



Equality Bulletin



Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa Sworn in as Chairperson: A New Era for Equality and Inclusion

HEADLINE STORIES

- Empowering Communities, Advancing Justice: A Bold New Chapter in Combating Gender-Based Violence
- Kitui Rallies for Change: 15 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
- Bridging the Gap: NGEC Pushes for Bold Reforms at Disability Inclusion Conference 2024
- NGEC Joins Forces with Treasury to Bridge Funding Gap for Gender-Based Violence Prevention
- Leading the Charge to End GBV Amid Alarming Rise in Femicide

In a momentous ceremony that signals a renewed commitment to equality, inclusion, and social justice, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) welcomed Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa as its new Chairperson and Michael Nzomo Mbithuka as Commissioner.

The swearing-in ceremony, presided over by Her Ladyship Hon. Martha Koome, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, marks a new chapter in the fight for equality in Kenya.

As Hon. Jaldesa takes on the mantle of leadership, her vision is one of inclusivity, ensuring that the voices of those often sidelined are heard, valued, and acted upon. She emphasized the importance of ensuring the visibility of the Commission and securing the necessary funding to support its vital work.



>>> SEE PAGE 4

A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to the fifth edition of the Equality Bulletin. This issue is particularly special as we warmly welcome Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa, our new Chairperson, and Commissioner Michael Nzomo to the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC). Their appointment heralds a new chapter for the Commission as we focus on advancing our mandate to promote equality and inclusion for all Kenyans.

Their arrival comes at a crucial moment, as we have just concluded the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). During this campaign, the Commission amplified advocacy efforts to combat GBV across the country, raising awareness, fostering partnerships, and pushing for actionable solutions.

As Hon. Jaldesa and Commissioner Nzomo begin their tenure, I assure them of the firm support of the Secretariat in achieving the Commission's strategic objectives over the next six years. Together, we will focus on tackling all forms of discrimination, addressing complaints from citizens, and promoting sustainable frameworks for equality and inclusivity.

The Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding human dignity, addressing systemic inequalities, and ensuring every Kenyan has access to equal opportunities. I invite you to stay engaged with our work, share your feedback, and partner with us in creating a fairer, more just society.

Once again, congratulations to Hon. Jaldesa and Commissioner Nzomo as they embark on this important journey. Let us continue working together to make Kenya a beacon of equality for all.



Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS
Chief Executive Officer
National Gender and Equality Commission

THE COMMISSION



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa
Chairperson



Thomas Okoth Koyier, EBS
Vice Chairperson



Caroline N. Lentupuru, MBS, HSC
Commissioner



Michael Nzomo
Commissioner



Dr. Margaret Karungaru, MBS
Commissioner

Empowering Communities, Advancing Justice: A Bold New Chapter in Combating Gender-Based Violence

Nyando Sub-county, Kisumu – In an inspiring display of commitment to justice and equality, the Kisumu Regional Office, in collaboration with the Judiciary, hosted an Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group event in Nyando Sub-county.

This initiative, which formed part of the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), took place at Karanda Primary School and aimed to empower local communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to fight gender-based violence.

At the heart of the event was a groundbreaking simulation of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) case management, offering the public an immersive and insightful demonstration of the courtroom procedures involved in GBV cases. The simulation provided participants with a firsthand understanding of the justice process, showcasing the GBV case referral pathway and the critical roles of various duty bearers within the justice chain.



NGEC Kisumu Regional's Stephanie Chebet at the Equality and Inclusion Technical Working Group event in Nyando Sub-county

The importance of this event cannot be overstated. With alarming increases in cases of femicide and defilement across the region, raising legal awareness and ensuring inclusive access to justice has become more urgent than ever.

This collaborative effort serves as a reminder that legal systems are not merely abstract concepts but tangible tools that must be accessible and understandable to the people they serve.

"Empowering communities with the knowledge of their rights and the legal processes available to them is the first step toward a more just and inclusive society," said Stephanie Chebet from the Kisumu Regional Office. "By familiarising citizens with the justice system, we can reduce barriers and build trust, enabling more survivors of GBV to come forward and seek the justice they deserve."

