



EQUALITY BULLETIN

INEQUALITY EXPOSED

NGEC Launches Groundbreaking Reports on Education, GBV, and Green Inclusion

Four major studies provide an unprecedented evidence base to guide policy, protect rights, and transform Kenya's most marginalised communities

In a landmark event that could reshape the nation's approach to gender, education, and sustainable development, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) officially launched four comprehensive reports that lay bare the structural barriers facing Kenya's most marginalised populations. The launch convened policymakers, researchers, development partners, and frontline practitioners united by a shared commitment to evidence-based action.

At the centre of the launch was the flagship report, Evidence on School-Level Factors Affecting Girls' Access to Quality Education in Marginalised Communities in Kenya, a meticulous study across arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), informal urban settlements, and remote rural regions. The research exposes how entrenched inequalities—spanning school infrastructure, leadership, teacher deployment, social norms, and household realities—continue to hinder girls' participation in education. While national enrolment rates have improved, girls in marginalised areas still experience lower attendance, higher dropout rates, and significant challenges transitioning between grades. The report found that boys constitute 52 percent of learners while girls make up only 48 percent, with learners with disabilities remaining disproportionately underrepresented. **Page 5,6**



Table 4.1: Enrolment by Grade

Grade	% Boys Enrolled	% Girls Enrolled	Gender Parity Index (GPI)	% Boys with Disabilities Enrolled	% Girls with Disabilities Enrolled	Disability Involvement GPI (DGI)
ECDE (FP1-PP2)	51.79	48.21	93.30	0.70	0.42	60.03
Lower Primary (Grade 1-3)	52.88	47.12	89.10	0.44	0.23	53.85
Upper Primary (Grade 4-6)	52.33	47.67	91.82	0.81	0.53	65.19
Junior School (Grade 7-9)	52.26	47.74	91.36	0.73	0.59	81.91
Average	52.26	47.74	91.35	0.67	0.44	64.99

Across all grades, boys constituted 52% and girls 48% of enrolled learners in the sampled schools.



Reports of physical violence were slightly higher among boys (15.9%) than girls (13.8%)



A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

As 2025 draws to a close, we pause to reflect on a year marked by purpose, progress, and a profound commitment to equality. This year, NGEN proudly launched four groundbreaking reports that expose entrenched barriers to education, safety, and inclusion, providing a roadmap to transform the lives of Kenya's most marginalized populations.

These reports are more than data—they are a call to action. They illuminate the persistent gaps that deny girls, youth, persons with disabilities, and other Special Interest Groups their rightful place in society, while offering evidence-based solutions to bridge them. From school leadership and access to green energy inclusion, our findings underscore that equality is not optional—it is the foundation of sustainable development.

In 2025, NGEN strengthened partnerships, amplified the voices of the unheard, and championed evidence-driven advocacy across the country. We have seen the power of collective action in advancing justice, inclusion, and opportunity, and we remain inspired by the courage of those standing up for their rights.

As we step into 2026, our mission is clear: to translate knowledge into transformative action, to hold systems accountable, and to ensure that no Kenyan is left behind. Guided by evidence, anchored in justice, and driven by unwavering resolve, NGEN will continue shaping a Kenya where equality is not just a promise—but a lived reality for all.



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



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Invisible No More: Voices of Strength Echo at Kenya School for the Blind

Disability inclusion takes centre stage on International Day for Persons with Disabilities as leaders vow action on accessibility, dignity and equal participation

Nothing about us without us.” It was more than a slogan on Wednesday at the Kenya School for the Blind — it was a resounding call to action that reverberated through crowded halls, dignified remarks, and solemn promises from leaders, partners, and advocates united in commemorating the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. The global day, observed annually on 3 December, champions the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities everywhere, highlighting the imperative of full and equal participation in society.

Against a backdrop of determination and reflection, the event convened stakeholders from government, civil society, and disability organisations to assess progress, confront persistent barriers, and reaffirm Kenya’s commitment to fostering inclusive societies where dignity is not an aspiration, but a lived reality.

