



Equality Bulletin

NGEC Champions Inclusive and Accessible Built Environments Across Kenya

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In a groundbreaking Meeting on Accessibility to the Built Environment for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and those with Limited Mobility, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) brought together key stakeholders to explore innovative ways of creating a more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable future.

The goal? To accelerate the adoption of universal, inclusive, and sustainable design solutions—solutions that go beyond compliance and create spaces where every individual, regardless of physical ability, can live, work, and thrive.

Over the years, the Commission has worked tirelessly alongside urban planners, architects, construction experts, and land development actors to embed universal design principles into Kenya's built environment.

These efforts have resulted in increased access for PWDs and those with limited mobility, particularly in newly developed structures.

However, despite these strides, the pace of change has been slow, and many existing buildings and public spaces still fail to meet the needs of all citizens.

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A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Over the past two weeks, NGEK has demonstrated firm dedication to advancing its mission of promoting equality and inclusion through powerful actions and advocacy. From condemning the rise in femicide and gender-based violence (GBV), to facilitating the creation of a sub-county for marginalized communities, and pushing for inclusive built environments, the Commission has once again proven that it is not just a voice for the vulnerable but a catalyst for real change.

As we continue to fight against the devastating impacts of GBV, it is clear that our collective efforts are critical in protecting those at risk and supporting survivors. The Commission's advocacy for the empowerment of marginalized communities, such as the Illchamus, highlights our ongoing commitment to dismantling barriers to equal participation in society. Furthermore, our push for accessible, inclusive spaces reflects NGEK's broader vision of a society where everyone—regardless of gender, status, or ability—has the opportunity to thrive.

These achievements reaffirm our collective strength in the fight for justice and equity. I invite all Kenyans—government agencies, civil society, and citizens—to continue supporting and collaborating with NGEK to build a future where equality is not a dream but a lived reality for all. Let us persist in this work, knowing that our efforts today will shape a stronger, more inclusive tomorrow.

Warm regards,

Purity Ngina, PhD

Chief Executive Officer

National Gender and Equality Commission



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Commissioner



Dr. Margaret Karungaru, **MBS**
Commissioner

NGEC Leads Push for Inclusive, Accessible Built Environments in Kenya

Among the participants at the meeting was Nominated Senator Crystal Asige, a staunch advocate for disability rights, who voiced her solid commitment to removing both physical and systemic barriers.

“Our collective goal is clear: to remove barriers, both physical and systemic, that hinder the full participation of individuals in everyday life,” Asige stated. “Accessibility is not only about mobility but also about ensuring comfort, safety, dignity, and equal opportunity for all, regardless of their physical abilities.”

The meeting also saw remarks from Acting Chairperson Thomas Koyier, who emphasized that accessibility is not merely a matter of following regulations but a question of equity, dignity, and fundamental human rights.

“When we design spaces that welcome everyone, we foster an environment where PWDs and those with mobility challenges are empowered to engage fully in society,” Koyier explained. “We enable them to access essential services and contribute meaningfully to our nation’s growth.”



Disability Rights Champion Sen. Crystal Asige

The discussion also explored the integration of smart, empathy-driven designs and green construction practices.

These innovative solutions not only promise to improve the functionality and comfort of spaces but also ensure that such designs respect habitation standards, ultimately enhancing accessibility for those most in need.

The Commission’s efforts are a demonstration to a collective vision: that true inclusivity and sustainability are not only desirable but achievable.

With the continued collaboration of all stakeholders, the hope is to transform the built environment into a place where everyone—regardless of ability—can feel seen, respected, and included.

Empowering Special Interest Groups: Green Energy Adoption in Kenya

The Commission recently convened a productive meeting to review the draft report on the uptake of green energy by Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in Kenya. The meeting provided a thorough analysis of key findings, challenges, and recommendations for increasing the adoption of sustainable energy solutions across the country.



Director of Programs and Research, Paul Kuria, OGW, sharing valuable insights during meeting

A major focus of the discussion was the importance of adopting inclusive approaches that engage marginalized communities, such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities, in the green energy transition.

