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130 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE OWECC-L AND THE COURT MAKING PROCESS

PLAIN AND SIMPLE ANSWERS

Everything You've Been Asking About OWECC-L, the WECC, and the NACC

A Simple Guide for Every Liberian

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A note from the Executive Director, Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu (Prof.)

Greetings Fellow Citizens and Partners in the search for justice, accountability, reconciliation and national healing in Liberia.

Thank you for your interest in justice for victims of the civil crises and lasting national peace.

The Office for the Establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia (OWECC-L) was created by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. through Executive Order # 131 in April 2024. In that same April, the Legislature (House of Representatives and Senate) passed Joint Resolution No. 001/2024, asking the President to start the process of implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission **(TRC)** recommendation to establish War Crimes Tribunal and legal systems to fight corruption in Liberia. In short, the Legislature asked the President to coordinate the national process to establish the War and Economic Crimes Court and the National Anti-Corruption Court.

As Liberia continues to push its Transitional Justice process, many citizens, victims of the civil war, advocates against corruption, development partners, students, journalists, and members of the international community, and even some people who are believed to have taken part in the war and did some unlawful things, have questions regarding the mandate of the OWECC-L and the entire process on establishing the WECC and the NACC.

> ***WHERE ARE WE NOW****? WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR? WILL THE COURTS REALLY BE ESTABLISHED? WILL THEY GIVE PEOPLE JUSTICE? IN FACT, ARE BIG PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT AND THOSE WITH MONEY OR POWER GOING TO BE BROUGHT TO THE COURT? WHY SHOULDN'T WE JUST FORGET THIS WHOLE COURT BUSINESS AND LET BYGONES BE BYGONES TO AVOID ANY NEW WAR?*

These are fine questions that need to be answered. After working with Liberians and other people in Liberia and outside the country, OWECC-L and partners have compiled those many questions into this document, in categories and answered them. We trust that the answers are good. However, they may not be sufficient because maybe you have other questions that are not captured in this document.

We invite you to submit questions through our email or telephone numbers included in our letterhead at the very top of this document. If you wish to contact me directly, please email, send me WhatsApp or text message or call me using the following: barbuja@oweccliberia.org; +231771-496-817.

Meanwhile, I appeal to you: "**LET'S SUPPORT THE WECC AND NACC."**

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

This booklet has 130 questions and answers about OWECC-L and Liberia's two new courts , the War and Economic Crimes Court (WECC) and the National Anti-Corruption Court (NACC). It is written in plain language, on purpose, so that every Liberian, not only lawyers can understand what is happening and why.

A few honest ground rules for how we answer:

- If something has already been decided by the Constitution or any other law, even an Executive Order, we say so plainly.
- If something has NOT yet been decided, we say that too, instead of guessing. Many important details will only be settled once the Legislature passes the final laws.
- We try to explain hard words the first time we use them, and Section K at the back explains the most common ones in one place.

You do not need to read this booklet from front to back. Find the section that matches your question and start there. If your question is not answered here, turn to Section I to find out how to reach OWECC-L directly.

A. ABOUT OWECC-L

Q1. ***What is OWECC-L?***
OWECC-L is a Liberian government office. Its job is to get everything ready for two new courts: the War and Economic Crimes Court and the National Anti-Corruption Court.

Q2. ***What does "OWECC-L" stand for?***
It stands for the Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia.

Q3. ***Is OWECC-L itself a court?***
No. OWECC-L cannot try anyone, convict anyone, or send anyone to jail. It is doing the preparation work so that real courts can be built.

Q4. ***Why was OWECC-L created?***
Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) studied the civil war and recommended that a special court be created to judge the worst crimes committed during it. Years later, the President created OWECC-L to make that recommendation happen.

Q5. ***Who created OWECC-L, and how?***
The President of Liberia H.E. Joseph N. Boakai created OWECC-L through an Executive Order (a formal presidential directive), based on a resolution passed jointly by both houses of the Legislature.

Q6. ***What exactly does OWECC-L do all day?***
OWECC-L researches how to design the courts, talks to the public about the process, works with lawmakers on the draft laws, works with other countries for support, and keeps records safe for future use as evidence.

