

EQUALITY BULLETIN

Usawa kwa Wote; Equality For All

EDITION # 42

SEPTEMBER 2026

NGEC OPENS ISIOLO OFFICE

The Commission has moved out of a single borrowed room and into its own premises at Barsalinga Towers, giving officers space to work, convene partners and receive the public in a county now preparing for the 2027 General Election.. [Continue to Read..... Page 04](#)



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The Commission, led by the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa, and the Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Purity Ngina, took the equality agenda to Sericho Ward through a three-day grassroots.....



The Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Dr Purity Ngina, joined His Excellency the President and the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Douglas Kanja.....



Kenya has presented the state of sexual and gender-based violence at county level to participants from 14 countries at the FY2026 Knowledge Co-Creation Program in Tokyo.....

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION SECRETARY / CEO



Edition 42 opens in Isiolo, where the Commission now works from its own regional premises at Barsalinga Towers after years in a single room borrowed from a sister institution. That relocation is a fair measure of how far the equality and non-discrimination agenda has travelled into the counties, and this edition follows it: to POLICARE in Nanyuki and the systems that receive survivors of violence, to classrooms in Machakos, to county planning tables in Kitui, to a community engagement in Garba Tula, to a stakeholders' meeting on the rights of older persons, and as far as Tokyo and Gujarat, where our officers have been measuring Kenya's response against the practice of other states.

This edition also turns the compliance lens on our peers, carrying our assessment of constitutional commissions and independent offices against the statutory provisions on gender equality and inclusion. The Bulletin reports the state of affairs as it finds it.

PURITY NGINA, PhD, MBS

COMMISSION SECRETARY/CEO

NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION



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Vice Chairperson



Caroline N. Lentupuru, MBS, HSC
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Michael Nzomo
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Dr. Margaret Karungaru, MBS
Commissioner

NGEC OPENS ISIOLO OFFICE, DEMANDS INCLUSIVE 2027 POLLS

The Commission's new Barsalinga Towers office opened on Wednesday as its Chairperson told the electoral commission and political parties that equality and inclusion must be embedded at every stage of the 2027 electoral process.



The entrance to the Isiolo Regional Office at Barsalinga Towers, decorated in the Commission's colours for the official opening.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) opened its new Isiolo Regional Office at Barsalinga Towers on Wednesday, 9 September 2026, and immediately turned to 2027 electoral preparedness.

The office was officially opened by the Commission's Chairperson, Hon. Reheema Jaldesa, who used the stakeholders' engagement that followed the relaunch to call on the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) and all electoral actors to embed equality and inclusion at every stage of the 2027 electoral process.

The new office provides dedicated space for staff, public engagement and stakeholder coordination, bringing the Commission's equality and inclusion services closer to the people of Isiolo. It strengthens the Commission's presence and the delivery of its constitutional mandate in the region.

The launch drew county leadership, national government representatives, partners and stakeholders, and was

marked with pomp and colour.

ELECTORAL ACCESS

Jaldesa told the forum that accessibility must run through voter registration and voter education, electoral information, polling stations and dispute-resolution mechanisms, and that it must work for women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, ethnic minorities and marginalised communities.

She urged political parties to remove the barriers that limit the participation and leadership of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and called for early identification of exclusion, insecurity and potential conflict risks rather than late response.

The Chairperson reaffirmed that the Commission will monitor electoral preparedness independently and impartially, and said the Isiolo office will serve as a platform for public education, stakeholder engagement, monitoring and early action on equality and inclu-

sion concerns.

COUNTY ENGAGEMENT

Alongside the relaunch, Jaldesa engaged the Isiolo County Commissioner, Mwachaunga Chaunga, on femicide, gender-based violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation, drug abuse and barriers to civil registration.

She called for stronger gender mainstreaming and representation of Special Interest Groups in county appointments, for enhanced coordination and data sharing between agencies, and for improved access to government services for communities in remote areas.

Chaunga assured the Commission of government support and pointed to ongoing action against drug abuse and gender-based violence. He acknowledged the service-access challenges raised and said the government would progressively operationalise the new sub-counties while exploring mobile services for hard-to-reach communities.

The Commission will use the Isiolo office to carry that work forward through public education, engagement, monitoring and early action as preparations for the 2027 General Election advance.



The commemorative plaque at the NGECS Isiolo Regional Office records that the office was officially opened by the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldeza, on Wednesday, 9 September 2026.



Signing of the visitors' book at the NGECS Isiolo Regional Office during the official opening.



Staff at the NGECS Isiolo Regional Office pictured at the office signage.

NGEC DEMANDS FULL NANYUKI POLICARE BEFORE NEW CENTRES

The Chairperson wants the Nanyuki centre adequately resourced and fully operational before any further POLICARE centre is established elsewhere, as the Commission opens a wider engagement with Laikipia County on disability inclusion.



The NGEC Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, addresses the stakeholders' forum in Nanyuki.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has called for the full operationalisation of the Nanyuki POLICARE Centre before any other such centre is established elsewhere in the country.

The Commission's Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, set that position at a stakeholders' forum in Nanyuki, Laikipia County, saying the Centre must be adequately resourced and enabled to deliver comprehensive, survivor-centred services.

The demand attaches a condition to the growth of the POLICARE model. On the Commission's reading, a centre that is established but not fully operational does not deliver the service survivors are entitled to, and existing capacity must be completed before new capacity is announced.

The forum was attended by the Laikipia Deputy Governor, Reuben Kamuri, representatives of the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK), the National Police Service and other stakeholders.

COUNTY PLEDGE

Kamuri pledged the County Government's support to ensure the Centre is optimally resourced, and said the county would engage BATUK and other partners to strengthen its operations.

The Commission will continue working with stakeholders to address the gaps identified and to strengthen POLICARE as an effective, accessible and coordinated response to sexual and gender-based violence.

WIDER ENGAGEMENT

The POLICARE forum formed part of a broader Commission engagement in Laikipia County, which opened with a courtesy call on the County Commissioner, Duncan Darusi, in Nanyuki.

The delegation was led by Jaldesa, accompanied by the Vice Chairperson, Thomas Koyier, the Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Purity Ngina, and Commission officers.

That meeting focused on strengthening

collaboration on equality, inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups, with both parties agreeing on the need for better coordination of disability programmes and services.

Discussions also covered peace, responsible leadership and inclusive political participation ahead of the electioneering season. Jaldesa urged measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, women, youth, older persons and other marginalised groups are included in decision-making.

The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of the Commission and the county administration to building an inclusive Laikipia County.



