

EQUALITY BULLETIN

Usawa kwa Wote; Equality For All

PWDs Excluded!



For every 100 people employed in Kenya's public service, only two are persons with disabilities.

That is the starkest finding from the 21st cycle of Performance Contracting for the 2024/2025 financial year, evaluated by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC). Across 88 public institutions that submitted returns, 1,828 of 93,506 employees were persons with disabilities, representing just 2 per cent of the workforce. The benchmark is 5 per cent. No sector came close. [Cont'd on Page 4](#)

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The National Gender and Equality Commission presented the USAWA Awards 2026 in Kilifi on the same day it released its findings on gender equality and inclusion in the public sector..

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The National Gender and Equality Commission has reaffirmed its partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to advance equality, inclusion and freedom from discrimination.

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*A Report On Audit Of State Corporations in Kenya
2025*



*A Report On Status Of Gender Equality and Inclusion
In The Public Sector*



*A Report On Teachers Of Kenya
Status Of Equality And Inclusion In The Teaching
Workforce In Kenya 2025*



OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON

AMPLIFY: STATE DEFEND CLARIFY

AWARDS FOR TOP COMMUNICATORS AND PARTNERS

★ ★ ★

RECOGNIZING THE BEST COMMUNICATORS DURING THE TENURE OF
Hon Dr. Isaac Mwaura, CBS
AS THE 5TH GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON



1 MINISTRIES

- 1 Best: National Treasury and Economic Planning (CS John Mbadi)
- 2 1st Runners-Up: Ministry of Health (CS Aden Duale)
- 3 2nd Runners-Up: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (CS Mutahi Kagwe)
- 4 3rd Runners-Up: Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife Management (CS Rebecca Miano)
- 5 4th Runners-Up: Ministry of Education (CS Julius Ogamba)



2 STATE DEPARTMENTS

- 1 Best: State Department for Interior and National Administration (PS Raymond Omollo)
- 2 1st Runners-Up: State Department for Housing and Urban Development (PS Charles Hinga)
- 3 2nd Runners-Up: State Department for Diaspora Affairs (PS Roselyn Njogu)
- 4 3rd Runners-Up: State Department for Public Health (Mary Muthoni)
- 5 4th Runners-Up: State Department for MSME Development (Susan Mang'eni)



3 STATE AGENCIES

- 1 Best: Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA)
- 2 1st Runners: Kenya Ports Authority (KPA)
- 3 2nd Runners: Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)



4 CCIOs

- 1 Best: National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)
- 2 1st Runners-up: Independent Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC)
- 3 2nd Runners: Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA)
- 4 No.3: Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution



5 STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Best: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
Best: ArtSpace Productions: Uzalendo Initiative
Best: Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC): Sema Na Spox Bonga Na Gava (Sema Na Spox Bonga Na Gava - Best Government Podcast)



4TH AUGUST 2026

Message from the Commission Secretary / CEO



The 40th edition of the Equality Bulletin comes in a refreshed design, while remaining grounded in evidence on Kenya's equality and inclusion agenda.

The numbers are telling. Persons with disabilities account for only 2 per cent of the public service workforce among institutions that reported, against the 5 per cent benchmark. Of 35 buildings audited across seven counties, 11 were inaccessible, including facilities where Kenyans register births, file cases and seek treatment. Meanwhile, only 88 institutions reported in the 21st Performance Contracting cycle, compared with 201 the previous year and 390 before that.

Yet the edition also highlights progress. The USAWA Awards 2026, presented in Kilifi during the launch of the reports, recognised notable inclusion efforts, including three State corporations that exceeded the disability quota on their boards and a civil society network whose petition led to the accessibility audit.

We also highlight work on technology-facilitated gender-based violence, inclusive participation in 2027, the National Gender Research Agenda and regional engagements. The evidence is clear. The priority now is to close the gap between policy commitments and the experience of citizens.

PURITY NGINA, PhD, MBS

COMMISSION SECRETARY/CEO

NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa
Chairperson



Thomas Okoth Koyier, **EBS**
Vice Chairperson



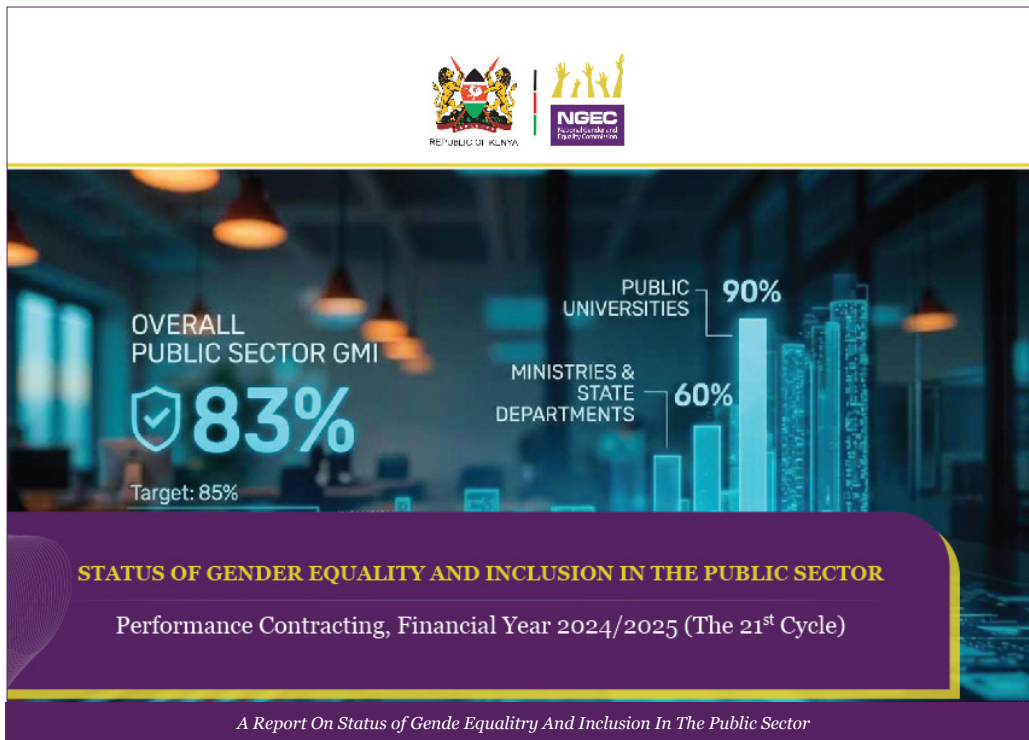
Caroline N. Lentupuru, **MBS, HSC**
Commissioner



Michael Nzomo
Commissioner



Dr. Margaret Karungaru, **MBS**
Commissioner



Indicator 3 (Table 1): Public sector budget allocation to gender mainstreaming and inclusion, FY 2024/2025

Sector	No. of MDAs	Total MDA Annual Budget	Total GM Budget Allocation	% Allocation
Overall	88	562,220,930,455.54	54,503,565,815.20	9.70
Ministries and State Departments	3	5,481,991,424.00	1,090,690.00	0.02
Public Universities	19	66,988,511,202.54	14,543,854.00	0.04
State Corporations	49	488,072,195,911.00	54,498,505,034.20	11.15
Tertiary Institutions	17	7,681,412,008.00	93,206,277.00	0.41

PWDs Excluded!

For every 100 people employed in Kenya's public service, only two are persons with disabilities.

That is the starkest finding from the 21st cycle of Performance Contracting for the 2024/2025 financial year, evaluated by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC). Across 88 public institutions that submitted returns, 1,828 of 93,506 employees were persons with disabilities, representing just 2 per cent of the workforce. The benchmark is 5 per cent. No sector came close.

Ministries and State departments recorded the highest proportion, at 2.6 per cent, followed by public universities at 2.5 per cent and State corporations at 1.8 per cent. Tertiary institutions recorded the lowest, at 0.9 per cent, equivalent to an average of only two employees with disabilities per institution.

