



# Equality Bulletin



## Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusion: A Step Towards a More Inclusive Future

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- Education as a Catalyst for Equality: Kiharu Masomo Bora 2025 Launched

In a significant move towards fostering inclusivity, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) met with Dr. Stephen Jackson, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Kenya, to discuss shared efforts aimed at ensuring that marginalized groups, particularly persons with disabilities (PWDs), are fully included across various sectors.

The meeting, led by NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, focused on co-creating impactful programs and interventions that would amplify the voices and needs of PWDs, ensuring that no one is left behind in the march towards development and equality.



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa poses for a photo with Dr. Stephen Jackson, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Kenya, during a courtesy call.

Dr. Jackson underscored the critical need for collaboration between UN agencies and the NGEC, particularly in driving initiatives that promote inclusivity in every aspect of society.

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## A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

As we usher in the New Year of 2025, we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, while focusing on the opportunities that lie ahead. The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) remains committed to advancing gender equality, promoting inclusion, and safeguarding the rights of all Kenyans, particularly the most vulnerable.

This year, as schools reopen, we are reminded of the critical role education plays in shaping a fairer and more equitable society. With the government's renewed focus on providing quality education for all, it is vital that we address the persistent disparities that continue to affect girls, children with disabilities, and marginalized groups. Our collective efforts must ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the chance to thrive in an environment that supports their well-being and potential.

In line with the ongoing efforts to reduce inequalities, NGEC continues to engage with stakeholders across all sectors to strengthen the policies that protect and empower women, youth, persons with disabilities, and other special interest groups. This is a time for renewed commitment to the fight against gender-based violence, unequal access to opportunities, and the ongoing barriers to full political and economic inclusion.

As we step into 2025, let us remember that each of us plays a role in fostering a society that upholds the dignity, rights, and freedom of every individual. Together, we can build a future where equality is not just a goal, but a reality.

We look forward to your continued support and partnership as we work towards a more just and equitable Kenya.

**Happy New Year from the NGEC family.**

**Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS**

Chief Executive Officer

**National Gender and Equality Commission**



## THE COMMISSION



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**Commissioner**



## Empowering Youth for Gender Equality: Kisumu's Pioneering Role in Inclusive Development

In Kisumu County, a transformative movement is taking shape, placing young women and men at the forefront of the fight for gender equality and social inclusion. At the heart of this initiative lies Women Volunteers for Peace (WOVOP), whose tireless efforts to dismantle systemic barriers are inspiring a wave of change across the region.

Supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Amkeni Wakenya, WOVP is spearheading a project that not only empowers youth but also builds a foundation for sustainable and inclusive development.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is more than a policy goal—it's a cornerstone of progress. Communities flourish when everyone has equal opportunities to contribute and thrive, regardless of gender, age, or social status.

GESI tackles the systemic obstacles that prevent marginalized groups from accessing resources, education, and leadership opportunities, fostering a society where no one is left behind.

"Kisumu's youth have untapped potential to be change-makers," says Davis Okeyo, a representative of NGECK. "By addressing inequality and exclusion, we're paving the way for a more equitable future."



Participants gather for a group photo during the capacity-building workshops supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Amkeni Wakenya, WOVP

### Youth as Agents of Change

At the core of this initiative is the belief that young people are pivotal in driving societal transformation. WOVP's workshops, dialogue forums, and community outreach programs are equipping youth with the skills to advocate for gender justice and inclusive policies. These efforts aim to cultivate innovation and resilience among the next generation of leaders.

Collaboration has been instrumental in scaling the impact of WOVP's work. UNDP and Amkeni Wakenya's support has bolstered the initiative, providing resources and technical expertise to amplify its reach.

Together, these partnerships are advancing Kenya's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

As Kisumu leads the charge in promoting GESI, the ripple effects are undeniable. The initiative's success is inspiring neighboring counties to adopt similar approaches, demonstrating that inclusive development is achievable through collaboration, empowerment, and a shared commitment to equity.



## Forging Paths to Equality: NGEK and DLCI Unite for Inclusive Development

In a significant step towards advancing equality and inclusion in Kenya, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), held discussions with Ms. Bilach Jimale, Programme Manager of the Dryland Learning and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI).