NGEC emphasized the need for collaborative efforts and strong policy support to accelerate the transition to green energy, ensuring that no one is excluded from the benefits of sustainable development. The Commission continues to advocate for a more equitable approach to development, with green energy playing a central role in improving livelihoods and promoting long-term environmental resilience for all.

NGEC Partners with Adsock Kenya to Champion Gender Equality and Social Justice

Garissa – In a promising step towards enhancing gender equality and social justice, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Garissa Regional Office recently welcomed Adsock Kenya, a prominent advocate in advancing gender equality and addressing societal inequalities.

Known for their dedication to community mobilization, survivor support, capacity building, and strategic advocacy, Adsock Kenya brings expertise that aligns closely with NGEC’s commitment to fostering inclusive change.



Garissa Regional Head Abdiwahab Ibrahim (third left) with a delegation of Adsock members who visited the Garissa Office

During the collaborative meeting, NGEC and Adsock Kenya explored avenues for joint initiatives aimed at transforming societal norms and driving impactful, community-based gender equity programs.

The discussion included potential projects that leverage Adsock Kenya’s strengths in research and strategic communication to address gender-based injustices across the Garissa region.

This emerging partnership promises to amplify both organizations’ efforts, setting a robust foundation for inclusive, transformative actions that address critical issues affecting marginalized communities.

Together, NGEC and Adsock Kenya aim to create a powerful alliance that champions gender equality, empowers vulnerable groups, and promotes sustained social progress across the region.

Empowering Change: Engaging Men and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The Nakuru Regional Office, in collaboration with the Nakuru County Government's Department of Gender, Social Services, and Inclusivity, and supported by the Gender Violence Recovery Center (GVRC), held a pivotal meeting with a coalition of stakeholders to strategize for the upcoming 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

This global campaign, set to run from November 25 to December 10, aims to raise awareness and rally efforts against gender-based violence.

Hosted at the Commission's Regional Offices, the meeting was led by Nakuru Regional Coordinator Mr. Lewis Mwaniki, who underscored the importance of engaging men and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the fight against GBV. "There is a need to actively engage men and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the fight against GBV, as this will ensure an inclusive approach to tackling the menace," Mwaniki stated.

The meeting emphasized that inclusive activism, which recognizes the roles of all genders and abilities, could foster a more comprehensive approach to combating violence and promoting community safety.



The Nakuru Regional Office convenes with stakeholders in a strategic planning meeting for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The GVRC, with its extensive experience in supporting survivors and driving policy change, played an instrumental role in guiding the discussion. Representatives from various community-based organizations, religious groups, youth organizations, and government agencies explored ways to encourage men to become champions of change and addressed the unique challenges PWDs face in accessing support services and safe spaces.

One significant proposal involved the creation of targeted awareness campaigns to confront harmful societal norms and stereotypes.

These initiatives are designed to reshape community perceptions regarding gender roles, violence, and disability, cultivating a culture of respect, empathy, and accountability.

As the meeting drew to a close, attendees expressed a strong sense of commitment and urgency. They finalized a comprehensive action plan that involves collaboration with local schools, faith-based organizations, media outlets, and community leaders. The partnership aims to leverage social media, public events, and educational workshops to raise awareness and foster dialogue around GBV, with a particular focus on engaging men as allies and amplifying the voices of PWDs within the campaign. This meeting in Nakuru marks the beginning of what promises to be a powerful and inclusive 16 Days of Activism campaign, with stakeholders united in their mission to create a safer, more inclusive society for all.



Kisumu Regional Head Davis Okeyo joins key stakeholders at the planning meeting

Kisumu, Kenya – The Kisumu regional team is preparing for a transformative #16Days of Gender Activism campaign, aimed at fostering change in the community and advancing gender equality. Partnering with the Ministry of Gender Affairs, Kisumu County Government, Reinvent Kenya, and Pamoja CBO, the initiative will focus on raising awareness about gender-based violence and ensuring access to crucial support services for survivors.

Kisumu Gears Up for #16Days of Gender Activism Campaign

The campaign will feature a series of grassroots engagements, community dialogues, and radio discussions designed to involve Kisumu residents in shaping the conversation on gender equality and human rights.

Special attention will be given to promoting the services available to those affected by violence and emphasizing the role of community-driven change.

