people	6	52	3.22	people, peoples
issues	6	35	2.17	issue, issues
think	5	35	2.17	think, thinking
women	5	25	1.55	women
peace	5	23	1.42	peace, peaceful
country	7	19	1.18	countries, country
implemented	11	19	1.18	implement, implementation, implementations, implemented
recommendations	15	16	0.99	recommendation, recommendations
injustice	9	11	0.68	injustice, injustices
report	6	11	0.68	report
rebels	6	10	0.62	rebels
establishment	13	9	0.56	establish, established, establishment
killed	6	9	0.56	killed, killing
national	8	9	0.56	nation, national, nations
political	9	9	0.56	politic, political, politically, politics
change	6	8	0.50	change, changed, changing
justice	7	8	0.50	justice
process	7	8	0.50	process
reconciliation	14	8	0.50	reconciliation
work	4	7	0.43	work, worked, working
youths	6	7	0.43	youth, youths
happened	8	7	0.43	happen, happened, happenings
burnt	5	6	0.37	burnt
commission	10	6	0.37	commission, commissions
knowledge	9	6	0.37	knowledge
military	8	6	0.37	military
representations	15	6	0.37	representation, representations
party	5	6	0.37	parties, party
witnessing	10	6	0.37	witness, witnesses, witnessing
addressed	9	5	0.31	address, addressed

## Hierarchy Coding Comparing References

The chart is a diagram that compares coding themes by number of interviewee references. References are scaled by rectangle size – the bigger the rectangle the more references it has compared to smaller rectangles.

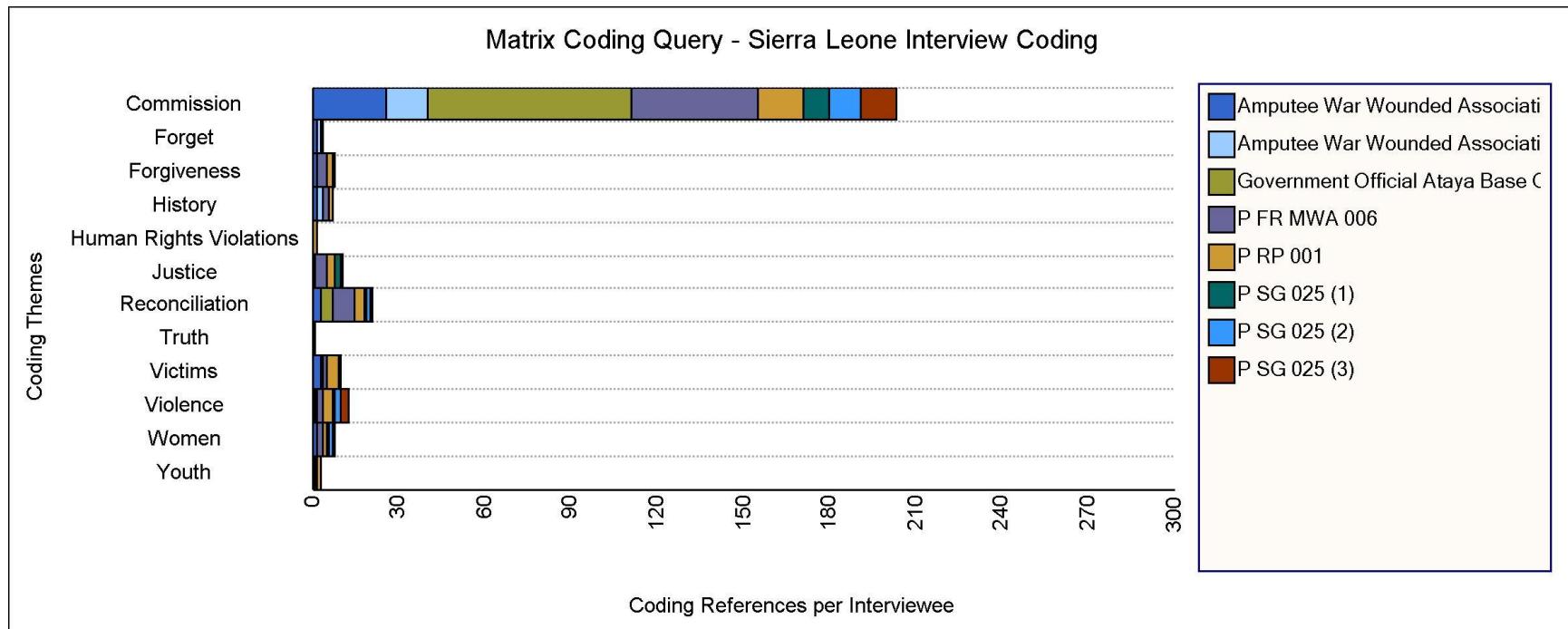


## Excel List Hierarchy Coding Compared by References per Interviewee

Codes	Number of coding references
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission	150
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission\\Hearings	2
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission\\Inclusivity	13
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission\\Issues Addressed	31
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission\\Mandate	4
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission\\Opinion of	37
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission\\Origins	9
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission\\Recommendations	23
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Commission\\Relationship to	12
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Forget	4
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Forgiveness	8
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\History	5
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Human Rights Violations	2
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Justice	11
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Reconciliation	17
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Truth	1
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Victims	10
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Violence	12
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Women	8
Nodes\\Sierra Leone\\Youth	3

## Matrix Coding Query - Sierra Leone Interview Coding

The following chart provides a breakdown of the number of coding references per interviewee (n=8). The y-axis represents the coding themes, and the x-axis represents the number of references the interviewees made to those themes during their interviews. The chart shows that the interviewees referenced the commission, reconciliation, and violence the most in their interviews. The least discussed themes of the interviews were human rights violations and truth.