The meeting underscored the shared commitment of both organizations to address the challenges faced by minority and marginalized groups across the country.

DLCI has long been at the forefront of advocating for the rights of underserved communities in Kenya's arid and semi-arid regions. Its grassroots initiatives, aimed at empowering these often-overlooked populations, align seamlessly with NGEK's mandate of promoting equality, safeguarding human rights, and ensuring that no group is left behind in national development.

During the meeting, Chairperson Jaldesa emphasized the importance of collaboration in achieving meaningful and lasting change. "DLCI's extensive network and expertise in working with vulnerable communities present a valuable opportunity to implement impactful programs that resonate with the lives of those most in need," she remarked.

Ms. Jimale echoed the sentiment, noting that partnerships like this are crucial in amplifying efforts to foster equality.



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson, engaged in discussions with Ms. Bilach Jimale, Programme Manager of the Dryland Learning and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI).

"Together, we can create a unified platform that not only highlights the issues faced by marginalized groups but also provides sustainable solutions through policy and practice," she said.

This collaboration aims to deliver a range of initiatives designed to enhance access to resources, education, and economic opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

By leveraging each other's strengths, NGEK and DLCI seek to address systemic barriers that perpetuate inequality, ensuring that Kenya's development is inclusive and equitable.

As the nation continues to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, the partnership between NGEK and DLCI represents a beacon of hope. It serves as a reminder that collective action, driven by shared values and goals, is key to transforming the lives of Kenya's most vulnerable citizens.

This story reflects the power of strategic alliances in driving social change, with NGEK and DLCI leading the charge toward a more inclusive Kenya.

With their combined efforts, the vision of a society where every individual has an equal opportunity to thrive is closer to becoming a reality.

## Empowering Change: A Launch of Hope for Women and Youth in Dagoretti South

In a powerful show of solidarity and commitment to gender equality, Chairperson Rehema Jaldesa joined Dagoretti South Member of Parliament Beatrice Elachi for an inspiring launch aimed at empowering women and youth in the region. The event, which drew a diverse group of participants, was not just a celebration of progress but a call to action for addressing some of the most pressing societal issues that affect vulnerable populations.

At the heart of the launch was a focus on combating gender-based violence (GBV) and protecting the rights of individuals. Both leaders passionately spoke about the devastating impact of GBV on individuals and families, urging the community to take a stand. "We must work together to break the silence surrounding gender-based violence," Chairperson Jaldesa stated during her speech. "It is only through collective action and support that we can ensure the safety and dignity of every woman and youth in our society."



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa at the launch of an empowerment initiative for women and youth

The event, which also included workshops and discussions on empowerment, featured a diverse lineup of speakers who shared their expertise on how to combat human rights violations effectively.

Through this initiative, the leaders aim to create a more inclusive and supportive environment, where the voices of women and youth are heard, respected, and acted upon. As the community continues to come together, there is hope that these efforts will lead to lasting change—one where every individual can live free from violence and discrimination.



## Building Bridges for Inclusion: NGEK and UN Agencies Unite for Change

>>> CONTINUATION

Such efforts are in alignment with global efforts to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 10, which calls for reducing inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

"It is imperative that we work together to address the gaps that hinder the full participation of persons with disabilities in society. This partnership represents our collective commitment to aligning with global efforts to create a world where every individual, regardless of ability, can thrive," Dr. Jackson remarked during the meeting.

This call to action was met with a strong response from Chairperson Rehema Jaldesa, who expressed her gratitude for the technical and financial support that the UN has provided to NGEK since its inception.

She acknowledged that these partnerships have been pivotal in advancing the Commission's mandate of promoting gender equality and inclusion for all, but stressed that there is still much work to be done. "We must continue to advocate for inclusive policies that reflect the realities of marginalized groups," Jaldesa said. "Inclusive practices in digital spaces, democratic systems, and the built environment are crucial for ensuring that PWDs and other underserved populations have equal opportunities to participate in all aspects of society."