The event also served to clarify the roles of judicial officers, police, and other key stakeholders in handling GBV cases. By breaking down the often complex legal processes into easily digestible steps, the simulation provided clarity on how cases are handled, from the reporting stage through to the court hearings, and emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach to ensuring justice for survivors.

In addition to offering a valuable learning experience for attendees, the event was a call to action. As gender-based violence continues to plague many communities, it is clear that addressing this issue requires not only legal reform but a societal shift towards greater accountability, inclusivity, and protection of women and girls.

As the event concluded, attendees left with a renewed sense of empowerment and a deeper understanding of the role they can play in combatting gender-based violence. The event was a powerful reminder that justice is not a privilege but a fundamental right, and that protecting the rights of women and girls requires concerted effort from every corner of society.

Garissa Women Lead the Charge: Grassroots Dialogue Sparks Empowerment in the Battle Against Gender-Based Violence

As part of the ongoing **16DaysOfActivism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and Action Aid Kenya united for a significant event in Kamuthe village, Garissa County. This powerful grassroots dialogue was not just a forum for discussion—it was a call to action, designed to amplify the voices of marginalized women and drive community-led change.

The forum saw participants, including local leaders, community members, and activists, share their personal experiences with GBV, highlight the challenges they face, and propose solutions tailored to their unique context. From advocating for the protection of women's rights to promoting awareness of the violence that women and girls face, the discussions were heartfelt and impactful.



Abdiwahab Mohamed, NGEC Garissa Regional Head, sharing insights at the Grassroots Dialogue Forum

One of the key takeaways from the dialogue was the collective power of communities working together to combat GBV.

The emphasis was placed on collaboration among local leaders, organisations,~

and community members to devise strategies and take meaningful steps towards a safer, more equitable society for all.

This event demonstrated that grassroots engagement is crucial in the fight against gender-based violence, and highlighted the importance of every voice in shaping a more just future. With a united effort, we can ensure that every woman and girl lives with dignity and freedom, free from the shadow of violence.

As we continue our work through the **16DaysOfActivism**, it's clear: Every voice matters. Every action counts. Together, we can eliminate GBV and create lasting change.

Kitui Rallies for Change: 15 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

In a spirited display of unity and resolve, the Kitui office of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) joined hands with stakeholders and community members at ACC Grounds, Kanyangi Ward, Kitui Rural Sub-County, to commemorate the 15th day of the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**.

This impactful forum underscored the urgent need to prevent and respond to GBV through a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach. Representatives from health, legal, and psychosocial services illuminated the pathways available to survivors, emphasizing holistic care and timely support.

Collaboration took center stage, with key partners—the County Government of Kitui, ADRA Kenya, World Vision, and SDFGAA—joining forces to bolster advocacy and amplify community action.

Together, they painted a future where accountability and justice are more than ideals but lived realities.

Step Forward: Nakuru Walk Calls for End to Femicide in Kenya

In a powerful display of solidarity, the Nakuru Regional Office, in collaboration with several local organisations, led a march through Nakuru to raise awareness on the devastating issue of femicide. The walk served as a poignant reminder of the critical need to protect the lives and dignity of women and girls across Kenya.

Femicide, the gender-based killing of women, remains a pervasive threat to women's safety and equality in Kenya. In light of recent tragic events, the march's message was clear: urgent action is needed to address this violence and ensure justice for victims.



NGEC Kitui Regional Irene Musau join hands to mark the 15th day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

"GBV remains a profound violation of human rights and dignity," the NGEN affirmed. "Our collective efforts must ensure survivors are not silenced but supported, and that every voice in the fight against violence is heard."

As the campaign theme declares, there is No Excuse for Abuse. Let us honor the spirit of the 16 Days of Activism by committing to a society rooted in equality, safety, and respect for all.

This gathering highlighted the power of collaboration in creating lasting change, reflecting NGEN's mandate to promote inclusivity, dignity, and non-discrimination for all Kenyans.