Note on sources: the March 2026 inspection findings referenced in this report were published by Eastleigh Voice following the National Assembly Committee on Social Protection inspection and are cited as reported. They are not presented as independent findings of the Commission.



Signage at the Nanyuki POLICARE Centre carrying the Kenya coat of arms, the POLICARE emblem and the REINVENT and UK Aid marks.



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa and Commission officials walk through the Nanyuki POLICARE Centre



Laikipia Deputy Governor, H.E. Reuben Kamuri addresses the NGEC stakeholders' forum in Nanyuki.

THE DOCUMENT THAT OPENS THE DOOR: NGEK MASHINANI LANDS IN SERICHO

A right that remains out of reach cannot deliver equality. Over three days in Sericho Ward, the Commission brought registration services to a community that has had to travel for them.



The Commission, led by Chairperson Hon Rehema Dida Jaldesa and Commission Secretary/CEO Dr Purity Ngina took the equality agenda to Sericho Ward, Isiolo County

SERICHO WARD, ISIOLO COUNTY

The Commission, led by the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa, and the Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Purity Ngina, took the equality agenda to Sericho Ward through a three-day grassroots outreach aimed at the barriers that keep special interest groups away from essential services and public participation.

Working with Civil Registration, the Department of Immigration and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, the outreach brought national identification, voter registration, and birth and death registration services into the ward. A document proves identity. It also opens access to services, opportunities and participation, and its absence closes all three.

As Kenya moves towards the 2027 General Election, the Commission's position is that inclusion must begin well before the ballot, by ensuring that distance and unaddressed barriers do not lock residents out of civic space. The Constitution protects equality and political participation, including the right of adult citizens to register as voters and take part in elections without unreasonable restrictions.

The Commission also engaged community elders and leaders, whose influence shapes attitudes, settles disputes and determines how much space communities give to participation. The message to them was direct. Women must not be silenced, young people must not be sidelined, persons with disabilities must not face barriers, and older members of society must not be excluded from decisions that affect their lives.

The Commission continues to advance equality through public education, monitoring, advocacy, collaboration and action to strengthen the inclusion of special interest groups.

#NGECMashinani

#Sericho

#Isiolo

#UsawaKwaWote

#EqualityForAll

#Election2027

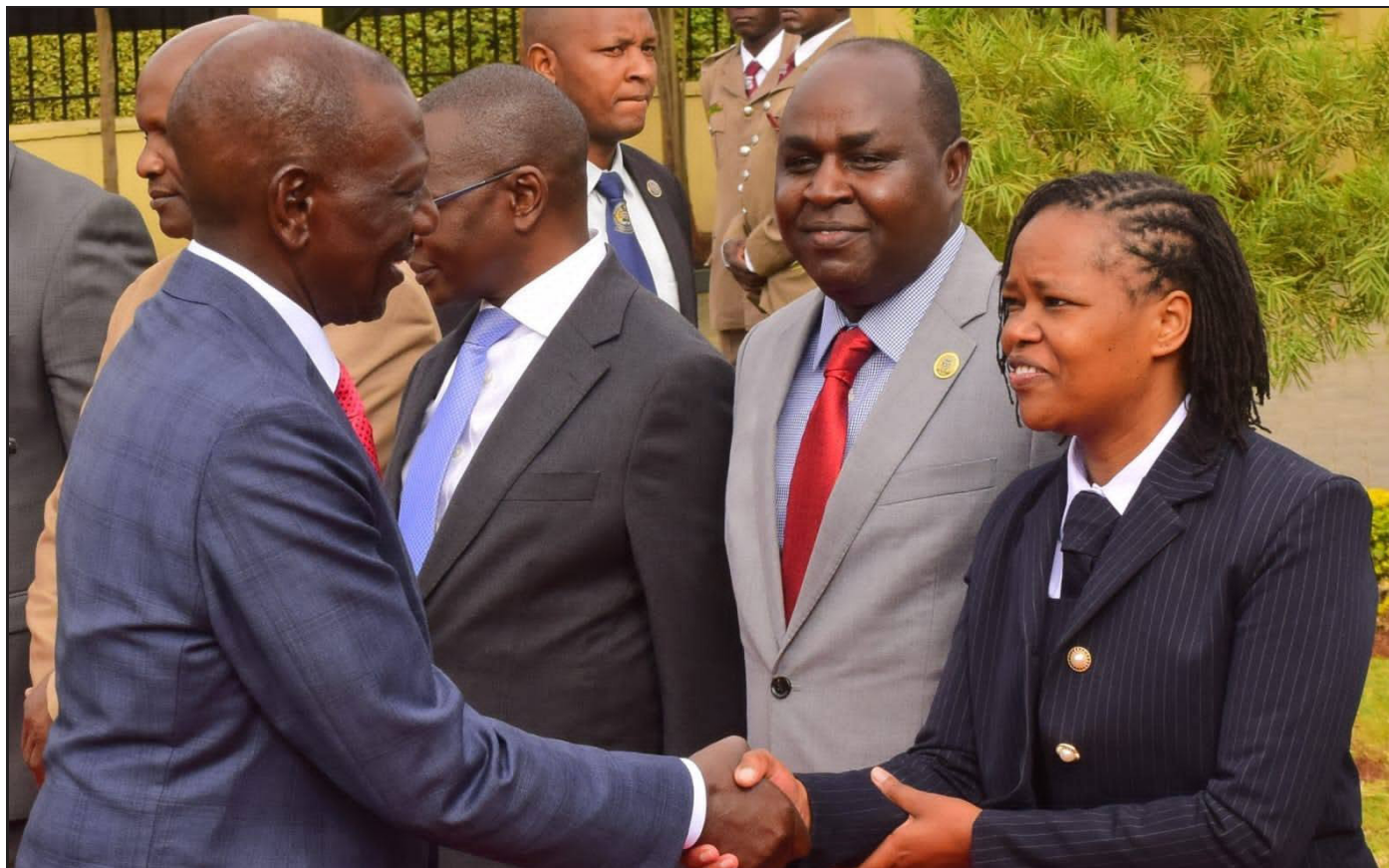
#InclusiveParticipation

#LeaveNoOneBehind

GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICING

THE BEST SHOT ON THE PARADE GROUND WAS A WOMAN

At the Administration Police pass-out parade in Embakasi, a woman recruit was recognised as the best shooter in her cohort. The Commission was there to record what that says about equality in the National Police Service.



NGEC CEO Purity Ngina greets H.E. the President during the APC passout ceremony

EMBAKASI, NAIROBI, 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Dr Purity Ngina, joined His Excellency the President and the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Douglas Kanja, at the Administration Police pass-out parade in Embakasi on Friday, where a woman recruit was recognised as the best shooter in her cohort.