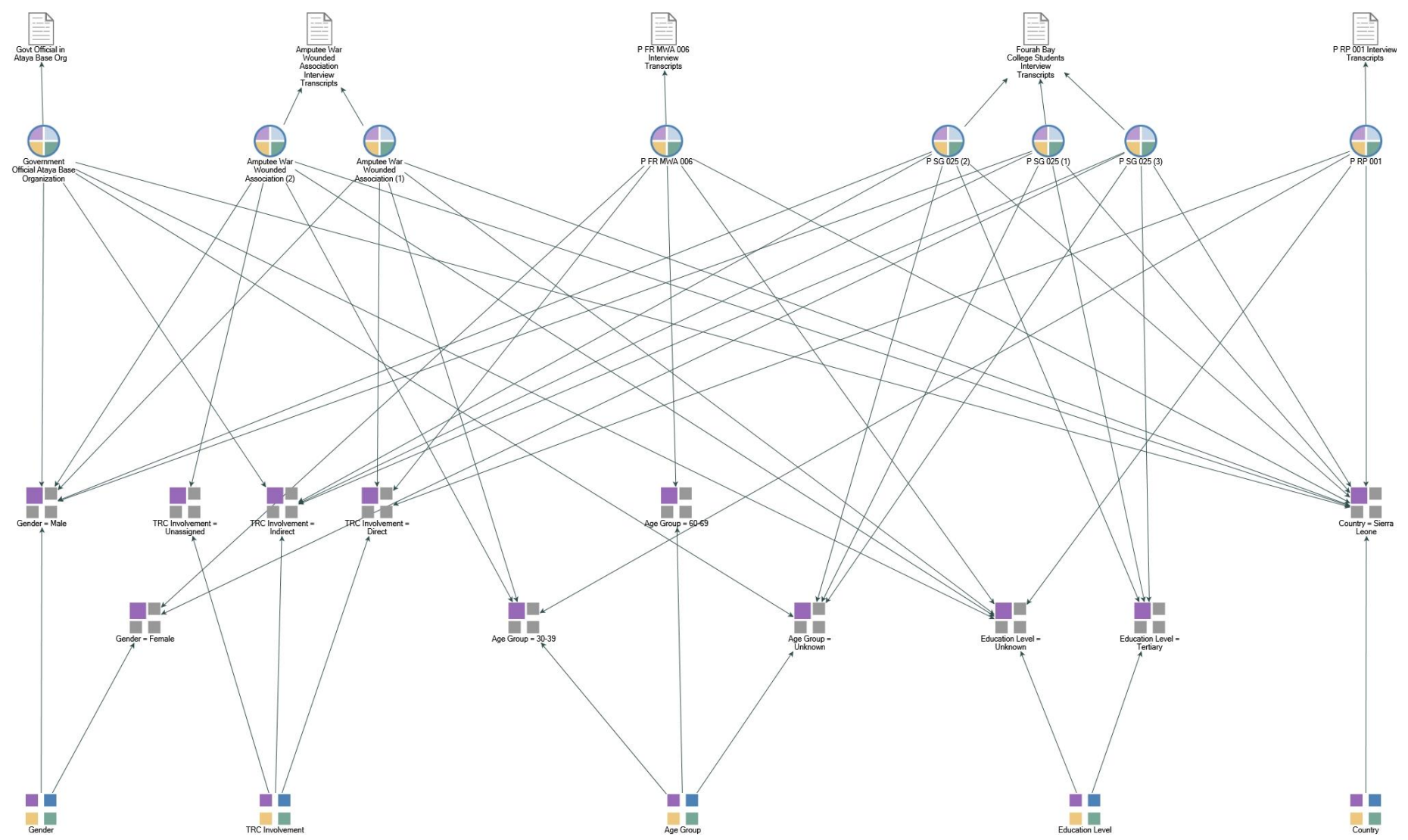


### Excel List Matrix Coding Query - Sierra Leone Interview Coding

	A : Amputee War Wounded Association (1)	B : Amputee War Wounded Association (2)	C : Government Official Ataya Base Organization	D : P FR MWA 006	E : P RP 001	F : P SG 025 (1)	G : P SG 025 (2)	H : P SG 025 (3)
1 : Commission	26	14	71	44	16	9	11	12
2 : Forget	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
3 : Forgiveness	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	1
4 : History	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0
5 : Human Rights Violations	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
6 : Justice	1	0	0	4	3	2	0	1
7 : Reconciliation	3	0	4	8	3	1	1	1
8 : Truth	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
9 : Victims	3	1	0	1	4	0	0	1
10 : Violence	1	1	0	2	3	1	2	3
11 : Women	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	1
12 : Youth	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0

# Project Map Interviewee Classifications and Attributes Sierra Leone

This project map shows connections, gaps, and divergences in the project’s interview transcripts, classifications (persons), and attributes (e.g., age).



# Project Map Interviewee Coding Sierra Leone

This project map shows connections, gaps, and divergences in the project’s interview transcripts and coding references.