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson, with NGEK members during a productive meeting with Dr. Stephen Jackson, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Kenya

The meeting highlighted the importance of not only addressing the immediate needs of marginalized groups but also ensuring long-term structural changes that promote equality and accessibility.

Hon. Jaldesa called for a future of partnerships that will not only enhance current programs but also create innovative, sustainable solutions for a more inclusive society.

These collaborations, she emphasized, are critical to making sure that all individuals, regardless of their background, gender, or physical ability, can fully engage in the economic, social, and political fabric of the country.

As the conversation around inclusion continues to evolve, the partnership between the NGEK and the United Nations promises to be a cornerstone in the quest for equality, providing much-needed momentum towards creating a future where every individual is afforded the opportunity to thrive, contribute, and be heard.

The collaboration between NGEK and the United Nations is just one example of how strategic partnerships can foster meaningful change. With the continued support of both local and international stakeholders, the vision of a society where no one is left behind is within reach.

## Championing Equality: Hon. Rehema Jaldesa Joins the Launch of Gender and Children Office at Kabati Police Station



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa signing the visitors' book at Kabati Police Station

In a significant step towards enhancing gender equality and child protection, Chairperson Rehema Jaldesa participated in the launch of the Gender and Children Office at Kabati Police Station.

This momentous occasion marks a critical milestone in the ongoing efforts to address issues of gender-based violence and child welfare in the region.

The new office, dedicated to handling cases involving women and children, is set to provide a much-needed safe space for victims to seek justice and support.

It will serve as a pivotal resource for the local community, empowering individuals to come forward with confidence, knowing their cases will be handled with sensitivity and care.

This initiative was brought to life by the tireless efforts of Mama Jigger, Eunice Ndung'u, whose remarkable volunteer work in the community has been nothing short of inspirational.

Known for her unwavering commitment to creating a safer, more equal society, Ndung'u has dedicated years to advocating for women's and children's rights. Her work has earned her the respect and admiration of many, with her advocacy making a lasting impact on the lives of those she serves.

The launch of this office is particularly timely, given the increasing recognition of the need for dedicated spaces that address the unique challenges faced by women and children in the justice system. With the support of local authorities, community leaders, and advocates like Eunice Ndung'u, the office is poised to become a powerful resource for those seeking justice, advocacy, and rehabilitation.

## Empowering Kenya: The Fusion of Green Energy and Gender Equality



The NGENC Research & Documentation team pose for a group photo during a courtesy call on the Chief Officer of Gender, Youth, and Social Services.

In a bold and transformative initiative, Kenya is shining a spotlight on the critical intersection of gender equality and green energy. Spearheaded by key stakeholders, including the Research & Documentation team of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and the Kisumu Regional Office, a courtesy call to the County Commissioner of Siaya has set the stage for an inclusive green energy revolution targeting Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

### A Visionary Step Forward

Leading the charge is Hon. Judith Oyugi, Chief Officer for Gender, Youth, and Social Services in Siaya County. In her inspiring address, Oyugi unveiled plans to establish a dedicated gender office within the county.

This strategic move seeks to amplify responses to the unique and diverse needs of women, men, youth, and other vulnerable groups. By integrating gender equity into governance, the county aims to set an exemplary standard for inclusivity and sustainability.

“This initiative underscores the importance of gender-responsive systems in addressing societal challenges,” remarked Oyugi. “By combining the principles of equality and sustainable energy, we’re paving the way for a brighter, more equitable future.”

### A Call to Action for Counties

The NGENC has urged counties across Kenya to adopt this progressive framework.

By creating gender-sensitive policies and embracing renewable energy solutions,

counties can unlock economic opportunities and enhance environmental conservation while addressing the specific needs of marginalized communities. This approach aligns with Kenya’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy.

The forum emphasized the critical role of SIGs—including women, youth, persons with disabilities, older members of society, and marginalized groups—in the adoption of renewable energy solutions.

Participants engaged in transformative dialogue, exploring innovative strategies to ensure equitable access to green energy technologies.

### Building Resilience and Reducing Inequalities

Transitioning to green energy is not just an environmental imperative—it’s a pathway to social and economic empowerment.

