

EQUALITY BULLETIN

Usawa kwa Wote; Equality For All

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NGEC OPENS FIVE-DAY EQUALITY MISSION IN TURKANA COUNTY

The National Gender and Equality Commission opened a five-day mission to Turkana County on Monday 5 October 2026, taking its equality and inclusion mandate to Lodwar, Kalokol, Lokichar and Kakuma..... [Continue to Read..... Page 04](#)



Turkana women dancers and Ateker Special Envoy Hon. John Munyes welcome NGEK Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa to Lodwar

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The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, has commended the County Government of Turkana for the Lodwar Children's Rescue Centre.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) convened a high-level policy dialogue in Nairobi on 2 October 2026 on practical mechanisms for realising the not more than two-thirds gender principle.....

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION SECRETARY / CEO



This edition of the Equality Bulletin is devoted to the Commission's five-day mission to Turkana County, from 5 to 9 October 2026. Led by the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, with the Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Thomas Koyier, EBS, and Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru, MBS, HSC, the Commission took its mandate to Lodwar, Kapua, Naduat, Kakuma, Kalobeyei and Lokichar, and listened to communities that seldom see a public institution at their door.

Our lead story records the declaration by the Ilimanyang community of Kapua that it wishes to be recognised as persons with disabilities as well as a minority and marginalised community. It is followed by our undertaking to petition the Ministry of Education over learners moved from their schools to sit national examinations, our engagement with oil-hosting communities in Lokichar on land and revenue, and the accounts of residents at the Naduat gold mines.

The edition also reports our engagements with the County Government, the national government administration and the County Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group, our review of progress in Kakuma and Kalobeyei since 2019, our support to Kapua Integrated School during Customer Service Week, and the Government's commitment, through Cabinet Secretary Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, to act on the Commission's findings.

Beyond Turkana, this edition reports the completion, with the International Organization for Migration, of the framework for a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Audit of Kenya's aviation points of entry and exit. The Commission will publish its full findings from Turkana in the mission report and will follow up on every commitment made this week, and our new office in Lodwar will keep us close to the people of the region. I invite you to read this edition.

PURITY NGINA, PhD, MBS

COMMISSION SECRETARY/CEO

NATIONAL GENDER AND EQUALITY COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION



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Thomas Okoth Koyier, EBS
Vice Chairperson



Caroline N. Lentupuru, MBS, HSC
Commissioner



Dr. Michael Nzomo, PhD
Commissioner



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Commissioner

NGEC OPENS FIVE-DAY EQUALITY MISSION IN TURKANA COUNTY

The Commission's leadership arrived in Lodwar for a week of engagements with county leaders, minority communities, oil-hosting communities, refugees and their hosts, seven years after its 2019 mission to Kakuma.



Women in Turkana traditional attire welcome the Commission delegation at Lodwar Airport.

The National Gender and Equality Commission opened a five-day mission to Turkana County on Monday 5 October 2026, taking its equality and inclusion mandate to Lodwar, Kalokol, Lokichar and Kakuma.

The delegation was led by the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, with the Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Thomas Koyier, Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru, and the Commission Secretary/CEO, Dr Purity Ngina. Women dressed in Turkana traditional attire and beadwork received the delegation at Lodwar Airport, where the Chairperson signed the visitors' book on arrival.

THE WIDER CONTEXT

The mission came at a decisive moment for the county. Gulf Energy, which took over the South Lokichar oil project, has set 1 November 2026 for the resumption of drilling and is targeting first oil in December. Turkana also

hosts more than 320,000 refugees and asylum-seekers alongside host communities.

Successive failed rains have left more than 322,000 people in the county projected to need food assistance. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission gazetted the election period for the 10 August 2027 General Election on 20 August 2026.

RETURN TO KAKUMA

The mission followed up on the Commission's 2019 mission to Kakuma and Kalobeyi, documented in its report *Hard Living: Equality and Inclusion of Refugees in Kenya*. That mission recorded three female officers among 160 police officers in Kakuma Sub-County, fees charged to survivors of sexual violence for P3 and Post Rape Care forms, and gaps in the registration of births among refugee families.

Over five days, the Commission held

courtesy calls on the County Government and the County Commissioner, met the Turkana County Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group, engaged the national government administration in Turkana West and Turkana South, and held dialogues with the Ilimanyang community in Kapua and with residents of Lokichar. The delegation also stopped at the Naduat gold mines, visited a children's rescue centre and a school, toured the Kalobeyi Integrated Settlement, and inspected premises for a planned regional office in Lodwar.

The Commission is established under Article 59 of the Constitution and the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, 2011 to promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination, with a focus on women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older members of society, and minority and marginalised groups. The stories in this edition report its engagements across the county.

ILIMANYANG COMMUNITY SEEKS RECOGNITION AS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Meeting the Commission in Kapua, members of a community of about 600 people declared that their recognition should reflect three overlapping vulnerabilities: minority status, marginalisation and a physical condition with a bearing on disability.



Ilimanyang elder with area assistant chief in Kapua

The Ilimanyang community of Kapua, Turkana Central, has declared that it wishes to be recognised as persons with disabilities, in addition to its status as a minority and marginalised community.

The declaration came during a dialogue with the National Gender and Equality Commission on Wednesday 7 October 2026. Members told the Commission that they face multiple, overlapping vulnerabilities. They are a minority, they are marginalised, and their physical condition has a bearing on disability. They asked that their recognition reflect all three.

The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jalde-sa, had invited the community to agree on the classification that suits them, whether as a minority community or as persons with disabilities. She said recognition that reflects their vulnerabil-

ities would allow the Commission and duty bearers to design interventions that respond to the community's specific needs.

A SMALL COMMUNITY

The Ilimanyang live at Kapua village on the shores of Lake Turkana. The community numbers about 600 people, now in its sixth generation, and traces its origin to a Turkana man who married an El Molo woman from neighbouring Marsabit County.

Members live with a hereditary condition, known as anhidrosis or hypohidrosis, that limits the body's ability to sweat. Boys and men are the most affected and must cool their bodies with water through the day, and the condition exposes them to heat-related illness in one of the hottest parts of the country. The community has for years sought

special recognition so that health authorities would monitor and support its members.

The County Government of Turkana lists the Ilimanyang among the special groups its Department of Social Protection serves, with a mandate to promote equal opportunity and provide social assistance to the community.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

At the dialogue, members raised civil registration as a priority, including access to identity cards and birth certificates. They described poverty, hunger, disease, scarce water and limited access to medication, and asked for more schools and a reliable water supply. They attributed their under-representation to low levels of education and literacy.

..... Continued on page 06

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The community said the County Government had engaged them on an empowerment programme meant to support education for Ilimanyang children, sought clarity on it, and said they had yet to benefit. They asked the County to assure them of equitable representa-

tion, saying they feel their affairs have been neglected.

The Chairperson led a multi-sectoral delegation that included the Department of Registration of Persons. Mr Josphat Lowoi, Director of the Minorities and Marginalised Unit in the Office of the President, outlined government

programmes for minority and marginalised communities.

Article 56 of the Constitution obliges the State to take affirmative action for minorities and marginalised groups, and the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025 sets out the rights and entitlements of persons with disabilities.



Ilimanyang community members in a meeting with NGECC commission's team in Turkana County, Kapua



The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa having a dialogue with members of the Ilimanyang community.

NGEC TO PETITION MINISTRY OVER DISPLACED EXAMINATION CANDIDATES

Learners in Turkana South are being moved from their schools to sit national examinations at registered centres, a practice the Chairperson said disenfranchises them three weeks before Grade 6 and Grade 9 assessments.



Grade six learners at Kapua Integrated School

The National Gender and Equality Commission will petition the Ministry of Education over the movement of learners in Turkana South from their schools to sit national examinations elsewhere.

The matter arose on Wednesday 7 October 2026 during a meeting between the Commission and the Deputy County Commissioner for Turkana South Sub-County, Mr Gedion Ombongi.

The meeting heard that many schools in the sub-county are not registered as examination centres. Learners in those schools are moved to registered centres in other schools to sit their national examinations.

The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, expressed strong objection to the practice, saying it disenfranchises learners. She undertook to petition the Ministry of Education to address the matter.