The numbers reveal another layer of exclusion. Of the 1,828 employees with disabilities, 1,190 were men and only 638 were women. That means there were almost two men with disabilities in public employment for every woman. In tertiary institutions, the average number of women with disabilities per institution rounds down to zero.

The picture becomes more complicated when inclusion is measured beyond disability. People from minority and marginalised communities, as defined under Article 260 of the Constitution, occupied 6.3 per cent of the positions reported. But even this figure masks significant differences between sectors. State corporations accounted for the strongest representation at 8.4 per cent, while the three reporting ministries and state departments had only 14 employees from minority and marginalised communities among 5,803 staff, representing 0.2 per cent. Young people aged between 18 and 34 occupied 18.1 per cent of the positions overall.

Their representation ranged from 36.7 per cent in tertiary institutions to only 5.9 per cent in public universities.

There is, however, one area where the public service is performing considerably better: overall gender balance. Eighty-eight per cent of the reporting institutions complied with the constitutional requirement that neither gender should constitute more than two thirds of the workforce. All reporting ministries, State departments and public universities met the requirement. Women accounted for 39.9 per cent of the 93,506 employees measured, and were the majority only in tertiary institutions, where they represented 52.9 per cent.

The overall picture is therefore uneven. Gender balance is showing progress, while disability inclusion, representation of minority and marginalised communities, and youth representation remain considerably weaker. But there is an even bigger question behind these figures: how much of the public service do they actually represent? Only 88 institutions submitted returns for the 21st cycle. The number was 201 in 2023/2024 and 390 in 2022/2023. In other words, the number of institutions reporting has fallen sharply.

That matters because the overall Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusion index scored 83 per cent, only two points below the 85 per cent target. The score may appear encouraging, but it reflects only the institutions that reported. It tells us nothing about those that did not.

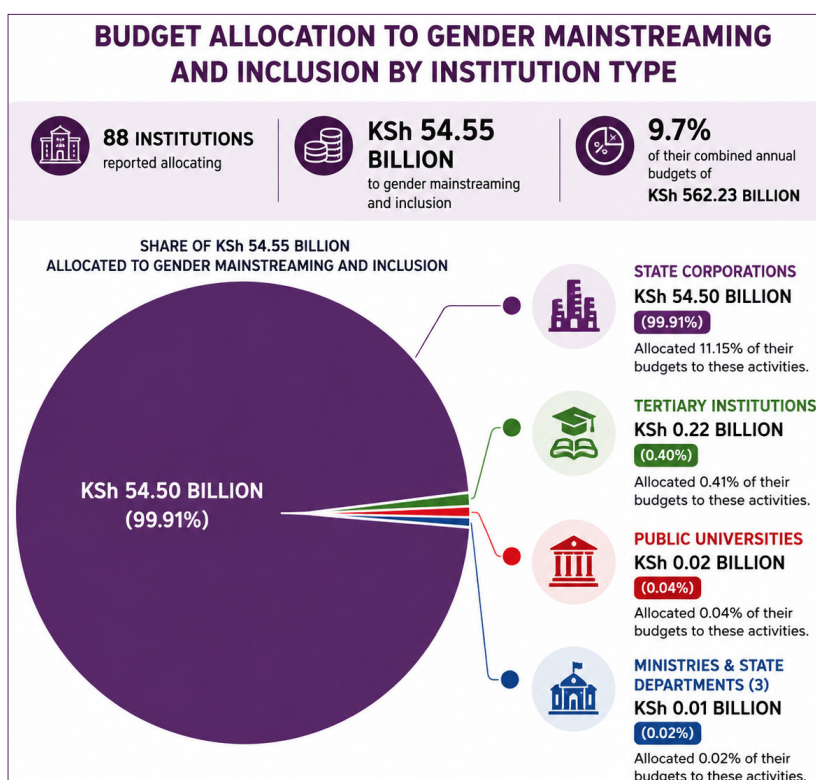
The fewer institutions that report, the harder it becomes to know whether the picture is improving across the public service or only among those that are measuring and reporting their performance.

The Commission attributes the decline in reporting partly to the absence of a policy framework requiring public institutions to implement and report on gender mainstreaming and inclusion actions.

In practice, reporting under the Performance Contracting process remains largely dependent on institutional initiative. There is another contradiction in the findings. Policies are widely available, but implementation is less consistent. Ninety-seven per cent of reporting institutions have a gender policy, while the same proportion have a policy addressing gender-based violence. All reporting public universities have both.

Yet having a policy does not necessarily mean acting on it. Among institutions with a gender policy, 86 per cent reported implementing it. For gender-based violence policies, the implementation rate was 88 per cent. Ninety-four per cent of institutions reported including gender mainstreaming activities in their annual work plans, while 82 per cent had allocated a budget for gender mainstreaming and GBV prevention and response.

Even the reported budget figures require careful interpretation. The 88 institutions reported allocating KSh 54.55 billion to gender mainstreaming and inclusion, equivalent to 9.7 per cent of their combined annual budgets of KSh 562.23 billion. But almost all of that money, KSh 54.50 billion, came from state corporations. They allocated 11.15 per cent of their budgets to these activities. Public universities allocated 0.04 per cent, tertiary institutions 0.41 per cent, while the three reporting ministries and state departments allocated only 0.02 per cent between them.



The headline figure of KSh 54.55 billion therefore should not be read as an average public sector commitment. It is overwhelmingly driven by one category of institutions. The institutions themselves identified four major obstacles to progress. First is capacity. Agencies repeatedly called for structured training for gender mainstreaming and inclusion committees. Second is funding. Some institutions reported allocations as low as 0.02 per cent of their annual expenditure. Third are persistent gender stereotypes, which institutions said continue to influence career choices, recruitment, training and promotion. Fourth is the declining rate of reporting itself.

The Commission's recommendations are therefore directed as much at the system as they are at individual institutions. Under Section 8(j) of the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, Cap 7K, NGEC receives and evaluates annual reports from public institutions on compliance with constitutional principles of equality and freedom from discrimination.

The Commission is calling for a mechanism for routine public sector reporting against minimum indicators of gender mainstreaming and inclusion. It is also recommending continuous capacity building, greater application of national and county gender-responsive budgeting guidelines and relevant Treasury circulars, supported by incentives and sanctions.

It further recommends physical verification of reports submitted by ministries, counties, departments and agencies to establish whether the information provided is complete, accurate and supported by evidence.

The most important number in this cycle may therefore be the one that appears first: two per cent. It tells us that among the institutions that reported, only two out of every 100 employees are persons with disabilities. But it also raises a more difficult question.

Is two per cent the true picture of disability representation in Kenya's public service, or simply the picture we can see? At present, the country cannot answer that question with confidence because too many institutions are not reporting. That is the real inclusion gap: not only who is missing from the public service, but who is missing from the data that should tell us who is missing.



Inaccessible!

11 of 35 public buildings audited stand between Kenyans and essential services.

Eleven of 35 buildings audited by the National Gender and Equality Commission carry that single word in the Commission's own table. They are the places where Kenyans register a birth, obtain a title deed, file a case, pay tax and seek treatment.

At the Garissa County Government headquarters there is a ramp. It serves the back fire exit. To reach the principal offices, including the Governor's, a visitor must take the stairs.

These findings come from an accessibility audit conducted by the National Gender and Equality Commission in 35 buildings across seven counties between October 2024 and May 2025. Fourteen buildings were rated accessible, ten somewhat accessible and eleven inaccessible.

At the Office of the Attorney General in Malindi, the services are upstairs. There is no lift and no ramp. The same holds at the State Department for Labour in the same complex, and at the Social Health Authority offices at Barani Plaza, where residents go to sort out their health cover.

