



# Equality Bulletin



## Tackling Gender-Based Violence: NGE's Nationwide Sensitisation Drives Dialogue for Change

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In an effort to combat the rising tide of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across Kenya, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has launched a nationwide sensitisation programme targeting counties severely impacted by violence and discrimination.

The initiative, which spans Murang'a, Meru, Taita Taveta, Migori, and Bomet, aims to foster a deeper understanding of gender equality, promote inclusivity, and ensure the well-being of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) – including women, children, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities.



Participants actively engage in the sensitisation programme in Murang'a. The programme is designed to create platforms for dialogue, where critical conversations about GBV, harmful traditional practices, and the plight of vulnerable communities can be addressed. It focuses on tackling the root causes of gender-based violence, including cultural practices that perpetuate inequality.

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## A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

As we unveil this seventh edition of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Bulletin, we address one of the most pressing issues of our time—**Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** and **Femicide**. These acts of violence not only undermine the rights and dignity of women but also perpetuate a culture of inequality that harms our society as a whole.

It is time for us to broaden the conversation and acknowledge that the responsibility for ending GBV and femicide lies not only with the survivors or those directly affected but with the very heart of our communities—our men. Historically, men have often been silent bystanders, or worse, complicit in sustaining patriarchal norms and practices that normalise violence and discrimination.

For meaningful change to take place, we must engage men as proactive advocates in the fight for equality. Men must stand alongside women in challenging the toxic masculinity that perpetuates harmful practices and attitudes. By promoting respect, equality, and the dismantling of oppressive gender roles, we can begin to foster safer, more inclusive environments for everyone.

As Kenya grapples with the crisis of GBV and femicide, the role of men as advocates for change has never been more critical. It is clear that addressing this crisis requires a radical shift in both policy and personal responsibility. Through joint efforts of the government, civil society, and engaged men, we can hope to foster a future where women are free from fear, violence, and discrimination.

**Together, we can break the cycle.**

**Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 National Gender and Equality Commission



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## Rising Tide of Femicide in Kenya: A Wake-Up Call for Action



NGECCommissioners Caroline N. Lentupuru, Dr. Margaret Karungaru, Chairperson Rehema Jaldesa, Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyier, and Commissioner Nzomo Mbithuka address the media at their headquarters in Nairobi on matters concerning Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

In a stark and troubling revelation, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has called attention to the disturbing rise in femicide across Kenya, a nation grappling with a growing epidemic of gender-based violence (GBV).

This unsettling trend was highlighted in a recent report by Africa Uncensored, led by Chairperson Rehema Jaldessa, which underscores the increasingly lethal threat women face in the country.

According to the report, counties such as Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nakuru have been identified as the most affected regions, with alarming femicide statistics on the rise. In a worrying new development, **Kisii, Kitui, Meru, and Nyeri** have now been classified as high-risk areas, escalating the urgency for targeted intervention.

The findings reveal a 7% increase in cases of sexual assault preceding murder, while incidents of brutal killings involving hacking have risen by 6%. A disturbing shift in methods of attack has also been noted, with perpetrators increasingly using bladed weapons, such as household cutlery, rather than resorting to physical violence like strangulation, which demands greater physical effort. This emerging trend points to a shift in criminal behaviour, with deadly weapons more accessible and requiring less direct confrontation.

The report delivers a chilling truth—intimate partners remain the principal perpetrators of these heinous acts. Boyfriends, husbands, and in many cases, former lovers, are identified as the primary offenders in femicide cases. Shockingly, women now face a 75% likelihood of being murdered by someone they know—whether it is a spouse, a close family member, or even a trusted friend. This statistic is a grim reminder of the hidden dangers lurking within intimate relationships, where violence often escalates behind closed doors.

In response to the growing crisis, the National Gender and Equality Commission has taken decisive action, organising a one-week forum aimed at addressing the root causes of GBV and femicide. The forum, which was hosted in counties most affected by gender-based violence, brought together a wide range of stakeholders, survivors, and community leaders. The sessions provided an invaluable platform for open dialogue, allowing participants to share their experiences, offer insights, and brainstorm effective intervention strategies.