Q7. ***Does OWECC-L investigate crimes itself?***
No. OWECC-L does not investigate individual cases or gather evidence against specific people. That work belongs to the courts and prosecutors once they are established.

Q8. ***Does OWECC-L decide who is guilty?***
No. OWECC-L has no power to decide anyone's guilt or innocence. Only a court, after a fair trial, can do that.

Q9. ***Is OWECC-L part of the police?***
No. OWECC-L is a separate government office. It is not a police agency and has no arrest powers.

Q10. ***Where is OWECC-L's main office?***
OWECC-L's headquarters is in Monrovia.

Q11. ***Does OWECC-L have offices outside Monrovia?***
Yes. OWECC-L has opened Regional Offices in five counties to reach communities outside the capital for example, the Bomi Regional Office in Tubmanburg, which also serves Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu Counties.

Q12. ***Who leads OWECC-L?***
OWECC-L is led by an Executive Director, currently Dr. Cllr. Jallah A. Barbu (Prof.), supported by directors, regional coordinators, and staff across the country.

Q13. ***Will OWECC-L still exist after the courts are set up?***
Not in its current form. Once the courts are actually running, OWECC-L is expected to hand over its records and knowledge and become part of the courts' permanent administration.

Q14. ***Is OWECC-L a permanent office, or temporary?***
Temporary. OWECC-L exists to prepare for the courts, not to run them forever. Its mandate is renewed by the President from time to time and has an expected end point.

B. WHY THESE COURTS, AND WHY NOW?

Q15. ***Why does Liberia need a War and Economic Crimes Court?***
During Liberia's civil conflicts, terrible crimes were committed, killings, torture, and more and almost no one has ever been held responsible in a Liberian court. The WECC is meant to finally hold accountable those most responsible.

Q16. ***What kinds of crimes will the WECC deal with?***
Serious crimes connected to the civil war period, things like war crimes and major economic crimes tied to the conflict, such as large-scale looting or illegal resource exploitation that helped fund the fighting.

Q17. ***Why does Liberia need a National Anti-Corruption Court?***
Corruption, stealing or misusing public money and power remains a serious, ongoing problem. A dedicated court can handle these cases more quickly and with more specialized skill than the general court system.

Q18. ***What is corruption, in simple terms?***
Corruption is when someone in a position of trust often a public official abuse that position for personal gain, such as taking bribes, stealing public funds, or awarding contracts unfairly.

Q19. ***The war ended over 20 years ago. Why act now?***
Time does not erase what victims went through. Waiting longer only makes evidence harder to find and witnesses harder to reach. Many Liberians, including OWECC-L, believe it is better late than never.

Q20. ***Didn't the Truth and Reconciliation Commission already deal with this?***
The TRC did very important work it collected testimony and told the story of what happened. But the TRC was not a court. It could not put anyone on trial. It recommended that a real court be created to do that.

Q21. ***What exactly did the TRC recommend?***
Among other things, the TRC recommended establishing a court often called an Extraordinary Criminal Court in its report to prosecute those bearing the greatest responsibility for war-era crimes, and it also recommended reforms to fight corruption.

Q22. ***If the TRC reported in 2009, why did it take so long to get here?***
Turning a recommendation into an actual, working court takes sustained political will, careful legal drafting, and public support all of which took years to build. OWECC-L's creation and current work represent that process finally moving forward.

Q23. ***Will setting up the WECC bring back the war?***
No. The WECC is a court of law, not a weapon. It follows legal procedure evidence, fair hearings, defense lawyers which is the opposite of the chaos of war.

Q24. ***What does "transitional justice" actually mean?***
It means the different ways a country tries to deal fairly with a violent past through truth-telling, courts, reparations for victims, and reforms so the country can move forward without repeating that past.

C. MONEY AND RESOURCES

Q25. ***How much will the two courts cost to build and run?***
This has not been decided yet. The full cost depends on choices the Legislature has not yet made like how big the courts will be and how they'll be staffed. That will be worked out once the laws are passed.