At Huduma Centre Kitui the approach route is accessible, the corridors are wide and the counters are set at the correct height. The walk-through metal detector at the entrance is too narrow for a wheelchair.

The audit was undertaken under Sections 8(e) and 8(m) of the NGEC Act, Cap 7K, and anchored on the principles of universal design and reasonable accommodation set out in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the African Charter protocol on the rights of persons with disabilities of 2018, Article 54 of the Constitution, the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2025, the National Building Code of 2004 and the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities of 2024. Eight parameters were assessed by physical observation using a standard monitoring tool: approach routes, alternative entrances, tactile walking surfaces, circulation space for wheelchair and white cane users, accessible washrooms, service counters, accessible parking and signage.

The exercise followed a petition by a civil society organisation representing persons with disabilities in Mombasa. The Commission issued an advisory to the Mombasa County Government seeking compliance, then set out to establish what conditions prevailed elsewhere.

Certain failures recurred in almost every county. Tactile walking surfaces, the raised paving that allows a white cane user to navigate independently, appear in five of the 35 buildings. Braille signage was inadequate across nearly all counties, and where signage existed it carried no braille or tactile indicator. Kenyatta National Hospital and the Mercure Hotel in Nairobi have visible signage, without braille.

Service counters were mostly set too high. The accessible range is 740mm to 800mm from the floor with clear knee space underneath, so that a wheelchair user or a person of short stature can be served face to face. Compliant counters were found at Kitui Huduma Centre, the casualty area at Isiolo Referral Hospital and Kisumu Law Courts. Accessible washrooms were rare, and Garissa County Government offices, the Malindi offices and Nakuru Law Courts had none. Reserved parking was largely absent, and where it existed the marking and the distance from the entrance still required improvement. Reserved seating in waiting halls was found in two buildings. The International Symbol of Accessibility was applied consistently in three.

In Garissa, the Regional Commissioner's offices were rated inaccessible, with a steep ramp, no ramps to upper floors, no alternative entrance and no accessible counter. A conference facility has ramps on the ground floor and none to the main hall upstairs. The Level 5 referral hospital and a private hospital were rated accessible.

In Kitui, the Municipality Block was rated inaccessible, with no ramp from the ground floor to the service area and no space for wheelchairs. The County Survey Office has a narrow ramp without handrails.



Accessibility Audit of Public and Private Buildings in Selected Counties of Kenya

Garissa, Kitui, Kilifi, Nakuru, Isiolo, Kisumu and Nairobi City,
October 2024 – May 2025

A Report On Accessibility Audit Of Public And Private
Buildings In Selected Counties Of Kenya

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A Report On Accessibility Audit Of Public And Private
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Buildings In
Selected Counties Of Kenya

The Civil Registration Building, by contrast, has wide corridors and a room dedicated to persons with disabilities, and was rated accessible.

Every building assessed in Kilifi is privately owned and leased to public agencies. Three of the five were rated inaccessible. All three are multi-storey buildings with no lift and no ramp to the floor on which the service is delivered.

In Nakuru, the Rift Valley Regional Commissioner's Complex and the County Commissioner's Complex were both rated inaccessible on every recorded parameter. Nakuru Law Courts has a ramp but no accessible washroom, no accessible counter and no reserved space. Huduma Centre Nakuru and the Kenya Revenue Authority regional headquarters were rated accessible.

In Isiolo, three of five buildings were rated inaccessible, among them the Office of the Governor and the County Assembly. Both have entrance ramps. Neither has a lift or an alternative route, and the Assembly has no accessible counter. The County Teaching and Referral Hospital, with ramps on all floors and accessible counters, was rated accessible.

Kisumu recorded the strongest performance, with three of five buildings rated accessible. At Huduma Centre the lifts are available but not always functional. At City Hall, the Governor's office has fixed ramps at the main entrance and neither ramp nor lift to the other floors.

Both buildings assessed in Nairobi were rated accessible. At Kenyatta National Hospital some access routes have uneven bumps and the lifts have no braille or voice features. At the Mercure Hotel the counters cannot be used by wheelchair users or persons of short stature.

Three of the audited buildings house NGEK regional offices, and the Commission published all three ratings. At the time of the audit, the NGEK Isiolo regional office was located at Shune Apartment. The office has since relocated to another premises within Isiolo town. Shune Apartment in Isiolo, shared with the Commission on Administrative Justice, LAPSET and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, was rated inaccessible, with no ramps, no handrails, no lifts and no alternative route. Nzambani Park in Kitui, shared with the IEBC, the Teachers Service Commission, NGAAF, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the

National Drought Management Authority and the Senator's office, was also rated inaccessible, with no ramp from the ground floor to the service areas. The Nakuru regional office at Tamoh Plaza was rated somewhat accessible; it has both a ramp and a lift, and a passage to the toilets too narrow for a wheelchair. Each carries specific remedial recommendations in the same table and the same terms as every other institution audited.

“Accessibility is not a favour extended to persons with disabilities,”
the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, writes in the report.
“It is a constitutional right and a legal obligation.”

The Commission recommends that all duty bearers install compliant ramps, lifts and tactile surfaces, adjust counters and washrooms to standard, mark parking close to entrances and reserve spaces inside, standardise signage with braille and tactile indicators, and apply the International Symbol of Accessibility consistently.

It further directs specific recommendations to four institutions. The National Council for Persons with Disabilities should issue standardised audit guidelines, maintain a national accessibility registry publishing compliant and non-compliant buildings, and train disability inclusion officers.

The National Construction Authority should make accessibility a mandatory criterion for construction permits, include it in routine site inspections and issue penalties for violations. County governments should establish accessibility taskforces, audit schools, hospitals, markets and transport hubs, and dedicate funds in county development plans to retrofitting.

The Ministry of Public Works should embed accessibility in the national building code, ensure ministries and parastatals meet the benchmarks, develop a national accessibility audit framework and publish audit outcomes annually.

Read closely, the remedial list is modest. A handrail. A counter lowered to 780mm. A bay marked near the door. A passage widened to admit a wheelchair. A sign with braille on it.

What the audit documents is not the cost of accessibility. It is the absence of any requirement that a building be accessible before it opens its doors to the public, and the absence of any consequence when it is not.

Thirty-five buildings were audited. Kenya has thousands. The Commission now holds a baseline, a monitoring tool and a named list of works at each address. The next audit will establish whether anyone acted.

	The question asked at each building
	1. Approach route <i>Can a person reach the main entrance without steps, on a firm, non-slip, gently sloping surface?</i>
	2. Alternative entrance <i>Where the main entrance has no ramp or lift, is there another usable way in?</i>
	3. Tactile walking surface <i>Is there raised paving to guide a white cane user through the building?</i>
	4. Circulation space <i>Are corridors and doorways wide enough, and free of obstruction, for a wheelchair or white cane?</i>
	5. Accessible washroom <i>Is at least one washroom usable, with a wide door, grab bars and space to turn?</i>
	6. Service counter <i>Is the counter set between 740mm and 800mm from the floor, with clear knee space underneath?</i>
	7. Accessible parking <i>Is there a marked, reserved bay close to the entrance?</i>
	8. Signage <i>Is there clear signage, carrying braille and tactile indicators?</i>

AUDIT CHECKLIST TABLE

Multi-storey buildings were additionally assessed for a lift or a compliant ramp to the floors on which services are delivered

From Petition to Podium

The National Gender and Equality Commission presented the USAWA Awards 2026 in Kilifi on the same day it released its findings on gender equality and inclusion in the public sector and its accessibility audit of buildings in seven counties. H.E. Gideon Mung'aro, Governor of Kilifi County, was chief guest.



A group photo of NGECE Commissioners and H.E. Flora Mbetsa Chibule, Deputy Governor Kilifi County on the launch of four landmark Equality and Inclusion publications in Kilifi

The USAWA Awards 2026 recognised institutions, organisations and individuals from across the Coast and beyond. Among them was the civil society network that asked for the accessibility audit released the same day.