The Commission's Chairperson, Rehema Jaldesa, voiced concern over the structural inadequacies within the justice system that continue to protect offenders and frustrate efforts to ensure accountability. The lack of timely legal redress, combined with cultural and societal barriers, has made it exceedingly difficult to dismantle the deeply ingrained attitudes that foster violence against women.

"We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the alarming rate at which women are losing their lives at the hands of those who should love and protect them," Jaldessa remarked. "It is crucial that we create safe spaces for women and girls and strengthen the legal and social frameworks that hold offenders accountable."

While the road ahead remains challenging, the Commission's initiative underscores a critical shift towards more proactive measures in addressing femicide and GBV in Kenya. With a focus on prevention, survivor support, and justice reform, the hope is that the country will begin to stem the tide of violence and work towards a safer, more equitable future for women and girls.

»» CONTINUATION

## Tackling the Alarming Surge in Gender-Based Violence: NGEC Leads National Dialogue to Combat GBV

The county dialogue forums, held in these regions, focus on Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which include women, youth, persons with disabilities, children, and other marginalised groups.

The forums are designed to create a platform for these communities to voice their concerns, particularly regarding the alarming spike in GBV and its devastating impact on both men and women.

Recent statistics have painted a grim picture of the state of gender violence in Kenya. The incidence of GBV, including femicide, has surged, igniting a national outcry and drawing the attention of the Commission to the urgency of this crisis. According to the latest figures, thousands of women and girls across the country continue to bear the brunt of violence, with limited resources and support for those affected.

The NGEC's dialogue forums aim to change this narrative by creating spaces where men, women, and youth can discuss openly the challenges surrounding GBV and propose sustainable solutions.

These forums are also seen as a means to dispel harmful stereotypes that perpetuate violence, empowering both men and women to take a stand against abuse.

Among the most pressing issues raised during the forums is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)—a practice that continues to devastate the lives of women and girls in certain regions. Despite ongoing national campaigns and the existence of laws criminalising FGM, it remains deeply ingrained in the cultural practices of some

communities. The NGEC has called for a renewed focus on educating and sensitising these communities on the dangers of FGM, which not only violates human rights but also endangers the health and well-being of women and girls.

### Engaging Men in the Fight Against GBV

One of the most innovative elements of the NGEC's sensitisation programme is the Male Engagement Forum. Traditionally, discussions around GBV and FGM have centred on the experiences of women and girls, but the NGEC has recognised that men must also be part of the solution. By engaging men in dialogue, the Commission aims to reshape the perceptions of masculinity and dismantle the societal norms that contribute to the perpetuation of gender violence.

The Male Engagement Forum has already seen positive outcomes, with men actively participating in conversations about their role in preventing violence and protecting women and children. This collaborative approach is seen as essential for creating a culture of respect and equality that transcends gender and empowers both men and women to stand against GBV.

### A Call to Action: The Post-16 Days of Activism



The Commission CEO, Dr Purity Ngina, with His Excellency Andrew Mwadime, Governor of Taita Taveta County, during a courtesy call to his office

In addition to the dialogues, the NGEC is working to sustain the momentum generated by the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. The Commission is calling on all Kenyans to continue pushing for systemic changes in policies, law enforcement, and community norms to end GBV. The focus now is on building on the advocacy that was ignited during the 16 Days of Activism, extending it beyond the official campaign period and integrating it into everyday life.

Through continued sensitisation and dialogue, the NGEC hopes to see a shift in public consciousness around GBV, creating an environment where gender equality is not just a goal, but a reality. The Commission is also advocating for stronger support systems for victims of violence, including legal protection, health services, and safe spaces.



Commissioner Michael Nzomo engages with participants during the Nationwide Sensitisation Drive in Murang'a.

The NGEC's initiative is a powerful reminder that the battle against GBV and femicide is far from over. However, through sustained dialogue, awareness-raising efforts, and the active participation of all sectors of society, significant progress can be made in creating a safer, more equitable Kenya for all.