ASSESSMENTS WEEKS AWAY

The timing is pressing. The Kenya National Examinations Council will administer national examinations and assessments to 3,634,846 candidates between 16 October and 20 November 2026. The Kenya Primary School Education Assessment for Grade 6 and the Kenya Junior School Education Assessment for Grade 9 run from 26 to 30 October.

INSECURITY AND DROUGHT

The meeting also discussed insecurity in the sub-county, the number of children orphaned as a result of raids, and the effects of drought and famine on families. Disarmament operations in the county have divided local leaders, and more than 322,000 people in Turkana are projected to need food assistance this year.



The learners of kapua integrated school in the classroom

LOKICHAR RESIDENTS ASSURED OF PROTECTED COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS

Weeks before drilling resumes in South Lokichar, the Chairperson told oil-hosting communities that compensation must match the value of their land and urged them to engage on the community's share of petroleum revenue.



A photo of Lokichar town

The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, has told residents of Lokichar that their rights over community land are protected.

She addressed residents at Aroo Teachers Training College on Wednesday 7 October 2026 on the issues affecting communities that host oil operations in Turkana South. Hon. Jaldesa said land acquisition and compensation fall under the mandate of the National Land Commission, and that when development comes, compensation must be fair and commensurate with the value of the land.

A PROJECT NEARING PRODUCTION

The meeting came weeks before drilling resumes. Gulf Energy, which acquired Tullow Oil's assets in the South Lokichar Basin, has set 1 November 2026 as its spud date and is targeting first oil in December at an initial 20,000 barrels a day.

Compensation remains unresolved. About 3,600 project affected persons face compulsory acquisition of their

land. The National Land Commission opened a preliminary inquiry into oil-related land disputes in January 2026, and its Chairperson met the Kapese community on compulsory acquisition in April. Residents have demanded that compensation be settled before drilling begins.

REVENUE AND LOCAL CONTENT

Hon. Jaldesa reminded residents that the Petroleum Act, 2019 sets aside five per cent of the national government's share of petroleum revenue for the local community and provides for local content. The Act allocates profit oil 75 per cent to the national government, 20 per cent to the county government and five per cent to the community. Residents have raised concern that cost-recovery provisions could reduce or delay the community share. The Chairperson urged the community to engage actively on how its share is managed, and called on companies operating in the area to meet their corporate social responsibility to host communities.

Speaking at the meeting, Gulf Energy's representative, Mr John Eris Lothike,

said the company is committed to ethical and equitable business practices, ensuring that community needs and concerns are addressed.

The Commission's interest lies in its mandate to ensure that women, youth, persons with disabilities and older members of host communities share equitably in compensation, employment and benefits. *"Access to education is a right,"* Hon. Jaldesa said, calling for the college to be fully operationalised for local young people. The Commission's legal clinic received complaints at the venue.

“

Access to education is a right.”

Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson,
National Gender and Equality
Commission

PICTURE SPEAK



NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa and Vice-Chairperson during a courtesy call on Turkana South sub-county Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Gedion Ombongi



NGEC Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa addressing the media at the new county government headquarters in Lodwar



NGEC Vice-Chairperson, Thomas Koyier, addresses Turkana County Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group



Members of Ilmityang community during a dialogue with the Commission



Turkana County Deputy Governor, H.E. Dr. John Erus, addresses the NGECC delegation during their courtesy visit at the Governor's Office



NGEC, led by Chairperson Hon.Rehema Jaldesa, donates food and non-food items to Lodwar Children's Rescue Centre



Mining equipment at Naduat Gold mine



Commission Chairperson, Hon.Rehema Jaldesa, interacts with members of the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement



Turkana Governor H.E Jeremiah Ekamais Lomorukai receives a Delegation from the Commission led by Chairperson Hon.Rehema Jaldesa in Lodwar Town



Mr. John Eris Lothike of Gulf Energies, in Lokichar

NADUAT RESIDENTS REPORT MINERS BURIED ALIVE IN COLLAPSES

At the Naduat gold mines, residents told the Commission that miners lost in collapses are never recovered or reported, in a community they say has no chiefs and no reach to security, health or registration services.



The Commission delegation at the Naduat gold mines, Turkana County.

Residents of the Naduat gold mines in Turkana County told the National Gender and Equality Commission that collapsing mines have buried tens of miners alive, with no rescue, recovery or formal record.

The delegation, led by the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, heard the accounts on Tuesday 6 October 2026, when it stopped at the mines on its way from Lodwar to Kakuma. Residents said the miners perished without a trace, and that their deaths were not formally reported.

BEYOND STATE REACH

Residents told the Commission that the national government has no administrative representation at the site, with no chief or assistant chief serving the community, and that security, health and civil registration services are out of their reach. In the absence of government administration, they said, they

run their own rudimentary systems of order, parallel to those of the State. The Commission heard that these arrangements carry consequences for justice and leave girls, women and children particularly exposed to abuse and discrimination.

The Commission raised the situation with the Deputy County Commissioner for Turkana West, Mr John K. Oroche, in Kakuma later the same day. He acknowledged the conditions the residents had described. The Chairperson addressed a press briefing at the site.

A RECORD OF COLLAPSES

Naduat has a history of fatal collapses. In November 2024, a shaft caved in on six miners at the site in Lomeguro village, claiming three lives. County Commissioner Julius Kavita led the response, and the County Government undertook to map all mining sites in Turkana and introduce safety guide-

lines. On 14 August 2026, another collapse trapped six miners underground.

In December 2023, the County Government raised concern over the use of explosives and dangerous chemicals at the site. In May 2024, the Mining Principal Secretary, Mr Elijah Mwangi, directed that only licensed miners would be permitted to operate at Naduat. Hundreds of artisanal miners, among them women, work in narrow and unstable shafts at Naduat and nearby sites, which are also the subject of a dispute over mining licences.

Mining had featured among the concerns the County Government raised with the Commission during its courtesy call on Monday. The Commission's mandate covers the protection of special interest groups, including women and children, from discrimination, and equal access to public services for all persons in Kenya.

TURKANA COUNTY WELCOMES PLANNED NGEC OFFICE IN LODWAR

Received by the Deputy Governor, the Commission offered technical support on county policies and legislation as the County set out its priorities on gender-based violence, women's empowerment, oil revenue and inclusion.



The Deputy Governor of Turkana County, H.E. Dr John Erus, receives the Commission delegation at the Office of the Governor, Lodwar.

The County Government of Turkana has welcomed the National Gender and Equality Commission's plan to establish a regional office in Lodwar.

The Deputy Governor, H.E. Dr John Erus, received the Commission at the Office of the Governor on Monday 5 October 2026 on behalf of H.E. the Governor. The delegation was led by the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, with the Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Thomas Koyier, Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru, and the Commission Secretary/CEO, Dr Purity Ngina.

Hon. Jaldesa outlined the Commission's mandate under Article 27 of the Constitution. She said the Commission will work with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to check that polling centres are accessible to persons with disabilities and older members of society. She sought the County's support for the regional office and offered support on the County's gender, youth and social protection policies, its legislation and the identification of gaps in existing frameworks.

COUNTY PRIORITIES

The County's Chief Officer for Gender said survivors of gender-based violence require free legal aid and representation, that health centres had responded poorly to survivors, and that survivors lacked confidence in existing response systems. She identified the social and economic empowerment of women as an area yet to be implemented.

Her concerns included the scope of legal aid, the use of shareable oil revenue to advance the gender agenda, the inclusion of refugees, the County's draft Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy, sexual harassment, mining and the Ilimanyang community. The Petroleum Act, 2019 allocates 20 per cent of the government's profit oil to the county government.

SHARED AGENDA

The meeting deliberated on gender balance and youth representation in the County Executive Committee,

gender-responsive budgeting and policies, a safe learning environment for learners and the Shirika Plan for refugee inclusion. It heard that the Persons with Disabilities Act is operational and that a disability board is in place in the County. The Act commenced on 27 May 2025.

On access to justice, the meeting noted a legal aid programme run by the Kenya Red Cross Society with the County Government, handling cases including mistaken identity, wrongful confessions and sexual harassment. It noted duplication of interventions among actors and the need for frameworks tailored to the County's needs.

The Commission undertook to support the County in drafting and reviewing its policies, and noted the need to encourage male survivors of gender-based violence to report.

