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EQUALITY BULLETIN

Rooted Resolve

NGEC teams nationwide plant hope and inclusion in a united call for environmental renewal and social justice.

When teams from the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) joined communities across Kenya for this year's Mazingira Day, it was more than a tree-planting exercise — it was a symbolic act of inclusion and environmental responsibility.

From Nairobi to Isiolo, the Commission's staff turned out in force, joining learners, administrators, and local leaders in advancing the national call for environmental conservation. The events reflected NGEC's belief that protecting the planet and empowering people must go hand in hand.

In Nairobi County, the Commission's headquarters team partnered with students from the Karen Technical Training Institute for the Deaf in Lang'ata Sub-County, where Deputy County Commissioner Walter Katonon led a spirited tree-planting drive. The activity brought together youth, learners with disabilities, and public officers — a living example of inclusion in climate action.

Across Nyanza, Nakuru, Kitui, Kilifi, Garissa, and Isiolo, NGEC regional teams joined schools and communities in a show of unity that married civic duty with sustainability.

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Education for Every Girl: Policy Roundtable Charts New Course



W.I.S.E. Move: NGEC Rallies Partners for Equality in Nakuru



Kenya's Girls Deserve More: NGEC Calls for Action, Not Promises

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A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Every generation faces a defining moment — and ours is now. From the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child 2025 to the national reflections of Mazingira Day, we are reminded that equality and justice must be lived every day, not just spoken of.

This 24th Edition of the Equality Bulletin captures that spirit — stories of courage, collaboration, and transformation. It celebrates the voices of girls shaping their futures under the theme "The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead," and the Commission's continued mission to ensure those voices are heard, protected, and empowered.

As we join H.E. President Dr. William Ruto's call to plant 15 billion trees by 2032, NGEC's participation in Mazingira Day reaffirmed that climate action and equality must grow side by side. Each seedling we plant is a promise — of renewal, inclusion, and shared responsibility for generations to come.



We also take a moment to honour Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, a statesman whose lifelong service, courage, and vision for justice continue to inspire our national conscience. His unwavering belief in equality and dignity for all reminds us that leadership is not about power, but purpose.

As we look ahead, let us keep planting - not only trees, but hope; not only policies, but possibilities. For in nurturing equality, we nurture the very soul of our nation.

Purity Ngina, PhD, MBSChief Executive Officer **National Gender and Equality Commission**

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Justice on Hold: How a Police File Almost Silenced a Survivor in Kangema

When bureaucracy meets brutality - how NGEC's rapid response tore down a wall of silence to restore a girl's right to justice.



George Kimani hands over the Usawa Award recognition letter to the Nairobi City County team

mental illness, has finally been handed a lifeline in her pursuit of justice after the National Gender Equality and Commission (NGEC) intervened to recover crucial medical documents allegedly being withheld by police officers.

The survivor, who has endured The repeated rape and previous defilement, was left in limbo after her Post-Rape Care (PRC) and P3 medical forms — vital evidence in prosecuting sexual offences were reportedly being held at a local police station. The alleged withholding of evidence risked derailing the raising case. questions about accountability and sensitivity in handling cases of sexual violence.

According to the NGEC, the Commission's Rapid Response Team, acting on a referral from St. John's Community Centre, worked in coordination with the Medical Superintendent social worker Ms. Monica of Kangema Sub-County Hospital to secure the survivor's documents.

The team successfully obtained copies of the PRC and P3 forms, as well as the police Occurrence Book (OB) number, safeguarding key evidence for the ongoing investigation.

A teenage girl from Kangema, The immediate retrieval of the living with HIV and battling survivor's medical forms was crucial," said an NGEC Desire Njamwea Assistant Director, Legal, Complaints, Investigations and Redress "Delays or obstruction in evidence handling can compromise justice and deepen trauma for survivors, especially those facing additional vulnerabilities such as illness or mental health challenges."

> case highlights persistent weaknesses in Kenya's response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly when survivors backgrounds.

forgotten."

"She is a young girl who has faced unimaginable abuse," Ms. Monica said. "When crucial evidence is withheld or delayed, survivors lose faith not only in the justice system but in society's willingness to protect them."