Q26. ***How much does OWECC-L itself cost right now?***
OWECC-L's current preparatory work is funded at about **US$2,000,000** per year, paid in installments through the Ministry of Justice. This pays for OWECC-L's own work, not the future courts' operating budget.

Q27. ***Who is paying for OWECC-L?***
Mainly the Government of Liberia, through the national budget.

Q28. ***Will foreign countries help pay for the courts?***
Liberia is expected to seek some financial and technical support from international partners, the way many countries do for major justice projects. But this would add to, not replace, Liberia's own funding.

Q29. ***Does Liberia even have enough money for this?***
Liberia is committing its own budget to this process now, and is seeking extra support from partners for the bigger phase ahead. It is a real financial commitment, but one the Government has chosen to prioritize.

Q30. ***Isn't this a waste of money Liberia doesn't have?***
Reasonable people disagree on priorities, and OWECC-L takes that concern seriously. But unresolved impunity has its own costs to trust in government, to victims, and to long-term peace which OWECC-L believes justifies this investment.

Q31. ***Will my taxes go up because of this?***
There is no indication that this specific process would require new taxes; it is being funded through the existing national budget process.

Q32. ***How can I see how OWECC-L spends its money?***
OWECC-L is required to report its spending regularly to the Presidency, and those reports are subject to independent audit. OWECC-L is committed to being transparent about its use of public funds.

D. WHO CAN BE TRIED, AND FOR WHAT

Q33. ***What time period will the WECC cover?***
1979 to 2003, the same period the Truth and Reconciliation Commission examined.

Q34. ***Does that mean nothing before 1979 or after 2003 matters?***
It means the WECC's authority to prosecute is focused on that period. Events outside that window would generally fall under Liberia's ordinary laws and courts instead.

Q35. ***Who can actually be put on trial?***
Generally, those believed to bear the greatest responsibility for the most serious crimes — not every single person who was ever involved in the conflict.

Q36. ***Can rich or powerful people be put on trial?***
Yes, in principle. Being wealthy or influential is not supposed to protect anyone from prosecution. Whether a specific person is actually charged is a decision for independent prosecutors once the court exists.

Q37. ***Can former or current government officials be tried?***
Yes, in principle holding office does not automatically shield someone from prosecution, though some constitutional rules about timing may apply to sitting officials.

Q38. ***Can former fighters be tried?***
Yes, if there is evidence they bear serious responsibility for crimes covered by the court regardless of which side they fought on.

Q39. ***Were children who fought in the war to blame?***
Under international standards, children recruited into war are considered victims of that recruitment, even if they were made to do terrible things. Responsibility is generally assessed based on age at the time of the act. But it will be up to the Prosecution to decide based on the laws and the nature of the case

Q40. ***Will people who were child soldiers be punished now that they are adults?***
Courts elsewhere facing this exact question have generally focused prosecution on commanders and leaders, not on the children they recruited and used. How this applies in Liberia will be for the court's prosecutors to decide, guided by these same standards.

Q41. ***What happens if the accused person has already died?***
A dead person cannot be put on trial, criminal cases end when the accused dies. But separate legal processes may still allow the recovery of property that was stolen or illegally acquired.

Q42. ***What happens to money or property someone stole during the war?***
Many legal systems allow the government to recover stolen or illegally gotten property through a separate legal process, even years later. Whether and how Liberia will do this will be defined in the new laws.

Q43. ***Can someone's property be taken away before their trial is finished?***
Courts can often “freeze” property connected to a crime while a case is ongoing, to stop someone from hiding or selling it. This is usually done carefully, with a judge's approval, to prevent abuse.

Q44. ***Will everyone who did something wrong during the war be put on trial?***

No, the WECC is expected to focus on the most serious cases and those most responsible. Lower-level or less serious matters may instead be addressed through community-based approaches (see Section J).

E. THE DEATH PENALTY, JUDGES, AND HOW THE COURT IS BUILT

Q45. ***Does Liberia still have the death penalty?***
Yes, on paper. It remains in Liberia's laws, but no one has actually been executed since 2000, so in practice Liberia has not used it for over two decades.