The Kenya School for the Blind buzzed with life — signs in braille, interpreters ready at hand, and dignitaries mingling with students and advocates whose lived experiences gave raw clarity to the day’s purpose.

At the heart of the proceedings was CEO Dr. Purity Ngina, whose remarks

struck a chord of urgency and hope. With a tone that blended candid appraisal and visionary leadership, she highlighted the strides made towards inclusion — from policy reforms to local initiatives that have expanded access to education and public services. Yet she did not shy away from confronting persistent gaps that continue to deny persons with disabilities their rightful place in Kenyan society.

“We celebrate progress,” Dr. Ngina told the assembly, “but we must also acknowledge the distance yet to be travelled. Inclusion cannot be measured in occasional events alone; it must be woven into the very fabric of our laws, systems, and everyday consciousness.”

Participants underscored that physical access — removing architectural barriers in schools, workplaces, and public spaces — is only the beginning. True accessibility also encompasses information, communication, and technology that enable persons with disabilities to exercise agency and independence.

Beyond legal frameworks, many speakers emphasised the importance of societal attitudes.



Dr. Purity Ngina delivers her keynote speech at The Kenya School

Inclusion must permeate everyday interactions — in classrooms, workplaces, markets, and social spaces — challenging stigma and fostering environments where persons with disabilities are seen first for their abilities and potential.

the mood was resolute rather than celebratory. There was recognition that while strides have been made, the journey toward full inclusion — where persons with disabilities enjoy unfettered access to opportunities and dignity — demands sustained commitment, strategic action, and continuous engagement from all sectors of society.

Dr. Ngina’s closing remarks captured this spirit: “Let today not be an end in itself, but a powerful beginning — a moment that deepens our resolve, broadens our empathy, and strengthens our collective action so that no Kenyan is left behind.”

At the Centre, Not the Margins: Kitui Reframes Disability as a Development Imperative

KITUI — In Kitui County, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2025 was not marked as a ceremonial obligation, but as a deliberate statement of values. From the streets of the town to reflective policy dialogue, the day unfolded with clarity of purpose: disability inclusion is not an act of charity, but a matter of justice, dignity and sustainable development.

The commemoration, led by County Executive Committee Member Madam Phoebe Mutemi on behalf of the Governor and supported by county leaders, development partners and disability rights advocates, brought together voices that



NGEC Kitui regional staff join partners to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

are too often excluded from development conversations. Through a public procession, tree-planting exercise and an open dialogue forum, Kitui positioned inclusion not as an afterthought, but as a central pillar of governance.

A reflective dialogue session that followed brought to the fore the lived realities of persons with disabilities, including persistent barriers in access, infrastructure and economic opportunity. Speakers emphasised that inclusive governance must be intentional, informed by data and backed by adequate budgets.

The central message of the day was unequivocal: disability inclusion is about justice, dignity and equal participation. As Kitui aligns county development priorities with constitutional values, leaders and advocates called for sustained action to ensure that no one is left behind.

When Walls Speak Back: A City Confronts Violence in Colour and Courage

Public mural unveiled along Langata Road turns art into activism as Kenya marks 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence

Along the Langata Road overpass near T-Mall, a striking public mural was unveiled this week as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, transforming a routine urban passage into a site of reflection, resistance and resolve. The event, hosted by the Embassy of Spain in partnership with the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), brought together diplomats, government representatives, artists and gender equality advocates united by a shared purpose: to confront violence against women and girls and to reclaim public spaces as platforms for dignity and justice.

Among those present was Commissioner Lentupuru, whose participation underscored the Commission's continued commitment to advancing equality, strengthening accountability and supporting national efforts to safeguard the rights of all women and girls.

Unlike decorative urban art, the Langata Road mural is designed as a social intervention. Through layered imagery and symbolic expression, it provokes reflection on the physical, psychological and social toll of gender-based violence, while simultaneously celebrating resilience and survival.