Similarly, Ms. Kendi from St. John's Community Centre, who initially referred the case, commended the swift response from NGEC, calling it "a timely example of what inter-agency collaboration can achieve."

While the retrieval of the forms marks progress, the Kangema case exposes a wider systemic challenge - where police mishandling, stigma, and procedural delays often silence survivors before their voices reach the courtroom.

come from marginalised or vulnerable The Kangema episode should serve as both warning and wake-up call. Every day evidence is delayed or denied is another day Social worker Ms. Monica described justice slips away. As NGEC continues its oversight, there must the intervention as "a necessary step" be stronger enforcement of the legal requirement for free forms, to restore dignity and hope to a routine audits of police and hospital practices, and survivor who had almost been empowerment of survivors through education on their rights.

On Track for Inclusion: NGEC and Kenya Paraplegic Organisation Partner to Audit Accessibility

Efforts to make Kenya's transport system more inclusive gained momentum this week after the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) hosted officials from the Kenya Paraplegic Organisation (KPO) for a planning meeting ahead of a nationwide accessibility audit of railway stations.

The initiative seeks to assess how friendly Kenya's rail transport infrastructure is to persons with disabilities (PWDs), and to identify improvements needed to make travel safer, more dignified, and inclusive.



NGEC and Kenya Paraplegic Organisation officials during a planning meeting

The audit will also highlight broader social and policy issues affecting mobility and inclusion. NGEC representatives emphasized that accessibility should be built into every phase of infrastructure development from design to daily operation.





No Girl Left Behind: Policy Roundtable Pushes for Inclusive Education

Stakeholders meet at Heron Portico Hotel to tighten policy, financing and school-safety measures for girls aged 12-17.



NGEC Commissioner Nzomo Mbithuka and officials from RELI Africa during the high-level Policy Roundtable

Efforts to strengthen girls' education in Kenya received a significant boost after the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), in partnership with RELI Africa, convened a high-level policy roundtable on advancing girls' education at the Heron Portico Hotel in Nairobi.

The meeting brought together senior representatives from government ministries, education agencies, and development partners to deliberate on practical policy interventions aimed at creating equitable, inclusive, and safe learning environments for girls aged between 12 and 17.

The discussions centred on ways to enhance gender-responsive budgeting, promote school safety, and embed inclusive teaching methods within the education system. Participants explored how national and county governments could align existing policies and resources to better address the barriers that continue to hinder girls' participation and performance in school

Speaking during the session, NGEC Commissioner Nzomo Mbithuka underscored the urgent need to place girls at the centre of education reforms.

He emphasised that sustainable progress in education requires deliberate investment in policies that prioritise the needs of girls.

"Girls' education is not merely a social cause; it is an economic and human rights imperative," said Commissioner Mbithuka. "For Kenya to achieve true gender equality, we must ensure that our policies, budgets, and institutions actively safeguard every girl's right to learn and to thrive in safe environments."

The RELI Africa Girls' Education Project, under which the roundtable was held, seeks to complement national efforts towards achieving gender equality and universal education. The project focuses on translating evidence into policy action and promoting accountability for equitable learning outcomes across the region.

During the meeting, participants acknowledged the critical role of gender-responsive budgeting in ensuring that resources are allocated to initiatives that directly support girls — including the provision of sanitary products, mentorship programmes, and safe learning spaces. They also called for improved coordination between education agencies and the implementation of inclusive teaching practices that respond to the diverse needs of learners.

RELI Africa commended the Commission's leadership, emphasizing collective action and policy coherence for meaningful change.

From Data to Dignity: NGEC Demands Inclusive Action



NGEC's Josephine Mwatibo at the launc

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has called for more inclusive and data-driven approaches to tackle gender disparities and ensure that no group is left behind in Kenya's development agenda.

Speaking during the launch of the Gender Analysis Report, Ms. Josephine Mwatibo, a Programmes Officer at the Commission, said evidence-based planning remains key to addressing persistent gender biases that continue to undermine the progress of women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), older persons, minorities, and marginalised communities.