As the Commission continues its efforts, it is clear that meaningful change can only be achieved through collaboration and a shared commitment to equality. For Kenya to realise its potential as a nation that truly values and protects the rights of all its citizens, it is essential that these conversations continue, and that actions follow the words.

As Kenya continues to battle the scourge of Gender-Based Violence, the NGEC's nationwide sensitisation programme represents a beacon of hope.

Through community engagement, education, and the active involvement of all stakeholders—women, men, and the broader society—Kenya can move closer to the goal of a violence-free society, where the rights of women and girls are protected and promoted.



## Empowering Change: National Police Service Commission's Gender Mainstreaming Training

In a strategic move towards fostering inclusive practices within the Kenyan security sector, the National Police Service Commission (NPSC) recently embarked on a transformative three-day training programme on gender mainstreaming. The session, which took place at the NPSC's headquarters, was facilitated by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC).

This training is part of the ongoing commitment to embed gender-sensitive practices within Kenya's policing system, ensuring that both male and female officers, as well as members of the public, benefit from a more balanced, inclusive approach to law enforcement.

By focusing on gender mainstreaming, the NPSC aims to enhance its operational policies, making them more reflective of the diverse communities they serve.

The training comes at a critical time, as the NPSC strives to align its practices with global standards for gender equality in public service.



Josephine Kagucia of the National Gender and Equality Commission speaking at the National Police Service Commission's Gender Mainstreaming Training.

Gender mainstreaming is recognised as a powerful tool for achieving greater representation of women in key positions within the force, as well as ensuring that all police officers are equipped to handle gender-sensitive cases effectively.

Josephine Kagucia, who led the training, emphasised the importance of integrating gender equality into all aspects of policing.

“Gender mainstreaming is not merely an administrative tool; it is a fundamental approach to transforming how we perceive and interact with society. By adopting gender-sensitive strategies, we can better serve the diverse needs of the Kenyan population,” she said.

The commitment demonstrated by the NPSC Gender Mainstreaming Committee signals a positive shift in the right direction. With the knowledge and strategies gained from the training, committee members are expected to spearhead policy reforms and advocacy initiatives that will foster a more inclusive and gender-balanced police force.

## Kenya Moves to Strengthen GBV Response: National Policy Review Validated

The fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Kenya took a significant step forward as key stakeholders convened at the Mövenpick Hotel, Nairobi, for the validation of the reviewed National Policy on Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence.

Hosted by the State Department of Gender and Affirmative Action (SDGAA), the meeting brought together an array of institutions, including the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), UNFPA, National Shelters Network, Media Council of Kenya, the University of Nairobi's WEE Hub, and the Anti-FGM Board, among others.

Originally established in 2014, the National Policy on Prevention of and Response to GBV has undergone a comprehensive review to address emerging challenges and enhance its effectiveness.

The revised policy embraces a holistic approach by integrating prevention, response, coordination, and data management.

This multi-sectoral framework is designed to create a safer and more equitable society, ensuring that all individuals can live free from violence and discrimination.

The validation meeting underscored the collective resolve among government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners to combat GBV.

By reinforcing legal frameworks, enhancing coordination, and prioritizing survivor-centered approaches, Kenya is taking a crucial step towards a future where gender-based violence is not only condemned but effectively prevented and addressed.

With the revised policy set to be finalized and launched, all eyes will be on its implementation, ensuring that Kenya continues to make strides in safeguarding the rights and dignity of its citizens.

## Femicide in Kenya: Unmasking the Epidemic of Violence Against Women

**Femicide:** It's not just a women's issue; it is a national crisis that affects the entire society. The time for empty rhetoric is over.

In recent years, Kenya has witnessed a disturbing surge in cases of femicide—the intentional killing of women, often perpetrated by intimate partners or family members. This rising tide of gender-based violence has sparked outrage, grief, and calls for urgent action across the nation. But what is driving this epidemic, and what must be done to stop it?