Participants marching for justice in Nakuru, united against femicide

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) stands firm in its commitment to combatting violence against women and girls, calling on communities, leaders, and individuals to come together to advocate for justice and create safe spaces where women and girls can thrive without fear.

This march, part of a wider national movement, highlighted the need for collective action. As the Commission continues its efforts, we urge all Kenyans to join the fight to #EndFemicideKE and build a society where every life is valued and protected.

Breaking Barriers: Women's Economic Empowerment Key to Kenya's Growth

A dynamic panel discussion during the Kenya Economic Update brought together experts, including Dr. Joy Kiiru from the University of Nairobi, Dr. Jared Osoro of the Monetary Policy Committee, and Josephine Kagucia, Principal Research Officer at the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC).

Moderated by Abha Prasad from the World Bank, the conversation explored how empowering women economically can ignite inclusive growth across Kenya.

The panel emphasized the pervasive impact of early marriage and parenthood on women's participation in the workforce and their earning potential. These barriers exacerbate the gender gap, limiting economic opportunities and the nation's prosperity.



NGEC's Josephine Kagucia (left) during the Kenya Economic Update panel discussion

Josephine Kagucia highlighted the NGEN's pivotal role in addressing these systemic challenges, advocating for policies that dismantle socio-economic barriers for women. She called for intensified efforts to curb harmful practices and ensure access to education, vocational training, and resources for women and girls.

With the discourse shedding light on practical solutions, the event underscored that advancing gender equality is not just a moral imperative but an economic necessity for Kenya's sustainable development.

Unlocking a New Era: Advancing Equality and Social Justice for All

>>> CONTINUATION



Michael Nzomo takes the oath of office as Commissioner

In a historic moment for the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa was sworn in as Chairperson, alongside Michael Nzomo Mbithuka as Commissioner, in a ceremony that took place earlier this week. Presided over by the esteemed Her Ladyship Hon. Martha Koome, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, the occasion heralds a new dawn for equality and inclusion in Kenya.

This appointment represents a significant step forward in Kenya's commitment to advancing the rights of all citizens, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable groups. The NGEC has long played a pivotal role in promoting gender equality, social justice, and human rights, and with these new appointments, the commission is poised to drive even more impactful change.

Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa, in her address following the swearing-in, expressed a strong vision for the future of the Commission. "Together, let us strive to champion the rights of women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), children, older members of society, minorities, and marginalized groups," she said. Her words resonated deeply with the many witnesses and supporters of the Commission, underscoring her unwavering commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunities for all Kenyans.

The ceremony was not only a formal occasion but also an affirmation of the transformative action that will follow under the leadership of Hon. Jaldesa. The new Chairperson's leadership promises to bring renewed focus to issues of gender equality, economic empowerment, and access to justice for Kenya's most vulnerable populations.

Alongside the newly sworn-in leaders, key figures such as Commissioner Thomas Okoth Koyer, EBS, Caroline N. Lentupuru, MBS, HSC, and Commission Secretary/CEO Purity Ngina were present, demonstrating the Commission's unity and collective strength as they embark on this critical journey.

The NGEC has consistently been at the forefront of addressing the needs and challenges of special interest groups in Kenya.

This new era, under the stewardship of Hon. Jaldesa, is expected to amplify the Commission's efforts in ensuring that the voices of women, youth, people with disabilities, children, the elderly, and other marginalized groups are heard,

respected, and championed in all aspects of society.

As the country continues to make strides in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the areas of gender equality, access to education, and economic inclusion, the role of the NGEC has never been more critical. The Commission's renewed focus under its new leadership is set to influence policies, advocate for rights, and drive lasting change that ensures no Kenyan is left behind.

As Kenya moves into a new era of progressive policies and societal reforms, the swearing-in of Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa and Michael Nzomo Mbithuka at the NGEC marks not only a fresh leadership change but also a firm commitment to the values of equality, justice, and inclusive development. The Commission's mission is clear: to ensure that every Kenyan, regardless of their gender, age, or background, has an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive in the country's future.



Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Chairperson, with Her Ladyship Martha K. Koome after taking the oath of office

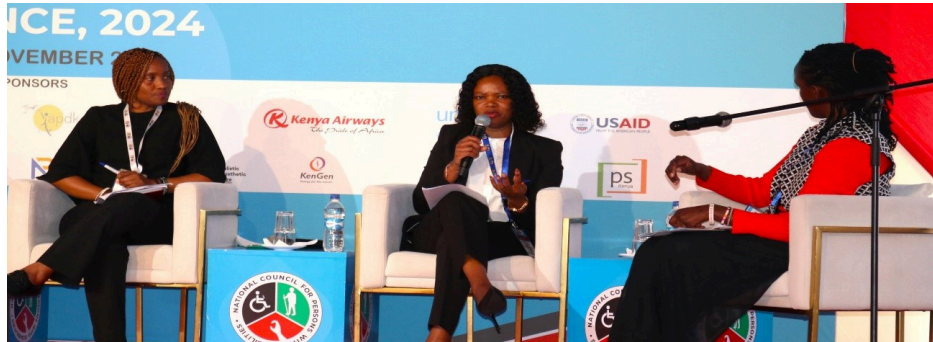
As the Commission embarks on this new journey, collaboration will be at the forefront of its mission. By working closely with other governmental bodies, civil society organisations, and international partners, the Commission aims to tackle the structural barriers that perpetuate inequality and exclusion in Kenya.



(Left-Right) Vice Chairperson Thomas Koyer, EBS, Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, Commissioner Caroline N. Lentupuru, MBS, HSC, and Commissioner Michael Nzomo at the Headquarters

It is a call for all Kenyans to come together, advocating for transformative policies and practices that ensure a more equitable future for every citizen, regardless of their background, gender, or social standing.

Bridging the Gap: NGEC Pushes for Bold Reforms at Disability Inclusion Conference 2024



(Centre)Purity Ngina, CEO/Commission Secretary of NGEC, at the National Disability Inclusion Conference 2024, KICD, Nairobi.

In a resounding call for inclusivity, Dr. Purity Ngina, Chief Executive Officer of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), lent her expertise to the National Disability Inclusion Conference 2024, held at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) in Nairobi on November 27–28. The high-level gathering convened policymakers, activists, and stakeholders to assess Kenya’s progress in fostering a society that leaves no one behind.

As a distinguished panelist in the session “Disability Legislation: Evaluating Progress and Gaps”, Dr. Ngina delivered a thought-provoking analysis on “Review of Key Legislation: Progress and Gaps in Disability and Inclusion Policies”. Her remarks, both incisive and inspiring, highlighted Kenya’s legal milestones, while shedding light on the significant gaps that hinder the realization of full equality and inclusion for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Dr. Ngina commended Kenya’s foundational steps toward disability inclusion, pointing to constitutional protections under Articles 27 and 54, the Persons with Disabilities Act (2003), and the country’s Vision 2030 framework. Yet, she emphasized the pressing need to address implementation shortfalls. “Despite the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the African Disability Protocol, enforcement mechanisms remain weak,” she stated. Her critique extended to critical policy areas such as education, employment, and public infrastructure, which, she argued, require urgent revision to align with the Constitution and international standards.

Dr. Ngina identified key barriers impeding disability rights in Kenya, including inaccessible public spaces, limited funding, and entrenched societal stigma. She stressed the disproportionate impact of these challenges in rural areas, where marginalization often runs deeper. She also called for the finalization of the Kenyan Sign Language Bill and amendments to existing policies, particularly those addressing health, education, and employment. Moreover, Dr. Ngina highlighted the vulnerabilities of specific groups within the disability community, such as persons with albinism, advocating for tailored legislative reforms to address their unique challenges. “Achieving a truly inclusive society demands not only strong laws but also collective action from stakeholders at all levels. Let us work together to eliminate barriers, empower persons with disabilities, and leave no one behind,” Dr. Ngina concluded.