"The numbers tell a story — but it's our responsibility to act on them," said Ms. Mwatibo. "We need inclusive, data-backed solutions that empower women, uplift youth, and give voice to communities that have long been excluded. When equality thrives, families, communities, and future generations flourish."

The Gender Analysis Report examines gender gaps in education, employment, political representation, and access to essential services, offering recommendations to guide policy reforms and strengthen accountability mechanisms.

Stakeholders at the event underscored that the findings present an opportunity for national and county governments to embed inclusivity into their planning processes. They urged stronger partnerships among public institutions, civil society, and community actors to ensure that equality is reflected not only in law but also in everyday practice.





W.I.S.E. Collaboration as NGEC Champions Equality in Nakuru

Regional office and women's group agree on joint action to tighten policy, boost survivor support and amplify local leadership.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), through its Nakuru Regional Office, engaged the Women in Society Empowerment Organisation (W.I.S.E.) in a strategic dialogue aimed at reinforcing gender justice programming across Nakuru County.

The discussions reaffirmed a shared resolve to advance equality. inclusion, and social justice through stronger partnerships and evidenceinterventions. based institutions committed to promoting gender-responsive policies, deepening community awareness, and enhancing access to timely support for survivors of genderbased violence (GBV).

NGEC representatives underscored the need for practical, coordinated

approaches that translate policy frameworks into tangible change. "The Commission's collaboration with W.I.S.E. is anchored on the belief that gender justice must move beyond policy discussions into real, measurable impact in the lives of women, youth, and persons with disabilities," said Lewis Mwaniki, NGEC Nakuru Regional Office.

W.I.S.E. echoed this commitment, highlighting the role of local leadership in driving inclusive governance and equitable development. "Communities must be empowered to lead change. When local voices shape solutions, the outcomes are more relevant, sustainable, and transformative," said a representative of the organisation



NGEC Nakuru Regional Office staff and W.I.S.E. representatives pose for a group photo after the strategi

The two institutions agreed to pursue joint programmes focused on survivor-centred interventions, institutional capacity building, and policy advocacy to address structural barriers to equality.

By aligning their strengths and community reach, NGEC and W.I.S.E. aim to position Nakuru as a model county for inclusive development

Kenya's Girls Deserve More: NGEC Demands Action Beyond Promises

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has urged stronger national resolve to safeguard and empower girls across Kenya, marking this year's International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) with a resounding call to action under the global theme "The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead."



NGEC staff at Dandora Greenlight Vocational Training

In partnership with the Girl Child Network, the Gender in Education Movement (GiEM), and the Dandora Greenlight Vocational Training Centre, the Commission joined girls, youth, and community members in Dandora to celebrate resilience, creativity, and leadership among girls — especially those with disabilities.



The Commission joins girls and youth at Dandora Greenlight Vocational Training Centre to mark the International Day of the Girl Child 2025

The event, marked by a colourful procession, girl-led performances, and showcases of innovation and enterprise, highlighted a simple truth: girls are not waiting for a better world — they are building it.

"Every girl has a story, a dream, and the power to change her world," said one young participant, addressing hundreds of community members gathered for the commemoration. "All we need is for society to believe in us, include us, and protect us." Discussions during the celebration highlighted the need for inclusive policies and gender-responsive education systems, ensuring that girls — particularly those with disabilities — have equal access to opportunities. Speakers urged policymakers and partners to remove structural barriers that limit girls' potential, such as gender-based violence, early marriage, and social stigma.

A recurring message throughout the day was that empowering girls is not just a moral obligation, but an economic and social necessity. Participants stressed that when girls are given equal opportunities to learn, lead, and innovate, they contribute directly to Kenya's sustainable development goals.





SSS CONTINUATION

Roots of Change: NGEC Cultivates Equality in Kenya's Journey to 15 **Billion Trees**

From schoolyards to drylands, the Commission is transforming saplings into living testaments of hope - fueling Kenya's collective journey toward a greener 2032

On Mazingira Day 2025, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) transformed commemoration into commitment — mobilising its secretariat teams across Kenva to lead tree clean-ups, and environmental planting. awareness drives from Nairobi to Isiolo. It was a demonstration of civic responsibility rooted in the Commission's broader mission: ensuring that Kenya's climate action is not only sustainable but also equitable.

