



Equality Bulletin



Social Media for Change: Kenya's Youth Lead the Fight Against GBV and Femicide

In a powerful gathering held earlier this week, the Kisumu Regional team (NGEC), led by Davis Okeyo, met with a group of influential social media activists to discuss the pressing issue of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide. The breakfast meeting, which included social media influencers from various platforms including WhatsApp, Facebook, and TikTok, highlighted the growing role that young people are playing in the fight against violence, leveraging their social media reach to galvanise change.

With 77% of young Kenyans active on social media, these platforms are rapidly emerging as dynamic spaces for activism, offering a wide-reaching tool to challenge societal norms, raise awareness, and demand accountability. In Kenya, social media is not just a space for communication, but a vehicle for social change, as evidenced by the increasing number of youth-led movements calling for an end to GBV and femicide. The meeting in Kisumu underscored the urgency of addressing these issues, as femicide continues to be a tragic reality in many communities.

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A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

In this **12th Edition** of the Equality Bulletin, we stand at a powerful intersection of voice, vision, and action.

Kenya's youth have stepped into the digital frontline in the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide, leveraging the influence of social media to amplify survivor voices, galvanize public action, and hold systems accountable. From Kisumu to Nakuru, our teams are working tirelessly alongside community leaders, influencers, and civil society to dismantle entrenched inequalities and offer platforms for transformative change.

This edition also highlights the Commission's renewed focus on leadership and institutional strengthening. Through corporate governance training and strategic partnerships like our recent engagement with ACEPA on Gender-Responsive Budgeting, we are laying firm foundations for inclusive policymaking and resource allocation that leaves no one behind.

As we continue championing the rights of special interest groups, particularly marginalized communities, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, I am reminded that equality is not merely a policy goal — it is a moral imperative. It is about ensuring that every Kenyan, regardless of gender, geography, or identity, enjoys equal access to justice, leadership opportunities, and protection under the law.

Let us press forward, boldly and collaboratively, to build a just, inclusive, and equitable Kenya for all.

Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS

Chief Executive Officer

National Gender and Equality Commission



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Kisumu Meeting Unites Youth Leaders and Influencers to Tackle Gender-Based Violence and Femicide



Davis Okeyo of the Kisumu Regional Office engages with social media influencers during a breakfast meeting.

In a bold and timely move to address the escalating crisis of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide in Kenya, the Kisumu Regional Team of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), under the leadership of Davis Okeyo, convened a high-level breakfast meeting with social media influencers on Thursday morning in Kisumu City.

The engagement brought together some of the region's most vocal digital content creators and young change-makers, marking a significant step in the national effort to harness the power of social media to combat violence and promote accountability.

Held at a city hotel, the meeting centred on exploring how digital platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok, and X (formerly Twitter) are increasingly becoming potent tools for awareness, mobilisation, and resistance—particularly among Kenya's youth.

With recent statistics showing that 77 per cent of young Kenyans are active on social media, the discussions highlighted the potential of digital advocacy in amplifying survivor stories, demanding justice, and reshaping societal narratives around GBV and femicide.

"Social media has become more than just a tool for connection; it is now a frontline space for activism," said Davis Okeyo, "Young people are reclaiming their voices and using digital spaces to speak out against violence, discrimination, and impunity. We want to strengthen and support this momentum."

According to recent data from the Communications Authority of Kenya, 77 percent of young Kenyans are active on at least one social media platform. WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram are now emerging not only as entertainment hubs but also as dynamic spaces for civic-

engagement and mobilisation. This demographic—tech-savvy, outspoken, and socially conscious—is playing a crucial role in shaping public discourse, from trending hashtags like #StopGBV to viral TikTok videos advocating for survivors' rights. Their ability to spark nationwide conversations with a single post, meme, or livestream has fundamentally transformed the landscape of grassroots activism.

"We've seen the kind of momentum that can be built online. When we amplify the right messages, change follows," said Linet, a TikTok content creator and human rights advocate who attended the session. "Our platforms have become microphones for the voiceless."

The backdrop to the meeting is a country still reeling from recent high-profile cases of femicide, including the brutal killings of several young women whose stories dominated national headlines and social feeds in recent months. The tragic incidents have galvanised public outrage, triggering protests, candlelight vigils, and viral

hashtags calling for justice and reforms.

Recognising the power of social media to spotlight injustice and influence public policy, the Kisumu Regional Team urged influencers to become proactive agents of change—not just by posting, but by curating content that educates, inspires, and mobilises.