The epidemic of violence against women in Kenya is driven by a complex interplay of cultural, social, economic, and legal factors. Deep-seated patriarchal norms continue to foster gender inequalities, relegating women to subordinate roles and normalising domestic violence. In many communities, harmful practices such as forced marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), and dowry-related violence further endanger women's lives.

Economic hardship and financial dependency also contribute to the vulnerability of women. Many survivors of abuse remain in dangerous situations due to a lack of financial independence, housing, or support networks. Moreover, the normalisation of violence in some relationships means that warning signs are often ignored until it is too late.

Despite Kenya's legal framework, which includes the Sexual Offences Act and the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, enforcement remains a major challenge. Many survivors face victim-blaming, lengthy judicial processes, and police negligence when reporting cases. Corruption within law enforcement agencies has further eroded public confidence, with many perpetrators escaping justice through bribery or political connections.

The lack of comprehensive data on femicide also hinders effective policy responses. Cases of murdered women are often recorded as 'homicides' without gender-specific categorisation, making it difficult to track trends or implement targeted interventions.



Public perception and media reporting play a crucial role in shaping responses to femicide. Sensationalist coverage that focuses on victim-shaming, or framing cases as 'love gone wrong,' downplays the seriousness of gender-based violence. The media must shift towards survivor-centred reporting, amplifying the voices of victims and their families while holding authorities accountable.

Civil society organisations, activists, and community leaders have been at the forefront of advocating for justice and policy reforms. Initiatives such as the #TotalShutdownKE movement and the #EndFemicideKE campaign have mobilised public discourse, pushing for systemic changes in how cases of violence against women are handled.

Ending femicide requires a multi-pronged approach that involves government, law enforcement, the judiciary, communities, and civil society. Key actions include:

**Strengthening Law Enforcement:** The government must prioritise gender-based violence cases, ensuring thorough investigations and swift prosecution of perpetrators. Specialized GBV desks in police stations must be adequately

resourced and staffed with trained officers.

**Legislative Reforms:** Laws must be strengthened to offer better protection for women, with stricter penalties for perpetrators of femicide and domestic violence.

**Economic Empowerment:** Empowering women financially through skills training, employment opportunities, and access to credit can reduce dependency on abusive partners and enable survivors to escape dangerous situations.

**Public Education and Awareness:** Changing cultural norms requires continuous education on gender equality, respectful relationships, and the rejection of violence. Schools, religious institutions, and media platforms must be engaged in promoting positive societal change.

**Support Services for Survivors:** Accessible shelters, legal aid, psychological support, and medical services for survivors of violence must be expanded to offer comprehensive care.

Femicide is not just a 'women's issue'—it is a national crisis demanding collective responsibility. Every life lost to gender-based violence is a stark reminder of the work that remains in ensuring the safety and dignity of women and girls in Kenya.

The time for action is now. The government, judiciary, civil society, and communities must come together to dismantle the structures that enable femicide and build a safer future for all women.



## A New Dawn in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide in Kenya

In a landmark move towards addressing the persistent issue of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide in Kenya, the High Court recently conducted the swearing-in ceremony for the newly appointed Technical Working Group on GBV and Femicide. The event, which marks a significant step forward in the nation's efforts to tackle these grave injustices, chaired by the esteemed Lady Justice Nancy Baraza, with key members including Dr. Purity Ngina, the Chief Secretary and CEO of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), among others.

Commissioned by His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto, the formation of this technical working group signifies Kenya's steadfast commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of all its citizens, particularly women and girls who are disproportionately affected by GBV and Femicide.

The technical working group, which operates under a joint secretariat, will review Kenya's existing legal frameworks and identify critical gaps. One of its key objectives is to propose practical measures to strengthen prevention, response, and accountability mechanisms within the legal system, ensuring that perpetrators of GBV and Femicide are held fully accountable.

With its ambitious mandate and strong leadership, the Technical Working Group on GBV and Femicide promises to be a transformative force in Kenya's battle against gender-based violence. This initiative, coupled with the ongoing efforts of organizations like NGEK, signals a clear message: violence against women and girls will not be tolerated.



The Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide poses for a group photo following their swearing-in ceremony at KICC

The formation of this group comes at a time when the national conversation surrounding gender-based violence and femicide is gaining momentum. While strides have been made, femicide remains an alarming reality, with countless lives lost and families shattered by senseless violence. The Technical Working Group's efforts are thus seen as essential in closing the gaps in the current system and ensuring comprehensive support for victims.

The initiative has already garnered the support of numerous stakeholders, including civil society organizations, international partners, and local leaders, all of whom are committed to creating a safe and just society for all Kenyans.

As part of this initiative, the group will focus on two primary areas:

- ◆ **Strengthening GBV Policies and Laws:** A review of current laws is essential to ensure they are robust enough to prevent GBV and Femicide while holding perpetrators accountable.
- ◆ **Community Engagement for Actionable Solutions:** Understanding that true change must come from the grassroots, the group will engage communities across Kenya, identifying culturally relevant and sustainable solutions to prevent violence and support survivors.

The Technical Working Group's swearing-in signifies a collective commitment to shaping the future—a future where GBV and Femicide are not just crimes but societal scars that can be healed with the right laws, policies, and a united community response.

This powerful initiative stands as a reminder that addressing the pain caused by GBV and Femicide is not merely a legal obligation but a moral one.

The task ahead is enormous, but with unwavering leadership and a clear mandate, change is on the horizon.

**SPECIAL ISSUE**



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**CHAPTER NINETEEN**  
**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) INCLUSION FRAMEWORK**

**ARTICLE 1**  
Article 41 of the Constitution grants the dignity to the least one of society and the necessary basis of social order.

**ARTICLE 2**  
Articles 23 and 24 of the Constitution affirm the inherent dignity of every individual and their right to freedom and equality.

**ARTICLE 3**  
These articles, as read together with other provisions of the Constitution, provide the framework to guarantee the protection of their rights as well as other vulnerable rights, through measures that recognize the protection bias of those of violence, whether public or private.

**ARTICLE 4**  
The Government shall take the most effective measures to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the country, with increased focus on the killings of women and girls, generally referred to as femicide.

**ARTICLE 5**  
These articles provide the framework for the rights and freedoms guaranteed under Article 26 (Right to Life), Article 27 (Equality and Freedom from Discrimination), Article 28 (Clean, Fair and Equitable Treatment and Security of the Person) and Article 41 (Dignity and Security of the Person) and Article 42 (Freedom of Movement).

**ARTICLE 6**  
Kenya has ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) for the promotion and protection of women's rights.

**ARTICLE 7**  
The Government, as part of the commitment of various stakeholders under international conventions and treaties, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),

**ARTICLE 8**  
These articles obligate the State to take measures to prevent, respond to and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

**NOTE**  
THEREFORE, having given due consideration to the foregoing, I, the President, do hereby give the following as the national collective process of gender parity. It is to read as follows:

**1.** THAT the increased cases of GBV and Femicide continue to cause immense physical, emotional, and economic harm to individuals, families, and communities, necessitating gender-responsive, preventive, and restorative support systems in GBV and Femicide cases; and

**2.** THAT there are existing gaps in prevention, response, investigation, prosecution, case management, and restorative support systems in GBV and Femicide cases; and

**3.** THAT such appropriate solutions give a boost to our national security as well as to the development of our country.

**FOR REASONS WHEREFORE:** I, William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commissioner-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, in exercise of the powers conferred on the Head of State and Government by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Kenya, do

(a) Establish a Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Femicide, to assess, analyze, and recommend measures to strengthen the institutional, legal, and policy response to GBV and Femicide in the country;

(b) The Technical Working Group shall comprise of:

**Chairperson:**  
Nancy Baraza (J)

**Members:**  
Mohamed Walid Ali, Deputy Attorney General (D);  
Lamb Elinor, Deputy Secretary (D);  
Edna Njiru Njiru (D);  
Linda Njiru (D);  
Michael Karuri,  
Charles Ochieng Ochieng,  
Diana Christine Wanjiku,  
James Karuri (D);  
Andrew Njiru,  
James Karuri,  
Anne Wanjiku,  
George Karuri (D);  
Diana Njiru,  
James Karuri (D);  
Hudson Karuri (D);  
Bashir Basha (D).