Social media platforms will also play a key role in amplifying the campaign's message and mobilizing support for a violence-free society.

"We call on all Kisumu residents and stakeholders to join us in this crucial campaign," said a spokesperson from the Kisumu regional team. "Together, we can advocate for those in need and build a safer, more inclusive society."

The #16Days campaign, running from November 25th to December 10th, is a global initiative that shines a spotlight on gender-based violence and the rights of women and girls. This year, the Kisumu campaign aims to maximize its reach and impact through local partnerships and online engagement. Residents are encouraged to stay tuned for upcoming events and take part in the movement for a safer, more inclusive future.

NGEC Drives Legal Reform Agenda for Gender Equality at KLRC Roundtable

At a crucial roundtable convened by the Kenya Law Reform Commission (KLRC) recently, the Commission took center stage, championing the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to eradicate gender-based discrimination entrenched in Kenya's laws.

Held at the Norfolk Hotel, the meeting brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including UN Women, the Law Society of Kenya, and representatives from the Office of the Attorney General. This gathering underscored a collective commitment to refining Kenya's legal landscape to ensure it aligns with constitutional guarantees of gender equality and freedom from discrimination.

The Commission emphasized that while Kenya's legal framework contains numerous provisions aimed at advancing gender equality, substantial gaps persist, hindering the realization of equitable rights for women and girls.

According to a recent legal assessment conducted by the Kenya Law Reform Commission (KLRC), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), and UN Women, discriminatory practices continue to surface across critical areas of life, such as family law, inheritance, political participation, employment, and sexual and reproductive health rights.



Stakeholders, including NGEN, UN Women, the Law Society of Kenya, and the Office of the Attorney General, during the Kenya Law Reform Commission's roundtable, advocating for gender equality and legal reforms at the Norfolk Hotel.

Notable statutes under review included the Law of Succession Act, Marriage Act, Children Act, and various other laws that impact women's and girls' rights in direct and often harmful ways.

The discussions highlighted a critical need for reform in areas like marriage and family law, where outdated provisions still undermine women's rights to inheritance, and in employment laws that inadequately address gender-based violence in the workplace.

NGEC also stressed the urgency of implementing Kenya's constitutional mandate for gender-responsive budgeting and the two-thirds gender rule to achieve meaningful gender balance in public service.

A key outcome of the roundtable was a set of actionable recommendations aimed at dismantling systemic barriers.

These include advocating for the repeal and amendment of discriminatory laws, launching extensive public education campaigns to foster understanding of gender equality, and promoting community-level awareness to combat cultural stereotypes.

Recognizing the intersectionality of law with social norms, NGEN urged for policies that incorporate cultural and religious perspectives to ensure the laws are inclusive and widely accepted.

The roundtable underscored the role of collaboration, with NGEN pledging to support state and non-state actors through technical assistance and social accountability initiatives. It also highlighted the commission's intent to push for the effective enforcement of gender equality provisions in laws governing land, labor, and public life, to secure lasting social transformation.

By the close of the meeting, the Commission's message was unequivocal: achieving gender equality requires a unified, multi-sectoral approach.

With law reform as a cornerstone, NGEN and its partners are constantly committed to building a legal framework that genuinely upholds the rights and freedoms of all Kenyans, reinforcing the nation's path towards equitable and inclusive governance.

Call for Collective Action as Femicide and Gender-Based Violence Escalate

In a resolute statement, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has strongly condemned the rising tide of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide affecting women, girls, and young men across Kenya.

Acting Chairperson Commissioner Thomas Koyier expressed heartfelt condolences to grieving families, describing the violence as a growing societal crisis.

With alarming statistics showing the killings of 97 women and girls in just three months, Koyier called for urgent action to address this escalating violence, which includes new forms of abuse such as technology-facilitated violence.

The Commission decried the disproportionate targeting of women and girls, stressing that no one is safe

from the scourge, which transcends social class and geography. Koyier urged leaders and citizens to commit to ending GBV, especially as the upcoming holiday season and economic hardships heighten vulnerabilities. The Commission called for greater vigilance, accountability, and support from security forces, investigators, and the public, while acknowledging the efforts of organizations like the Coalition Against Sexual Violence (CASV). As the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV approach, NGEN reaffirmed its commitment to protecting survivors and advocating for justice.