The awards ran in three categories. The first recognised the best performers on gender mainstreaming

and inclusion in the 2024/25 Performance Contracting cycle. The second recognised state corporations meeting the not more than two-thirds gender principle and the 5 per cent disability quota in their boards and senior management. The third recognised institutions, organisations and individuals whose work has advanced inclusive service delivery in their localities.

Eleven institutions took the first category, each scoring 95 per cent, drawn from five sub-sectors of the public service.

SUB-SECTOR	INSTITUTION	CITED FOR
 Ministries and state departments	Office of the Attorney General	Excellence in gender mainstreaming and inclusion
 State corporations	National Social Security Fund	Attaining the gender threshold in the Board of Trustees; a sexual and gender based violence policy covering employees and stakeholders
	Kenya Revenue Authority	Operationalising seven lactation rooms across six stations
	Kenya Airports Authority	Progressive inclusion of persons with disabilities in its staff establishment
	Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services	Excellence in gender mainstreaming and inclusion
	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization	Embedding gender and social inclusion training in the pyrethrum, tomato, chicken and dairy value chains, through training of trainers in several counties
	National Oil Corporation of Kenya	A strategy for inclusive innovation and gender equity in STEM, aimed at retaining women in upstream operations
 Public universities	Egerton University	Excellence in gender mainstreaming and inclusion
 Tertiary institutions	The Kisumu National Polytechnic	Excellence in gender mainstreaming and inclusion
	Nyeri National Polytechnic	Operationalising a day care centre within the institution
	Meru National Polytechnic	Excellence in gender mainstreaming and inclusion

Set against the cycle's own numbers, those scores stand out. The public sector recorded 83 per cent overall on the Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusion index, two points below target, on returns from 88 institutions, down from 201 the previous year and 390 the year before. The eleven institutions above scored 95.



Awardees recognised during the Usawa Awards pose for a group photo



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa presents an award to a nominated winner during the Usawa Awards ceremony.



An award recipient receives recognition during the Usawa Awards ceremony.

The second category went to three state corporations, assessed on the composition of their boards and senior management as at June 2025.

STATE CORPORATIONS COMPOSITION
OF THEIR BOARDS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

JUNE 2025

Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
National Council for Persons with Disabilities	50% women, 25% persons with disabilities	45.45% women, 27.3% persons with disabilities
National Youth Council	66.67% women, 16.7% persons with disabilities	44.44% women, 11.1% persons with disabilities
Kenya Institute for the Blind	44.45% women, 18.2% persons with disabilities	50% women, 33.3% persons with disabilities

Each received a plaque and a Certificate of Recognition for adherence to the not more than two-thirds gender principle and the 5 per cent disability quota across governance structures.

Those figures carry particular weight this year. Across the 88 institutions that reported in the 21st cycle, persons with disabilities hold 1,828 of 93,506 posts, or 2 per cent of the workforce, against a statutory expectation of at least 5 per cent. No sector reached the threshold. These three institutions exceeded it several times over, at the level where appointments are made.

The third category drew almost entirely from the Coast and its neighbouring counties, and it is here that the day’s two strands met. Among the recipients was the Coast Civil Society Network for Human Rights, recognised for petitioning the Commission and the Senate to audit public institutions on accessibility to the built environment in Mombasa County. The accessibility audit released the same day states that it was preceded by a petition from a Mombasa-based organisation representing persons with disabilities, following which the Commission issued an advisory to the Mombasa County Government and then assessed 35 buildings in seven counties.

Institutions and agencies	County	Cited for
 Kilifi County Government, Department of Lands, Energy, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development	Kilifi	Clean cooking and off-grid energy: over 3,000 improved <i>jikos</i> , 12 institutional cook stoves, 100 biogas digesters, 575 solar street lights, 162 solar high masts and 42,000 solar home systems, with over 10,000 households transitioned to clean cooking
 Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Malindi office	Kilifi	Delivering public services in an accessible environment, 2025
 Kenya Commercial Bank, Malindi branch	Kilifi	Delivering public services in an accessible environment, 2025
 Pwani University	Kilifi	Research, innovation and opportunities for young people
 Huduma Centre Kilifi	Kilifi	Implementation of sign language interpretation services
 Mr Abbas Kunyo, County Executive Committee Member, Tana River County	Tana River	Strengthening the county’s Gender Department

The second category to follow on the table is Non-State Actors

NON-STATE ACTORS	COUNTY	CITED FOR
Khairat Hospital	Kilifi	Free medical services and a feeding programme for over 500 older members of society
Faza Youth Action Group	Lamu	Facilitating mobile court services in marginalised areas of Lamu East
Hand in Hand Eastern Africa	Taita Taveta	Training over 2,100 household farmers in smart waste management
Samba Sports Youth Agenda	Kwale	Psychosocial and dignity services for survivors of gender based violence
Nawiri Africa	Kilifi	Advocacy on femicide and accountability among duty bearers
Tuwajali Wajane Community-Based Organization	Kwale	Advocacy for the rights of widows and development of the national policy on widows
Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection	Lamu	Developing inclusive policies for gender mainstreaming in Lamu County
Coast Civil Society Network for Human Rights	Mombasa	Petitioning the Commission and the Senate to audit public institutions on accessibility to the built environment

Individuals	County	Cited for
Hon. Ivy Wasike, Principal Magistrate, Chief Magistrate's Court, Kilifi	Kilifi	Advancing child justice
Ms Fatuma Jientu Kitole	Tana River	Bursaries and training opening access to education and employment for the Waata community
Mr Maroon Ruben Kapkopil, Assistant County Commissioner, Vitengeni Division	Kilifi	Coordinating grassroots access to government services and safeguarding the rights of special interest groups
Mr Anderson Kaingu, Reproductive Health Clinical Officer, Kilifi County Referral Hospital	Kilifi	Medico-legal documentation and referrals securing access to justice for survivors of gender based violence
Mr David Ziro	Kilifi	Positive male engagement, empowerment of boys and mental health awareness
Mr Johnson Nyambu Mwanjala	Taita Taveta	Championing the rights of women and girls as a male role model
Sheikh Abdullahi Haji Gudo	Tana River	Authoring a book challenging female genital mutilation from a religious perspective

Two special recognitions closed the ceremony. The first went to Mr Ahmed Abdisalan Ibrahim, Principal Secretary in the State Department for National Government Coordination, whose department vets and evaluates ministerial performance contract targets, for sustained advocacy of equality and inclusion across government performance. The second went to the chief guest, Governor Gideon Mung'aro, for transformative devolution outcomes on equality and inclusion in Kilifi County.

Read alongside the two reports, the list answers the objection that usually follows a critical audit, that the standard is unrealistic. The reports found a sector index two points below target on a reporting base that has fallen by more than three quarters in two years, disability employment at 2 per cent against a 5 per cent expectation, and eleven of 35 audited buildings inaccessible.

The awards found a revenue authority that built lactation rooms, a polytechnic that opened a day care centre, three institutions that exceeded the disability quota in their own boardrooms, a county department that moved 10,000 households to clean cooking, and a clinical officer whose paperwork holds gender based violence prosecutions together. Both sets of recommendations turn on the

same proposition. The Commission has asked the State to establish a mechanism for routine reporting against the minimum indicators of gender mainstreaming and inclusion. It has asked that an incentive and sanction scheme support adherence to gender responsive budgeting guidelines. It has asked the National Construction Authority to make accessibility a mandatory criterion for

construction permits and to issue penalties for violations.

The USAWA Awards are the incentive half of that proposition, in operation and, this year, awarded to a network that petitioned the Commission to go looking for the other half.

Securing Borders While Protecting the Rights of People on the Move

Migration is about people before it is about borders. As migration patterns across the Horn of Africa continue to evolve, the challenge for governments is to strengthen border security while ensuring that people on the move are protected from exploitation, violence and discrimination.