The artwork speaks to experiences often relegated to private spaces — such as homes, institutions, and communities — and brings them into the public eye, where silence is harder to sustain and denial more difficult to justify.

Organisers emphasised that the mural's intention is not to shock, but to awaken: to prompt conversations about consent, power, accountability and protection that extend beyond the 16 Days campaign and into everyday civic life.

The choice of the Langata Road overpass was both strategic and symbolic.



Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru joins Ambassador Jaime Alejandro Moreno Bau as partners unveil a new mural along the Langata Road overpass.

As one of Nairobi's busiest transport corridors, the site guarantees sustained visibility and engagement. Thousands of commuters — including students, young workers and families — encounter the mural daily, ensuring that its message reaches diverse audiences across age, class and background.

In reclaiming this space, the initiative highlights a crucial truth: public spaces reflect the values of the public. When messages of dignity and non-violence occupy shared infrastructure, they challenge the normalisation of harm and assert that safety is a collective responsibility.

The involvement of the Embassy of Spain highlights the role of international cooperation in advancing gender equality and human rights. Spanish cooperation has consistently supported initiatives that combine cultural expression with social justice, recognising art as a powerful vehicle for behavioural change and community engagement.

By partnering with KURA, the project also demonstrated how infrastructure institutions can play an active role in social transformation — integrating gender considerations into spaces traditionally viewed as neutral or purely functional.

During the unveiling, Commissioner Lentupuru reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to promoting equality, strengthening accountability and supporting national efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. She emphasised that while public art can catalyse awareness, lasting change depends on strong systems — effective laws, survivor-centred services, coordinated institutions and sustained public education. The mural, she noted, should be seen as a starting point for deeper engagement, not an endpoint.



Commissioner Lentupuru speaks at the public mural unveiling

As Nairobi continues to grapple with high rates of gender-based violence, initiatives that disrupt silence and provoke public dialogue are increasingly vital. The Langata Road mural stands as a visual reminder that violence against women and girls is neither inevitable nor acceptable — and that resilience, dignity and justice must be visibly defended.

Long after the 16 Days of Activism conclude, the mural will remain — confronting, questioning and calling on every passer-by to reflect on their role in building safer communities.

In a city defined by motion, this wall asks Nairobi to pause — and to choose accountability over indifference, and action over silence.

Youth, Rights and Digital Frontiers: A New Alliance for Kenya's Future

NGEC and Plan International Kenya forge a strategic partnership to strengthen child protection, youth participation and gender equality in education and digital spaces

NAIROBI — In a strategic engagement that signals a new chapter in policy collaboration, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) hosted senior delegates from Plan International Kenya for a high-level dialogue on advancing child protection, youth participation and gender equality — particularly in educational and digital spheres. The meeting underscored shared priorities and a strengthened commitment to enhancing governance, evidence-informed policy and institutional capacity across Kenya.

Led by Commissioner Lentupuru, NGEC's discussions with Plan International Kenya focused on constructing durable systems that protect children and young people from harm, ensure their full participation in civic life, and expand equitable access to opportunities in both physical and digital learning environments.

The session centred on the urgent need to fortify child protection and justice systems across the country. Participants examined gaps in existing mechanisms, including the responsiveness of institutions to incidents of

abuse, the integration of rehabilitation and care for survivors, and the broader structural challenges that hinder timely and effective support.



Commissioner Lentupuru and Secretary/CEO Dr. Purity Ngina meet with Plan International Kenya delegates

Strengthening legal and social frameworks was presented not as an abstract policy objective, but as a concrete requirement for ensuring that children and young people are afforded dignity, safety and fair access to justice.

A key concern was enhancing coordination between national policy frameworks and sub-national implementation, where frontline gaps often disrupt protective measures.

A major area of focus in the engagement was the meaningful inclusion of children and youth in policy development and governance processes. Historically, young people have been relegated to consultative or tokenistic roles, with limited influence on decisions that directly affect their lives.