NGEC INSPECTS PREMISES FOR TURKANA REGIONAL OFFICE

After briefing County Commissioner Julius Kavita on its plans, the Commission inspected premises at the Bishop Mahon Centre and outlined a programme to train men as champions of equality.



The Commission delegation inspects premises at the Bishop Mahon Centre, Lodwar.

The National Gender and Equality Commission has inspected premises at the Bishop Mahon Centre in Lodwar, where it plans to establish its Turkana regional office.

The inspection followed a courtesy call on the Turkana County Commissioner, Mr Julius Kavita, at his office on Monday 5 October 2026. The Commission briefed the County Commissioner on the office space it had identified.

FROM ISIOLO TO LODWAR

Turkana has until now been served from the Commission's regional office in Isiolo. Speaking in Lodwar the following day, the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, said the Isiolo office had served the region until last month. The Commission relaunched its Isiolo Regional Office at Barsalinga Towers on 9 September 2026. Turkana is Kenya's second-largest county, covering about 77,000 square kilometres.

In Kakuma the following day, the Dep-

uty County Commissioner for Turkana West, Mr John K. Oroche, thanked the Commission for establishing a regional office in Lodwar.

“

The Commission will respond with a deliberate programme to engage men as champions of equality and of the rejection of violence, and with a permanent presence in Lodwar, for which we inspected premises yesterday.”

**Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson,
National Gender and Equality
Commission**

ENGAGING MEN

The Commission informed the County Commissioner of a deliberate programme of male engagement. Under the programme, men will be given a platform and trained as champions of equality, non-discrimination and the denunciation of violence.

The discussions covered gender-based violence and domestic violence, and the public debate on the equitable management of county resources, particularly oil revenue. The County Government had raised the same question in its own meeting with the Commission that morning, when its Chief Officer for Gender called for shareable oil revenue to support the gender agenda.

Mr Kavita has been at the centre of the national government response to emergencies in the county. He led the delegation that responded to the collapse at the Naduat gold mines in November 2024.

CHAIRPERSON COMMENDS COUNTY ON LODWAR CHILDREN'S RESCUE CENTRE

The County-run facility rescues and cares for orphaned and rescued children. The Chairperson said it is among very few such centres established by county governments in Kenya.



Commission outside Lodwar Children Rescue Center

The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, has commended the County Government of Turkana for the Lodwar Children's Rescue Centre.

The Commission visited the centre on Monday 5 October 2026 to close the first day of its mission. The facility's management briefed the Chairperson on the children in its care. Hon. Jaldesa noted that the centre is among very few children's rescue facilities established by county governments in Kenya.

PART OF A COUNTY NETWORK

The County Government lists the development of child rescue centres among the mandates of its Department of Social Protection. In January 2023, the Lodwar centre hosted four rescued children from Uganda before they were reunited with their families. In December 2023, the County opened a second

rescue centre in Kakuma to serve street children in Kakuma town, the refugee camp and the Kalobeyi Settlement, in response to a rising number of street children and reports of violence against children.

“

Very few county governments in Kenya have taken this step, and I commend the County for it.”

**Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson,
National Gender and Equality
Commission**

SINCE 2019

During the Commission's 2019 mission, the County Government reported that existing children's rescue centres were not equipped to provide safe spaces for children and undertook to look into establishing a rescue centre in the county. Addressing the Turkana County Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group the day after the visit, the Chairperson said it had given the Commission “a first answer” on whether coordination had changed outcomes in Turkana.

The delegation, which included the Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Thomas Koyier, Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru, and the Commission Secretary/CEO, Dr Purity Ngina, planted trees at the centre. The Commission also donated food and non-food items to support the children's care.

NGEC ASKS TURKANA DUTY BEARERS TO ACCOUNT FOR REACH

Addressing the County Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group, the Chairperson asked justice, children and county institutions to report progress on the Commission's 2019 findings and to show who their programmes reach.



The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, addresses the Turkana County Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group in Lodwar.

The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, has asked duty bearers in Turkana County to show, by name and by number, the people their programmes reach.

She was addressing the Turkana County Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group in Lodwar on Tuesday 6 October 2026. The Commission and the County Government agreed in 2019 to strengthen the group as the platform for coordinating equality and inclusion work in the county.

“Seven years later, the Commission has come back with one direct question. Has coordination changed outcomes for the people of this county?” she said.

THE 2019 RECORD

Hon. Jaldesa recalled the findings of the 2019 mission: sexual and gender-based violence cases collapsing in court for lack of evidence, survivors paying for P3 and Post Rape Care forms, three female police officers among 160 in Kakuma Sub-County, and children in conflict with the law sent to institutions far from Turkana. She asked the

Judiciary, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the National Police Service and Children Services to *“tell us what those numbers are today.”*

“

Survivors of sexual violence should never pay to prove that a crime was committed against them.”

**Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson,
National Gender and Equality
Commission**

She renewed the Commission's offer to support the County Gender Mainstreaming Policy, which she said is before the County Assembly awaiting public participation. On affirmative action, she said the law reserves thirty per cent of government procurement opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities, and that the gap is information and access. She asked institutions to report how many people from minority and marginalised communities their programmes reached in the past year.

ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission gazetted the election period for the 10 August 2027 General Election on 20 August 2026. The Chairperson said the Commission is impartial and that its concern is the right of every person to take part. She asked the national government and the IEBC to take identity card and voter registration services to the hardest-to-reach communities.

Registration remains a challenge in the county. Turkana registered 238,528 voters for the 2022 election. The enhanced registration drive that began in March 2026 added 47,077 new voters, while more than 2,000 identity cards remained uncollected.

“Elections in Turkana must be safe for women to stand, safe for young people to campaign, and safe for every voter to cast a ballot,” she said.

Hon. Jaldesa said the Commission will document its findings, share the mission report with the group, issue advisories and make referrals where institutions must act, and return to follow up.

KAKUMA CHILDREN'S OFFICERS RISE FROM ONE TO THREE

Meeting the Deputy County Commissioner for Turkana West, the Commission reviewed progress on its 2019 Kakuma findings and pressed for stronger child protection and safe spaces for survivors of sexual violence.



The Commission delegation in an engagement with the Deputy County Commissioner, Turkana West Sub-County, Mr John K. Oroche, in Kakuma.

The number of children's officers in Turkana West Sub-County has risen from one in 2019 to three, the National Gender and Equality Commission heard during an engagement in Kakuma.

The Commission, led by the Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, met the Deputy County Commissioner for Turkana West Sub-County, Mr John K. Oroche, on Tuesday 6 October 2026. The Children's Officer, Mr Jared Atsiaya, said the available officers remain overwhelmed. The meeting identified the need for more officers, including more female officers, and named defilement, child marriage, barriers to education and a growing number of street-connected children as key concerns.

RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE

The Chairperson raised concerns about charges for P3 forms and the resourcing of the children's unit at the police station. The Officer Commanding

Station clarified that the police service charter does not permit charges for P3 forms, and reported a functional gender desk, GBV reporting integrated with the Ministry of Health, and capacity building for officers.

The meeting established that a Child Protection Unit exists at the station but is not adequately equipped, and that juvenile offenders are not held with adults in Kakuma. Hon. Jaldesa emphasised the need for safe spaces for children who survive sexual and gender-based violence. The meeting also acknowledged conditions at the Naduat gold mines, which the Commission had visited earlier in the day.

REFUGEES AND HOSTS

The meeting discussed a perception among local communities that refugees receive better access to services. The Deputy County Commissioner said refugee settlements, particularly Ka-

lobeyi, had received systematic investment in water, electricity and education that had not always reached host communities at the same level. He said the Government has begun implementing the Shirika Plan, under which support to refugees and host communities is intended to be equitable.

The plan has drawn mixed reactions from local leaders. The meeting noted that shrinking humanitarian support is affecting women and children in particular, and that competition over food and other resources contributes to household tensions and violence. Under a differentiated assistance model introduced after funding cuts, roughly one third of refugees receive no food assistance.

The meeting welcomed an active GBV working group coordinating interventions in the sub-county. Mr Oroche thanked the Commission for establishing a regional office in Lodwar.

CHAIRPERSON NOTES IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN KALOBYEI SETTLEMENT

Touring empowerment and health facilities seven years after the Commission's last visit, the Chairperson called for refugee management under the Shirika Plan to ease tensions between refugees and host communities.