The recognition carries weight beyond the parade square. Marksmanship is among the most objectively measured skills in police training, and the award demonstrates that women compete and excel in every field, including policing and national security.

The Commission monitors and promotes compliance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination across the public service, and has recorded progress by the National Police Service in strengthening gender-responsive policing. That progress includes the establishment of gender desks across police stations and the POLICARE one-stop centres that bring essential services closer to survivors of gender-based violence.

Read alongside the Commission's engagement at Nanyuki four days later, the parade at Embakasi frames the same insti-

tutional question from the recruitment end. A police service that opens its ranks to women on merit is also the service expected to deliver equal protection to survivors at the counter, in the interview room and along the referral pathway.



A police officer marching at the Administration Police pass-out parade in Embakasi

PICTURE SPEAK



A group photo of the Commission with key stakeholders during a discussion on the status and coordination of widows' organisations in Kenya.



A photo of representatives of BATUK, the National Police Service and other stakeholders who attended the forum in Nanyuki POLICARE Centre



IG of police Douglas Kanja delivering remarks during the passout parade at the APC college



Participants during a stakeholder engagement on TFGBV, femicide and women's participation in public and political spaces.



The Commission's CEO paid a courtesy call to the CEO of the Council of Governors, Ms. Mary Mwiti EBS, for a warm and engaging discussion on areas of mutual interest.



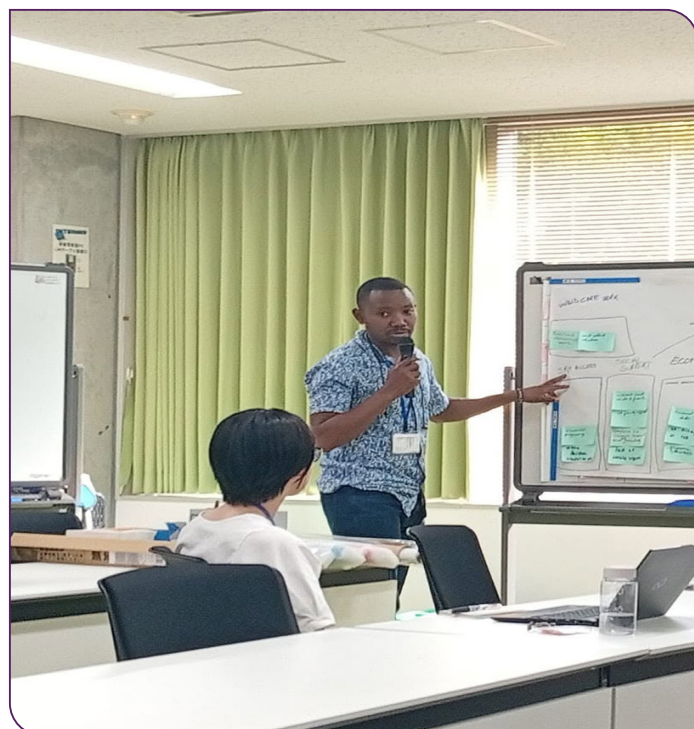
Agrou photo of the Commission led by Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, in Laikipia County paying a courtesy call on the County Commissioner Duncan Darusi in Nanyuki.



NGEC members of staff, Ms Nancy Mwangi and Mr Lotaruk Nahashon, participating in the International Training Programme on Investigation and Prosecution Matters at Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.



Dr. Joshua Gikonyo, Director, Science Innovation Africa, paid a courtesy call to the Commission's CEO



Nakuru Regional head Lewis Mwaniki makes a presentation in Tokyo Japan



Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS, Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the National Gender and Equality Commission, makes her submission during the panel discussion on the future of education at the Gusii Education Stakeholders Convention.

OVERSIGHT | CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY COMMISSIONS

COMMISSIONS CLEAR THE GENDER BAR AND FALL AT DISABILITY, NGEC AUDIT FINDS

Twelve of the 14 commissions that submitted disability data recorded no persons with disabilities among their members. Two commissions breached the two-thirds gender principle.

NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION

COMPLIANCE WITH THE TWO THIRDS GENDER PRINCIPLE AND THE FIVE PER CENT DISABILITY REQUIREMENT

Constitutional and statutory commissions, membership as at June 2026

Thirteen of the fifteen commissions assessed meet the not more than two thirds gender principle under Article 27 of the Constitution. Of the fourteen assessed for disability, two meet the five per cent requirement under Article 54(2). Ten commissions holding 70 seats between them meet the gender principle while recording no member with a disability.

13 of 15

commissions meet the two thirds gender principle

2 of 14

commissions meet the five per cent disability requirement

70

seats in ten commissions, none held by a person with a disability

Commissions that meet the gender principle and record no member with a disability

Commission	Members in post, June 2026
National Land Commission	9 members
National Police Service Commission	9 members
Parliamentary Service Commission	9 members
Commission on Revenue Allocation	8 members
National Cohesion and Integration Commission	8 members
Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission	7 members
Kenya Law Reform Commission	7 members
Kenya National Commission on Human Rights	5 members
Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission	5 members
Commission on Administrative Justice	3 members

● Member in post

○ Seat required under Article 54(2) and unfilled

One appointment would take each of these ten commissions past the five per cent threshold.

Notes

The National Gender and Equality Commission and the Public Service Commission meet both requirements. The Judicial Service Commission and the Salaries and Remuneration Commission meet neither requirement. The Teachers Service Commission is excluded from the disability analysis, having submitted no disability data. Two members with disabilities were recorded across the 106 seats assessed, a share of 1.9 per cent.

Source: NGEC Assessment of Constitutional and Statutory Commissions on Compliance with Statutory Provisions on Gender Equality and Inclusion, data as at June 2026.

NGEC Equality Bulletin

GENDER AND DISABILITY COMPLIANCE BY COMMISSION, JUNE 2026

LIME MEETS THE REQUIREMENT

COMMISSION	GENDER share of women	DISABILITY share with disability
MEET THE GENDER PRINCIPLE, NO MEMBER WITH A DISABILITY		
National Land Commission	55.6%	0%
National Police Service Commission	33.3%	0%
Parliamentary Service Commission	33.3%	0%
Commission on Revenue Allocation	50.0%	0%
National Cohesion and Integration Commission	37.5%	0%
Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission	42.9%	0%
Kenya Law Reform Commission	57.1%	0%
Kenya National Commission on Human Rights	60.0%	0%
Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission	40.0%	0%
Commission on Administrative Justice	33.3%	0%
MEET BOTH REQUIREMENTS		
National Gender and Equality Commission	60.0%	20.0%
Public Service Commission	50.0%	12.5%
MEET NEITHER REQUIREMENT		
Judicial Service Commission	75.0%	0%
Salaries and Remuneration Commission	27.3%	0%
DISABILITY DATA NOT SUBMITTED		
Teachers Service Commission	42.9%	no data

Gender: no more than two thirds of members of the same gender, Article 27. Disability: at least five per cent, Article 54(2).