THE KENYA GAZETTE      10th January, 2025

**1.** The Terms of Reference of the Technical Working Group are:

(a) Identify needs, gaps, and causes contributing to GBV and Femicide;

(b) Analyze the adequacy of current legal and policy frameworks in addressing GBV and Femicide;

(c) Propose amendments to strengthen laws, improve enforcement, and close existing legislative gaps;

(d) Encourage resource allocation, training, levels, and operational effectiveness in handling prevention, response, support and recovery issues for GBV and Femicide;

(e) Conduct community engagements to gather input on solutions to combat GBV and Femicide;

(f) Provide alternative recommendations on prevention, investigation, prosecution, and restorative support mechanisms in GBV and Femicide cases;

(g) Examine the role of social media coverage in GBV and Femicide, including its influence on public perception, awareness, and policy-making;

(h) Identify psychological issues related to the commission of violence associated with GBV and Femicide;

(i) Establish inter-agency, multi-stakeholder, coordinating and strengthening to the commission of GBV and Femicide; and

(j) Recommend proposals to strengthen family law, foster collaborative partnerships among family members, and identify social structures that support the resolution of domestic violence.

**2.** In the performance of its tasks, the Technical Working Group shall:

(a) Concept any proposal deemed necessary or expedient for the effective discharge of its functions;

(b) Conduct public hearings and/or consultative information to persons (where necessary in cases) as part of its mandate;

(c) Convene meetings, forums, or consultations at such locations and times as may be necessary for the proper execution of its mandate;

(d) May cause to be called out such studies or research or obtain advice as may be necessary to assist the Task Force in its mandate;

(e) Review and consider reports, judgments, or findings of past or ongoing cases related to GBV and Femicide;

(f) Examine official reports, policies, legislation, or other relevant documents concerning GBV and Femicide;

(g) To write written submissions and memorandums from the members of the public;

(h) Have such powers necessary or expedient for the proper execution of its functions, including the power to regulate its own procedures;

(i) Cause committees or sub-committees to be established to discharge its tasks;

(j) Enquire, where appropriate, the safety and protection of participants;

(k) Cooperate and work collaboratively with the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) for effective support in the discharge of its mandate; and

(l) Where necessary take the attention of case from the appointing authority to enable it complete its work.

**3.** In the first meeting, the members shall select a vice chairperson from amongst the membership.

**4.** In furtherance of the objectives and progress of the Technical Working Group, all State entities are directed to afford the Technical Working Group all necessary support and cooperation.

**5.** The Technical Working Group is expected to develop a report and submit it to the appointing authority within a period of ninety (90) days with effect from the date of its report, or the next longer period as may be notified in the Gazette, be extended.

**6.** The Technical Working Group shall report to H.E. the Deputy President, through the Principal Secretary for Gender, who will be the Chairperson of the Technical Working Group. The Chairperson shall be a Principal Secretary of the State Department of Gender, Children and Social Administration, Social Services, Health, Diaspora Affairs, Tourism, Culture Affairs, Devolution, Higher Education and Research, Technical Vocational Education and Training, and the Solicitor General.

**7.** The Secretariat of the Technical Working Group shall be in the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, P.O. Box 41000, Nairobi.

The Secretariat address shall be:

Ministry of Interior and National Administration,  
P.O. Box 41000,  
Nairobi.

Dated at Nairobi, 2025.

**WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO,**  
President.

## Unity in Progress: Bi-Annual National Gender Sector Working Group to Chart a Path for Gender Equality in Kenya

In a significant step towards advancing gender equality in Kenya, the National Gender Sector Working Group (NGSWG) convened for its bi-annual meeting, bringing together stakeholders from various sectors to review progress, share achievements, and confront the ongoing challenges in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

The meeting, held in Nairobi, was a notable gathering where key players, including the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), took stock of the strides made in tackling gender inequality across the country. Representing the Commission at the event was Paul Kuria, OGW, Director of Programs and Research at NGE, whose insights underscored the commitment to ensuring gender equality remains at the forefront of Kenya's development agenda.