Redefining Education: NGECE's Bold Drive for Gender Equality

In a historic appearance at the Kenya Primary Schools Headteachers Association (KEPSHA) 2024 Annual General Meeting and Conference, NGECE CEO Dr. Purity Ngina, spotlighted the Commission's bold agenda for eradicating gender disparities in Kenya's education sector.

Addressing a pivotal issue, Dr. Ngina used this first-ever opportunity for NGECE at KEPSHA to set an ambitious vision for bridging the gender gap in access to technology and leadership within basic education. Her proposals underscored NGECE's strategic thrust into the education sector, positioning the Commission as a powerful advocate for gender parity in digital literacy and leadership roles among Kenya's youth

Highlighting Kenya's growing digital economy, Dr. Ngina emphasized that access to technology is indispensable for preparing students for a digitally driven world. Yet, as she outlined, girls remain severely underrepresented in tech access and digital literacy, especially in rural areas.

Referencing data from the Communications Authority of Kenya, she noted that while 72% of men have mobile internet access, only 61% of women can say the same, a gap that restricts young girls from harnessing digital tools critical to modern education and career readiness.



NGECE CEO Dr. Purity Ngina, addresses KEPSHA delegates on bridging the gender divide in technology and leadership, urging inclusive policies to empower girls in digital access and school leadership.

Her remarks spotlighted stark inequalities within classrooms, where only 20% of rural schools are equipped with basic tech infrastructure, and girls often face cultural biases that push them away from technology fields.

In a bid to close these divides, Dr. Ngina presented actionable strategies to shift this narrative, calling for gender-inclusive digital literacy programs tailored for young girls. Her proposal includes strengthened ICT infrastructure in rural schools, sustained community awareness campaigns to challenge harmful stereotypes, and expanded mentorship programs connecting young girls with female role models in STEM. Dr. Ngina also underscored the need for gender-sensitive online safety initiatives to safeguard girls as they engage with digital spaces, thereby addressing not only accessibility but also safe and empowering participation.

Dr. Ngina's strategic pivot into education marks an important expansion of NGECE's mandate. By framing digital literacy and leadership as fundamental rights for all students, she redefined NGECE's role, aiming to foster an inclusive future where girls can thrive as both tech users and leaders.

NGECE's Advocacy Bears Fruit: Empowering Minorities Through Equitable Governance

In a significant step towards inclusivity, President William Ruto has announced the creation of a new sub-county in Baringo to serve the Ilchamus community, addressing their long-standing marginalization.

This move aligns with Kenya's commitment to social justice, equity, and empowering minority groups.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGECE) has been a key advocate for the inclusion of marginalized communities in governance.

Its efforts were instrumental in the establishment of the Minorities and Marginalized Affairs Unit through Executive Order No. 2 of 2023, aimed at coordinating initiatives for these communities.

Additionally, the official observance of Minorities Rights Day on December 18 reinforces the government's dedication to equality.

The creation of the Ilchamus sub-county and the Unit mark vital milestones in Kenya's journey towards an inclusive society, ensuring marginalized groups have equal access to resources and opportunities.

This progress highlights NGECE's ongoing work in shaping national policy for a more equitable future.

Empowering Isiolo Communities to End Gender-Based Violence and FGM

Isiolo County, Kenya – The Isiolo Regional Office has taken a bold and essential step in championing the rights of women and girls through its recent involvement in the **‘POWER’** Project workshop in Kinna Ward, Isiolo County. The initiative, dedicated to eradicating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), is a beacon of progress and resilience in the fight against harmful practices that continue to impact women and girls across the region.

The **‘POWER’** Project is a collaborative effort aimed at empowering communities by establishing an anti-FGM referral pathway, building a robust community action team, and enhancing both preventive and responsive mechanisms to protect women’s rights. This workshop marks a pivotal advancement in strengthening community-led approaches to safeguarding women and girls and fostering safer, more equitable communities.