Mr. Nzioka Nzomo(Right), Principal Program Officer, Disability and Elderly Division during the National Disability Inclusion Conference 2024, KICD, Nairobi.

The conference also spotlighted the critical role of data in disability inclusion. In a breakout session moderated by Mr. Nzioka Nzomo, Principal Program Officer for Disability and Elderly Division, participants explored how accurate, inclusive data can shape policies and programs that meet the unique needs of PWDs.

Nzomo highlighted data as a transformative tool, essential for effective decision-making and impactful change.

At the event’s exhibition, NGEC showcased its publications and initiatives, providing attendees with a deeper understanding of the Commission’s ongoing work.

Participants engaged directly with NGEC representatives, offering feedback and sharing their expectations for future collaboration.

As the National Disability Inclusion Conference 2024 drew to a close, a unified vision emerged: a Kenya where robust legislation, data-driven decision-making, and collective action empower all citizens, regardless of ability.

While strides have been made, challenges remain, particularly in enforcement, funding, and combating stigma.

NGEC reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for comprehensive reforms, public awareness campaigns, and collaborative efforts to dismantle barriers.

The conference served as a vital platform for dialogue and action, paving the way toward a more inclusive Kenya.

Driving Change: Empowering Women in Transport to Shape Gender-Equal Cities

Nairobi, December 6, 2024 — A spirited call for gender-responsive urban transport systems reverberated at the Safari Park Hotel this week as the Women and Transport Africa: Building Feminist Cities Conference concluded its 10th-anniversary celebration.

The event, spearheaded by the Fione Initiative, brought together local and international stakeholders committed to shaping urban spaces that prioritize inclusivity and equity.

Delivering the keynote address, Commissioner Caroline N. Lentupuru, MBS, HSC, of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEK), shed light on the systemic challenges plaguing urban transport systems. "Our cities are deeply gendered spaces," she remarked, critiquing how urban planning often neglects the distinct needs of women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

Commissioner Lentupuru's address underscored the reality that cities, though designed to appear neutral, often cater primarily to men's perspectives.

Women, especially rural migrants, face disproportionate challenges ranging from harassment in public transport to the inadequacy of safety infrastructure. "A rural woman's perspective on urban safety can illuminate the broader gaps in our transport systems," she observed, urging stakeholders to consider such lived experiences in policymaking.

The Commissioner's remarks were supported by key findings from NGEK's collaborative efforts with the Nairobi Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (NaMATA) and other stakeholders. These initiatives include gender-sensitive transport planning and anti-harassment campaigns, underscoring the pressing need for systemic reforms.



NGEK Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru delivers insightful remarks at the Women and Transport Conference 2024, Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi

The conference's timing, during the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, added urgency to the discussions. NGEK linked its advocacy efforts to this year's campaign theme, "Towards Beijing +30: UNITE to End Violence Against Women and Girls."

Commissioner Lentupuru highlighted NGEK's partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in piloting campaigns to combat gender-based violence in public transport. "By tackling GBV and building feminist cities, we are taking decisive steps toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals," she affirmed.

As the conference concluded, a resounding consensus emerged: the path to equitable urban transport lies in creating cities that are safe, inclusive, and responsive to diverse experiences. "By empowering women in transport and prioritizing inclusivity, we can build a future where urban environments support sustainability, resilience, and equality for all," Commissioner Lentupuru said in her closing remarks.

The Women and Transport Africa conference leaves Nairobi with a challenge and a promise—to reimagine urban transport systems that honour the dignity and safety

of every passenger, transforming not just cities, but lives.

Among the proposed solutions were:

- Gender-responsive planning: Incorporating women's perspectives in urban transport development.
- Infrastructure safety: Designing public spaces that prioritize safety and accessibility.
- Inclusivity in employment: Encouraging women to pursue careers in the transport sector and supporting female entrepreneurs in male-dominated industries such as boda-boda and matatu operations.