The meeting affirmed that youth participation must be structured, systematic and supported by clear mechanisms that elevate young voices within institutional spaces.

Rights in Focus: NGEC and NANHRI Strengthen Protections for Kenya's Vulnerable

Strategic partnership aims to advance equality, non-discrimination, and targeted advocacy for Special Interest Groups

In a decisive step toward safeguarding the rights of Kenya's most vulnerable, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) recently visited the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) in Nairobi to cement collaboration on human rights advocacy, reporting, and protection. The engagement, led by NGEC Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru, focused on strategies to advance the rights of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) across the nation.

Kenya's constitution and international treaties enshrine protections for groups historically at risk of marginalization, yet implementation gaps persist. Women, youth, persons with disabilities, children, older members of society, minorities, and other marginalized communities continue to face systemic barriers in accessing education, healthcare, livelihoods, and justice. NGEC's partnership with NANHRI seeks to address these gaps by creating robust reporting and advocacy mechanisms that specifically target these groups.

"The rights of Special Interest Groups are not optional—they are central to building a just and

equitable society," Commissioner Lentupuru emphasized. "Through this collaboration, we are working to ensure that no group is left behind, and that all Kenyans can access their fundamental rights without fear of discrimination or neglect."



Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru leads NGEC's visit to NANHRI in Nairobi

During the visit, both institutions discussed frameworks for continuous collaboration, joint initiatives, and specialized training programs aimed at enhancing skills in documenting and reporting violations against SIGs. By sharing experiences and strategies, NGEC and NANHRI are establishing a model for data-driven, rights-

based interventions that focus on the most marginalized populations.

A key priority is the development of innovative reporting tools that capture the realities of SIGs, including gender-based violence, economic marginalization, and limited access to public services. These tools will provide evidence to guide policymakers in crafting interventions that are responsive, inclusive, and transformative.

The NGEC-NANHRI engagement represents more than institutional cooperation—it is a strategic movement toward an inclusive society where every citizen, regardless of age, gender, ability, or social status, can exercise their rights fully.

By strengthening reporting, advocacy, and accountability, we are ensuring that equality and non-discrimination are not abstract principles, but living realities for all Kenyans."

»» CONTINUATION

Breaking Barriers: NGECE Unveils Evidence That Girls in Marginalised Communities Are Being Left Behind

our landmark reports reveal deep-rooted inequalities in education, gender-based violence, and green-energy inclusion, offering a roadmap for policy, practice, and progress.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) officially launched four groundbreaking reports this week, shedding light on the persistent barriers facing girls and other marginalized groups in Kenya. The flagship study, Evidence on School-Level Factors Affecting Girls' Access to Quality Education in Marginalised Communities, presents a compelling, data-driven portrait of the educational landscape in Kenya's most disadvantaged regions.

The event, held at NGECE headquarters in Nairobi, drew leaders committed to leveraging credible data to strengthen national systems. The reports collectively fall under two critical themes: Education and Protection, and Research and Green Transitions. Each study illuminates the intersections between institutional structures, societal norms, and emerging opportunities, offering actionable insights for government, civil society, and development partners.

The Education Status Report 2025 paints a stark picture of gender disparities across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), informal urban settlements, and isolated regions. While national enrolment rates for girls have risen, structural, socio-cultural, and economic barriers continue to hinder their full participation.



NGEC staff conduct a study examining school-level factors

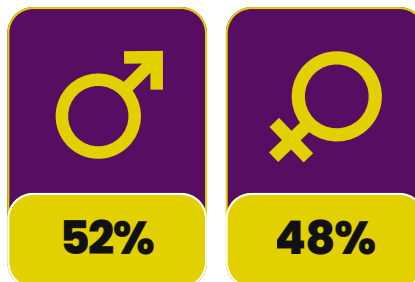
The data reveal persistent gaps: 76% of school headteachers are male, and only 24% are female, with minimal female representation in governance structures such as Boards of Management (20%) and Parents-Teachers Associations (25%). This imbalance is particularly pronounced in northern frontier counties such as Wajir and Mandera, where cultural constraints and relocation challenges limit women's progression to leadership. In contrast, Nairobi's informal settlements show promising trends, with women occupying 89% of headships in surveyed schools.