Building a Stronger Community Action Team

At the heart of the workshop’s agenda was the formation of a dedicated community action team. This team, composed of local leaders, activists, health practitioners, and community members, is equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to take a proactive stance against FGM and GBV. By empowering local champions to take ownership of these issues, the project fosters sustainable change that aligns with community values while prioritizing the well-being of women and girls.

The community action team’s mandate is to not only raise awareness but to mobilize local resources and implement community-centered solutions that address the root causes of FGM and GBV. This grassroots approach ensures that those most affected by these harmful practices are at the forefront of creating change, a strategy that has proven effective in areas where traditional methods have faced resistance.

Establishing a Robust Anti-FGM Referral Pathway

A key component of the **‘POWER’** Project is the establishment of a referral pathway for FGM cases, which is crucial for timely intervention and comprehensive support. This pathway links survivors of FGM with healthcare providers, legal aid, psychosocial support, and law enforcement, offering them a structured and supportive system that addresses their immediate needs while seeking long-term solutions. By streamlining these services, the pathway facilitates swift action, increasing the chances of successful intervention and helping prevent future cases.

“Creating a well-defined referral pathway empowers our communities to respond effectively to FGM cases and provides survivors with the support they need to rebuild their lives,” noted Anthony Alyaro from the Isiolo Regional Office. “This initiative is about more than just ending FGM; it’s about ensuring that survivors have the resources and support they need to live free from violence and with dignity.”

Enhancing Preventive and Responsive Mechanisms

Preventing FGM and GBV requires an integrated approach that combines education, advocacy, and policy enforcement. The workshop also focused on enhancing existing mechanisms by training community members and leaders in identifying and reporting cases of FGM and GBV, thus promoting a culture of accountability and vigilance. Through regular community meetings, workshops, and awareness campaigns, the project equips community members with the skills to recognize signs of violence and intervene in ways that are safe, effective, and culturally sensitive.



Anthony Alyaro from the Isiolo Regional Office shares insights at the **‘POWER’** Project workshop

A United Call to Action for a Violence-Free Future

The **‘POWER’** Project workshop in Kinna Ward was more than an event; it was a call to action for the entire community. It emphasized the importance of collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the community to create a comprehensive, sustainable response to FGM and GBV.

The Isiolo Regional Office and its partners recognize that true change is only possible when communities come together to support and protect one another. By uniting in this common purpose, they are building a future where women and girls can thrive in a safe, supportive environment free from violence.

Towards a Brighter Future for Women and Girls

With initiatives like the **‘POWER’** Project, NGEC is strengthening its commitment to protect and empower women and girls across Kenya. This project serves as a model for addressing FGM and GBV by leveraging community strength and fostering a culture of respect and equality.

By putting power in the hands of the community, NGEC and its partners are creating a future where every woman and girl in Isiolo—and across Kenya—can live free from violence and oppression.

As we move forward, NGEC encourages everyone to play a part in building safer communities, advocating for women’s rights, and standing together against violence. Let us unite to create a legacy of strength, resilience, and empowerment that will guide future generations toward a life of dignity, equality, and peace.

NGEC Sets Benchmark for Human Rights in Africa: Zimbabwe Commission Visits for Learning Mission

Nairobi, Kenya – This week the Commission hosted a high-profile delegation from the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), led by Chairperson Ms. Funngayi Jessie Majome, as part of a strategic learning exchange aimed at advancing human rights practices in both Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The 10-member delegation's visit underscored NGEK's expanding role as a regional center for sharing best practices in gender equality, human rights, and alternative dispute resolution.

In an extensive program designed by NGEK's Legal Department, the ZHRC delegates delved into Kenya's approach to complaints handling and alternative dispute resolution, which NGEK is legally mandated to execute.

Ms. Majome commended the Commission's "elaborate" mechanism for complaints handling and management, recognizing it as a potential model to reinforce ZHRC's mandate to address grievances on human rights abuses.

This in-depth engagement highlighted the NGEK's structured approach to resolving conflicts, especially within marginalized and vulnerable communities—a model that Ms. Majome observed could serve as a blueprint for strengthening Zimbabwe's own complaint resolution systems.

NGEK's complaints handling mechanism has been key in addressing grievances involving special interest groups, ensuring swift and equitable redress through a framework that prioritizes efficiency, inclusivity, and accessibility.



Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission chairperson, Hon Jessie Funngayi Majome

Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru emphasized the mutual benefits derived from exchanging strategies with ZHRC, noting that both nations face similar challenges in addressing the rights of vulnerable groups.

She highlighted the ongoing need for African human rights bodies to learn from each other's experiences and adapt effective models to their respective social and legal contexts.



Commissioner Caroline N. Lentupuru, MBS, HSC of the National Gender and Equality Commission

NGEK's role as a benchmark for human rights bodies across Africa is not new. CEO Dr. Purity Ngina pointed out that this latest engagement builds on a longstanding partnership between NGEK and Zimbabwe's human rights institutions, referencing the Zimbabwe Gender Commission's benchmarking visit to NGEK in April 2023.



Assistant Director, Legal and Investigation, Desire Njamwea, engages with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission delegation during their study visit

Dr. Ngina emphasized that these collaborations are vital for enhancing human rights advocacy across the continent, particularly through the sharing of innovative solutions for addressing gender-based and human rights issues.



Dr. Purity Ngina, Commission Secretary/CEO, shares insights during the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission delegation study visit

NGEC Advances Gender Justice: Guiding SOPs for SGBV Response in Lamu



Rahma Gulam, MWARP Executive Director, leads the brainstorming session as Lamu Principal Magistrate Martin Wachira listens closely

In a ground-breaking move to combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Lamu County, the Malindi Regional Office, in collaboration with Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP), commenced an initiative to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) aimed at improving the prevention, response, and access to justice for survivors of (SGBV).

MWARP's Executive Director leads this initiative, Rahma Gulam, whose commitment to gender justice has been a driving force behind the project.

The two-day engagement, held at Sunsail Hotel in Lamu, brought together key stakeholders from the justice sector, including Hon. Martin Wachira, the Principal Magistrate of Lamu, who is leading a select committee of justice sector actors.

The discussions were aimed at creating a robust, survivor-centered framework for SGBV response that would ensure a swift, coordinated, and empathetic approach in addressing cases of violence. With the participation of magistrates, law enforcement, health professionals, and civil society groups, the session set the stage for a comprehensive, collaborative effort to support survivors and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable

The development of these SOPs is critical for streamlining the often fragmented responses to SGBV in Lamu, where survivors can face numerous barriers to accessing justice. By setting clear guidelines for the justice system's role in handling such cases, the SOPs aim to reduce delays, eliminate inefficiencies, and ensure that all survivors receive the protection and legal redress they deserve.



NGEC Malindi Regional Head Beatrice Zighe takes participants through the proceedings

The focus is not only on law enforcement but also on creating a community-oriented approach to prevention, support, and healing for victims.

At the heart of this initiative is the commitment to putting survivors first. Rahma Gulam, as the Executive Director of MWARP, emphasized the importance of crafting a framework that prioritizes the needs and well-being of those affected by SGBV.

Her leadership has been instrumental in guiding this initiative, ensuring that the voices of survivors are heard, and that their needs inform every step of the process. "The goal is not just to implement SOPs, but to transform the justice landscape in Lamu, ensuring that every survivor receives justice without fear or delay," said Gulam.

The engagement in Lamu marks an important milestone in the region's efforts to address SGBV systematically. Once finalized, the SOPs will not only serve as a reference point for Lamu County but will also set a new standard for safety and accountability across the country.

The project has garnered broad support from local and national stakeholders, all committed to creating a safer, more equitable environment for the women and children of Lamu.

NGEC Champions Gender and Nutrition in Climate Policy at Kenya's TriFocus-GCN Meeting

On October 29, 2024, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) played a pivotal role at the TriFocus-GCN meeting in Nairobi, hosted by ICCASA. The forum, focused on the intersections of climate change, gender, and nutrition, brought together key stakeholders, including NGEC, IFAD, SDGAA Women for Women, and Murang'a County.

The event spotlighted the Gender Climate and Nutrition Initiative (GCAN), a three-year program supported by IFPRI, aimed at enhancing Kenya's climate adaptation while promoting food security and uplifting women. NGEC emphasized the importance of integrating gender-responsive strategies into national and sub-national climate policies, advocating for the use of sex-disaggregated data to track climate impacts and progress on gender equality.