The NGEC team shared insights into the Commission's ongoing efforts to reduce GBV across the country, including community sensitisation, policy reform advocacy, and data-driven approaches. However, they underscored the need to expand their communication toolkit to include a more robust digital strategy—one that embraces the creativity and authenticity of youth-led engagement.

As Kenya grapples with the complex realities of GBV and femicide, the Kisumu initiative stands out as a beacon of what's possible when public institutions and citizens collaborate.

Nakuru Team Gathers to Tackle Triple Threats of GBV, Teenage Pregnancy, and HIV

In a decisive move to confront some of Kenya's most persistent social challenges, the Nakuru Regional Office convened the Nakuru East and West Gender Cluster earlier this week to deliberate on the Annual Work Plan and chart a stronger, more coordinated strategy against the "Triple Threats" of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Teenage Pregnancy, and HIV. The stakeholder meeting, held at the Nakuru Regional Office, drew participation from civil society actors, government representatives, health practitioners, and community leaders.

With direct support from the Women in Society Empowerment Organization and the Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH), the forum underscored a renewed urgency in amplifying joint efforts, accelerating targeted interventions, and driving policy alignment aimed at safeguarding vulnerable populations, particularly adolescent girls and young women.

Recent data from the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022 revealed that 15% of Kenyan girls aged 15–19 are either pregnant or already mothers. Nakuru County, a fast-growing urban hub, has seen a sharp rise in adolescent pregnancies, with health facilities reporting over 8,000 teenage deliveries in the past year alone. Parallel data from the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) indicates that youth between the ages of 15–24 account for over 40% of new HIV infections in Kenya.

Representatives from Women in Society Empowerment Organization and TICAH presented findings from ongoing community-based projects, highlighting alarming trends and systemic challenges, including limited access to comprehensive sexuality education, economic



The Nakuru Regional Office team in a group photo with participants from the Nakuru East and West Gender Cluster.

pressures, and harmful cultural norms that perpetuate early marriages and silence survivors of GBV.

One of the core objectives highlighted at the meeting was the urgent need to empower women and girls in local communities to become advocates for their own well-being and that of others. By engaging community leaders, schools, and local influencers, the cluster aims to challenge harmful cultural norms, educate the youth about their rights, and provide resources for those affected by GBV, teenage pregnancies, and HIV.

"Collective action is key," said Mwaniki during the meeting. "By amplifying our efforts and coordinating more effectively, we can create a society where no one is left behind. The time to act is now, and we are committed to ensuring that every Kenyan, regardless of gender or age, has access to the support and protection they deserve."

Teenage pregnancy remains a severe concern, particularly in rural areas where cultural practices, poverty, and lack of access to education create a dangerous environment for young girls. Strategies to combat this include creating safe spaces for teenage girls to receive counselling, ensuring access to reproductive health education, and strengthening partnerships with schools to improve sexual health education.

The Nakuru Regional Office team, in partnership with WISE and TICAH, is hopeful that this focused effort will result in tangible improvements in the lives of those most affected by these critical issues. By amplifying efforts, ensuring greater coordination, and fostering a spirit of collaboration, they are setting the stage for a future where gender equality is not just a distant goal, but a reality.

Governance on the Horizon: NGECK Champions Leadership Development in New Training Initiative

In a bold stride towards institutional excellence, the Commission recently hosted a comprehensive two-day corporate governance training for its policy and top management teams. The training, which began on 7 April 2025, covered a wide array of key topics, including Effective Board Leadership, Navigating Boardroom Dynamics & Conflict, Upholding Leadership & Integrity, and Embedding Sustainability in Performance.

The initiative aims to strengthen governance structures and equip senior officials with the tools necessary for maintaining high standards of leadership within the commission.

This corporate governance training is part of the Commission's broader strategy to improve operational transparency, encourage greater accountability, and promote an inclusive leadership model. By enhancing management skills, NGECK is laying a solid foundation for achieving sustainable development goals and reinforcing trust with its stakeholders.



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Commissioners Michael Nzomo, Caroline N. Lentupuru, Dr. Margaret Karungaru, and Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyier with the Secretariat

The NGECK has long been at the forefront of advocating for policies that reduce inequalities in Kenya. The goal of this training is to ensure that leadership within the Commission remains adaptable, resilient, and committed to upholding the principles of justice and equality.

As part of its ongoing commitment to building stronger, more effective institutions, the NGECK is investing in its internal leadership to ensure better service delivery for marginalized groups and promote gender equality across all sectors.