Across the country, NGEC staff joined learners, teachers, local administrators, and community members in activities that fused environmental restoration with social inclusion. In Nairobi County, the Commission's headquarters team partnered with students of the Karen Technical Training Institute for the Deaf in Lang'ata for a tree-planting exercise led by Deputy County Commissioner Walter Katonon-the event symbolised partnership between the persons with government, youth, and disabilities in protecting Kenya's environment.

In Nyamira, students and teachers of Nyamira Comprehensive School joined hands with NGEC officers to plant trees on school grounds, turning the activity into a lesson in environmental stewardship. The Nakuru Regional Office led a cleanup exercise in London Ward before planting trees at London Ward Special School and Menengai Primary School, reaffirming the importance of cleaner public spaces and inclusive participation.



NGEC Kitui Regional Team plants trees during Mazingira Day 2025

From Kitui to Embu, Kilifi to Garissa, and Isiolo, similar efforts unfolded - all aligned to the year's Mazingira Day theme: "Citizen-Centric Tree Growing and Environmental Stewardship." Each region echoed the same conviction: that climate action must include everyone.



NGEC's actions unfolded within a broader But inclusion must be deliberate. national context — President H.E. Dr. William Without equal access to land, resources, Ruto's ambitious pledge to plant 15 billion trees and the economic dividends of green by 2032, a key pillar of Kenya's climate resilience initiatives, women risk being sidelined in strategy. The initiative, part of the National Ecosystem Landscape and Restoration Programme, seeks to restore degraded lands, combat desertification, and raise Kenya's tree cover to 30 per cent.

For NGEC, however, the greening agenda carries a deeper question: who benefits and who bears the burden?

Climate change is not gender-neutral. Around the world—and particularly in Kenya—its impacts fall unevenly, with women and girls often carrying the heaviest load. Droughts, floods, and food insecurity affect their livelihoods, health, and safety disproportionately. Yet within challenge lies opportunity: advancing gender equality as a cornerstone of effective climate action.

Tree-planting initiatives offer more environmental benefits; they can be platforms for empowerment and community transformation. When women are included - as planters, decision-makers, and beneficiaries they bring invaluable knowledge and leadership rooted in their everyday stewardship of farms, families, and local ecosystems. Their participation enhances both the success of environmental projects and the resilience of communities.

a process that should uplift them. For Kenya's 15-billion-tree target to move beyond symbolism, it must also uproot structural inequality.



NGEC Nakuru Regional team plants trees during Mazingira Da

than NGEC's involvement in Mazingira Day activities highlighted this intersection of gender justice and climate justice. By planting trees in special schools, rural communities, and arid zones, the Commission emphasised that true environmental conservation cannot leave behind persons with disabilities. minorities, women-headed or households.





NGEC Pushes for Greater Support to Boys' Rescue Centre, Reinforces Gender Equality Commitments in Murang'a



A walkway leading to classrooms at Thika Children's Rescue Centre

The National Gender and Equality Commission Murang'a County Recommits to (NGEC) has called for greater institutional and community support for boys in need of care and protection, following a visit to the Thika Children's Rescue Centre, the only government facility in Kenya dedicated exclusively to boys.

During the visit, NGEC officials were briefed on the challenges facing the Centre, including inadequate infrastructure, staffing shortages, and limited funding — gaps that continue to strain its ability to deliver on its mandate. The team conducted an extensive tour of the facility, interacting with staff and children, and concluded the visit with a symbolic tree-planting exercise a gesture of hope, renewal, and continuity.

According to the Commission, findings from the visit will inform advisory notes to relevant State agencies, aimed at mobilising action to strengthen the Centre's capacity to safeguard and rehabilitate boys who have faced neglect, abuse, or abandonment.

"The welfare of children in care institutions speaks to our national values of dignity, equality, and justice," an NGEC official said. "Every child boy or girl — deserves protection, nurturing, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives in a safe and supportive environment."