The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, tours facilities at the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement.

The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, has noted improvements in conditions at the Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement since the Commission's 2019 mission to Kakuma and Kalobeyei.

The Commission toured economic empowerment and health facilities at the settlement on Tuesday 6 October 2026, after its engagement with the Deputy County Commissioner for Turkana West in Kakuma. Hon. Jaldesa called for appropriate measures in refugee management under the Shirika Plan to ease tensions between refugees and host communities.

SEVEN YEARS ON

The Commission's 2019 report, *Hard Living: Equality and Inclusion of Refugees in Kenya*, recorded that land for the Kalobeyei settlement was identified after new arrivals in 2014 pushed Kakuma beyond its capacity by more

than 58,000 people. At the end of August 2019, Kakuma and Kalobeyei together hosted 191,500 registered refugees and asylum-seekers.

The population has since grown. Turkana now hosts more than 320,000 refugees and asylum-seekers.

THE SHIRIKA PLAN

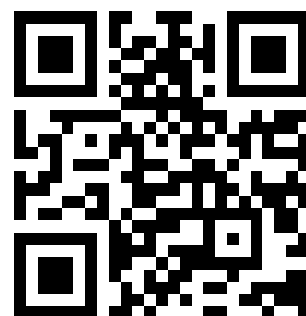
The Shirika Plan seeks to move refugee camps towards integrated settlements in which refugees and host communities share services and economic opportunities. Heads of 14 United Nations agencies conducted a joint mission to Kakuma and Kalobeyei from 2 to 4 September 2026 to align their support with the Government's priorities under the plan.

Food assistance arrangements have also changed since 2019. After funding cuts, the World Food Programme and UNHCR introduced differentiated assistance, under which roughly one third of

refugees receive no food assistance.

In Kakuma earlier in the day, the Deputy County Commissioner told the Commission that investment in the settlements had not always reached host communities at the same level, a gap the Shirika Plan is intended to close.

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NGEC DONATES WATER TANKS AND SANITARY KITS IN KAPUA

Marking Customer Service Week, the Commission took its services to Kapua Integrated School, supporting girls' attendance and water access as Grade 6 and Grade 9 learners prepare for national assessments.



The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, hands over donations to the administration of Kapua Integrated School.

The National Gender and Equality Commission has donated two 10,000-litre water tanks and sanitary kits to Kapua Integrated School in Turkana Central as part of Customer Service Week.

The visit on Wednesday 7 October 2026 came as Grade 6 and Grade 9 learners at the school prepare for their national assessments. The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, handed a success card to each Grade 6 and Grade 9 learner.

ASSESSMENTS AHEAD

The Kenya Primary School Education Assessment and the Kenya Junior School Education Assessment will run from 26 to 30 October 2026. The Kenya National Examinations Council will assess 3,634,846 candidates nationally across its examinations this year.

WATER IN KAPUA

A reliable water supply was among the needs raised by the Allimanyang community in Kapua during its dialogue with the Commission the same day. Members also asked for more schools, and attributed their community's under-representation to low levels of education and literacy.

Water scarcity affects much of the county, where successive failed rains have left more than 322,000 people projected to need food assistance.

The donation was made under the Commission's corporate social responsibility programme, which takes services to vulnerable communities.



NGEC Delegation being welcomed at Kapua Integrated School in Turkana Central

GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO ACT ON NGEC FINDINGS IN TURKANA

At the high-level forum that closed the Commission's mission, Cabinet Secretary Beatrice Askul Moe pledged drought support for the most vulnerable households, as county leaders backed a joint plan of action.



A group photo taken during the Commission's High-Level Stakeholders' Forum in Lodwar.

The Government has pledged to act on the findings of the National Gender and Equality Commission's mission to Turkana County, Cabinet Secretary Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe said in Lodwar on Thursday.

Delivering the keynote address at the High-Level Stakeholders' Forum on Equality, Inclusion and Institutional Partnership in Turkana County on 8 October 2026, the Cabinet Secretary for East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development said the Government receives the Commission's account in the spirit in which it was given. She said her Ministry, through the National Drought Management Authority, will ensure that drought support reaches the households that need it most, including minority communities such as the Ilimanyang, women who head households, persons with disabilities and older persons.

THREE QUESTIONS

The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, placed three questions be-

fore the forum: whether public services reach the smallest and most remote communities, whether the county's oil wealth will be shared fairly, and whether peace and inclusion will advance together. She noted that drilling at South Lokichar resumes on 1 November, that about 3,600 people face compulsory acquisition of their land, and that the Petroleum Act, 2019 reserves five per cent of the national government's share of petroleum revenue for the community.

Hon. Jaldesa said learners at a school the Commission visited in Kapua walk about 60 kilometres each way to sit national examinations because the school is not registered as an examination centre. She said she had raised the matter with the Cabinet Secretary and the County Commissioner, and that the Commission would seek a court interpretation of learners' constitutional rights if it is not resolved. She also said the Commission would challenge in court any police recruitment that excludes women from postings in hardship areas.

The Chairperson declared herself a champion of the Ilimanyang community and announced that the Commission will convene stakeholders, including the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and hold a medical camp in Turkana with KEMRI so that members can be assessed and registered as persons with disabilities.

COUNTY LEADERS RESPOND

The Deputy Governor, H.E. Dr John Lopeyok Erus, who represented the Governor, said the County Government has expanded its social protection programme to include the Ilimanyang community. He called for a roadmap to address inequality as the County reviews its development plan, and for clear policy guidelines to support the implementation of the Refugees Act, 2021 and the Shirika Plan at county level.

The Speaker of the County Assembly, Hon. Charles Lokimoto, called on the forum to adopt a joint action plan with clear timelines and responsibilities,

..... Continued on page 20

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and pledged the Assembly's support through legislation, oversight and budget allocation. He said the Assembly places women in every committee, that the county gender policy has yet to reach the House, and that county enforcement officers in mining areas need national

law enforcement support because they have no powers of arrest.

Lodwar Township MCA Hon. Ruth Kuya Itabo, the only woman elected to the Turkana County Assembly, thanked the men of Turkana for supporting women's leadership and called for women leaders to be respected.

The Chairperson said the new Lodwar office will recruit local staff, and that the Commission and the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties will meet 102 political parties on 14 October on the inclusion of women and special interest groups in nominations.



A group photo of Commission with CS Beatrice Askul in Lodwar



Cabinet Secretary Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe delivers the keynote address at the High-Level Stakeholders' Forum in Lodwar.

NGEC, IOM ADVANCE GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION AUDIT OF AVIATION POINTS OF ENTRY

NGEC, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has brought together key aviation and border management institutions to co-create a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Audit framework for Kenya's aviation points of entry and exit.



Participants at the NGEI and IOM technical workshop on the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Audit of aviation points of entry and exit.

The National Gender and Equality Commission and the International Organization for Migration have completed the framework for a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Audit of Kenya's aviation points of entry and exit.

The framework was developed at a four-day multi-agency technical workshop held from 6 to 9 October 2026 under IOM's Regional Counter Smuggling Programme. Over the four days, institutions across Kenya's aviation and border management system jointly developed the audit domains, the methodology and the data collection tools that will guide the assessment.

Participating institutions included the Kenya Airports Authority, the Directorate of Immigration Services, the Border

Management Secretariat, Port Health Services, Kenya Revenue Authority Customs and Border Control, the Kenya Airports Police Unit and Frontier Control.

SHARED OWNERSHIP

Representing the Commission, Commissioner Dr Margaret Karungaru called on participants to draw on their institutional expertise to develop practical audit tools that reflect the operational realities of Kenya's aviation points of entry and exit.

WHAT THE AUDIT WILL ASSESS

The audit will assess the extent to which gender equality and social inclusion are integrated into workplace systems and service delivery processes

across institutions operating at aviation points of entry and exit. It will identify barriers and areas that require corrective action.

The exercise falls within the Commission's mandate under the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, 2011 to audit the status of special interest groups and to monitor compliance with equality and non-discrimination standards in public institutions.

The audit is expected to generate evidence to inform measures for more inclusive border management and migration governance, with particular attention to ensuring that institutional systems and services respond equitably to the needs of diverse groups.