Criminal networks continue to exploit vulnerable migrants through document fraud, migrant smuggling and trafficking routes. Women and girls, children, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, refugees and other at-risk groups can face heightened risks of abuse and exploitation, particularly when travelling through irregular routes.

It is against this backdrop that the National Gender and Equality Commission participated in the Regional Counter-Smuggling Programme (RCSP) engagement, bringing together the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Kenya, the Directorate of Immigration Services and other government agencies to strengthen coordinated responses to migrant smuggling and related forms of transnational organised crime.

Representing the Commission, Commissioner Michael Mbithuka called for migra-

tion governance systems that place gender equality and social inclusion at the centre of border management and migration policy.

He emphasised that effective migration governance must recognise the different risks faced by people on the move. Women and girls, persons with disabilities, children, refugees, victims of trafficking and migrants using irregular routes may experience particular vulnerabilities, including exploitation, violence, discrimination and abuse.

For the Commission, protecting these groups is integral to effective migration management. This requires gender-responsive policies, disability inclusion and victim-centred protection measures to be incorporated into migration and border management systems.

The engagement also highlighted the need for stronger identification and referral mechanisms for vulnerable migrants, enhanced institutional capacity, improved data and intelligence, and stronger collaboration among agencies responsible for migration management and protection.

The RCSP seeks to strengthen cooperation among Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia in ad-

ressing migrant smuggling, document fraud and transnational organised crime. Its regional approach recognises that these challenges require coordinated responses across borders, supported by effective information sharing and institutional collaboration.

As migration governance systems continue to evolve, the Commission's engagement reinforces a broader principle: security and human rights are mutually reinforcing. Stronger borders must be accompanied by stronger protection systems that ensure people are treated with dignity and protected from exploitation, regardless of their gender, age, disability, nationality or social status.

For the Commission, advancing equality means ensuring that protection extends to people wherever they are, including those crossing borders in search of safety, opportunity or a better life.



Commissioner Michael Mbithuka representing the Commission at the Regional Counter-Smuggling Programme (RCSP)



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa with Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Diana Dalton from FCDO Delegation

NGEC Strengthens Partnership with FCDO on Equality and Inclusion

The National Gender and Equality Commission has reaffirmed its partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to advance equality, inclusion and freedom from discrimination.

The Commission hosted an FCDO delegation led by Development Director and Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Diana Dalton for discussions on priority areas for collaboration.

The engagement focused on inclusive electoral governance ahead of the 2027 General Elections, Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence, survivor-centred access to justice, the Women, Peace and Security agenda and institutional capacity to advance equality and inclusion.

The partnership has previously supported initiatives addressing sexual and gender-based violence, gender-responsive budgeting, inclusive electoral processes and the rights of Special Interest Groups.

The engagement provides an opportunity for the two institutions to build on this work and translate shared priorities into practical action.

NCAJ Approves Sexual Offences Amendment Bill, 2026



Desire Njamwea, Assistant Director, Legal, Complaints, NGEK at The National Council on the Administration of Justice meeting

The National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) has approved the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2026, marking a major step towards strengthening Kenya's legal and institutional response to sexual violence. The proposed reforms seek to address emerging and evolving forms of sexual abuse, including voyeurism, sextortion, stalking, grooming and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

The Bill also proposes greater accountability for telecommunication platforms in facilitating the removal of non-consensually shared intimate content. It further seeks to strengthen survivor protection through measures including mandatory gender desks at police stations and safeguards against secondary victimisation.

The review and drafting process was led by Mr. Desire Njamwea, Assistant Director, Legal, Complaints, Investigations and Redress at the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), in his capacity as Vice Chairperson of the NCAJ Committee on the Review of Sexual Offences Laws and Policies.

The process received technical support from CREAM Kenya, FIDA Kenya, Equality Now, The CRADLE, the Center for Reproductive Rights and the Wangu Kanja Foundation. Following its approval, the Council has directed that the Bill be forwarded to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Assembly for legislative consideration. The proposed reforms will now proceed through the legislative process, where they will be subjected to further consideration and debate.

Picture Speak



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa (Right), received Hon. John Munyes Kiyong'a (Left), the President's Special Peace Envoy for the Ateker Region, for a courtesy visit to strengthen collaboration on peacebuilding, equality, and the protection of communities affected by cross-border insecurity.



Inter-agency engagements in Nakuru, bringing together the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), and Media Council of Kenya (MCK) to identify practical areas for closer collabor



Chairperson Hon Rehema Dida Jaldesa (Second from Left), joined Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Hon. Soipan Tuyain Laisamis and other women leaders in Marsabit County to champion women's economic development



Head of Isiolo Regional Office Nahashon Lotaruk joined Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and members of the Isiolo Gender Technical Working Group at a joint press conference to speak with one voice against the rising cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and femicide in Isiolo County



The Commission welcomed a delegation from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), led by Development Director and Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Diana Dalton (Fifth from Left), for a courtesy visit aimed at strengthening collaboration in advancing gender equality, inclusion, and freedom from discrimination



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa(Right) poses with Nairobi Women Rep Esther Passaris(Center) at the launch of "Distinguished Women Leaders: Profiles in Courage and Service Leadership in Nation Building" at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi honouring 69 Kenyan women whose courage shaped our nation's democratic, judicial, political and social journey.



Commissioner Michael Mbithuka (Second from left) represented the Commission at the Regional Counter-Smuggling Programme (RCSP) engagement, joining the International Organization for Migration IOM Kenya, the Directorate of Immigration Services



The Commission poses with Kilifi Deputy Governor Flora Mbetsa Chibule. (Front Row Center) Equality and Inclusion publications during a County Leadership Engagement in Kilifi County under the NGECMashinani initiative



Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, PhD, EBS PS, State Department for Science, Research and Innovation.the Administration of Justice meeting receives an Award from Commissioner Karunguru

National Gender Research Agenda Dissemination



Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS
Commission Secretary/CEO NGECE



Dr. Lucy Wakiaga
APHRC



Dr. Idris Salim Dokota, CBS - Principal Secretary, State Department for Cabinet Affairs



Mr. Fuad Abdalla Ali National Chairperson of the Kenya Comprehensive Schools Heads Association (KECSHA)

NGEC Calls for Protection of SGBV Survivors' Privacy and Dignity

The Commission has issued a National Public Advisory calling on Kenyans, media practitioners, social media users, content creators and law enforcement agencies to protect the privacy and dignity of survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

The advisory highlights the legal consequences of sharing intimate images without consent, disclosing survivors' identities and circulating Child Sexual Abuse Material.

It also outlines responsibilities for the public, media and institutions in preventing re-victimisation and ensuring survivors can access justice.

The advisory places particular emphasis on responsible handling of information involving survivors, recognising that the manner in which SGBV cases are reported or discussed can have consequences for survivors' dignity, safety and access to justice.




THE NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON
NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY

PUBLIC INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS: TO FREE, TIMELY AND DIGNIFIED MEDICAL CARE FOLLOWING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) INCIDENT

1.0 Introduction

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) wishes to inform all Kenyans, particularly survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), that you have clear legal rights to free, immediate, and respectful medical care in all public health facilities in Kenya. No survivor should be turned away, asked to pay any fees, or forced to register with the Social Health Authority (SHA) before receiving emergency treatment.