70 seats across ten commissions, none held by a person with a disability

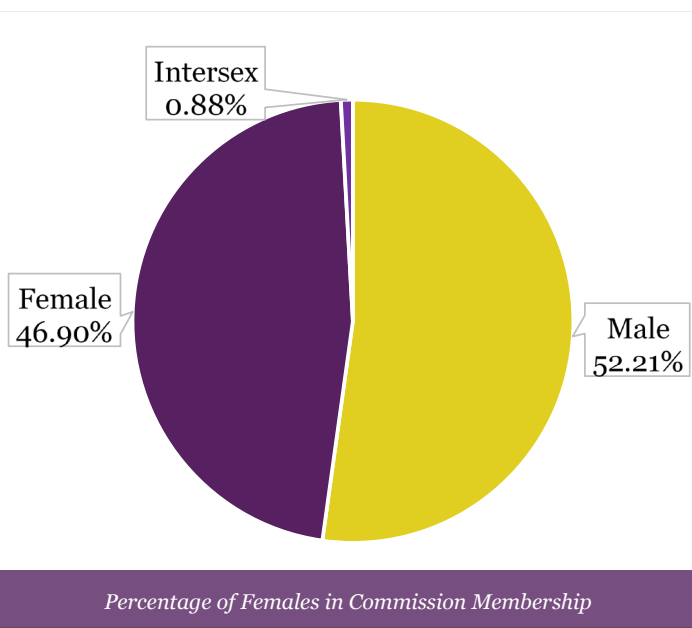
Source: NGEC Assessment of Constitutional and Statutory Commissions on Compliance, June 2026

NAIROBI

Kenya's constitutional and statutory commissions continue to record significant gaps in compliance with legal requirements on equality and inclusion, with persons with disabilities emerging as the most excluded group in senior public institutions.

An assessment by the National Gender and Equality Commission found that only two of the 14 commissions that submitted data on membership of persons with disabilities met the constitutional and statutory threshold requiring at least five per cent representation. The assessment covered 15 constitutional and statutory commissions and was based on membership data available as at June 2026.

The National Gender and Equality Commission and the Public Service Commission were the two institutions that met threshold, with persons with disabilities accounting for 20 per cent and 12.5 per cent of their respective memberships.



THE GENDER PICTURE

Across the 15 institutions there were 113 serving commission members, comprising 59 men, 53 women and one intersex person. Women accounted for 46.9 per cent of membership overall. Thirteen of the 15 commissions, or 87 per cent, complied with the constitutional requirement that no more than two-thirds of members be of the same gender.

Two commissions were found to be non-compliant. The Judicial Service Commission had nine women and three men, placing women at 75 per cent of its membership, while the Salaries and Remuneration Commission had eight men and three women, placing men at 72.7 per cent.

THE DISABILITY PICTURE

The assessment recorded no persons with disabilities among the members of 12 of the 14 commissions that provided disability data. The Judicial Service Commission, National Police Service Commission, National Land Commission, Parliamentary Service Commission, Salaries and Remuneration Commission, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Commission on Revenue Allocation, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Commission on Administrative Justice, Kenya Law Reform Commission and Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission each recorded zero representation. The Teachers Service Commission was excluded from the disability analysis because it did not submit data on its commission membership.

“

Twelve of the 14 commissions that reported disability data recorded zero representation of persons with disabilities.”

NGEC ASSESSMENT, POSITION

AS AT JUNE 2026

ETHNICITY AND COMPOSITION

Ethnic representation across the institutions was relatively broad, with 22 communities represented, including smaller communities such as the Illchamus, Pokomo, Bajun and Gabra. Even so, 53 per cent of commission members came from four communities: Luo, Kikuyu, Luhya and Kalenjin.

The assessment also identified vacancies and incomplete statutory composition. Of the 15 institutions assessed, 10 were optimally constituted while five operated with fewer members than prescribed by their establishing legislation. These were the Kenya Law Reform Commission, Parliamentary Service Commission, Public Service Commission, Salaries and Remuneration Commission and Teachers Service Commission.

WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED

NGEC has recommended that appointing and vetting authorities ensure future appointments comply with Article 27 of the Constitution, including the two-thirds gender principle, while giving effect to Article 54(2) on the representation of persons with disabilities. The Commission has further called for greater ethnic diversity, including representation of minorities and marginalised communities, and for vacancies to be filled expeditiously so that institutions operate at their prescribed strength.

APPOINTMENTS MADE AFTER THE ASSESSMENT

On 31 August 2026 the President appointed Flora Nduku Mutua as a member of the Public Service Commission for a six-year term. The same Gazette notice appointed Antonina Lentonjoni and Wilson Sossion as members of the Teachers Service Commission, also for six years. Both institutions had been identified in the assessment as operating below their prescribed statutory composition as at June 2026, the Teachers Service Commission with two reported exits and the Public Service Commission with one vacancy.

The appointments reinforce the case for continuous monitoring, so that the filling of vacancies also advances

constitutional requirements on gender equality, disability inclusion, diversity and non-discrimination.

NOTE

Note: the appointments gazetted on 31 August 2026 were made after the assessment had been conducted and published. They are not reflected in the June 2026 membership figures. The report records the position at the stated cut-off date rather than the current composition of the affected commissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Appointments and vetting:

Ensure future appointments comply with Articles 27 and 54(2) by promoting gender balance and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

Diversity and inclusion:

Ensure equitable representation of Kenya's ethnic communities, including minorities and marginalised groups, in public appointments.

Filling vacancies:

Expedite the recruitment and appointment of Commission members to ensure full statutory membership and effective performance of mandates.

NATIONAL | WIDOWED PERSONS

KENYA'S WIDOWS MOVE TOWARDS ONE VOICE AS WIDOWS BILL TAKES SHAPE

The Commission convened stakeholders to examine the case for an umbrella body for widowed persons and to deliberate on the Widows Bill, 2026.



A group photo of the Commission with key stakeholders during a discussion on the status and coordination of widows' organisations in Kenya.