Q46. ***Will the WECC be allowed to sentence someone to death?***
This is being actively debated, and OWECC-L has recommended that the answer should be **NO** that the WECC's law should clearly say no one it convicts can be sentenced to death.

Q47. ***Must Liberia get rid of the death penalty to build the WECC?***
Not as a strict legal rule. But it is close to a requirement in practice for the kind of court Liberia wants to build, for reasons explained in the next question.

Q48. ***Why does the death penalty matter so much for this particular court?***
Liberia wants the WECC to include international judges and prosecutors (see the next question). The United Nations has a firm policy: it will not help run any court that could sentence someone to death. Keeping the death penalty could mean losing that international support.

Q49. ***What is a "hybrid court"?***
A hybrid court mixes Liberian judges and staff with judges and staff from other countries or the international community, working together on the same cases. It's a team made partly of Liberians, partly of outside experts.

Q50. ***Why not just use only Liberian judges?***
Liberia's own Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommended a mixed, international-plus-Liberian model, similar to courts used in other countries after war (like Sierra Leone). The idea is to combine local knowledge with international experience in these kinds of complex cases.

Q51. ***Will the judges be Liberian, foreign, or both?***
The plan is both, a hybrid bench. The exact mix will be spelled out in the final law.

Q52. ***Who chooses the judges?***
This will be decided in the law that creates the court. It is not yet finalized.

Q53. ***Will judges be approved the same way as other big government appointments?***
Likely a similar formal process will apply, but the specific steps for these particular judges will be set out in the new law.

Q54. ***Where will the WECC actually be located?***
Not yet decided. A location will be chosen as part of the planning that follows once the law is passed.

Q55. ***Who will act as prosecutors — bring the cases forward?***
Not yet finalized. It may be a brand-new, specially trained team, rather than existing Ministry of Justice staff handling it alongside their regular work similar to how Rwanda built a dedicated unit for its own war crimes cases.

Q56. ***Will regular Ministry of Justice lawyers handle these cases?***
Possibly, but many similar courts elsewhere found it worked better to build a dedicated, specially trained team instead. This choice will be made in the enabling law.

Q57. ***How long will the court operate?***
Not yet decided. Comparable courts elsewhere have usually been given a set period to complete their work, rather than running forever.

Q58. ***How many cases and people will the court handle?***
Not yet known. It depends on how much evidence exists and how prosecutors decide to prioritize the most serious cases.

F. FAIRNESS, EVIDENCE, AND INDEPENDENCE

Q59. ***Will the WECC and NACC actually be fair?***
That is the goal, and it is why so much of the design work: judge selection, legal protection and transparency, focuses specifically on preventing unfair outcomes and political interference.

Q60. ***Can the government control or pressure the judges?***
The law is expected to include protection meant to stop these rules that keep judges and prosecutors independent from political pressure. OWECC-L has specifically recommended strong protections of this kind.

Q61. ***What actually stops politicians from interfering in cases?***
A combination of legal protections written into the law, and public and media attention people watching closely makes interference harder to hide.

Q62. ***It's been over 20 years — is there still evidence?***
Yes, more than many people assume. The TRC alone collected a huge amount of testimony. There are also human rights reports, journalist records, and some physical evidence still available.

Q63. ***Where exactly will evidence come from?***
TRC records, past human rights investigations, documents, and living witnesses who are still willing and able to testify.

Q64. ***What if a witness has already died?***
Their case does not automatically fail. Earlier statements they gave for example, to the TRC may still be used as evidence, along with other supporting proof.

Q65. ***Is OWECC-L doing anything to protect evidence right now, before the court exists?***
Yes. OWECC-L's regional offices are actively collecting and digitally saving documents, photos, and testimony now, specifically so this evidence is not lost while we wait for the court to be built.

Q66. ***Will the accused person get a lawyer?***
Yes. A fair trial requires that the accused have legal representation and the chance to properly defend themselves.