Access to renewable energy can significantly enhance the quality of life for vulnerable populations, offering cleaner cooking solutions, reliable lighting, and opportunities for entrepreneurship.

### Towards a Greener, More Equitable Future

As Kenya accelerates its journey towards sustainability, initiatives like those in Siaya serve as a blueprint for progress. The collaboration between government agencies, local leaders, and communities exemplifies the power of collective action in addressing global challenges.



NGEC's George Kimani engages with participants during the dissemination of green energy solutions to Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The NGENC continues to advocate for the equitable uptake of green energy innovations, urging all stakeholders to champion these solutions within their communities.

By fostering resilience, reducing inequalities, and prioritizing inclusivity, Kenya is positioning itself as a leader in the global transition to a greener planet. Together, we can build a sustainable future where no one is left behind.

Let’s champion gender equality and renewable energy as cornerstones of progress for generations to come.



## Education as a Catalyst for Equality: Kiharu Masomo Bora 2025 Launched

**Kiharu, Murang'a County** – The transformative power of education in bridging inequalities took center stage at the launch of the Kiharu Masomo Bora 2025 initiative at Mugoiri Mixed Day Secondary School. The event, hosted by Kiharu Member of Parliament Hon. Ndindi Nyoro, brought together distinguished leaders from diverse sectors to champion education as a critical tool for fostering equality and opportunity.



Commission Secretary/CEO speaking during the launch of the Kiharu Masomo Bora 2025 initiative at Mugoiri Mixed Day Secondary School.

Dr. Purity Ngina, the CEO of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), delivered a compelling keynote address emphasizing the pivotal role of education in promoting gender equity and bridging the socio-economic divide. "Education is more than a tool; it is the bridge that connects potential to opportunity, breaking cycles of poverty and enabling inclusivity for all," she remarked. Dr. Ngina highlighted the need for tailored strategies to ensure universal access to education, particularly for marginalized groups such as girls and children with disabilities.

The event was further graced by Ms. Nancy Njau, CEO of Family Bank, who reaffirmed the institution's commitment to supporting educational programs through sustainable financial solutions.

"Investing in education is investing in the future of our nation," Ms. Njau noted, adding that Family Bank will partner with local communities to enhance access to learning resources.

Mr. Shaka Kariuki, Chairman of Kuramo Capital, spoke on the importance of public-private partnerships in transforming education systems. He called on stakeholders to invest in digital learning tools and infrastructure to prepare students for the evolving demands of the global economy.

Hon. Ndindi Nyoro lauded the initiative, describing Kiharu Masomo Bora 2025 as a bold step toward achieving educational excellence in the constituency. "This program is not just about academic success; it's about nurturing leaders who will champion equity, innovation, and integrity in their communities," he said.

The MP pledged to expand the initiative to reach more schools and provide additional scholarships for underprivileged students.

The event was marked by the donation of books, digital devices, and scholarships to over 200 students, underscoring the initiative's goal of fostering inclusive and quality education for all.

The launch of Kiharu Masomo Bora 2025 is expected to inspire similar programs across the country, cementing education's role as a catalyst for equality and national development.

### SPECIAL ISSUE



## THE KENYA GAZETTE

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GAZETTE NOTICE NO. 109

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) INCLUDING FEMICIDE

APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, Article 45 of the Constitution posits the family as the basic unit of society and the necessary basis of social order;

WHEREAS, Articles 28 and 29 of the Constitution affirm the inherent dignity of every individual and their right to freedom and security;

WHEREAS, these articles, as read together with other provisions of the Constitution, provide the framework to guarantee the protection of these rights as well as other unalienable rights, through security that encompasses the protection from all forms of violence, whether public or private;

WHEREAS, the Government takes note of the rising cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the country, with increased cases of the killings of women and girls, generally referred to as Femicide;

WHEREAS, such cases grossly undermine the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under Article 26 (Right to Life), Article 27 (Equality and Freedom from Discrimination), Article 28 (Human Dignity), Article 29 (Freedom and Security of the Person) and Article 48 (Access to Justice) of the Constitution;

WHEREAS, Kenya has ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) for the protection and promotion of women's rights;

WHEREAS, the Government, as part of the community of nations made commitments under international conventions and treaties, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