NGEC OFFICERS COMPLETE ALU PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP

Two Commission officers have completed the African Leadership University Public Sector Fellowship in Kigali, returning with leadership and citizen-centred design skills relevant to the Commission's mandate to promote equality and freedom from discrimination.



Fellows of the ALU Public Sector Fellowship Class of 2026, drawn from 18 African countries.

Two officers of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) have completed the African Leadership University (ALU) Public Sector Fellowship, graduating at a convocation in Kigali, Rwanda, on 25 September 2026.

The fellowship ran from February to September 2026 and brought together 36 fellows from 18 African countries, six of them from Kenya. It combined intensive sessions in Botswana, Senegal and Rwanda with practical assignments, peer learning and coaching designed to strengthen leadership and problem-solving in public institutions.

The training bears directly on how the Commission delivers its mandate. Under

section 8 of the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, 2011, NGEC promotes gender equality and freedom from discrimination in accordance with Article 27 of the Constitution. It also monitors, facilitates and advises on the integration of the principles of equality and freedom from discrimination in all national and county policies, laws and administrative regulations, in public and private institutions alike.

WHAT FELLOWS STUDIED

The programme comprised two courses. Leadership Lab, supported by executive coaching, covered leading self, leading others and leading organisations. Fellows worked on ethical

judgement, courage, resilience, empathy, developing others, building trust and forming effective, diverse teams. The course also addressed shared vision, strategic change, stakeholder engagement, managing resistance, storytelling and networks.

Product Management, supported by product coaching, focused on understanding citizens' needs, framing problems and solutions, testing assumptions and refining responses. Fellows learnt to turn ideas into practical proposals that account for implementation, sustainability and measurable public value.

..... Continued on page 23

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Central lessons included listening before designing interventions, combining empathy with accountability, developing staff through coaching and delegation, and building commitment across institutions. The programme emphasised using evidence and feedback to improve services, and measuring success by changes in people's lives as well as by completed activities.

RELEVANCE TO THE MANDATE

Each of these lessons corresponds to a part of the Commission's work. Listening before designing interventions is the starting point for engagement with the special interest groups the Commission serves, including women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, and minority and marginalised communities, whose needs differ from one group to another and call for distinct responses.

Measuring change in people's lives strengthens the Commission's monitoring and audit functions, where compliance is ultimately judged by whether institutions deliver equal treatment and opportunity in practice. Stakeholder engagement and managing resistance sit at the centre of the Commission's advisory role, because progress on equality depends on national and county institutions that must implement reforms themselves.

The lessons also reflect the values and principles of public service under Article 232 of the Constitution, which require responsive, effective, impartial and equitable provision of services and the involvement of the people in policy-making. Coaching and delegation give the two officers practical tools to build capability within their own teams. The fellowship has also opened avenues for continued collaboration and learning with public sector professionals across Africa.

36

Fellows

18

African Countries

6

Participants from Kenya

3

Host Countries: Botswana, Senegal,

Rwanda



Members of the ALU Public Sector Fellowship Class of 2026 at the convocation in Kigali, Rwanda, on 25 September 2026.

NGEC CONVENES STAKEHOLDERS ON ARTICLE 100 STRATEGIC LITIGATION

With the constitutional deadline for legislation on the representation of special interest groups in Parliament long past, the Commission has brought litigation partners together to chart a coordinated path to court.



Stakeholders at the Article 100 Stakeholder Strategic Litigation Coordination Meeting convened by the National Gender and Equality Commission.

With the constitutional deadline for legislation on the representation of special interest groups in Parliament long past, the Commission has brought litigation partners together to chart a coordinated path to court.

The National Gender and Equality Commission has convened stakeholders to plan proposed strategic litigation to enforce Article 100 of the Constitution, which provides for the representation of special interest groups in Parliament.

The Article 100 Stakeholder Strategic Litigation Coordination Meeting brought together key actors to deliberate on a petition that would seek to advance inclusive and equitable representation in Parliament.

AN EXPIRED DEADLINE

Article 100 requires Parliament to enact legislation to promote the representation in Parliament of women, persons with disabilities, youth, ethnic and other minorities, and marginalised communities. The Fifth Schedule to the Constitution set five years from the effective date of the Constitution for this

legislation. That period expired in 2015 without the legislation being enacted.

Article 261 of the Constitution provides a remedy where Parliament fails to enact required legislation. Any person may petition the High Court, which may order Parliament and the Attorney-General to enact the legislation within a specified period. If Parliament fails to comply, the Chief Justice is required to advise the President to dissolve Parliament. The mechanism has been tested before. In 2017, the High Court ordered Parliament to enact legislation on the not more than two-thirds gender principle, and in September 2020 the then Chief Justice advised the President to dissolve Parliament for failing to do so.

The proposed litigation seeks to advance the enforcement of Articles 100 and 261 and to strengthen coordinated action towards inclusive and equitable political representation.

BUILDING THE CASE

The deliberations covered the viability of the proposed cause of action, evidence requirements, the identifica-

tion of petitioners and witnesses, and legal and procedural considerations. Stakeholders also discussed financing and technical support, the filing strategy, and the responsibilities of each litigation partner.

The meeting agreed on concrete next steps, timelines and commitments towards a coordinated, evidence-based and financially realistic litigation pathway. These remain subject to final legal advice and institutional approvals.

The initiative reflects the collective responsibility of stakeholders to advance constitutionalism, equality, inclusion and the meaningful representation of special interest groups in Kenya's democratic institutions. It comes as the country prepares for the General Election of 10 August 2027, and runs alongside the Commission's work with the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties on the inclusion of special interest groups in party nominations.

NGEC CONVENING PRESSES TWO BILLS ON TWO-THIRDS GENDER PRINCIPLE

Women were 49.12 per cent of registered voters in 2022 and hold about 23 per cent of the National Assembly. Two Bills before Parliament propose a mechanism to close that gap.



Participants at the high-level policy dialogue on the not more than two-thirds gender principle at Mövenpick Hotel Nairobi on 2 October 2026.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) convened a high-level policy dialogue in Nairobi on 2 October 2026 on practical mechanisms for realising the not more than two-thirds gender principle.

The dialogue was held ahead of the 2027 General Election at Mövenpick Hotel Nairobi, in partnership with UN Women Kenya and the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA). It brought together legislators, senior government officials, constitutional commissions, electoral institutions and other stakeholders.

Among those attending were the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hon. Hanna Wendot Cheptumo, NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, IEBC Commissioner Dr. Anne Nderitu, Members of Parliament Hon. Beatrice Elachi and Hon. Esther Passaris, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Hon. Ruth Odinga, and nominated Senator Hon. Essy Okenyuri.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY

Article 27 (8) of the Constitution requires the State to take legislative and other measures to ensure that no more than two-thirds of the members of elective or appointive bodies are of the same gender. Article 81 (b) requires the electoral system to comply with the principle in relation to elective public bodies.

Parliament has not enacted legislation providing a comprehensive mechanism for achieving the principle at the national elective level. The Commission's chronology of the issue records a succession of legislative initiatives and judicial interventions since the promulgation of the Constitution, with previous proposals failing to achieve enactment.

THE TWO BILLS

The current legislative window centres on the Constitution of Kenya (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, Senate Bill No. 16 of 2025, and National Assembly

Bill No. 29 of 2025.

The Commission's analysis identifies the Senate proposal as seeking to replicate the gender top-up mechanism provided for County Assemblies under Article 177 (1) (b), while providing a mechanism to address the composition of Parliament where the electoral outcome does not meet the constitutional threshold.

The approach seeks to address the constitutional requirement after voters have exercised their electoral choice, rather than altering the existing constituency-based electoral system. Under the proposals, additional seats would be allocated to qualifying political parties in proportion to their electoral performance, using party lists prepared in accordance with the proposed framework.

Women accounted for 49.12 per cent of Kenya's registered voters in the 2022 General Election, while women currently constitute about 23 per cent of the National Assembly.

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Nderitu set out the role of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission in aspects of political party nominations, the review of applicable party lists, the development of guidelines, and engagement with political parties and stakeholders to promote inclusive participation.

Stakeholders also drew attention to the wider barriers affecting women's participation in electoral politics, including political party nomination processes, access to campaign resources, violence against women in elections and technology-facilitated abuse.