NAIROBI

The National Gender and Equality Commission convened a stakeholders' meeting to deliberate on the need for an umbrella body for widowed persons in Kenya, bringing together organisations working on the rights of widows. The meeting examined the current status and coordination of widows' organisations, the rationale for an umbrella body, the institutional and operational framework such a body would require, and the development of an operationalisation roadmap.

Participants also deliberated on the Widows Bill, 2026, and explored stronger coordination and advocacy mechanisms to advance the rights, dignity and socio-economic inclusion of widows across the country. The Commission remains committed to strengthening partnerships and supporting initiatives that promote equality, inclusion and the protection of the rights of widows, so that every widow in Kenya lives in dignity and security.



Participants during a session on the status and coordination of widows' organisations in Kenya.

PARTNERSHIPS | COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

NGEC AND COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS OPEN TALKS ON COUNTY-LEVEL EQUALITY

The Commission's Chief Executive Officer met the Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Governors to explore joint work with county governments on inclusive governance.



NAIROBI

The Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the National Gender and Equality Commission paid a courtesy call on the Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Governors, Ms Mary Mwiti, EBS, for discussions on areas of mutual interest.

The meeting explored avenues for strengthening collaboration between the two institutions, particularly in advancing gender equality, inclusion and equitable development across Kenya's 47 counties.

The two institutions discussed joint engagement and partnerships to support county governments in promoting inclusive governance, protecting the rights of all citizens and ensuring that no resident is left behind in county planning and service delivery.

#PartnershipsForChange
#InclusiveDevelopment
#EqualityForAll
#UsawaKwaWote

NATIONAL | WOMEN IN STEM

FROM CLASSROOM TO LABORATORY: NGECE PRESSES FOR MEASURABLE ACTION ON WOMEN IN STEM

At the Women in STEM Africa Summit 2026, the Commission's Chief Executive Officer called for early mentorship, clear pathways from education to employment, and accountability backed by data.



The Commission's CEO as a panelist at the Women in STEM Africa Summit 2026 at KICC, hosted by Women in Technology and Innovation Africa (WITIA).

KICC, NAIROBI

The Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the National Gender and Equality Commission served as a panellist at the Women in STEM Africa Summit 2026 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre, hosted by Women in Technology and Innovation Africa, where she set out what it will take to advance the participation and leadership of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

She underlined the importance of early-stage mentorship, noting that girls need relatable women role models, practical learning opportunities and exposure to STEM careers from an early age. She called for clear pathways from education into employment, innovation and leadership, and for safe, inclusive and gender-responsive STEM environments that address the barriers facing girls and women, including those with disabilities and those in rural and marginalised communities.

The CEO called for greater investment in digital access, skills development and women-led innovation, arguing that women should be supported as inventors, entrepreneurs,

researchers and decision-makers within the technology sector. She urged institutions to close the gender gap in STEM through deliberate, measurable action supported by reliable data.

Where girls are given the confidence, opportunity and platform to lead in STEM, they generate solutions, jobs and possibilities that shape the continent's future.

#WomenInSTEM

#WomenInStemAfricaSummit2026

#InclusiveDevelopment

KISUMU BUILDS AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR ELECTORAL EXCLUSION

NGEC and KEFEADO have agreed to revive the Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Groups in Kisumu and Siaya and to explore a county situation room for the 2027 electoral period.



Ms Easter Oketch, Executive Director of the Kenya Female Advisory Organisation and NGEK's Kisumu Regional Office staff during the engagement

KISUMU

The Commission's Kisumu Regional Office hosted Ms Easter Oketch, Executive Director of the Kenya Female Advisory Organisation, for a partnership engagement on joint action on gender equality, social inclusion and the protection of the rights of special interest groups.

KEFEADO brings grassroots experience in human rights, gender equality and community mobilisation, and remains an important partner in converting equality commitments into action at community level.

The engagement examined emerging equality and inclusion concerns in Kisumu, including the exposure of young people to recruitment and exploitation by organised criminal networks. Participants traced how unemployment, economic exclusion, limited opportunity and social vulnerability intersect with gender inequalities, leaving young women and men open to manipulation, violence and exploitation.

The meeting also considered concerns raised about the marginalisation and limited participation of members of the Muslim community in Kaloleni-Shauri Moyo Ward, Kisumu Central Sub-County, particularly in access to and participation in public processes. The Commission will continue engaging communities and stakeholders to establish the facts and identify practical pathways to meaningful inclusion.

“

Inclusion must be designed into the electoral process at the planning stage, so that exclusion never has to be corrected after it has occurred.”

NGEC INSTITUTIONAL
POSITION

The two institutions committed to revitalising the Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Groups in Kisumu and Siaya counties, and explored the establishment of a Kisumu County Situation Room for the 2027 electoral period to strengthen monitoring, information-sharing, stakeholder coordination and timely response to emerging equality and inclusion concerns.

With the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission implementing its 2025 to 2027 Election Operations Plan, preparations for the General Election scheduled for 10 August 2027 are already under way. The Commission will continue working with stakeholders to identify and remove the barriers that keep special interest groups out of public and democratic processes.

#EqualityForAll

#InclusiveElections

#Election2027

#LeaveNoOneBehind

REGIONAL | GARISSA

GARISSA'S WOMEN PEACE CHAMPIONS SHARPEN THEIR CASE

A two-day training with the Pastoralists Girls Initiative equipped women peace champions with leadership, advocacy and negotiation skills for community decision-making.



Participants engaging in the two-day training with the pastoralists girls Initiative meeting

The session strengthened participants' leadership, advocacy and negotiation skills, with a focus on their ability to influence decision-making processes, engage stakeholders and advance peaceful settlements within their communities.

The training underlined the value of women's voices and participation in addressing conflict and building sustainable peace. Investment in women's leadership within peace processes produces more inclusive, resilient and peaceful communities.



Garissa Regional coordinator Ibrahim Abdi Wahab facilitating a session during the training

REGIONAL | NAKURU AT ELGEYO MARAKWET

WHEN THE WARNING FAILS TO ARRIVE, THE DISASTER STILL DOES

Weather information saves lives only where it reaches people in a form they can understand, access and act on in time. The Commission carried that argument into a national climate workshop in Iten.



The Commission's Nakuru Regional Office participated in the Sub-National Weather/Climate Co-Production Workshop on Action-Based Weather Forecasting and Local Early Action Planning, held in Iten, Elgeyo Marakwet County.

ITEN, ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY, 2 TO 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Commission's Nakuru Regional Office took part in the Sub-National Weather and Climate Co-Production Workshop on Action-Based Weather Forecasting and Local Early Action Planning, held in Iten from 2 to 4 September 2026.