NGEK Joins Forces with Treasury to Bridge Funding Gap for Gender-Based Violence Prevention



(Left-Right) NGEK Commission Secretary Purity Ngina, Ag. Chairperson Thomas Okoth Koyier, EBS, Hon. CPA John Mbadi, Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning, and Commissioner Dr. Margaret Karungaru, MBS, pose for a group photo

In an important move to address the mounting crisis of gender-based violence (GBV) in Kenya, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEK) recently paid a courtesy call to Hon. CPA John Mbadi, the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning.

The meeting focused on the urgent need for additional resources to tackle the increasing cases of GBV and ensure equitable access to government programs for Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which include women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities.

The Commission's discussion with the Cabinet Secretary came against the backdrop of rising GBV cases across the country, compounded by insufficient funding to address these critical issues.

The NGEK underscored the necessity for a robust funding mechanism to not only support prevention and response programs but also to enhance systems for tracking and managing GBV cases efficiently.

It was noted that a lack of resources has hindered the ability to implement key interventions, including education and empowerment initiatives for the most vulnerable members of society.

One of the key points raised by the Cabinet Secretary was the urgent need for the NGEK to spearhead research into the root causes of GBV.

Hon. Mbadi emphasized that comprehensive and evidence-based research is critical to understanding the underlying drivers of gender violence, which will inform long-term solutions and policy reforms. The NGEK welcomed this suggestion, highlighting the importance of data-driven strategies for combating GBV.

The Commission outlined a series of critical requests, with a particular focus on securing the necessary resources to meet Kenya's international obligations related to gender equality and human rights.

These include support for programmatic initiatives designed to empower SIGs, tackle inequality, and curb the rise of GBV.

The NGEK reiterated its commitment to promoting inclusive and transparent governance, assuring the Treasury that funds would be allocated efficiently to ensure maximum impact.

In the meeting, both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10), which focuses on reducing inequalities. The Treasury and NGEK acknowledged that closing the funding gap is crucial for fostering equality, inclusion, and justice for all Kenyans.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration between government ministries and civil society organisations to drive these goals forward.

As Kenya faces the challenges of a rapidly changing socio-economic landscape, the NGEK remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard the rights of the most vulnerable groups in society. With the support of the Treasury, the Commission believes it can close the funding gap for programs aimed at promoting equality, inclusion, and justice.

This partnership marks a crucial step towards ensuring that Kenya remains on track to meet its national and international gender equality commitments.



Commission holds a meeting with Hon. CPA John Mbadi, Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury and Economic Planning, during a courtesy call

In conclusion, the NGEK's continued advocacy for funding and the empowerment of SIGs, along with its dedication to tackling GBV and inequality, underscores the Commission's unwavering commitment to building a more just and equitable society.

Through focused dialogue and collaboration, we can safeguard the future for Kenya's most vulnerable citizens and work towards a more inclusive and prosperous nation.

Shaping a Greener Future: Empowering Gender-Inclusive Climate Resilience for True Equity

Isiolo, Kenya – In a bold move to address the dual challenges of climate change and gender inequality, the Isiolo Regional Office is participating in a transformative three-day conference that explores the intersection of climate resilience and inclusive governance. The event, titled *Enhancing Access to Climate Information*, is focused on strengthening policies and practices that prioritise vulnerable communities—especially women, youth, and persons with disabilities—in the fight against climate change.

The theme of this high-level conference, *Rethinking Practice, Policy, and Legal Frameworks to Enhance Gender-Inclusive Climate Governance and Resilience for Vulnerable Communities*, sets the stage for reimagining how climate change governance can be shaped to empower communities disproportionately affected by environmental changes.

At the heart of the discussions is the urgent need for policy and legal frameworks that integrate gender considerations, ensuring that women—who are often the most vulnerable to climate-related disasters—are not left behind in adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The conference brings together experts, policymakers, local leaders, and gender advocates to explore how gender-inclusive climate governance can be more effectively implemented.

Experts agree that while climate change disproportionately impacts women, particularly in rural areas, their voices often remain underrepresented in decision-making processes.

By making climate information more accessible and relevant to women and other marginalized groups, it is hoped that they will be empowered to take charge of climate adaptation strategies in their communities.