The Commission has been involved in the two-thirds gender agenda for more than a decade, including convening the Technical Working Group established in 2014 and presenting memoranda to Parliament on legislative proposals. It reaffirmed its commitment to providing technical support and working with Parliament, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and the Registrar of Political Parties towards a workable mechanism for implementation.

The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, has called for income security for Kenyans aged 60 to 69.

She delivered the call at the International Day of Older Persons commemoration in Rachuonyo East Sub-County, Homa Bay County, hosted by Warmth Initiative for Older Persons, a community-based organisation serving older persons in the area.

The initiative is led by Mr. Kenwilliams Nyakomitah, Commissioner of the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). IPOA Chairperson Duncan Ojwang Oburu also attended. Jaldesa began the day with a courtesy call to the Deputy County Commissioner's office and planted a commemorative tree before joining older persons and partners for the commemoration.

THE TEN-YEAR GAP

The Constitution recognises an older person at 60. The Older Persons Cash Transfer begins at 70. In Homa Bay County alone, more than 39,000 residents are aged between 60 and 69.

NATIONAL | OLDER PERSONS INCOME SECURITY

NGEC DEMANDS INCOME SUPPORT FOR KENYANS IN THEIR SIXTIES

The Constitution recognises an older person at 60 and the Older Persons Cash Transfer begins at 70. In Homa Bay County alone, more than 39,000 residents fall inside that gap.



NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa hands over a blanket to an elderly woman in Rachuonyo East Subcounty during commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons.

Jaldesa urged the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs and the National Treasury to set out a clear path to income support for this group, starting with farmers, fishers and informal workers without pensions.

WHAT WAS ASKED

The Commission called for health services that reach homebound older persons, including Social Health Authority registration. It asked for legal aid on wills and succession, and for police gender desks that treat elder abuse as urgent.

It asked the County Government to publish timelines, locations and budgets for its planned care centres for older persons. Ahead of the 2027 General Election, it urged the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission to take voter registration to the homebound and make every polling station accessible.

Older persons are voters, leaders and custodians of peace, Jaldesa said. Longer lives, she added, must mean more years lived with dignity, security and a real say in how Kenya is governed.

The commemoration was held under the global theme The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives, which calls for social protection, health and care services and community support that allow people to age with security and dignity.

Article 57 of the Constitution obliges the State to ensure older members of society participate fully in society, live in dignity and respect, are free from abuse, and receive reasonable care and assistance. Commission Legal Officer Anne Rasowo offered free legal aid to community members throughout the day at the Deputy County Commissioner's office grounds.

Older persons are voters, leaders and custodians of peace. They must never be ferried to rallies, paid, intimidated or used as props"

Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson,
National Gender and Equality
Commission

PICTURE SPEAK



NGEC Chairperson Hon.Rehema Jaldesa and Vice-Chairperson Thomas Koyier meeting with Turkana County Commissioner Julius Kavita, during the Commission's mission to the county.



NGEC chairperson Hon.Rehema Jaldesa addresses stakeholders during high-level roundtable meeting on women's political participation, held as part of the UN women SPF III Programme monitoring Mission for East and South Africa.



NGEC Chairperson Hon.Rehema Jaldesa welcomes the Executive Director of the ASAL Research and Resilience programme, Mr. Dida E. Fayó



NGEC chairperson Hon.Jaldesa joins older persons in a dance during the International day of Older persons celebration 2026 in Rachuonyo East Sub-County ,Homabay County



Older persons in Kilifi during the commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons



A group photo of Members of Parliament, Chairpersons, Commissioners and CEOs at Movenpick Nairobi during discussions on the two-thirds gender principle..



Stakeholders and members of the public converge to deliberate on the Draft National Payment System Bill



Stakeholders take a group photo during an engagement to advance the Isiolo County Disability Bill



A participant addresses fellow participants during the International Day of Older Persons commemoration in Lodwar



The Head of the newly established Lodwar Inter-County Regional Office, Mr. Nahashon Lotaruk, pays a courtesy visit to the IEBC Deputy Director in Turkana County, Mr. Godfrey Engor.

NGEC TELLS PARTNERS KENYA NOW NEEDS COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Women won 29 of 290 constituency seats and 115 of 1,450 ward seats in 2022. The Commission asked development partners to fund enforcement across the whole of the 2027 electoral cycle.



Participants at the roundtable on women's political participation, inclusive governance and peaceful elections hosted by the Commission on 29 September 2026.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has called for a stronger focus on institutional accountability, compliance and enforcement to advance women's political participation ahead of the 2027 General Election.

The call was made on 29 September 2026, when the Commission hosted the UN Women Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF III) Programme Monitoring Mission for East and Southern Africa for a high-level roundtable on women's political participation, inclusive governance and peaceful elections. The forum brought together the monitoring mission, senior representatives of UN Women, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Members of Parliament, Commissioners and Secretariat of NGEC, and representatives of the County Assembly Forum and the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management. Hon. Beatrice Elachi, Vice-Chairperson of the Kenya Women Parliamentary As-

sociation, was present.

“

Kenya now needs compliance and enforcement, and the 2027 electoral cycle will test both”

**Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson,
National Gender and Equality
Commission**

THE 2022 RECORD

In the 2022 General Election women won 29 of the 290 constituency seats in the National Assembly and 115 of the 1,450 ward seats. Seven women were elected governors.

The Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, said the figures demonstrate both progress and the continuing structur-

al barriers to women's participation in open electoral competition.

The Commission is concerned about the barriers created by political party nomination processes, the cost of political campaigns, violence against women in politics, and the continued absence of legislation to fully operationalise the constitutional two-thirds gender principle.

Jaldesa also identified technology-facilitated gender-based violence as an emerging threat. Online abuse can silence women, undermine their public participation and discourage prospective candidates from entering political competition.

WHAT PARTNERS WERE ASKED

The Commission has commenced joint work with the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties to audit political parties, including their nomination rules and practices, ahead of the nomination period.

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It will also undertake gender-responsive monitoring of the electoral process over the coming months, mobilise support at ward level, advocate for an electoral security framework that protects women candidates, and continue engaging Parliament and the Executive. It will further discharge its reporting obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Maputo Protocol.

Jaldesa called for continued multi-year support across the 2027 electoral cycle, beginning in the 2026/2027 financial year, and urged partners to involve the Commission at the design stage of joint programmes so that its constitutional monitoring and audit functions are integrated from the outset.

She noted that the partnership with UN Women dates back to the establishment of the Commission, when UN Women, then UNIFEM, supported the development of its first strategic plan, institutional infrastructure and technical capacity.



Hon. Beatrice Elachi, Member of Parliament of Dagoretti North Constituency, addresses stakeholders during a high-level roundtable meeting on women's political participation and inclusive governance at the Commission

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NATIONAL | INTERSEX CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

NGEC MEETING EXAMINES INTERSEX BILL AND DOCUMENTATION GAPS

The quarterly coordination meeting examined legal recognition, documentation, healthcare, education, protection from harmful practices and access to justice for intersex children, and the role the proposed Bill could play.



Stakeholders at the quarterly coordination meeting on the rights of intersex children.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) convened a quarterly coordination meeting on strengthening the protection and promotion of the rights of intersex children in Kenya.

The meeting provided a platform to discuss the lived realities and protection concerns affecting intersex children, gaps in the existing legal, policy and institutional frameworks, and the need for stronger and coordinated interventions.

THE PROPOSED BILL

Stakeholders deliberated on the proposed Intersex Persons Bill, 2024, including its potential role in strengthening legal recognition, protection, non-discrimination and access to essential services for intersex persons.

Discussions highlighted gaps in addressing intersex challenges, including documentation and legal identity, healthcare, education, protection from harmful practices and access to justice.

BEST INTERESTS TEST

The engagement underscored the importance of placing the best interests of the child at the centre of interventions.

It also underscored the strengthening of collaboration among government institutions, civil society and other stakeholders so that intersex children are protected, recognised and able to enjoy their rights and dignity on an equal basis.

NATIONAL | ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS

NGEC AND ASAL PROGRAMME AGREE TO EXCHANGE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

The Chairperson received the Executive Director of the ASAL Research and Resilience Programme for discussions on turning research findings into interventions for communities exposed to climate shocks.



NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa with Dida E. Fayó, Executive Director of the ASAL Research and Resilience Programme.