The workshop was convened by the Kenya Meteorological Department with the National Disaster Operations Centre, the UK Met Office and the World Meteorological Organization, and focused on translating weather and climate information into timely action that reduces disaster risk and protects communities.

Action-based forecasting moves the question beyond what the weather will be. It asks institutions and communities what the weather will do, who is likely to be affected, and what action should be taken now. For the Commission, the question matters because disasters do not

fall evenly. Women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and other special interest groups face higher risk and greater difficulty in accessing early warnings, preparedness information, evacuation services and emergency assistance. Early warning and early action systems must therefore be accessible, gender-responsive and shaped by the meaningful participation of the groups most exposed.

The workshop also underlined the need for stronger coordination along the early-warning value chain, so that information generated at national and technical levels reaches county and community levels early enough to guide decisions that can save lives.

#EarlyWarning

#EarlyAction

#DisasterRiskManagement

#Inclusion

#ElgeyoMarakwet

REGIONAL | KITUI

A FIRST DESK IN PUBLIC SERVICE: KITUI OFFICE RECEIVES NEW INTERN

The Commission's Kitui Regional Office welcomed a new graduate intern, opening a professional journey grounded in learning and service.



The Commission's Kitui Regional Office welcomed a new intern during a staff meeting held in the office

KITUI

The Commission's Kitui Regional Office welcomed a new intern during a staff meeting, marking the start of a professional journey in public service.

Through orientation, the intern was introduced to the Commission's mandate and functions, organisational structure and strategic direction, and to the Kitui office's work in advancing gender equality, inclusion, equal opportunities and freedom from discrimination.

An internship offers more than work experience. It provides an understanding of how public institutions operate, the chance to develop professional skills, exposure to communities, and a view of how policy and institutional mandates translate into change in people's lives.

The Commission recognises young people as central to Kenya's present and its future. Investment in their skills, knowl-

edge and exposure to public service builds a generation capable of running institutions that are responsive, inclusive and accountable.

#YouthEmpowerment

#PublicService

#UsawaKwaWote

KENYA SETS OUT COUNTY SGBV RESPONSE AT TOKYO PROGRAMME

A week inside Japan's courts, police stations and survivor centres gave the Commission's Nakuru coordinator a working comparison, and gave 13 other countries Kenya's county-level record.



Nakuru Regional Office Head Lewis Mwaniki(Center) in Tokyo Japan with delegates

Kenya has presented the state of sexual and gender-based violence at county level to participants from 14 countries at the FY2026 Knowledge Co-Creation Program in Tokyo.

The programme, held at the JICA Centre, is facilitated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in partnership with the Japan Gender Equality Promotion Agency (JGEPA). It runs on the eradication of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and brings participants together to compare experience and examine Japan's approaches.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) is represented by Mr Lewis Mwaniki, its Nakuru Regional Coordinator. The Commission is partnering with JICA to implement a programme on the eradication of SGBV in Kajiado, Machakos and Baringo counties.

KENYA'S TURN

Mwaniki presented on Monday alongside Ms Hellen from Kajiado

County, setting out Kenya's experiences, interventions, challenges and lessons at county level.

Kenya pointed to the GBV Court in Shanzu and the Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group among the measures it has put in place to strengthen prevention and response. Kenya also has much to learn from the approaches of the other countries taking part, the team noted.

LESSONS FROM JAPAN

Across the week participants worked with specialists and institutions from different corners of the field. JICA's Senior Advisor on Gender and Development presented the agency's initiatives against gender-based violence, and participants examined the legal frameworks that guide prevention and elimination.

A session on intimate partner violence, led by the Director of the Institute of Collaborative Practice, examined the dynamics of abuse inside intimate relationships. The discussion underlined that interventions must answer survivors'

immediate and long-term needs while confronting the social, cultural and structural factors that keep violence going.

At the Gender Equality Bureau in Japan's Cabinet Office, Assistant Director Shiho Suzuki set out Japan's measures against domestic and sexual violence, and the role of government in building legal, policy, prevention, protection and response mechanisms.

Survivors can remain at risk from perpetrators after they seek help. That took the participants to the Tokyo Metropolitan Women's Consultation and Support Center, where they examined how the centre operates, the services available to survivors and the approaches Kenya could adapt for its own survivor-centred systems.

A social support centre visited later runs a hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It has taken on several foreign languages widely spoken in Japan so that language does not stand between a survivor and help.

..... Continued on page 20

SGBV KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, TOKYO

KENYA SETS OUT COUNTY SGBV RESPONSE AT TOKYO PROGRAMME

A week inside Japan's courts, police stations and survivor centres gave the Commission's Nakuru coordinator a working comparison, and gave 13 other countries Kenya's county-level record.

..... Continued from page 19

The week closed with Japan's National Police Agency, which set out how Japanese police handle stalking and domestic violence, from risk prevention to survivor protection and institutional response.

For Kenya, the lessons point to stronger institutions, coordinated interventions and more responsive systems for preventing and eliminating SGBV.



Stakeholders, Mr. Lewis and Ms. Hellen from Kajiado County, during a discussion on the status of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) at the county level during the FY 2026 KCCP in Tokyo.



NGEC's Lewis Mwaniki with Kenyan Delegate Hellen at FY 2026 KCCP Forum in Japan



NGEC's Lewis Mwaniki makes a presentation at the Tokyo Forum

IN GUJARAT, TWO NGECE OFFICERS TRAIN FOR HARDER CASES AT HOME

Ms Nancy Mwangi and Mr Lotaruk Nahashon are attending the International Training Programme on Investigation and Prosecution Matters at Rashtriya Raksha University under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme.



NGEC members of staff, Ms Nancy Mwangi and Mr Lotaruk Nahashon, participating in the International Training Programme on Investigation and Prosecution Matters at Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT, INDIA

Two officers of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Ms Nancy Mwangi and Mr Lotaruk Nahashon, are participating in the International Training Programme on Investigation and Prosecution Matters at Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The programme runs from 31 August to 11 September 2026 under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme and brings together law-enforcement, security and government professionals for international exchange on investigation and prosecution. Rashtriya Raksha University is an Institution of National Importance established by the Parliament of India and operates as the country's national security and police university under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

WHY THE COMMISSION INVESTED IN IT

The training builds professional capacity in investigation methodolo-

gy, evidence gathering and assessment, case analysis, documentation and coordination. These are the skills required to handle complex complaints and alleged violations of equality and freedom from discrimination.