Empowering Marginalized Communities: NGE's Call to Action for Inclusion in National Policies



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa and Commissioner Caroline N. Lentupuru pose for a group photo with participants during the Consultative Forum

At the recent Consultative Forum on Constitutional Definitions of Marginalized Communities, the National Gender and Equality Commission reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that historically marginalized groups are recognised, included, and protected under Kenya's national policies.

The event, saw a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including policy experts, civil society organisations, and representatives from marginalized communities, coming together to address the pressing issues of inequality and exclusion.

NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, alongside Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru, underscored the urgent need to define and address the needs of marginalized communities within the framework of Kenya's Constitution. With marginalized groups often facing barriers to accessing critical services such as education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, the discussions centred on how to ensure their rightful inclusion in the nation's development agenda.

The consultative forum, which featured a series of presentations

and panel discussions, brought to light the numerous challenges faced by marginalized groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous communities, and the elderly. Many of these groups continue to struggle with limited access to resources, legal recognition, and political representation.

During the forum, Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru highlighted the significant role of the NGE in advocating for the inclusion of these groups in national policies. She called for a more comprehensive approach to defining marginalized communities within the Constitution, particularly in a way that ensures these groups can access the rights and services guaranteed to them by law.

In response to these calls for action, Hon. Jaldesa reiterated the commission's commitment to engaging with policymakers to ensure that the constitutional definition of marginalized groups is updated to reflect these concerns.

She also noted that the forum would be followed by a series of regional consultations, where community members would have the opportunity to share their experiences and contribute to the ongoing dialogue.

Leading Change: Call for Empowering Women and Reshaping Leadership Roles

In a stirring address at the Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM) Programme, Dr. Purity Ngina, CEO of the National Gender and Equality Commission, delivered a powerful message of transformation, inclusion, and empowerment. Speaking before a captivated audience, Dr. Ngina outlined the pressing need for intentional representation of women in leadership roles, asserting that progress for women must be a deliberate, not incidental, effort.

Dr. Ngina urged attendees to dismantle the barriers preventing women, particularly young mothers, from advancing in their careers. "It's time to break down the systems that hold women back from leadership positions. We must create spaces that are designed for their success," she stated.



Dr Purity Ngina, Commission Secretary/CEO, poses for a group photo with delegates during the KISM Programme.

With a focus on inclusive workplace policies, Dr. Ngina stressed the importance of structures that not only recognise women's potential but actively support it through flexible work arrangements, mentorship opportunities, and a workplace culture that values gender equity. Referencing the Affirmative Action and Gender Principles Act (AGPA) as a crucial tool in advancing gender equality, she called on women to take an active role in demanding and embodying the change they wish to see. "True leadership is not only about compliance with the law but about leading with integrity, ethics, and purpose," Dr. Ngina asserted.

The CEO also highlighted the importance of mentorship in bridging the leadership gap. "We grow when we lift others. Mentorship is vital in sustaining progress across generations and ensuring that women rise to lead in every space," she stated.

Dr. Ngina's remarks served as a call to action for women to not only aspire for leadership but to actively shape the future of workplaces, ensuring that they are inclusive, supportive, and equitable for all.

A Call for Inclusive Action in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence



Dr. Nancy Baraza and NGECC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa engage during the official submission of stakeholder recommendations to the Technical Working Group (TWG).

Nairobi, Kenya – During the official submission of stakeholder recommendations to the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the development of a comprehensive National Policy on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) delivered a passionate and compelling address, calling for inclusive action in tackling GBV in Kenya.

In her remarks, the Chairperson firmly underscored that efforts to eliminate GBV cannot succeed without the active involvement of men. "Men must not be sidelined. They must be empowered and engaged as active participants in the journey to end GBV," she stated, highlighting the crucial role that men and boys play in the prevention and transformation of attitudes towards gender-based violence.

The submission was part of a broader consultative process aimed at gathering input from various stakeholders to inform the creation of a national policy that is both holistic and inclusive.

The NGECC's contribution to the TWG's deliberations emphasized practical strategies, community-driven solutions, and the need to address the root causes of GBV. Central to the submission was a call for an inclusive approach to policy-

making, which positions men and boys at the forefront of efforts to prevent GBV.

The consultative process, which began several months ago, has engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organisations, government agencies, and grassroots community groups. The goal is to ensure that the resulting policy framework is informed by the diverse perspectives of those directly affected by GBV, while also ensuring that the strategies employed are sustainable and effective.

The Chairperson's remarks resonated with the broader theme of gender equality that has been championed by the NGECC. She noted that despite significant progress in raising awareness about the rights of women and girls, the involvement of men in the fight against GBV has often been sidelined.