WHEREAS, these treaties obligate the State to take measures to prevent, respond to and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

NOW THEREFORE, having given due consideration to the profound threat that this pervasive menace poses to our nation's collective pursuit of gender parity, I do note as follows:

I. THAT the increased cases of GBV and Femicide continue to cause immense physical, emotional, and economic harm to individuals, families, and communities, exacerbating gender inequalities and impeding sustainable development;

II. THAT there are existing gaps in prevention, response, investigation, prosecution, data management, and survivor support systems in GBV and Femicide cases; and

III. THAT such egregious violations pose a threat to our national security as well as strain the nation's social fabric.

FOR REASONS WHEREFORE, I, William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces, in exercise of the powers conferred on the Head of State and Government by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Kenya, do

(a) Establish a Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including Femicide, to assess, review, and recommend measures to strengthen the institutional, legal, and policy response to GBV and Femicide in the country;

(b) The Technical Working Group shall comprise of:

Chairperson

Nancy Baraza (Dr.)

Members:

Mohammed Wathala Aidi,

Ruth Auri Odhiambo (Dr.),

Linh Kilimo,

Edna Ngari Ngendo (Dr.),

Linda Mumbwa (Dr.),

Nobert Talam,

Michael Karuki,

Charles Immanuel Otieno Odide,

Diana Christine Njau,

Peter Mwangi Kimani,

Anthony Nzioki,

Sarum Ipa Koreema,

Anne Ngetich,

Wangui Kanja (Dr.),

Franklin Wanjau,

Harlem Kaur Jabbal,

Bashir Isak (Dr.).

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THE KENYA GAZETTE

10th January, 2025

Valentine Chepkoech Simen,  
Shem Nyakuma,  
Jany Leakey,  
Beatrice Karwacha,  
Lucy Njiru Mwangi,  
Purity Ngina (Dr.),  
Sam Thanya (Dr.),  
Suzanne Ndanyi,  
Antonia Nyabala Sodomon,  
Mercy Karanja (Dr.),  
Olivia Wawira,  
Faith Odhiambo,  
Ann Ireri,  
Seth Mawere,  
Markethi Marigala.

Joint Secretaries:

Caroline Jerono Kihwirot,  
Jessica Achungi Omondi,  
Geoffrey Rotich,  
Baldwin Anyiga.

Secretariat:

Rosemary Marigali,  
Kepha Ojwang,  
Philonela Loutarengan.

1. The Terms of Reference of the Technical Working Group are:

(a) Identify trends, hotspots, and causes contributing to GBV and Femicide;

(b) Analyse the adequacy of current legal and policy frameworks in addressing GBV and Femicide;

(c) Propose amendments to strengthen laws, improve enforcement, and close existing legislative gaps;

(d) Evaluate resource allocation, training levels, and operational effectiveness in managing prevention, response, support and investigations related to cases on GBV and Femicide;

(e) Conduct community engagements to gather input on solutions to combat GBV and Femicide;

(f) Provide actionable recommendations on prevention, investigation, prosecution, and survivor support mechanisms in GBV and Femicide cases;

(g) Examine the role of social media coverage in GBV and Femicide, including its influence on public perception, awareness, and policy-making;

(h) Identify psychological issues related to the commission of crimes associated with GBV and Femicide;

(i) Establish socioeconomic challenges contributing and exacerbating to the commission of GBV and Femicide;

(j) Recommend proposals to strengthen family ties, foster harmonious co-existence among family members, and develop social structures that support the resolution of domestic disputes;

2. In the performance of its tasks, the Technical Working Group shall:

(a) Co-opt any person(s) deemed necessary or expedient for the effective discharge of its functions;

(b) Conduct public hearings and/or receive information in private (where necessary in camera) as part of its mandate;

(c) Convene meetings, forums, or consultations at such locations and times as necessary for the proper execution of its mandate;

(d) May come to be called on such studies or research or obtain advice as may inform or assist the Task Force on its mandate;

(e) Review and consider reports, judgments, or findings of past or ongoing cases related to GBV and Femicide;

(f) Examine official reports, policies, legislation, or other relevant documents concerning GBV and Femicide;

(g) To invite written submissions and memorandums from the members of the public;

(h) Have such powers necessary or expedient for the proper execution of its functions, including the power to regulate its own procedures;

(i) Create committees or sub-committees to expedite the discharge of its tasks;

(j) Enact, where appropriate, the safety and protection of participants;

(k) Engage and work collaboratively with the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) for effective support in the discharge of its mandate; and

(l) Where necessary and for the extension of time from the appointing authority to enable it complete its work.