The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa, has received Dida E. Fayó, Executive Director of the ASAL Research and Resilience Programme. The courtesy engagement focused on advancing gender justice in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands.

The discussions centred on gender justice innovation and the role of evidence in shaping practical and inclusive interventions for women, girls, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalised communities.

Particular attention was given to the arid and semi-arid lands, where climate-related shocks and entrenched inequalities continue to affect vulnerable groups disproportionately.

The Commission and the programme reaffirmed their commitment to strengthened collaboration, the exchange of technical expertise,

and the translation of research findings into action for inclusive and resilient communities.



Director of ASAL Research and Resilience, Dida E. Fayó, pays a courtesy visit to NGEN Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa.e.

#GenderJustice

#ASALs

#InclusiveDevelopment

#LeaveNoOneBehind

#ClimateResilience

#WomenEmpowermen

NATIONAL | YOUTH ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION

POST-YOUTH DAY FORUM TARGETS BARRIERS TO VOTER REGISTRATION

The Commission convened the forum with the electoral and cohesion commissions to address electoral integrity, civic education and the political exploitation of young people ahead of the 2027 General Election.

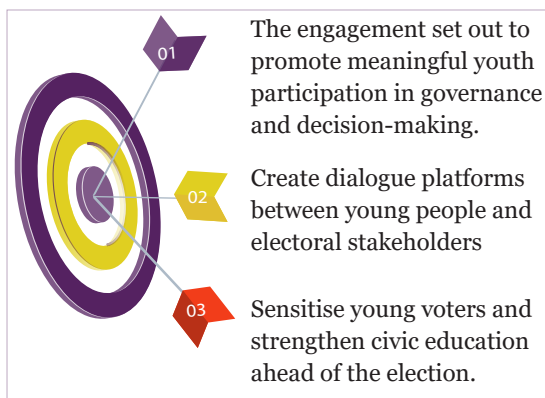


Participants at the Post-International Youth Day Forum on youth participation in the 2027 General Election.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) hosted a Post-International Youth Day Forum on strengthening youth participation in the 2027 General Election.

The forum was convened with stakeholders including the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission.

Discussions covered electoral integrity, cohesion, civic education and resisting political exploitation, and addressed the removal of barriers to voter registration.



REGIONAL | TURKANA PARTNERSHIPS

LODWAR OFFICE OPENS ENGAGEMENT WITH TURKANA GOVERNMENT AND IEBC

The new inter-county office introduced itself to the county government and the electoral commission, and used the visits to prepare the ground for the Commission mission to Turkana.



Turkana County Executive Committee Member for Trade, Enterprise Development, Cooperatives, Gender and Youth Affairs Hon. James Wangiros receiving the Commission delegation.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) paid courtesy visits to the Turkana County Government and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Turkana County Office to introduce its Lodwar Inter-County Regional Office.

The office serves Turkana and the wider Ateker and North Rift region.

At the county government, the County Executive Committee Member for Trade, Enterprise Development, Cooperatives, Gender and Youth Affairs, Hon. James Wangiros, welcomed the new office and committed to partnering with the Commission in promoting equality and inclusion and protecting the rights of Special Interest Groups, including women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and minority and marginalised communities, through policy development, legislative reviews and targeted interventions.

ELECTORAL GOVERNANCE

The engagement with the Deputy Director of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission in Turkana County, Mr. Godfrey Engor, focused on electoral governance, voter and civic education, and strengthening the participation of Special Interest Groups in electoral processes.

Both institutions noted that sustained collaboration will be important for ensuring that Special Interest Groups participate fully and meaningfully in democratic processes.

The meetings also provided an opportunity to discuss the Commission's forthcoming mission to Turkana County, which will bring together stakeholders to assess equality and inclusion, identify emerging concerns affecting Special Interest Groups and strengthen coordination.



NGEC delegation poses for a group photo with IEBC staff in Turkana County, led by Deputy Director Mr. Godfrey Engor

REGIONAL | TURKANA OLDER PERSONS

TURKANA OLDER PERSONS CARE FOR GRANDCHILDREN AMID RECURRENT DROUGHT

The Commission's Lodwar office joined the county government and partners to mark the day, in a county where many older persons live in remote pastoral settlements with limited access to services.



Deputy Governor of Turkana County H.E. Dr John Erus at the International Day of Older Persons commemoration in Lodwar.

The Lodwar Regional Office of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) joined the Turkana County Government and partners in Lodwar to commemorate the International Day of Older Persons.

The office serves the North Rift and Ateker region. It joined the State Department for Social Development and Echami-Aito, a women-led organisation in Turkana County. The event was supported by the Kenya Red Cross Society and HelpAge Kenya, and was attended by the Deputy Governor of Turkana County, H.E. Dr John Erus.

CUSTODIANS AND CARERS

In Turkana County older persons play an important role as custodians of culture, livestock knowledge and community peace.

Many live in remote pastoral settlements with limited access to essential services, while also caring for grandchildren and facing the effects of recurrent drought and food insecurity. The theme of the commemoration highlights the need for stronger social protection, health and care services, and enabling environments that support healthy, secure and dignified ageing.

OFFICE COMMITMENT

The Lodwar Regional Office pledged to strengthen collaboration with the Turkana County Government, the National Government, civil society and development partners to pro-

mote the rights and participation of Special Interest Groups, including older persons.

The Commission called for concerted action to ensure that older persons in Turkana can participate fully in community life and enjoy their rights and freedoms.



NGEC delegation joins the Turkana County Government and other Stakeholders in commemorating the International Day of Older Persons in Turkana County

ISIOLO DUTY BEARERS CONVENE TO ADVANCE COUNTY DISABILITY BILL

Stakeholders said persons with disabilities and their representative organisations must take part throughout the legislative process, and set the groundwork for the International Day of the Girl Child.



Duty bearers at the Isiolo engagement on the Isiolo County Disability Bill.

The Isiolo Regional Office of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) convened duty bearers to advance the Isiolo County Disability Bill.

The engagement focused on stronger legal protections, improved access to services and greater participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making.

Stakeholders said persons with disabilities and their representative organisations must be actively involved throughout the legislative process.

GIRL CHILD PLANNING

The engagement also laid the groundwork for the International Day of the Girl Child, ahead of its global observance on 11 October 2026.

Discussions explored joint activities to strengthen the rights, safety and participation of girls. The theme for the year is End child marriage and invest in girls' rights.

KILIFI FORUM LINKS AGEING TO RISING NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Stakeholders at Chonyi Amphitheatre called for healthcare, long-term care and social protection systems matched to an ageing population, and for coordinated action across national and county government.



NGEC Head of Kilifi Regional Office Beatrice Zighe addresses participants at Chonyi Amphitheater

The Malindi Regional Office of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) joined the Kilifi County Older Persons Steering Committee and partners to commemorate the International Day of Older Persons.

The commemoration was held at Bandari Salama in Kilifi South Sub-County under the theme Advancing Healthy Ageing and Older Persons' Rights in Kenya: Coordinated Health, Social Protection and Community Action.

Stakeholders called for healthcare, long-term care and social protection systems that respond to the realities of an ageing population.

HEALTH AND CARE

Discussions highlighted the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, gaps in access to quality healthcare, and the need for coordinated action by national and county governments, communities, civil society and the private

sector.

Article 57 of the Constitution guarantees older persons the right to participate fully in society, live in dignity and respect, remain free from abuse, and receive reasonable care and assistance.

WHAT FOLLOWS

The Commission said it will continue to monitor and advise on the inclusion of the needs of older persons in national and county policies, programmes and budgets, and to work with county governments, communities and partners.

#OlderPersonsRights
#HealthyAgeing
#SocialProtection
#DignityInAgeing
#InclusiveCommunities
#LeaveNoOneBehind

REGIONAL | NATIONAL PAYMENT SYSTEM

KITUI OFFICE SUBMITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON PAYMENT SYSTEM BILL

The Commission took part in public participation convened by the National Treasury and the Central Bank at KEFRI Kitui, and filed a written submission on the draft policy and the Bill.



Participants at the public participation meeting on the Draft National Payment System Policy and the National Payment System Bill, 2026, at KEFRI, Kitui.