The Thika Children's Rescue Centre provides shelter, psychosocial support, education, and rehabilitation services to boys rescued from the streets, abusive households, or conflict with the law. NGEC's visit reaffirmed the need for targeted investment in child protection systems that leave no group behind - including boys, whose vulnerabilities are often overlooked in gender and social protection programming.

Equality and Ending GBV

Meanwhile, in Murang'a County, the Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group (EITWG) renewed its pledge to advance equality, inclusion, and justice by signing a Recommitment Charter.

Established in 2017, the EITWG brings together county leadership, civil society organisations, State actors, and community representatives to ensure equality and nondiscrimination remain central to governance and service delivery.

The recommitment event was witnessed by NGEC Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyier, who delivered the keynote address alongside Hon. Gachucha Manoah, the County Executive Committee Member for Youth, Sports, Gender, and Culture.

Mr. Koyier emphasised that ending genderbased violence (GBV) requires not only institutional commitment community ownership and accountability.

"To end GBV, counties must move from awareness to action," said Mr. Koyier. "That means embedding prevention and response measures in their plans, allocating budgets, and holding duty bearers accountable for results."

The recommitment builds on a series of community engagements held Murang'a in recent days, where residents held candid dialogues on gender-based violence, survivors accessed legal aid and counselling services, and men were enlisted as champions for equality and respectful relationships.

Murang'a Communities Lead Frank Conversations on GBV Prevention

The Commission's work in Murang'a also took a grassroots turn with a powerful community dialogue titled "Voices from the Community." The forum brought together men, women, youth, elders, and persons with disabilities for unfiltered discussions on the realities of gender-based violence and its far-reaching social impact.

Residents spoke openly about family conflicts, harmful cultural practices, and the intersection of economic stress and violence in homes. Participants also raised concerns over the growing neglect of the boy child and men's mental health, calling for inclusive interventions that recognise the vulnerabilities of both genders.

In a rare show of openness, community members confronted taboo subjects such as incest and family abuse, stressing the need for safe spaces, accessible reporting channels, and stronger community safeguards.

Men in attendance acknowledged their role as fathers, partners, and leaders in fostering non-violence and modelling respect at home. Women and youth called greater access to economic empowerment opportunities, support mechanisms, survivor and consistent engagement of local cultural and faith leaders.



From the dialogue emerged practical recommendations - improved survivor services, child-friendly justice processes, enhanced coordination among bearers, and increased education on gender equality at the community level.

"These are the conversations that build safer homes and stronger societies," said an NGEC representative. "When communities take ownership of the fight against GBV, progress becomes sustainable."





Forging Partnerships for Equality: Stakeholders Unite to Advance Gender Inclusion in Kenya

Kenya's pursuit of equality and inclusion took a decisive step forward as the National Gender and **Equality** Commission (NGEC) multi-stakeholder convened roundtable bringing together development partners, civil society actors, and government agencies. The forum served as a platform for collective reflection, coordination, renewed commitment ensuring that no one is left behind in the country's development agenda.

The high-level engagement sought to establish a coordination mechanism for ongoing dialogue, identify priority areas for technical and financial collaboration, and create a comprehensive roadmap for the joint implementation of gender equality and inclusion initiatives.

Participants reaffirmed that the success of Kenya's Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hinges on inclusivity — not as a peripheral concern, but as the foundation of national progress.



NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa engages

Speaking during the roundtable, NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa emphasized that gender equality is not an isolated agenda but a prerequisite for sustainable development, peace, and social justice. She underscored the power of partnerships in transforming policy commitments into tangible impact at the grassroots level.



NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyier, Commissioners Dr. Margaret Karungaru and Nzomo Mbithuka pose for a group photo with partners during a high-level roundtable

"Inclusion is not a privilege; it is a right enshrined in our Constitution and a moral duty we owe to every Kenyan," Hon. Jaldesa stated. "True progress will not be achieved until women, youth, persons with disabilities, older members of society, and marginalized communities are fully integrated into every sphere of national life. The roundtable demonstrates our shared resolve to move beyond rhetoric — to translate equality from aspiration into daily experience."