Q67. ***Is this court about punishing people, or about revenge?***
It's about lawful accountability, not revenge. A court operates under rules, evidence, defense rights, a fair hearing which is the opposite of revenge, which has no rules at all.

Q68. ***What rights will someone accuse before the WECC have?***
The basic rights any fair legal system guarantees: to know the charges against them, to have a lawyer, to see the evidence, and to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

G. LIBERIA, THE WORLD, AND WHO'S IN CHARGE

Q69. ***Does the United Nations have to approve this court?***
No. Liberia is a sovereign country, and this is a Liberian legal decision. The UN or any foreign government does not need to sign off on it.

Q70. ***Is Liberia being forced into this by outside countries?***
No. This process grew out of Liberia's own Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the decisions of Liberia's own government and Legislature.

Q71. ***Can the President just create the courts alone, by himself?***
No. Under Liberia's Constitution, only the Legislature can create a court with the power to convict and sentence people. The President can create preparatory offices like OWECC-L, but not the courts themselves.

Q72. ***Why does the Legislature need to pass a law for this?***
Because Liberia's Constitution splits power between different branches of government, and giving a court the power to judge and sentence people is something only elected lawmakers can authorize.

Q73. ***What happens if other countries refuse to help Liberia?***
Liberia can still move forward on its own. International help: money, expertise, cooperation on suspects abroad, makes the process stronger, but it is not strictly required to establish the courts.

Q74. ***Can Liberia ask other countries to hand over a suspect who fled there?***
Yes, through a formal legal request called extradition. Whether another country agrees depends on that country's own laws and its relationship with Liberia.

Q75. ***What is "extradition," in simple words?***
It's the formal legal process of asking another country to send someone back to Liberia to face trial.

Q76. ***Will foreign judges be able to control or overrule Liberia's decisions?***
NO. Foreign judges who join the hybrid court would work as part of the Liberian court system, under Liberian law, not as outsiders controlling Liberia from abroad.

H. VICTIMS, WITNESSES, AND YOU

Q77. ***How will any of this actually help ordinary Liberians?***
It aims to strengthen trust in government, discourage future abuses of power, give victims real recognition, and show that no one no matter how powerful is above the law.

Q78. ***What happens if the WECC is never actually built?***
The TRC's central recommendation would remain unfulfilled, and serious crimes from the war would likely go unanswered permanently which many believe would weaken trust in the whole justice system.

Q79. ***What do victims actually get out of this process?***
Formal recognition of what happened to them, a chance to participate in cases connected to them, and possibly reparations (see the next question).

Q80. ***Will victims receive any kind of compensation?***
OWECC-L is working on a reparation's framework, a plan for how victims might be supported or compensated. The details are still being developed, with input from victims themselves.

Q81. ***Can victims speak or participate directly in the trials?***
Yes, that is the plan structured ways for victims to take part in cases relevant to them, not just watch from the outside.

Q82. ***If I become a witness, will I be safe?***
Protecting witnesses is expected to be a formal part of the court's design, including measures to keep witnesses safe before, during, and after they testify.

Q83. ***Will witnesses be paid for testifying?***
No, not for the testimony itself paying witnesses can make their evidence look unreliable in court. Reasonable travel or logistical support connected to testifying is a different, separate matter.

Q84. ***Will my family be protected too if I testify?***
Protection plans in similar courts elsewhere often extend to close family members when there's a real threat to them. Liberia's specific rules on this will be set once the court is running.

Q85. ***What if I'm afraid to come forward with information?***
That fear is understandable, and it's exactly why witness protection is being built into the court's design. You can also share concerns with OWECC-L now, ahead of the court opening.

Q86. ***If someone is convicted, where will they be held?***
Not yet decided. This will be worked out as part of the courts' infrastructure planning, with safety and security as a required consideration.

Q87. ***Will the place where convicted people are held be safe and secure?***
Security and safety for the public and for anyone in custody will be a required part of that planning, in line with Liberia's general obligations for how people in custody must be treated.

Q88. ***Can I report something to OWECC-L without giving my name?***
OWECC-L welcomes public input; specific confidentiality procedures for the courts themselves will be finalized as part of witness protection rules once the courts are operational.