The Kitui Office of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has submitted written recommendations on the Draft National Payment System Policy and the National Payment System Bill, 2026.

The submission followed a public participation meeting convened by the National Treasury in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kenya at KEFRI, Kitui.

The policy and the Bill seek to strengthen a national payment system that is safe, secure, efficient, accessible, affordable and inclusive.

The forum brought together members of the public and stakeholders from Kitui, Machakos and Makueni counties to review the proposed policy and legislation, share their views, raise concerns and submit recommendations.

REGIONAL | GARISSA FGM PREVENTION

GARISSA WORKSHOP TRAINS GRASS-ROOTS ACTORS ON REFERRAL PATHWAYS

The three-day workshop covers human rights approaches, gender-based violence, legal frameworks, referral pathways, advocacy and campaign planning for actors working to end female genital mutilation.



Participants at the three-day capacity building workshop on community action to end female genital mutilation convened by the Garissa Regional Office.

The Garissa Regional Office of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) is facilitating a three-day capacity building workshop on strengthening community action to end female genital mutilation.

The workshop is held in collaboration with UNICEF Kenya, the European Union in Kenya, ActionAid Kenya and the Northern Aid Development Fund, and brings together grassroots actors and partners.

WHAT IS COVERED

Sessions cover human rights and the human rights-based approach, gender-based violence and female genital mutilation, gender and legal frameworks, referral pathways, power dynamics, movement building, advocacy, community resource mobilisation and campaign planning.

Participants are gaining practical knowledge and skills to engage

communities, strengthen referral and support systems, and advocate for lasting change.

The training also provides grassroots actors with an opportunity to share experiences, identify community-driven solutions and strengthen collaboration among partners working to prevent and eliminate the practice.

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MONITORING VISIT TESTS SGBV TRAINING AT MACHAKOS DEAF SCHOOL

The Commission and JICA visited two Machakos schools to assess how prevention and response activities reach learners with different communication needs, and to collect teachers' recommendations on the training.



Students at Machakos School for the Deaf during the karate training session observed by the NGECE and JICA monitoring team.

A team from the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and JICA visited Machakos Baptist School and Machakos School for the Deaf to assess sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response activities.

The monitoring visit examined how the activities are taking shape in schools.

Teachers who had participated in mock training sessions shared what they had learned about preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence, and offered recommendations to strengthen the training and its use in the school setting.

The Commission said teachers are often among the first adults learners turn to for help, and need the knowledge and

confidence to respond appropriately.

AT THE DEAF SCHOOL

At Machakos School for the Deaf the team observed students taking part in a karate training session. After training, the students join the trainer and a sign language interpreter for discussions that assess their awareness of sexual and gender-based violence and give them space to take part in the conversation.

The Commission said learners must be able to access information, ask questions and take part in discussions in ways that work for them, and that listening to teachers and students will shape prevention efforts that reach every learner.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION RULES REQUIRE BRAILLE AND SIGN LANGUAGE

Kenya's regulations require public information in accessible formats, including Kenyan Sign Language, Braille and captions. A Kisumu forum examined why that information still does not reach some groups.



Stakeholders during an engagement on inclusive and reliable access to public information ahead of the 2026 International Day for Universal Access to information

The Kisumu Regional Office of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) joined a forum at ACK Cathedral Hall, Kisumu, on inclusive and reliable access to public information.

The forum was convened by Transparency International Kenya ahead of the 2026 International Day for Universal Access to Information, under the theme Upholding Information Integrity in the Digital Age: The role of access to Information in addressing Information Disorder.

Ms Anne Anyango represented the Commission on a panel examining the accessibility of public information for women, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons, and the barriers that prevent these groups from effectively exercising their right to information.

WHERE ACCESS FAILS

The discussion highlighted inaccessible public offices and digital platforms, limited availability of information in appropriate formats, and barriers relating to language and communication channels.

Kenya's Access to Information (General) Regulations require information to be provided in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, including text alternatives, captions and other multimedia alternatives, Kenyan Sign Language interpretation, magnification, Braille and other appropriate formats.

INTEGRITY AND ACCESS

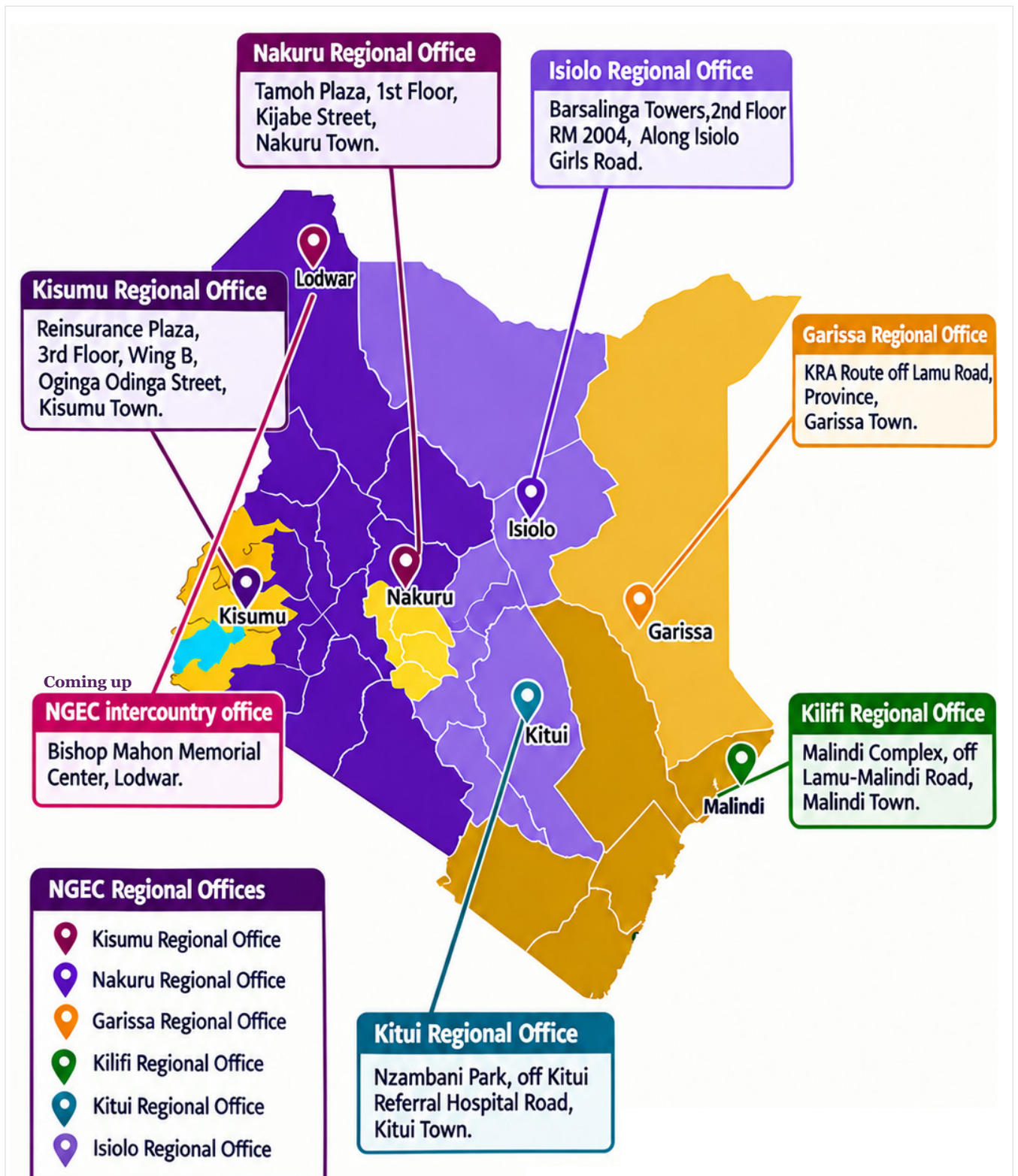
The forum considered access to information alongside information integrity, and heard that reliable, timely and accessible public information supports informed decision-making, meaningful public participation and accountable governance

It also heard that gaps in accessibility can deepen exclusion and leave communities more vulnerable to misinformation and information disorder.



Ms Anne Anyango of the Commission on the panel at the access to information forum at ACK Cathedral Hall, Kisumu.

NGEC NATIONAL FOOTPRINT



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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