NGEC Commissioner Dr. Margaret Karungaru, Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru, Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyier, and a key guest display the four groundbreaking reports officially launched by the Commission

Beyond leadership, physical and social infrastructure remains inadequate. Less than 30% of schools in ASAL counties have disability-accessible toilets, while menstrual hygiene-related absenteeism averages 10.9%. Teenage pregnancy affects 30% of schools surveyed, compounding the risk of early dropouts. Overcrowding is a persistent issue, with class sizes reaching 63 students in Mandera and 50 in Nairobi's informal settlements.

The report highlights the vital role of teachers, noting near gender balance nationally—52% male, 48% female—but with significant regional disparities.



Teacher shortages, particularly in ASAL counties, impede effective Competency-Based Education (CBE) implementation, while limited training in digital literacy and special needs education constrains inclusion.

Beyond the Classroom: Social Barriers and Harmful Practices

Education alone does not dismantle inequality. NGECE's research underscores the profound influence of social norms, child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and gender-based violence (GBV) on girls' schooling. Schools in marginalised communities are often ill-equipped to respond to these challenges, with minimal access to counseling, health services, or community support.



NGEC newly released reports

The NGECE-JICA collaboration, Eliminating GBV in Practice: Key Insights from the NGECE-JICA GBV Elimination Project in Kenya, presents concrete models for prevention and intervention, emphasizing multi-sectoral engagement and community-driven solutions. These initiatives offer replicable frameworks for protecting girls and women, reinforcing that education and safety are inseparable in the pursuit of equality.

» CONTINUATION



NGEC newly released reports

Green Horizons: Inclusion in Emerging Sectors

The fourth report, Mainstreaming Equality and Inclusion in Green Energy (MEIGE), shifts focus to the uptake of renewable energy technologies among Special Interest Groups (SIGs), including women, youth, and persons with disabilities. While Kenya pursues ambitious clean-energy goals, the report finds that barriers such as affordability, lack of targeted training, and cultural exclusion prevent full participation by marginalized populations. NGENC recommends inclusive policy design and community-based interventions to ensure equitable access to emerging economic opportunities.

Taken together, the reports offer a comprehensive roadmap for change. They provide data-driven evidence to guide policy reforms, strengthen school governance, address social inequalities, and promote inclusive participation in emerging sectors. NGENC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, in her foreword, emphasized that education is not only a human right but the cornerstone of inclusive national transformation.

“Addressing barriers faced by girls in marginalised communities requires coordinated, evidence-based interventions,” she said. “These reports equip policymakers, educators, and development partners with the knowledge needed to ensure no girl, no child, and no marginalized group is left behind.”

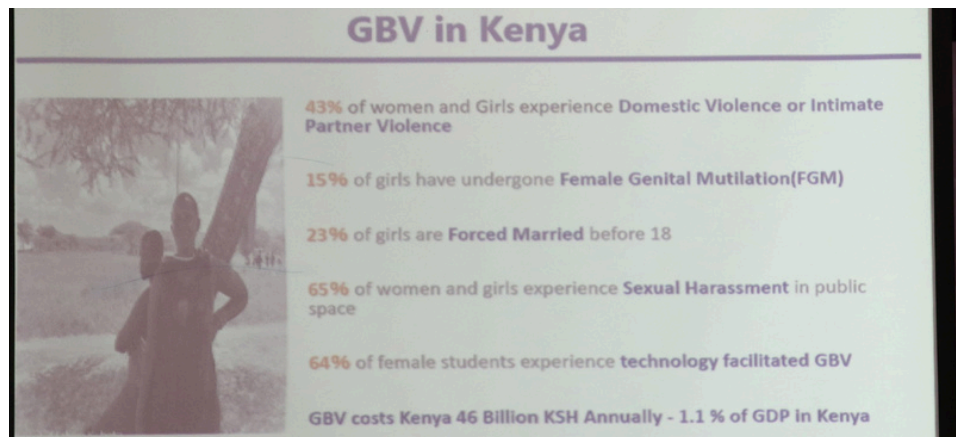
NGEC Commission Secretary Dr. Purity Ngina highlighted the reports’ significance in tracking progress against Kenya’s Vision 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Africa’s Agenda 2063. She called on government institutions, civil society, and international partners to harness these insights to implement inclusive, practical, and sustainable solutions.