Q89. ***What if I know something but don't want to formally testify?***
You can still share general information or concerns with OWECC-L. Formal testimony, with its legal protections, would only be requested once relevant, and always with your safety in mind.

Q90. ***Are there support services for victims right now, before the court exists?***
OWECC-L's regional offices run victim engagement activities and are working on broader support planning. If you need help now, your nearest OWECC-L regional office is a good place to start.

I. WHERE THINGS STAND, AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Q91. ***How far along is this whole process, really?***
Not that far. OWECC-L has been created, nationwide consultations have happened, the draft laws have been written, and the President has sent those draft laws to the Legislature. The next big step is for the Legislature to pass them.

Q92. ***Has the law creating the courts been passed yet?***
Not yet. The draft laws are before the National Legislature, which must debate and vote on them.

Q93. ***What is holding things up right now?***
Passing major new laws takes time, debate, review, and votes in both houses of the Legislature. This is the current stage.

Q94. ***When will the courts actually open?***
That depends on when the Legislature passes the laws, so an exact date isn't possible yet. Once passed, there will still be a period of setting up staff, buildings, and procedures before the first case begins.

Q95. ***How can I learn more about all this?***
Attend an OWECC-L community meeting, visit a Regional Office, websites and social media handles or reach out to OWECC-L Headquarters directly.

Q96. ***How do I ask OWECC-L a question that isn't in this booklet?***
You can contact OWECC-L Headquarters or your nearest Regional Office directly by phone, in person, or through OWECC-L's official communications channels.

Q97. ***Can students get involved?***
Yes. OWECC-L runs school outreach programs and, in some areas, Transitional Justice Clubs where students can learn and ask questions directly.

Q98. ***Can journalists get information easily from OWECC-L?***
Yes. OWECC-L's Communications Unit works directly with journalists for interviews, official statements, and briefings, more so, information are always added to OWECC-L official website and social media account

Q99. ***Does OWECC-L come to communities, or do people have to go to them?***
Both. OWECC-L holds community meetings, town halls, and school visits, in addition to being reachable at its offices.

Q100. ***What is the best way to contact OWECC-L directly?***
Through OWECC-L Headquarters in Monrovia, or through a Regional Office, phone, email, social media

J. COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND THE PALAVA HUT

Q101. ***Will small, less serious cases go to the big WECC court, or somewhere else?***
The plan is for the WECC to focus on the most serious cases and the people most responsible. Less serious matters are expected to be handled through community-based approaches instead which is currently being studied

Q102. ***What is the Palava Hut?***
The Palava Hut is a traditional Liberian way of resolving disputes at the community level where people gather, talk things through, and seek reconciliation, rather than going through a formal court.

Q103. ***Will the Palava Hut be used directly for war-time cases?***
Not exactly as it currently exists. OWECC-L has recommended building a new, purpose-designed community process for conflict-era matters, informed by the Palava Hut tradition but not simply reusing it unchanged.

Q104. ***Why not just use the Palava Hut as it already is?***
War-era harm is different from everyday community disputes, and OWECC-L is concerned that reusing the existing tradition unmodified could feel unfair to victims or blur it with unrelated local matters. A distinct process is recommended instead.

Q105. ***Who decides whether a case goes to the big court or the community process?***
That will be up to the court's prosecutors, guided by rules set out in the law generally based on how serious the case is and how much responsibility the accused person bears.

Q106. ***Will there be a separate law for community-level justice?***
Likely yes, in some form, alongside the main laws creating the WECC and NACC. This is one of the next things OWECC-L is working to develop.

Q107. ***Can a community-level process really deliver justice, or is it too soft?***
It's designed to deliver a different kind of justice focused on truth-telling, accountability, and reconciliation at the community level rather than replacing prison sentences for the most serious crimes, which stay with the formal court.

Q108. ***Rwanda used community courts called Gacaca after its genocide — will Liberia copy that?***
Liberia is learning from Rwanda's experience, including Gacaca, **but is not copying it directly**. Liberia's community process is being designed specifically to fit Liberia's own culture and needs.