The knowledge gained feeds directly into the Commission's Investigations and Redress function, strengthening case handling and evidence-based responses to complaints of discrimination, marginalisation and inequality. The Commission's mandate includes investigating violations of equality and freedom from discrimination and making recommendations to improve institutional responses.

The measure of the investment is the outcome for the public. Stronger investigative practice supports more responsive, inclusive and rights-based pathways to redress for women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older members of society, minorities and marginalised communities, through complaints handling, investigations, mediation, referrals and legal interventions.

As violations of equality rights grow more complex, the institutions responsible for protecting those rights must keep strengthening their capacity to investigate, assess evidence, respond and secure redress. What is learned abroad must strengthen what the Commission delivers at home.

The Commission appreciates the Government of India and Rashtriya Raksha University for the opportunity to strengthen international cooperation and professional knowledge exchange.

#GlobalPartnerships

#KenyaIndiaPartnership

#InvestigationsAndRedress

#AccessToJustice

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, ISIOLO

CAREGIVERS TRAINED ON NURTURING CARE

Health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, early learning and safety carried the three-day syllabus, part of the Commission's push to see children's rights and inclusion built into programmes at community level.



A group photos of care givers during the 3-day Nurturing Care Framework training

More than 120 caregivers have completed a three-day training on the Nurturing Care Framework, facilitated by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) through its Isiolo Regional Office.

The Aga Khan University Institute for Human Development (AKU-IHD) supported the training, which covered health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, early learning, and safety and security. Those are the conditions children need to grow, learn and thrive.

The Commission works to see that equality, inclusion and children's rights run through programmes and systems at community level, through capacity-building, public education, stakeholder coordination, monitoring and evidence-based advocacy.

WHO CARRIES THE RISK

Children in vulnerable and marginalised communities have the most at stake. They meet additional barriers to essential services and opportunities, and the care they receive today shapes the future they grow into.

Article 53 of the Constitution guarantees every child basic nutrition, shelter and health care, protection from abuse and neglect, and free and compulsory basic education.

WORK CONTINUES

The Commission will keep working with counties, communities and partners on child-centred, inclusive and rights-based approaches, so that every child has a fair chance to thrive.



NGEC regional Office coordinator, Ibrahim Abdi Wahab facilitating a session on the Nurturing Care Framework for more than 120 caregivers.

COMMISSION ADDRESSES VOTING RIGHTS AND INCLUSION IN GARBA TULA

Every eligible citizen may take part in an election without discrimination, intimidation or exclusion. In Garba Tula the Commission set that entitlement alongside the everyday work of holding institutions to account.



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa with members of the community following proceedings during the engagement at Garba Tula

The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, has met community members in Garba Tula, Isiolo County, to discuss voting rights and participation in democratic processes.

Every eligible Kenyan has the right to take part in elections and to be heard without discrimination, intimidation or exclusion. Jaldesa addressed those entitlements as a matter of equality and non-discrimination.

BEYOND THE BALLOT

Civic participation extends beyond casting a ballot, she said. Communities also need to understand their rights, take part in the decisions that affect them and hold institutions to account.

The discussion turned to unity among the Borana community and across Kenya's diverse communities. Unity, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence hold together a society in which every person enjoys rights and opportunities equally.

DIVERSITY AND UNITY

Jaldesa spoke of Kenya's diversity as a source of unity among communities.

Communities themselves have work to do in promoting peaceful engagement, inclusion and respect for the rights of

every citizen, she said, as Kenya strengthens democratic participation and equality.

The engagement in Garba Tula ended on inclusion, participation, equality and unity, with no one left behind.



Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa happily interacts with members of the community during the engagement

GBV AND FEMICIDE

TRAINING TURNS PRESIDENTIAL GBV FINDINGS INTO COUNTY ACTION PLAN

Prevention, reporting, legal accountability, referral pathways, survivor support and safe shelter sit in one plan, drawn up over two days with the State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action.



A group photo of stakeholders in attendance at the two-day training on ending gender-based violence on 8th September 2026

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and the State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action opened a two-day training on ending gender-based violence and femicide on 8 September 2026.

The high-level stakeholders' training takes the findings and recommendations of the Presidential Technical Working Group on GBV, including Femicide, and works them into action at county level.

Stakeholders are drawing up a localised County Action Plan covering prevention, public awareness, accessible reporting, legal accountability, stronger referral pathways, and survivor support and safe shelter.

POLICY TO PRACTICE

For the Commission, the training is about moving from policy to practice, and about strengthening the systems that link prevention, reporting, redress, protection and recovery.

Women, girls, persons with disabilities, children and other vulnerable groups cannot be left at the margins of those systems, the Commission said.

THE TEST AHEAD

Kenya has made substantial commitments on gender-based violence and femicide. What remains, in the Commission's assessment, is implementation: policies with resources behind them, institutions that work together, referrals that do not break, dignity for survivors, and accountability that is not lost along the way.

Coordinated, survivor-centred responses at county level carry a growing share of the national effort, and the training is directed at that shift.

The Commission will continue working with national and county institutions, communities and partners to turn commitments into protection that can be measured.



Participants during a high-level stakeholders' training on ending GBV and femicide and strengthening county-level responses.

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, KITUI

KITUI INTERROGATES COUNTY DELIVERY OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT POLICY

Two days in Kitui tested what the national women's economic empowerment policy asks of a county, from access to resources to the barriers that still keep women out of leadership.



Participants follow proceedings during two-day workshop on the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment and women in leadership in Kitui.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has joined the Kitui County Gender Sector Working Group for a two-day workshop on the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment and women in leadership.

The Commission's Kitui Regional Office attended the workshop, held in partnership with the State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action and UN Women.

Participants worked through what the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment (NPWEE) requires, and how national commitments become practical action at county level.

ACCESS AND BARRIERS

Discussion centred on widening women's access to economic opportunities and resources, and on the barriers that still limit their participation and representation in leadership and decision-making.

The Kitui County Commissioner attended and restated the Government's commitment to gender equality and inclusive development.

RESULTS THAT COUNT

Policy has to show up as resources, institutional action, representation and measurable results, according to the Commission. Progress of that kind takes coordinated effort

across government, development partners, communities and other stakeholders, alongside leadership spaces where women participate and shape decisions.

Economic empowerment and leadership run together, the Commission said. Where women have access to resources, opportunities and decision-making, families, communities and economies are stronger for it.

The Commission's work continues on gender-responsive frameworks, coordinated implementation, and women's economic standing, leadership and equal participation at all levels of governance.



NGEC staff following proceedings during two-day workshop on the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment and women in leadership in Kitui.