2.0 Your Rights - What You Are Entitled To (FREE of Charge)

Under the Sexual Offences (Medical Treatment) Regulations, 2012 and the Constitution of Kenya, every survivor of sexual violence has the right to the following services free of charge in all public health facilities:

- Immediate medical examination and treatment of injuries
- Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV (must be given within 72 hours)
- Emergency contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancy
- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) where medically appropriate
- Collection and proper preservation of forensic evidence
- Completion of P3 Form and Post Rape Care (PRC) Form
- Counselling and psychosocial support

These services must be provided immediately, without discrimination, and regardless of:

- Whether you have registered with SHA, registered with any other health insurance or have health insurance
- Your ability to pay
- Whether you have a police report
- Your age, gender, or any other background

3.0 What is Illegal and Not Allowed

It is unlawful for any public health facility or health worker to:

- Charge you any money for SGBV-related medical services
- Refuse or delay treatment because of stock-outs or lack of "donor funding"
- Deny you services until you register with SHA. Refuse to examine you or collect forensic evidence
- Turn you away or ask you to return later

Such actions violate your constitutional rights to health, dignity, equality, and access to justice (Articles 27, 28, 43, and 48 of the Constitution) and the Sexual Offences (Medical Treatment) Regulations, 2012, particularly Regulation 3, which expressly mandates that all medical treatment for survivors of sexual offences shall be provided free of charge in public health facilities.

4.0 What to Do if Your Rights Are Violated

If you or someone you know is denied any of these services:

- Insist politely but firmly on your rights. Tell the health worker: "I am entitled to free post-rape care under the Sexual Offences Act. Please provide the services immediately."
- Ask to speak to the in-charge or medical superintendent of the facility.
- If you are still denied, note down:
 - Name of the health facility
 - Name(s) of the health worker(s) involved
 - Date and time of the incident
- Report the denial immediately to:
 - National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) - NGEC Tel No. +254 709 375 100 Email: info@ngeckkenya.org
 - Kenya Police Gender Unit or Desk
 - County Health Department

5.0 Important Message to Survivors of SGBV

- Seek medical care as soon as possible – ideally within 72 hours for PEP to be most effective.
- You do not need a police report before receiving medical treatment.
- Take a trusted person with you for support if possible.
- All services must be provided with confidentiality and respect – you should not face secondary victimization.

6.0 Call to the Public and Communities

We urge all Kenyans to:

- Support survivors to access immediate medical care
- Accompany them to health facilities when needed and
- Report any health facility that denies or charges for SGBV services
- Report any agency discriminating victims of SGBV
- Encourage all to register with SHA for delivery of accountable health services

Free, timely and dignified care for survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is not a favour – it is your constitutional and legal right. Seek Help Promptly.

Know Your Rights. Report Any Violations.

For more information or to lodge a complaint contact the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) via our telephone No. +254 709 375 100 or Email: info@ngeckkenya.org

ISSUED BY:


HON. REJHEMA DIDA JALDESA
CHAIRPERSON

This publication was made possible with the support of The Wangi Kungu Foundation (K)
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info@wangikungufoundation.org/www.wangikungufoundation.org

A National Public Advisory calling on Kenyans, media practitioners, social media users, content creators and law enforcement agencies to protect the privacy and dignity of survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.




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A National Public Advisory reminding Kenyans, reminding Kenyans that survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence have a legal and constitutional right to free, immediate and respectful medical care at public health facilities.

Survivors of SGBV Entitled to Free and Immediate Medical Care

The Commission has issued a Public Advisory reminding Kenyans that survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence have a legal and constitutional right to free, immediate and respectful medical care at public health facilities.

The advisory identifies essential services available to survivors at no cost, including emergency treatment, HIV prevention medication, emergency contraception, collection and preservation of forensic evidence, completion of P3 and Post Rape Care forms, counselling and psychosocial support.

These services should be provided promptly regardless of whether a survivor has made a police report, is registered with the Social Health Authority or has health insurance.

The advisory further states that public health facilities should not deny, delay or charge survivors for these services.



A group photo of The Commission in launch of the National Gender Research Agenda (NGRA) for Kenya Report

From Research to Action: NGEK Advances National Gender Research Agenda

The Commission is advancing efforts to strengthen the use of evidence in gender equality policy and decision-making through the National Gender Research Agenda (NGRA) for Kenya.

The agenda seeks to address the fragmentation of gender research by improving coordination, identifying priority research areas and strengthening the connection between evidence, policy and programming.

It proposes measures including alignment with the Gender Sector Statistics Plan, establishment of a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Data Hub, capacity building for data producers and users, and stronger partnerships across the gender and education sectors.

The agenda also identifies emerging areas including Artificial Intelligence, climate change, gender-based violence, crises and the digital divide.

For policymakers, researchers, development partners and communicators, the NGRA provides a framework for identifying evidence gaps and directing research towards issues that can inform practical decisions.

Its central value lies in moving research beyond production and publication towards evidence that can be understood, applied and used to address persistent inequalities.



Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS
Commission Secretary/CEO
NGEK



Dr. David Ngige
National Commission for Science, Technology and
Innovation Nacosti



Dr. Lucy Wakiaga
APHRC

Kilifi Stakeholders Rally around a Common Equality and Inclusion Agenda



A group photo of The Commission with Kilifi County leadership in Kilifi

The Commission's engagement with Kilifi County leadership provided a platform to connect national evidence on equality and inclusion with county-level action.

The County Government reaffirmed its partnership with NGEK in advancing the rights of women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and marginalised communities.

The engagement also provided the set-

ting for the launch of four Equality and Inclusion publications, covering public sector performance contracting, State corporations, the teaching workforce and accessibility of buildings.

For county governments, the value of the reports lies in their potential to inform planning, budgeting, service delivery and institutional accountability using evidence on where inclusion gaps remain.

Kilifi Leadership Engagement Puts Equality Evidence into Practice



A group photo of The Commission with Kilifi County Commissioner after paying him a visit in his office

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NGEK Plants Trees at Kilifi GK Prison

The Commission concluded its Kilifi County engagements with a tree-planting exercise at Kilifi GK Prison led by Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Purity Ngina.

The activity formed part of the Commission's corporate social responsibility programme and focused on environmental conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development.

The exercise added an environmental dimension to the Commission's wider Kilifi engagements, linking institutional responsibility with collective action for sustainable communities.



*Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS
Commission Secretary/CEO
During Tree Planting in Kilifi Prison*



*County Commissioner
Kennedy Omari
During Tree Planting in Kilifi Prison*



*NGEK Team
During Tree Planting in Kilifi Prison*

Garissa Stakeholders Strengthen Coordination on Child Protection and GBV



A group photo of The Garissa Regional Office Team with Stakeholders in a quarterly County Child Protection and Gender Technical Working Group meeting.

The Commission's Garissa Regional Office joined government agencies, UN partners and civil society organisations for the quarterly County Child Protection and Gender Technical Working Group meeting.

The meeting reviewed the status of missing children, ongoing gender-based vio-

lence interventions and responses to the growing challenge of street-connected children.

Participants agreed to strengthen multi-agency collaboration, improve child tracking and data management, enhance community awareness and reinforce referral and protection mechanisms.

The focus on coordination reflects the practical reality that protecting children requires institutions to work together rather than operate in isolation.

Garissa Partners Address Missing Children and GBV

The County Child Protection and Gender Technical Working Group also engaged the Garissa County Commissioner and County Police Commander on the status of gender-based violence and cases of missing children.

The discussions focused on prevention, protection, coordinated response and accountability for the safety and well-being of women, girls and children.

The engagement brought together county-level actors around issues requiring timely information sharing and coordinated institutional response.



A group photo of the County Child Protection and Gender Technical Working Group

Devolution Sensitisation Week takes Equality Message to Garissa



A photo of the Devolution Sensitisation week Conference with partners together with Garissa Regional Office Team

The Commission's Garissa Regional Office participated in Devolution Sensitisation Week held from 27 July to 1 August 2026.

The week provided an opportunity to strengthen public understanding of devolution, encourage citizen participation and promote inclusive, accountable and responsive county governance.

Through its participation, NGEK used the platform to share information on its mandate, programmes and services and to reinforce the importance of equality, inclusion and freedom from discrimination in county governance.