Q109. ***What happens to someone whose actions were less serious than the top cases?***
They may go through the community-level process instead of the formal court focused on acknowledgment, dialogue, and reconciliation rather than a criminal trial.

Q110. ***Will traditional and religious leaders be part of this?***
Yes, they are expected to play an important role in community-level reconciliation efforts, given their standing and trust within communities.

K. SIMPLE WORDS EXPLAINED

This section explains, in one place, some of the words used throughout this booklet.

Q111. ***What does "transitional justice" mean?***
The different ways a country deals fairly with a violent past truth-telling, courts, support for victims, and reform so it can move forward.

Q112. ***What does "accountability" mean in this context?***
Making sure people answer for serious wrongs they committed through a fair legal process, not revenge.

Q113. ***What is a "war crime"?***
A serious violation of the rules that are supposed to apply even during war such as deliberately targeting civilians or torture.

Q114. ***What is an "economic crime," in this context?***
Large-scale theft, looting, or illegal profiteering for example, illegally exploiting natural resources to fund fighting during the war.

Q115. ***What does "hybrid court" mean?***
A court staffed by both Liberian and international judges and lawyers working together on the same cases.

Q116. ***What is "impunity"?***
Getting away with a serious wrong facing no consequences at all.

Q117. ***What does "reconciliation" mean?***
The process of repairing relationships and trust between people or communities after conflict or harm.

Q118. ***What is a "moratorium"?***
An official, temporary pause on doing something for example, a promise not to carry out any executions, without formally changing the law yet.

Q119. ***What does "prosecution" mean?***
The legal process of formally accusing someone of a crime and presenting the case against them in court.

Q120. ***What is "due process"?***
The guarantee that legal cases follow fair rules like the right to a lawyer and a fair hearing before anyone can be punished.

L. EVERYDAY QUESTIONS

Q121. ***If I saw something happen during the war, what should I do?***
You can share what you know with OWECC-L now. There is no obligation to give a formal statement immediately, and your safety will be taken seriously.

Q122. ***Can I report a corruption case now, even before the NACC exists?***
Yes, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) already investigates corruption today. The NACC, once created, will be the specialized court where such cases are tried.

Q123. ***Will any of this affect my daily life right now?***
Not directly, day to day. OWECC-L's current work is mostly preparation, research, consultation, and planning ahead of the courts becoming active.

Q124. ***Is it safe to talk publicly about the war and this process?***
OWECC-L encourages open public discussion as part of building understanding and trust in this process. If you ever feel unsafe raising a specific concern, you can also share it privately with OWECC-L.

Q125. ***Can I bring this topic up in school or with young people?***
Yes. OWECC-L actively encourages this and runs school programs specifically to support these conversations.

Q126. ***Will these new courts create jobs?***
Yes, in time judges, lawyers, investigators, administrative staff, and support roles will all be needed once the courts are operational.

Q127. ***Can young people work at OWECC-L now?***
Yes. OWECC-L runs an internship program and welcomes youth involvement in its ongoing work.

Q128. ***Does OWECC-L use social media?***
Yes, OWECC-L shares updates through official social media channels and encourages the public to follow along.

Q129. ***Can a community group or organization partner with OWECC-L?***
Yes. OWECC-L works with civil society organizations, schools, religious institutions, and community groups, and welcomes new partnerships.

Q130. ***What should I do if I hear false information about the courts?***
Check with OWECC-L directly through Headquarters, a Regional Office, or official OWECC-L communications rather than relying on rumor. This booklet itself is one tool for getting accurate information.

FINAL WORD

The establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court and the National Anti-Corruption Court is one of the most important steps Liberia has taken toward genuine accountability, reconciliation, and lasting peace.

This booklet cannot answer every question, some things are simply not decided yet, and this document will be honest about that rather than guess. But OWECC-L hopes that, question by question, it has made this process feel less distant and more like something every Liberian can understand and be part of.

If your question wasn't answered here, please reach out. OWECC-L would rather hear from you directly than have you left wondering.