3. At its first meeting, the members shall select a vice chairperson from amongst the members.

4. In furtherance of the objectives and purpose of the Technical Working Group, all State entities are directed to afford the Technical Working Group all necessary support and cooperation.

5. The Technical Working Group is expected to develop a report and submit it to the appointing authority within a period of ninety (90) days with effect from the date of this notice, or for such longer period as may, by notice in the Gazette, be extended.

6. The Technical Working Group shall report to H.E. the Deputy President, through the Principal Secretary for Gender, who will be the chairperson of a Principal Secretaries' Oversight Committee comprising of Principal Secretaries of the State Departments of Internal Security and National Administration, Social Protection, Health, Disaster Affairs, Tourism, Cabinet Affairs, Devolution, Higher Education and Research, Technical Vocational Education and Training, and the Labour Gazette.

7. The Secretariat of the Technical Working Group shall be at the Ministry of Interior and National Administration.

The Secretariat address shall be:

Ministry of Interior and National Administration,  
P.O. Box 30510-00100,  
Haromee House,  
Nairobi.

Dated the 9th January, 2025.

WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO,  
President.

## Uniting Voices for Equality: Kenya's Minority Communities Rally for Constitutional Justice

In an inspiring demonstration of unity and determination, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) stood shoulder to shoulder with Kenya's minority communities at the historic Bomas of Kenya. The event celebrated the rights of marginalized groups while amplifying calls for the full implementation of Articles 56 and 100 of the Kenyan Constitution.

The vibrant gathering brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds, united by a shared commitment to inclusion and equality. Amid the lively atmosphere, traditional performances, and spirited discussions, one message resonated clearly: the time for action is now.

### A Constitution in Focus: Articles 56 and 100

At the heart of the event was a powerful reaffirmation of constitutional principles. Article 56 calls for affirmative action to ensure that marginalized and minority groups have equitable access to governance, education, and development opportunities.

Complementing this, Article 100 mandates Parliament to enact measures promoting the representation of marginalized communities, including minorities, youth, women, and persons with disabilities.

"We are committed to fighting for the actualization of these constitutional guarantees," declared Hon. Jaldesa, NGEC Chairperson, to a rapturous crowd. "The promises made to minority groups must transcend words and become a lived reality."

Her rallying cry was met with chants of solidarity from attendees, a poignant reminder of the collective desire for a Kenya where diversity is celebrated and dignity is upheld.

### Stories of Struggle and Hope

Under the theme "Inclusion, Equity, and Dignity for All," community representatives shared deeply moving testimonies. They painted a vivid picture of the challenges faced by minority groups: limited access to education and healthcare, systemic exclusion, and underrepresentation in leadership.

Yet, amid these accounts of struggle, there was also hope. The gathering underscored a shared vision for an inclusive Kenya, driven by collaboration between government bodies, civil society, and grassroots movements.



Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa joins Hon. Rebecca Miano, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, and the President's Advisor on Women's Rights, Hon. Harriette Chiggai, in a celebratory dance during the International Minority Rights Day celebrations.

The NGEC reaffirmed its role as a steadfast advocate for the rights of marginalized groups. "As a Commission, we remain resolute in advancing the rights of minority communities," said Hon. Jaldesa.

"Let this event serve as a reminder that Kenya thrives when no one is left behind. Together, we will build a nation that honours its diversity and protects the dignity of every citizen."

Workshops and panel discussions during the event explored practical strategies for realizing constitutional commitments. Experts, activists, and government representatives discussed policy reforms, resource allocation, and the critical role of grassroots empowerment in bridging systemic gaps.