For citizens, the devolution agenda is ultimately about whether county systems are accessible, responsive and capable of reaching all sections of the population.

Kisumu Youth Call for Safer, More Inclusive Communities



A youth engaging in Discussions in the Youth Civic Engagement Forum Kisumu

Young leaders and stakeholders in Kisumu have called for stronger community action to address insecurity, political intolerance, youth involvement in violence and sexual and gender-based violence.

The Commission's Kisumu Regional Office participated in the Youth Civic Engagement Forum and Festival convened by the Youth, Arts, Development and Entrepreneurship Network at the Mama Grace Onyango Social and Cultural Centre.

Discussions also addressed organised criminal activity, technology-facilitated gender-based violence and the role of responsible media and social media use in promoting peace.

Participants recommended stronger community peace structures, expanded Amani Clubs in schools, improved community policing, early warning and early response systems, and greater inclusion of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalised groups in peacebuilding.

The forum reinforced a central message: youth participation in governance and community development must extend beyond being recipients of programmes to being active participants in shaping solutions.



A youth engaging in Discussions in the Youth Civic Engagement Forum Kisumu

Kisumu Leaders Reflect on Values-Based Governance and Peace



Kisumu Regional Office Team Member in the meeting at the Kisumu County Leadership Prayer Breakfast at CITAM Kisumu.

The Commission's Kisumu Regional Office joined county leaders, national government representatives, civil society, faith leaders and members of the public at the Kisumu County Leadership Prayer Breakfast at CITAM Kisumu.

Held under the theme *"Entrenching Faith, Integrity and Servant Leadership Towards a Peaceful, United and Prosperous County,"* the forum reflected on the relationship between values-based leadership, social cohesion and good governance.

Participants also raised concerns about political violence, including attacks within places of worship, and its implications for the participation of Special Interest Groups.

The discussions called for political tolerance, peaceful engagement, respect for democratic principles and collective action to address challenges including youth unemployment and political intolerance.

Kisumu Stakeholders Prepare for more Inclusive 2027 Elections

With the 2027 General Election approaching, the Commission's Kisumu Regional Office has begun preparations aimed at strengthening peaceful and inclusive electoral participation.

Stakeholders examined the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, Kenya National Action Plans and related frameworks supporting meaningful participation of Special Interest Groups in governance and electoral processes.

The discussions also considered concerns over political intolerance and election-related violence in Kisumu and Homa Bay counties, including Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

Proposed measures include stronger hotspot monitoring, reporting and referral mechanisms, peaceful political engagement and the establishment of

a Situation Room in Kisumu County to strengthen early warning and early response.

The Commission will also undertake civic education on constitutional rights, electoral laws and democratic responsibilities.

The objective is clear: ensure citizens can participate safely and meaningfully before, during and after the election period.



Kisumu Regional Office team in a meeting with Stakeholders in Kisumu office

Kisumu Engagement Targets Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence



A speaker engaging on law enforcement, health, civil society and digital-rights actors to strengthen prevention and response to Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

Technology is creating new avenues for gender-based violence, and Kisumu stakeholders are examining how county systems can respond.

The Commission's Kisumu Regional Office convened government, law enforcement, health, civil society and digital-rights actors to strengthen prevention and response to Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

The engagement considered online harassment, cyberbullying, image-based abuse, impersonation, stalking and threats.

The source material cites national data indicating that 37.04 per cent of respondents reported experiencing technology-facilitated GBV during their lifetime, while only 13.16 per cent of survivors reported their experiences to authorities.

Participants examined the need for accessible reporting mechanisms, effective referral systems, institutional capacity and survivor-centred support.

The discussion reinforced that digital safety is increasingly an equality and human-rights issue, particularly for groups that already face discrimination and exclusion.

Kisumu Marks Pan-African Women's Day by Reflecting on the Work that Remains



Participants join in a meeting commemorating Pan-African Women's Day

The Commission's Kisumu Regional Office joined civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders in commemorating Pan-African Women's Day under the theme "A Struggle for Women's Sovereignty and Liberation."

The forum reflected on the contribution of African women to resistance, justice, peacebuilding and nation-building, while highlighting the need to preserve their place in the continent's history.

Participants recognised figures including Mekatilili wa Menza, Wangari Maathai and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, as well as Thomas Sankara's contribution to women's empowerment in Burkina Faso.

The discussions also examined continuing barriers to equality, including underrepresentation of women in leadership, non-implementation of the two-thirds gender principle, femicide, violence against women in politics and Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

The event concluded with a call for more women to seek leadership and for existing women leaders to demonstrate integrity, excellence and accountability.

International Youth Day: Young People Ask for a Greater Voice in Governance



NGEC together with Hanns Seidel Foundation, convened youth leaders and representatives of youth-led organisations in a discussion at NGEK Boardroom

On International Youth Day 2026, the Commission, with support from the Hanns Seidel Foundation, convened youth leaders and representatives of youth-led organisations for a discussion on “Different Contexts, Common Aspirations – Framing Youth Aspirations in Governance.”

The conversation examined what needs to change for young people’s aspirations to translate into influence, opportunity and meaningful participation.

Participants included representatives of the National Youth Council Kenya, Kenya Young Parliamentary Association, youth with disabilities, the Youth Congress and the State Department for Youth Affairs and Creative Economy.

The discussions recognised that young people face different barriers depending on gender, disability, marginalisation and economic circumstances, while sharing aspirations for dignity, opportunity, decent livelihoods, equality and accountable leadership.

With the 2027 General Election approaching, participants emphasised that youth participation must extend beyond voting to include leadership, policymaking, civic education, election observation and decision-making.

The message from the engagement was that meaningful youth participation begins well before election day, including in policy design, budgeting and decisions on public opportunities and services.

Kakamega Training Puts People at the Centre of the Circular Economy



Davis Okeyo, NGEK Kisumu Regional Office engaging in a three-day training in Kakamega

A three-day training in Kakamega has brought together waste-picker associations, women and youth groups, aggregators, site managers, project partners and community representatives to examine equality and inclusion in Kenya’s circular economy.

The training, convened by Practical Action in collaboration with the Commission through the Kisumu Regional Office from 5 to 7 August 2026, focused on Gender Equality and Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in circular economy and waste management.

Participants highlighted challenges faced by informal waste workers, particularly women, including inadequate protective equipment, harassment, gender-based violence and unpaid care responsibilities.

The training produced a 12-point action plan covering inclusive workplace policies, GBV prevention, menstrual hygiene, safeguarding, accessibility, emergency systems, training and inclusive recruitment and leadership.

Participants also identified the need to incorporate GEDSI criteria into county waste tenders and by-laws and improve collection of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data.

The engagement demonstrates that an inclusive circular economy must consider not only waste and environmental outcomes, but also the rights, safety and participation of the people who sustain the system.

Kitui Walk Takes Anti-Femicide Message to the Community

The Commission's Kitui Regional Office joined partners and residents in an Anti-Femicide and Gender-Based Violence Awareness Walk to raise public awareness on prevention and survivor protection.

The engagement called on communities to reject the normalisation of violence against women and girls, encourage survivors to seek support, report abuse through appropriate channels and strengthen community vigilance.

The initiative comes as Kenya works to implement recommendations of the Presidential Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence, including Femicide.

The walk reinforced the importance of early intervention and community responsibility in preventing violence before it escalates.



Kitui Regional Office and partners and residents in an Anti-Femicide and Gender-Based Violence Awareness Walk

Kitui Dialogue Highlights Importance of Protecting Human Rights Defenders



A group photo of Kitui Regional Office Team together with Defenders Coalition Team

Protecting civic space is essential to ensuring that people can defend rights without fear.

This was among the messages emerging from a Kitui County Conversation Circle convened by the Defenders Coalition, which brought together Human Rights Defenders, county and national government representatives and other duty bearers.