"Men and boys must be seen not as the problem, but as part of the solution," she explained. "Their engagement in challenging harmful cultural norms and behaviours is essential if we are to break the cycle of violence." This perspective aligns with growing global recognition that true gender equality can only be achieved when men and women work together to dismantle the structures that perpetuate inequality.

The NGECC's submission to the TWG outlined a multi-pronged approach to tackling GBV, with an emphasis on prevention, early intervention, and the rehabilitation of perpetrators.

Kisumu Summit Sets Bold Path for Gender Equality and Women's Rights

KISUMU – A high-level meeting convened in Kisumu this week marked a pivotal moment in Kenya's ongoing efforts to bridge the gender gap and advance women's rights. With a focus on tangible actions rather than just policies, leaders from various sectors gathered to discuss critical issues impacting women and girls, including access to justice, service delivery, and women's role in peacebuilding.

The meeting underscored the stark reality that despite numerous efforts, Kenya's gender gap in labour force participation remains a significant 18%. This persistent disparity serves as a reminder that policies alone cannot bring about the much-needed transformation. Instead, the nation requires bold, strategic actions to dismantle the systemic barriers that have historically hindered women's full participation in society.

Among the key priorities discussed was the critical issue of access to justice. Although the Kenyan legal system has made strides in protecting women's rights, the meeting highlighted that many women still face barriers to effectively accessing justice. These barriers include long delays in the court system, financial constraints, and a lack of legal awareness.



Participants engaging in discussions at the High-Level Meeting in Kisumu

The commitment to improving access to justice aims to ensure that laws serve the needs of women, allowing them to seek redress when their rights are violated without fear of prejudice or discrimination. This includes enhancing legal literacy among women, strengthening the legal aid system, and addressing institutional biases that prevent women from securing justice.

This meeting in Kisumu is a pivotal moment for Kenya, marking the beginning of a renewed, focused approach to gender equality and women's rights. While challenges remain, the path forward is clearer, and the resolve to make meaningful progress is stronger than ever.

Strengthening Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Kenya: A Call for Equity and Inclusion

NAIROBI, Kenya – In a significant move to advance inclusive legislative practices, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) partnered with the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA) to convene a workshop focused on Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB). Held recently, the event brought together key stakeholders from across the political and development sectors to discuss how budgetary processes can promote gender equity and social inclusion in Kenya.

The forum, presided over by NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, featured a series of high-profile speakers, including Peter Hadwen, Director of the Parliamentary Centre & MENA. The gathering marked an important moment for stakeholders committed to ensuring that public budgets are not only equitable but also effectively address the needs of Kenya's most vulnerable populations.

With Kenya's Constitution and legal frameworks advocating for equitable resource allocation, Gender-Responsive Budgeting has become a key tool in aligning government expenditure with the principles of gender equality and inclusion.

The principle of GRB ensures that the resources allocated by the government serve all citizens fairly, with special attention given to marginalized groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable communities.



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa and Peter Hadwen, Director of the Parliamentary Centre, join workshop participants for a group photo

However, the workshop highlighted a persistent challenge in Kenya's budgeting process: a gap between policy commitments and their actual financial allocations. Despite the country's progressive legal and constitutional frameworks, these discrepancies often limit the tangible impact of GRB initiatives.

Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa addressed this issue, stressing the importance of stronger legislative oversight and the need for effective enforcement mechanisms. "It is crucial that budget allocations reflect the values of equity and inclusion. This can only be achieved through robust monitoring and accountability measures," said Hon. Jaldesa in her keynote address.

The workshop also underscored the growing importance of data-driven decision-making in the budgeting process. Participants

collectively called for the improvement of gender-disaggregated data, which is vital in guiding more accurate and effective budgetary allocations. By incorporating comprehensive data into the budgeting process, policymakers can better identify the specific needs of different groups within society, ensuring that no one is left behind.

As Kenya moves towards sustainable development, stakeholders emphasised that gender-sensitive budgeting is not only a legal requirement but also an ethical imperative. Peter Hadwen, Director of the Parliamentary Centre & MENA, echoed this sentiment, calling on lawmakers and public officials to integrate gender considerations into every aspect of the budgeting process.

The workshop participants also agreed that ensuring gender-responsive budgeting across the country requires concerted efforts from all sectors, including government agencies, civil society, and development partners. It is clear that a collective approach is needed to transform the principles of gender equality and inclusion into concrete financial allocations that improve the lives of all Kenyans.

The NGEC, alongside ACEPA and other stakeholders, remains committed to advancing these objectives and ensuring that future budgeting processes are both equitable and reflective of Kenya's diverse population.

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