She further highlighted NGEC's central role as a bridge between policy and practice, saying the Commission is committed to fostering datadriven approaches, evidence-based advocacy, and partnerships that generate measurable outcomes.

"Our task as a Commission is to bring voices from the margins to the centre of decision-making," she continued. "We must strengthen coordination across institutions to dismantle systemic barriers that perpetuate exclusion. When equality becomes part of how government plans, budgets, and delivers services, it ceases to be a slogan and becomes a lived reality for every citizen. Our collective responsibility is to ensure that this vision of inclusivity defines Kenya's development journey."

The Chairperson's remarks resonated deeply with representatives of civil society and development partners, who commended NGEC's leadership in championing cross-sectoral collaboration. They emphasised that advancing gender justice requires shared accountability, sustained investment, and a unified voice that advocates for equitable access to opportunities.

Discussions also explored how alignment between county and national priorities can enhance the implementation and monitoring of equality programmes. Participants agreed that inclusive governance must reflect community needs — especially the lived experiences of women and marginalised populations — through participatory planning and representation in leadership.

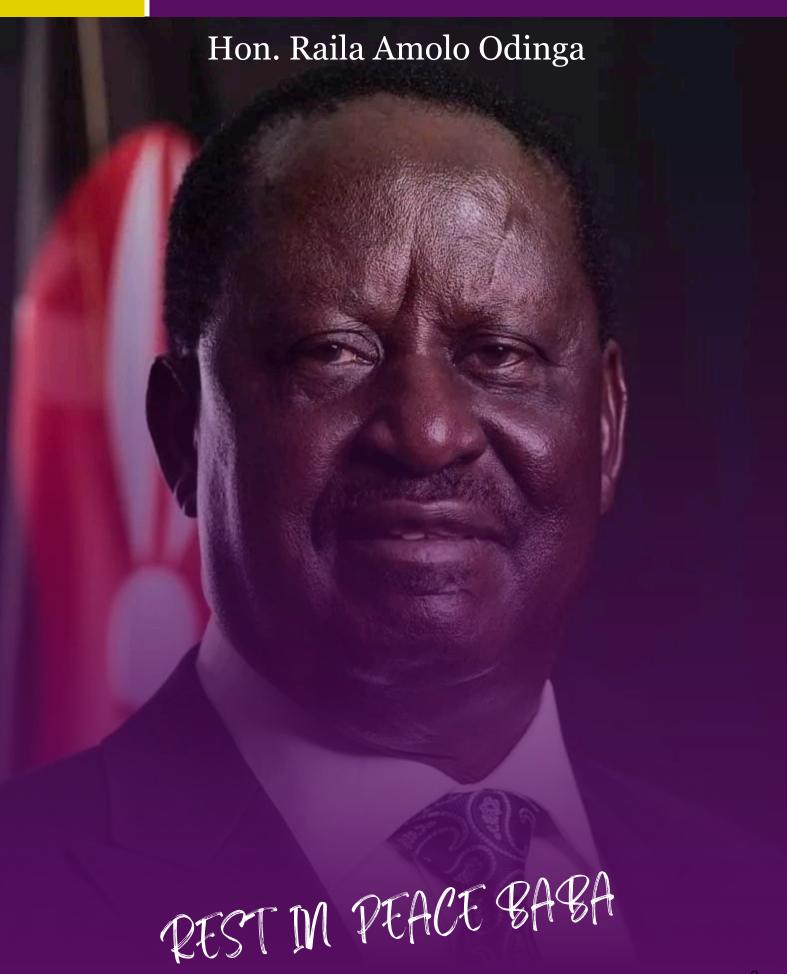
What emerged from the forum was a collective resolve to turn collaboration into measurable impact, ensuring that the gains of development reach even the most marginalised communities. Stakeholders agreed that the road ahead demands consistency, political goodwill, and a sustained commitment to dismantling systemic inequalities.

For NGEC and its partners, this moment marked more than a meeting — it was a reaffirmation of Kenya's promise to its people: that progress will not be built on exclusion, but on equity, justice, and shared opportunity.

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