OLDER PERSONS AND LONGEVITY

COMMISSION MEETING EXAMINES OLDER PERSONS' ACCESS TO HEALTH COVER

Registration under the Social Health Authority, access to Social Health Insurance Fund benefits and the law protecting older persons came under review as Kenyans live longer.



A group photo of stakeholders from different parts of the country in attendance of the coordination meeting on older persons

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has convened a stakeholders' coordination meeting on older persons, held under the theme "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives".

The meeting drew stakeholders from different institutions to consider a changing demographic landscape, and the opportunities and challenges that longer lives bring with them.

Discussion centred on the systems and services that allow older persons to live longer, healthier and more dignified lives while staying active and included in society.

HEALTH AND COVERAGE

Participants examined demographic trends and the emerging needs of older persons, together with the legal, policy and institutional framework that protects them.

On health, the agenda ran from age-responsive care and universal health coverage to chronic and non-communicable diseases, rehabilitation, mental health and palliative care.

Stakeholders also went through the registration and enrolment of older persons under the Social Health Authority (SHA), access to Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) benefits, and the barriers that still keep healthcare and other essential services out of reach.

COORDINATION AND REFERRALS

The meeting gave stakeholders a platform to share reports, emerging issues and cases affecting older persons, with attention to coordination, referrals and accountability.

Participants closed on practical interventions and a way forward towards systems that are inclusive, responsive and sustainable, and that recognise the rights, needs and contributions of older persons.



A stakeholder speaks to fellow stakeholders during a session of the coordination meeting on older persons.

NGEC URGES GENDER-RESPONSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEMS AT GUSII CONVENTION

Ngina put the Commission's education test at what happens after enrolment. Schools in the Gusii region are asked to account for pedagogy, learning environments and the children who remain outside the classroom.



Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS, follows the proceedings among delegates at the Gusii Education Stakeholders Convention.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has told the Gusii Education Stakeholders Convention that equal enrolment of girls and boys is the starting point of gender equality in education.

The Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS, set out the position as a panellist in a high level discussion on the future of education. The convention was attended by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba.

The convention was the inaugural edition and ran under the theme Reimagining Education in the Gusii Region Through Collaboration and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

Ngina told stakeholders that gender parity in education and gender equality are not the same. Equal numbers of girls and boys in school represent important progress, she said, and that progress marks the beginning of the work.

BEYOND ENROLMENT

The next focus, she said, must be ensuring that every child is in class, learning, thriving and reaching their full potential. That requires education systems which respond to the different needs and experiences of girls and boys.

Ngina set out four areas for action. Stakeholders should strengthen gender-responsive pedagogy and create inclusive learning environments. They should address the barriers that keep children out of school. And they should ensure that every learner has an equal opportunity to succeed.

“Getting children into school is access. Keeping them learning is inclusion. Ensuring they thrive is equality,” Ngina told the convention.

SYSTEMS AND OUTCOMES

The sequence sets enrolment as the first test of a school system, and learning, retention and attainment as the tests that follow it.

Ngina located the Commission's interest in the classroom itself, in the pedagogy applied there, in the learning environment around it, and in the reasons children remain outside it.

The panel brought together Ngina, Ogamba and Dr Sara Ruto, Chairperson of Kisii University, on the future of education. The Commission's participation placed gender equality on the sector's own forward agenda.

..... Continued on page 28

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Getting children into school is access. Keeping them learning is inclusion. Ensuring they thrive is equality.”

PURITY NGINA, PhD, MBS, COMMISSION SECRETARY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION

GUSII EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS CONVENTION

NGEC URGES GENDER-RESPONSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEMS AT GUSII CONVENTION

Ngina put the Commission's education test at what happens after enrolment. Schools in the Gusii region are asked to account for pedagogy, learning environments and the children who remain outside the classroom.



The panel on the future of education at the Gusii Education Stakeholders Convention, with Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS, seated second from the left.

..... **Continued from page 27**

The measures Ngina put to the convention are directed at the education system: gender-responsive pedagogy, inclusive learning environments, and the removal of barriers that keep children out of class.

The Commission set a single test for each of them, that every learner, girl or boy, has an equal opportunity to succeed and to reach their full potential.

TEACHERS' DIGITAL SKILLS ENTER THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION CONVERSATION

Science Innovation Africa briefed the Commission on teacher capacity building for a technology-driven education system.



Dr. Joshua Gikonyo, Director, Science Innovation Africa, paid a courtesy call to the Commission's CEO where he gave a brief on Science Innovation Africa's work in teacher capacity building.

NAIROBI

Dr Joshua Gikonyo, Director of Science Innovation Africa, paid a courtesy call on the Commission Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the National Gender and Equality Commission.

Dr Gikonyo briefed the Commission on the organisation's work in teacher capacity building, particularly initiatives that equip teachers with the digital skills and tools required in an increasingly technology-driven education system.

The discussions underlined that strengthening teachers' digital capacity is a condition for advancing inclusive education, so that every learner has a genuine opportunity to benefit from digital transformation regardless of school, county or circumstance.



Dr. Joshua Gikonyo, Director, Science Innovation Africa, paid a courtesy call to the Commission's CEO

ONLINE ABUSE IS PUSHING WOMEN OUT OF PUBLIC LIFE, STAKEHOLDERS WARN

Government institutions and civil society met at the Commission to confront technology-facilitated gender-based violence, femicide and the barriers facing women in public and political spaces ahead of 2027.



Stakeholders and institution's representatives at the TSGBV stakeholder engagement meeting

NAIROBI

Representatives of government institutions and civil society organisations convened at the National Gender and Equality Commission for a stakeholder engagement on technology-facilitated gender-based violence, femicide and women's participation in public and political spaces.

The discussions traced the growing effect of online harassment, threats and other forms of technology-enabled abuse on women and girls, and how those experiences erode safety, confidence and the ability to take part in public life. Participants reviewed existing legal and policy frameworks and identified gaps and practical openings to strengthen prevention, reporting, survivor support and accountability.

Participants stressed that government and civil society must work together so that women who experience violence and online abuse can access timely and effective support. As the country looks ahead to the 2027 General Election, one message carried across the room: women should be able to participate, lead and speak out without fear of intimidation, harassment or violence.

The engagement closed with calls for stronger accountability mechanisms, survivor-centred protection and coordinated action across the institutions responsible for addressing technology-fa-

cilitated gender-based violence, femicide and the barriers limiting women's participation.

#EndTFGBV #WomenInLeadership



Winfred Wambua, Assistant Director, Programmes, NGECE, making a presentation during a stakeholder engagement on TFGBV, femicide and women's participation in public and political spaces.



“

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 (NGEK) 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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