In his address, Kuria highlighted a series of milestones that have shaped the gender landscape over the past year. These include significant improvements in women's representation in political positions, increased access to education for girls, and the establishment of new policies aimed at empowering women economically and socially. Notably, Kenya has seen more women stepping into leadership roles, particularly in the public sector, reflecting the country's progress towards gender parity.

"The progress we have made is a testament to the collective efforts of government, civil society, and communities in advancing the rights of women and girls," Kuria remarked. "But there is still much work to be done, particularly in addressing the deeply rooted cultural and structural barriers that hinder true gender equality."



Paul Kuria, OGW, Director of Programs and Research, NGE speaking during the Bi-Annual National Gender Sector Working Group

Despite these accomplishments, the meeting also served as a reminder of the considerable challenges that persist. Gender-based violence (GBV), unequal access to economic opportunities, and cultural stereotypes that limit women's roles in society were highlighted as areas requiring urgent attention.

"The fight against GBV remains a priority for us," Kuria emphasized. "The Commission is committed to working with law enforcement and other stakeholders to ensure that women feel safe in their homes, workplaces, and communities."

Another critical issue raised during the discussions was the need for greater inclusivity, especially for marginalized groups such as women with disabilities, women in rural areas, and women from ethnic minorities. Addressing the barriers these groups face in accessing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities is paramount to achieving holistic gender equality.



Mercy Wanjau, EGH, Secretary to the Cabinet of the Republic of Kenya making key note address at the Bi-Annual National Gender Sector Working Group

Also representing the Government of Kenya at the event was Mercy Wanjau, EGH, Secretary to the Cabinet of the Republic of Kenya, who stood in for Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi.

Her speech underscored the government's unwavering commitment to the Gender and Affirmative Action agenda, stressing the need for collaborative efforts in overcoming the challenges faced by women and marginalized groups across the country.

The meeting brought together a diverse range of influential figures, with Finland's Ambassador to Kenya and Co-Chair of the National Gender Sector Working Group, Pirkka Tapiola, emphasising the importance of international partnerships in accelerating gender equality initiatives. His presence, along with the

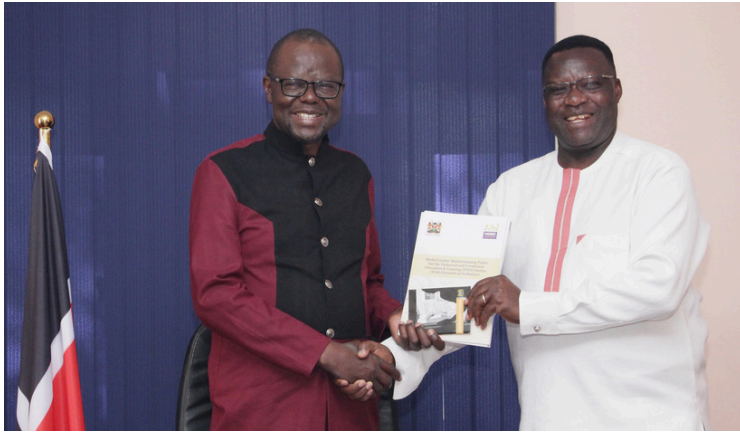
involvement of the Italian Ambassador to Kenya, H.E. Robert Natali, further strengthened the global support for gender equality in Kenya.

The UN Women Kenya Representative, Antonia Sodonon, also participated, highlighting the role of international organisations in advocating for women's rights and empowering women and girls across Africa. Sodonon's remarks underscored the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks and ensuring women's participation at all levels of decision-making.

As the National Gender Sector Working Group continues to work tirelessly to address these critical issues, it is clear that the road ahead requires concerted efforts from all corners of society.



## Nationwide Sensitisation Drive Launched to Combat Rising Gender-Based Violence Cases



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