Beyond the speeches and discussions, the event offered a vibrant showcase of Kenya's cultural diversity. Traditional dances, songs, and art illuminated the unique contributions of minority groups to the nation's heritage, weaving a tapestry of resilience and pride.

"This celebration is a testament to the power of our communities," said one participant. "It's a reminder that our identities enrich Kenya's story, and our voices matter."

### The Road Ahead: A Call to Action

The collective commitment to justice, equity, and inclusion marked a significant milestone in the journey toward fulfilling Kenya's constitutional promises.

"This is just the beginning," asserted a community leader. "We are here to stay, to speak, and to demand our rights. Together, we are stronger."

The NGEC, alongside Kenya's minority communities, has laid the groundwork for transformative change. By championing the principles of inclusion and equity, they are ensuring that the Constitution's promise becomes a reality for every Kenyan.

### In Unity, Strength

The event at the Bomas of Kenya served as a powerful reminder: when voices unite, barriers crumble.

As Kenya's minority communities and the NGEC push forward, they are building a future where every citizen, regardless of background, can thrive with dignity and equality.



## Bridging Gaps: Pioneering Inclusivity in Infrastructure Development

In a pivotal meeting that signals a new chapter for inclusive development, Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), engaged in productive discussions with Simba Guleid, Chairperson of the Frontier Counties Development Council and a consultant with World Bank Kenya. The dialogue centred on forging a partnership between NGEC and the World Bank to champion inclusivity and equity within Kenya's transport infrastructure sector.

As Kenya advances its ambitious infrastructure agenda, questions around equity and accessibility remain at the forefront. Chairperson Jaldesa reaffirmed the Commission's steadfast commitment to embedding equality in development, particularly by assessing the social impact of infrastructure projects on Special Interest Groups (SIGs), including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalised communities. "The true measure of progress lies in its inclusivity," remarked Jaldesa. "Through partnerships like these, we can ensure that infrastructure development not only drives economic growth but also uplifts every segment of society."



Simba Guleid, Chairperson of the Frontier Counties Development Council and World Bank Kenya Consultant, receives a publication from Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa

The partnership envisions integrating evidence-based interventions to make infrastructure projects more inclusive.

This approach will scrutinise how roads, bridges, and transport hubs affect the everyday lives of SIGs, ensuring that no group is left behind in the march towards modernisation.

Simba Guleid praised the Commission's proactive stance, noting that equity in infrastructure is not merely a moral obligation but a critical driver of sustainable development.

"When infrastructure serves everyone, it unlocks opportunities, fosters social cohesion, and paves the way for a more equitable future," he said.

The proposed collaboration underscores the transformative potential of merging policy expertise with the resources and global experience of the World Bank. Together, NGEC and the World Bank aim to reimagine Kenya's infrastructure as a vehicle for equality, ensuring projects are designed with a people-centred approach that prioritises access, safety, and empowerment.

This partnership is poised to set a precedent for how development initiatives can balance growth with social responsibility, promising a future where Kenya's infrastructure connects more than just places – it connects people, fostering inclusion, equity, and shared prosperity.

Incorporating evidence-based interventions into the design and execution of such projects is essential to fostering a more inclusive society. By considering the needs of SIGs in every phase of infrastructure development, the NGEC aims to build a future where fairness, accessibility, and inclusivity are not just ideals, but realities.

As the Commission continues to champion inclusivity, this partnership with the World Bank signals a positive step towards creating sustainable and equitable growth across the nation, transforming the transport sector and other infrastructure projects into avenues for empowerment and opportunity for all.

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Reinsurance Plaza, 3rd Floor, Wing B,  
Oginga Odinga Street,  
Kisumu Town.

Nakuru Regional Office  
Tamoh Plaza, 1st Floor, Kijabe Street,  
Nakuru Town.

Garissa Regional Office  
KRA Route off Lamu Road, Province,  
Garissa Town.

Kilifi Regional Office  
Malindi Complex, off Lamu-Malindi Road,  
Malindi Town.

Kitui Regional Office  
Nzambani Park, off Kitui Referral Hospital Road,  
Kitui Town.

Isiolo Regional Office  
County Estate, Along Kiwanjani Road  
Isiolo Town