The NGENC’s comprehensive analysis confirms that structural, socio-cultural, and economic factors are intertwined, shaping the lived realities of Kenya’s most marginalized girls. Policy recommendations stress inclusive leadership, investment in teacher capacity, improved school infrastructure, and targeted social interventions.



NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa and Marsabit County First Lady Alamitu Jattani among dignitaries at the official launch of the Commission’s reports

As Kenya moves toward its national and international development commitments, the findings illuminate a clear message: closing the gender gap in education is not optional—it is essential for sustainable development, social cohesion, and equality.



Key data findings are projected during the NGENC presentation

With evidence now firmly in hand, the challenge remains translating insight into action. For girls in Kenya’s marginalized communities, the stakes could not be higher: education is the bridge between their present constraints and a future brimming with opportunity.



Dr. John Mugo of Zizi Afrique Foundation honoured for his outstanding contributions to community development

The launch also recognised trailblazers in the fight for educational equity. Dr. John Mugo, Executive Director of Zizi Afrique Foundation, received special acknowledgement from NGENC for his dedication to improving learning outcomes for vulnerable children, a testament to the power of evidence-driven advocacy.

Bridging Dialogue and Action: Kenya’s Reform Committee Engages NGEC in Pursuit of Inclusive Development

From Policy to Practice: Oversight Bodies Collaborate to Transform the 10-Point Agenda into Tangible Gains for Citizens

Nairobi, Kenya – The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) hosted the Committee overseeing the implementation of Kenya’s landmark 10-Point Agenda, a roadmap born from the March 2025 UDA–ODM National Dialogue Agreement. The high-level engagement underscored a shared commitment to translating dialogue into actionable reforms, with inclusivity and citizen-centered outcomes at its heart.

The Committee, chaired by former Nominated Senator Hon. Agnes Zani and comprising Hon. Fatuma Ibrahim, Mr. Kevin Kiarie, Mr. Gabriel Oguda, and Mr. Javas Bigambo, brings together an extraordinary breadth of experience across public policy, governance, civil engagement, and reform oversight. Tasked with tracking progress on key national priorities—including youth livelihoods, public debt management, corruption, social cohesion, and inclusivity—the Committee has positioned itself as a pivotal bridge between national dialogue, accountability, and the execution of reforms.



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Hon. Agnes Zani, and Hon. Fatuma Ibrahim engage in discussion

During the visit, the Commission commended the Committee’s consultative approach, its commitment to evidence-based engagement, and its unwavering focus on delivering results that directly impact citizens’ lives.

NGEC highlighted the importance of structured reporting, noting the Committee’s bimonthly submissions to H.E. the President and the late Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, alongside a clear roadmap for the final report due in March 2026. This disciplined framework demonstrates a rigorous,



Committee Chair Hon. Agnes Zani and NGEC Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyier with members of the committee during the high-level engagement

results-oriented process designed to ensure accountability and tangible development gains.

The discussions were wide-ranging, encompassing both achievements and persistent systemic challenges. NGEC presented progress in advancing equality and freedom from discrimination, with particular emphasis on women, youth, persons with disabilities, minorities, and other marginalised groups. Yet, the conversation also acknowledged gaps between policy commitments and their practical implementation, barriers to meaningful civic participation, and the pressing need for improved coordination among institutions.