The Commission's Kitui Regional Office participated in discussions on challenges affecting civic participation, access to

justice and the safety of Human Rights Defenders.

The engagement also examined protection mechanisms, institutional coordination and referral systems for people whose rights are threatened or violated. Human Rights Defenders frequently amplify the concerns of survivors of GBV, persons with disabilities, older persons, minority communities and others facing exclusion. Strengthening their operating environment therefore contributes to stronger public accountability and access to justice.

NGEC Advocates for Fair Justice for Persons with Disabilities

The Commission continues to use legal representation and advocacy to promote access to justice for persons with disabilities.

In *Republic v. Kennedy Gachioki*, NGEK Head of Legal Advocate Desire Njamwea represented the accused as the court received a Social Inquiry Report and Psychiatrist Report concerning his condition.

According to the source material, the reports confirmed an intellectual disability dating from birth, with the psychiatrist concluding that the condition is permanent and requires structured care and supervision rather than criminal prosecution.

NGEK subsequently applied for withdrawal of the charges, citing concerns over the accused's constitutional right to a fair trial and delays in determining fitness to stand trial.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions requested time to seek directions on the application. The matter is scheduled for mention on 16 September 2026.

The case illustrates the importance of ensuring that justice processes are responsive to the circumstances and rights of persons with disabilities.



Desire Njamwea, Head of Legal Advocate NGEK with members of the accused's family

Nakuru Inter-Agency Dialogue begins Early Preparation for 2027



Agrou photo of Nakuru Regional office Team together with meambers from Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, National Cohesion and Integration Commission and Media Council of Kenya.

The Commission has begun inter-agency engagement aimed at strengthening inclusive and peaceful participation in the 2027 General Election.

The first engagement in Nakuru brought together the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, National Cohesion and Integration Commission and Media Council of Kenya.

The institutions explored areas for closer collaboration in civic education, access to reliable information, peaceful political participation, national cohesion and protection against discrimination and exclusion.

The discussions also recognised the risks posed by misinformation, gender bias and online harassment, alongside the under-representation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in

election narratives.

For the Commission, electoral preparedness must ultimately be measured by whether every Kenyan can participate freely, safely and meaningfully.

The Nakuru engagement provides a foundation for continued institutional dialogue and joint initiatives ahead of the 2027 General Election.



A photo of Isiolo Regional Office participating in the Empowering Women in Leadership and Electoral Governance forum

Isiolo Dialogue Seeks Greater Space for Women in Electoral Politics

Women aspiring to political leadership in Isiolo have engaged Councils of Elders and community leaders on barriers to women's participation ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The Commission participated in the Empowering Women in Leadership and Electoral Governance forum, which examined the influence of traditional governance structures and negotiated democracy on political participation.

Participants identified challenges including patriarchal norms, clan-based decision-making, unequal access to campaign financing, political intimidation and Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

The discussion also highlighted the important role Councils of Elders can play in promoting inclusive leadership by encouraging communities to assess candidates on leadership qualities and supporting peaceful, issue-based politics.

For the Commission, increasing women's participation in leadership is central to ensuring that decision-making reflects the diversity of Kenyan society.

Women's Economic Empowerment and Protection of Girls go Hand in Hand



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa representing the Commission in Marsabit County for engagements

NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa joined Cabinet Secretary for Defence Hon. Soipan Tuyain Laisamis in Marsabit County for engagements focused on women's economic development.

The engagements reaffirmed the importance of investing in women as contrib-

utors to resilient families and communities.

The visit included Loglogo Rescue Centre, highlighting the importance of protecting vulnerable girls from harmful practices and providing safe spaces.

The engagement underscored the connection between economic empowerment and protection of rights: women and girls require safety, opportunity and support to participate meaningfully in economic and social development.

Building Peace across the Ateker Region through Inclusion

The Commission has opened discussions with the President's Special Peace Envoy for the Ateker Region, Hon. John Munyes Kiyong'a, on strengthening cooperation around peacebuilding, equality and protection of communities affected by cross-border insecurity.

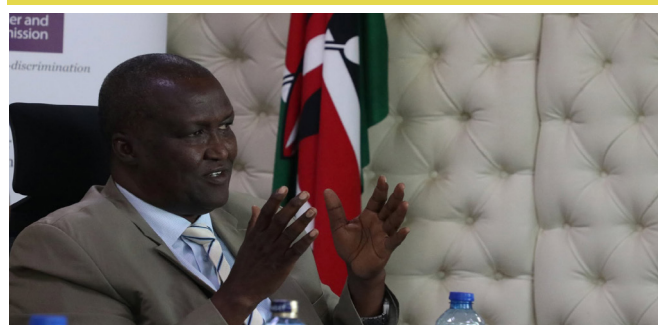
The engagement, led by NGEK Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, recognised that peacebuilding must include the protection and participation of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

Communities across the Kenya-Uganda-South Sudan-Ethiopia borderlands face challenges including conflict, cattle rustling, resource-based tensions and displacement, which can have disproportionate effects on women and children.

The proposed collaboration offers an opportunity to strengthen the integration of gender equality and the rights of Special Interest Groups within the Ateker peace and coordination architecture.



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa with Hon. John Munyes Kiyong'a who paid the commission a Courtesy visit



Hon. John Munyes Kiyong'a hosted by the Commission during a Courtesy visit

From Reaction to Prevention: NGEK Calls for Action on Femicide



Director of Programmes and Research, Mr Paul Kuria Representing the Commission at the National Consultative Workshop

The Commission has called for stronger implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence, including Femicide.

Speaking during a National Consultative Workshop on implementation of the Task Force report, NGEK Director of Programmes and Research, Mr Paul Kuria, called for coordinated action addressing the underlying drivers of GBV and femicide.

He emphasised that Kenya already has a legal and policy framework and that the immediate challenge is effective implementation.

Priority areas identified include stronger institutional coordination, survivor-centred services, timely investigations, professional case management and sustained investment in prevention.

The Commission also highlighted the need for survivors to access healthcare, psychosocial support, legal assistance, safe

shelters and justice mechanisms without intimidation or unnecessary delays.

The consultative forum brought together government institutions, constitutional commissions, the justice sector, county governments, development partners, civil society, faith leaders and the media.

The focus was on translating recommendations into practical interventions that strengthen prevention, survivor support, institutional coordination and accountability.

NGEK Honours 69 Women Leaders as 2027 Elections Approach

NGEK Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa joined Chief Justice Martha Koome and other women leaders at the launch of Distinguished Women Leaders: Profiles in Courage and Service Leadership in Nation Building, which honours 69 Kenyan women whose leadership has contributed to the country's democratic, judicial, political and social development.

The Chairperson cited Article 27 of the Constitution as the foundation for equality and non-discrimination and reaffirmed NGEK's mandate to safeguard that constitutional promise. With the 2027 General Election approaching, she called for political parties to create genuine opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities to lead and urged the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to deliver an inclusive electoral framework.

She also addressed the influence of negotiated democracy and patriarchal community structures, calling on elders to use their influence to open opportunities for women rather than restrict them.

The event connected recognition of women's past contributions with the continuing need to expand opportunities for women in leadership.



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa with Hon. Esther Passaris at the launch of Distinguished Women Leaders



Chief Justice Martha Koome and other women leaders at the launch of Distinguished Women Leaders



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We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.

— **Malala Yousafzai**

Thank You For Reading

NGEC has been recognised as the Best Constitutional Commission in the 2026 Awards for Top Communicators and Partners by the Office of the Government Spokesperson. We appreciate this recognition of our commitment to effective public communication in advancing equality and inclusion. We dedicate this achievement to our staff, partners and stakeholders who continue to support the Commission in delivering its constitutional mandate.

Let's continue the conversation and drive meaningful change.

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About NGEK

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) is a Constitutional Commission established under Article 59 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Our mandate is to promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination for all.

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