Moving forward, the Commission and its partners will refine gender-based indicators, engage communities in data collection, and raise awareness of the gendered impacts of climate change to ensure inclusive, impactful adaptation policies.

Strengthening Partnerships to Empower Youth for Gender Equality and Social Justice in Kenya



Hanns Seidel Foundation Kenya Resident Representative, Daniel Seiberling, speaks at the Youth Stakeholders Review Meeting

In a spirited and engaging session, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), with support from the Hanns Seidel Foundation (**HSF_Kenya**), successfully hosted a Youth Stakeholders Review Meeting under the theme “Strengthening Partnerships to Empower Youth for Gender Equality and Social Justice in Kenya.”

This dynamic forum provided an essential platform for young leaders, youth organizations, and stakeholders to collaborate, reflect on past accomplishments, and chart a unified path forward for gender equality and social justice.

Held in Nairobi, the interactive meeting convened a diverse group of youth advocates, policymakers, and development partners, all committed to fostering an environment where young people, especially women and marginalized youth, can fully participate in shaping Kenya’s social and economic future.

The event aimed to amplify the voices of young people, encouraging them to not only assess the successes of previous initiatives but also critically examine the challenges that continue to hinder progress in the areas of gender equality and social justice.

Assessing Achievements and Challenges

Opening the session, Dr. Anyango, the AD Research, Monitoring and Documentation NGEK, highlighted the importance of a reflective approach to understanding how far the youth-led initiatives have come in advancing gender equality and social justice.

“Over the past few years, we have seen encouraging strides made by young people in challenging stereotypes, advocating for policy change, and participating in civic activities. However, the journey is far from complete,” she remarked.

One of the key achievements discussed was the increasing involvement of youth in leadership and decision-making processes, particularly in government and civil society spaces.

However, participants were quick to point out the persisting barriers such as limited access to resources, entrenched gender biases, and insufficient policy frameworks that fail to recognize the full potential of youth as catalysts for change.

Youth leaders underscored the critical need for capacity-building programs that equip them with the skills, knowledge, and resources to overcome these challenges and actively contribute to the country’s socio-political and economic landscapes.

Exploring Future Opportunities

As the meeting transitioned into an open dialogue session, participants voiced their aspirations for a more inclusive, gender-equitable future. Discussions centered on the importance of strengthening partnerships between youth organizations, government agencies, and private sector stakeholders.



NGEK’s Assistant Director Research, Monitoring, and Documentation, Dr. Justine Anyango, engages participants at the Youth Stakeholders Review Meeting

The consensus was clear: young people must be at the forefront of designing and implementing policies that directly impact their lives, particularly in areas like education, employment, and healthcare.

Empower Youth for Gender Equality and Social Justice in Kenya

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One of the central themes that emerged was the call for more robust platforms for youth participation in decision-making processes. There was also a unanimous push for policies that support youth empowerment through sustainable livelihoods, access to quality education, and the removal of systemic barriers that hinder youth involvement in public service and leadership.

The youth leaders also emphasized the significance of digital platforms in connecting and organizing young people, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

With the rapid advancement of technology, they noted that digital tools are powerful allies in amplifying youth voices, mobilizing for gender equality, and fostering social justice movements across the country.

A Unified Call for Action

In closing, the NGEK reiterated its commitment to empowering youth as key stakeholders in achieving gender equality and social justice.

George Wanyonyi, the Head of Youth and Children Division, affirmed that NGEK will continue to work hand-in-hand with young leaders and organizations to strengthen partnerships and create opportunities for meaningful participation in both national and local development agendas.

He further encouraged young people to actively engage with government institutions, as their contributions are pivotal in shaping the future of Kenya.



Youth leaders actively engage in discussions at the Youth Stakeholders Review Meeting

As the meeting concluded, the collective energy in the room was palpable. Young people left the forum not only with renewed determination but also with a sense of collective responsibility to continue pushing for transformative change. The Youth Stakeholders Review Meeting was a testament to the power of collaboration, the importance of empowering youth, and the shared vision of a just and equitable society for all.



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