Grounding these deliberations in robust data, lived experiences, and institutional knowledge, NGEC offered pragmatic recommendations aimed at enhancing policy coherence and strengthening oversight mechanisms under the 10-Point Agenda. The Commission emphasized that only through targeted, evidence-driven interventions can reforms yield measurable improvements in citizens’ quality of life.

The engagement reaffirmed the critical importance of sustained collaboration among oversight bodies, State institutions, and social partners. Both NGEC and the Committee emphasized that translating the

vision of national dialogue into actionable development requires structured dialogue, mutual respect, and a steadfast commitment to inclusivity.

“Real progress is not measured solely by policies on paper but by the extent to which every Kenyan—especially the historically marginalised—feels the benefits of reform,” noted one Commission official. The Committee echoed this sentiment, highlighting the need for persistent engagement with communities to ensure that the 10-Point Agenda delivers equitable outcomes across regions and demographics.



George Wanyonyi of NGEC makes a presentation

As Kenya navigates its post-dialogue reform landscape, the NGEC-Committee engagement signals a new chapter in participatory governance—one where policy, accountability, and citizen experience intersect. Through collaboration, evidence-based oversight, and a focus on inclusivity, the dialogue moves beyond rhetoric, promising a Kenya where development is not just declared but genuinely felt.

Honour for the Brave: NGECE's Voice on Equality Earns National Recognition

Commission lauded for courage and fortitude in elevating innovation across Constitutional Commissions as Public Service charts its 2026 agenda

NAIROBI — In a moment that affirmed the growing influence of principled leadership within Kenya's public service, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) was honoured with a national award for courage and fortitude in advancing the talent, innovation and visibility of Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices.

The recognition was conferred during the 2025 Public Service Reflection Dinner and Agenda-Setting Retreat, a high-level forum bringing together senior government leaders to assess the state of public service delivery and set priorities for the year ahead. NGECE Chief Executive Officer Dr. Purity Ngina accepted the award on behalf of the Commission, marking a milestone for an institution that has steadily positioned equality and inclusion at the centre of governance discourse.

The award acknowledged NGECE's consistent role in elevating voices that are often sidelined within public systems, and in demonstrating that innovation in governance is not only technological or administrative, but also ethical and people-centred.

Over the years, the Commission has distinguished itself by grounding policy engagement in evidence, constitutional values and lived realities, while boldly challenging institutions to confront inequality, discrimination and exclusion. The honour, organisers noted, recognised not only institutional performance, but moral clarity — the courage to speak truth to power and the fortitude to sustain that voice amid complex political and social pressures.



NGEC's Dr. Purity Ngina receives recognition from Renson M. Ingonga, Director of Public Prosecutions, during the 2025 Public Service awards

Receiving the award, Dr. Purity Ngina described the recognition as a collective affirmation of the Commission's mandate and mission.

"This honour speaks to the importance of leadership that is anchored in equality, dignity and justice," she said. "It is a reminder that public service must always serve people — especially those who are most at risk of being left behind."

Under her stewardship, NGECE has strengthened its role as both watchdog and thought leader, amplifying the work of Constitutional Commissions and Independent Offices while advancing a rights-based approach to national development.

The 2025 Reflection Dinner and Agenda-Setting Retreat provided a fitting backdrop for the award. As the Public Service prepares its roadmap for 2026, the gathering underscored a growing consensus that effectiveness must be matched with integrity, and efficiency with inclusion.

In this context, NGECE's recognition was widely viewed as symbolic: a signal that equality and non-discrimination are no longer peripheral concerns, but core indicators of public sector excellence.

While celebrating the honour, the Commission was clear that recognition does not mark an endpoint. NGECE reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening accountability across public institutions, supporting innovation that serves constitutional values, and ensuring that policies translate into real change for women, persons with disabilities, children, youth, older persons and marginalised communities.

As Kenya's Public Service sharpens its focus for 2026, the message emerging from the award ceremony was unmistakable: courage in governance matters, and institutions that place dignity and inclusion at the heart of their work are shaping the future of public service.

For NGECE, the accolade is both recognition and responsibility — to continue standing firm, speaking boldly, and ensuring that equality is not merely promised, but practised.

Ending Violence Begins with Speaking Up

KITUI — The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Kitui Regional Office joined partners to commemorate Human Rights Day and officially conclude the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, with a strong focus on accountability, protection and community action.

Led by Chief Officer Esther Mutemi, the engagements included a courtesy visit to the Deputy County Commissioner, Ikutha, a tree-planting exercise,

and monitoring progress of the Rescue Centre administration block at Ikutha Level IV Hospital, a critical facility for survivors of violence.

A Year of Purpose: NGEK in 2025



Coding the Future Fair: Women Claim Their Place in Kenya's Digital Economy

NGEC convenes tech and policy leaders to confront the digital gender gap and shape an inclusive, women-led digital transformation

NAIROBI — As Kenya accelerates toward a technology-driven economy, a critical question continues to shadow that progress: who gets to participate, who gets protected, and who gets left behind?

That question took centre stage as the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) hosted Priscilla Kerebi of EdSource Africa alongside representatives from Silicon Savannah Woman, a Konza Technopolis initiative, for high-level deliberations on advancing women's participation in the digital economy. What unfolded was not a courtesy engagement, but a strategic convergence of policy, innovation and gender justice — aimed squarely at reshaping Africa's digital future.

At the heart of the discussions was the persistent digital gender gap that continues to limit women's access to opportunity. While Kenya has positioned itself as a regional technology hub, women and girls remain disproportionately excluded from digital skills training, financing, innovation ecosystems and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The leaders examined how unequal access to devices, connectivity, capital and mentorship compounds existing social and economic inequalities. These gaps, they noted, are further entrenched by online safety risks — including cyber-harassment, digital surveillance and technology-facilitated gender-based violence — which discourage women from fully participating in digital spaces.

Beyond access, discussions delved into systemic barriers within the current policy and institutional landscape that continue to slow inclusive digital transformation.



Dr. Purity Ngina engages Priscilla Kerebi, Konza Technopolis and Silicon Savannah Woman delegates

Despite growing investments in innovation, gender considerations often remain peripheral in technology policy, funding frameworks and emerging AI governance models.

NGEC emphasised that without safe digital environments, efforts to promote women's economic empowerment through technology remain incomplete. The Commission underscored the need for stronger accountability mechanisms, gender-responsive digital policies and survivor-centred responses to online harm.



NGEC Secretary/CEO Dr. Purity Ngina

Discussions also examined critical gaps in Kenya's current policy landscape. While investments in innovation and digital infrastructure continue to grow, leaders noted that gender considerations are often insufficiently integrated into technology policy, funding frameworks and emerging regulatory systems.

Representatives from Silicon Savannah Woman pointed to the persistent underrepresentation of women in STEM education, research and entrepreneurship, warning that without deliberate intervention, the digital economy risks replicating long-standing social and economic inequalities.

As artificial intelligence increasingly shapes access to education, employment and public services, NGEC stressed that inclusive design, safety and fairness must be foundational principles of technological advancement.

Commission leaders cautioned that biased algorithms, unequal data representation and the exclusion of women from AI development and governance could deepen inequality if left unaddressed. Technology, they emphasised, must expand opportunity — not encode discrimination into digital systems.

The engagement identified clear areas of convergence and joint action, with NGEC, EdSource Africa and Silicon Savannah Woman aligning on collaborative plans for Women's Month in March 2026.

The summit aims to generate actionable pathways for gender-inclusive digital growth, with ambitions that extend beyond Kenya to influence Africa's broader digital transformation agenda.

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