NGEC's Nahashon Lotaruk engaging in impactful discussions at the high-level conference

"This conference is not just a gathering, but a crucial step towards ensuring that our response to climate change is just, fair, and inclusive. It's about creating a new standard of climate governance that recognises the specific needs of women and vulnerable populations, and not just the technical aspects of climate change itself," said Lotaruk, Isiolo Regional Head.

The conference explores key topics such as gender-responsive climate adaptation, the development of equitable legal frameworks, and the role of traditional knowledge in building community resilience. Local leaders have stressed that in communities like those in Isiolo, where climate-induced droughts and floods are increasingly common, there must be an intersectional approach that places women at the forefront of climate adaptation efforts.

One of the central areas of focus is the role of accessible climate information. In many vulnerable communities, access to reliable weather and climate data is scarce, leaving women and marginalized groups ill-equipped to protect their ~

livelihoods. By improving access to such information, particularly in remote areas, communities can better prepare for extreme weather events, ultimately reducing the vulnerability of those who are most at risk.

For true resilience to take root, experts stress the need for inclusive policy reform. Governments must ensure that gender is a central consideration in national climate strategies. This involves moving beyond tokenistic representation and engaging women, particularly those from rural and indigenous communities, in both policy development and implementation.

As the conference draws to a close, there is a renewed sense of urgency and optimism among attendees. The discussions may have started with a focus on gender equality and climate resilience, but they have catalysed a broader conversation on how gender equity can drive effective, sustainable climate governance.

Through policy, practice, and legal reform, it is hoped that the progress made in Isiolo will serve as a model for other regions, turning the tide on climate vulnerability and championing a future of inclusivity and equity.

Kitui Marks International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024: Championing Inclusivity and Sustainable Change



Participants march in solidarity to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2024

Kitui, Kenya – The Kitui Regional Office marked the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2024 with a poignant celebration aimed at amplifying the voices of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The event, which was held in the heart of Kitui, was graced by the CECM for Gender as the Chief Guest, alongside MCAs, the DCC, and other County representatives.

The theme of the event underscored the significance of inclusivity and sustainability within the local community, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by PWDs and the need for advocacy in creating an accessible and equitable society.

The ceremony opened with powerful speeches that drew attention to the harsh realities experienced by PWDs in their daily lives, from barriers in accessing public spaces to limited educational and employment opportunities. The Chief Guest, in her address, emphasized the need for both societal and institutional changes to ensure that PWDs are not left behind in the quest for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

“Today, we stand united in our commitment to ensuring that persons with disabilities are not just seen, but heard. It is time to build a society where no one is excluded, regardless of their physical or mental challenges,” Dr. Moses Saranta for NGEC Kitui Regional.

Key discussions during the event centered on promoting policies that support the integration of PWDs into all aspects of community life. Local leaders, including Members of the County Assembly (MCAs), pledged to work towards improving accessibility in infrastructure, public spaces, and services to accommodate PWDs. They also called for greater support for inclusive education, with a focus on ensuring that children with disabilities have equal access to quality schooling.

A highlight of the day was the unveiling of an action plan to further engage PWDs in community development. This includes workshops aimed at raising awareness on disability rights and advocacy, as well as practical solutions for improving accessibility across Kitui County. The initiative has garnered widespread support, with various stakeholders, including local businesses, pledging to play an active role in the effort to foster a more inclusive environment.

The event was not only a celebration but also a call to action. It highlighted the pressing need for concerted efforts from all sectors of society—government, businesses, and individuals—to break down the barriers that continue to marginalize PWDs. It also underscored the importance of ensuring that future generations grow up in a world where

accessibility, inclusivity, and sustainability are not just ideals but realities.

In conclusion, the commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 in Kitui served as a reminder that a truly inclusive society is one that embraces and advocates for the rights of all its members, regardless of their abilities.

With the ongoing efforts of local leaders and community members, Kitui is poised to take significant strides in ensuring that persons with disabilities have an equal opportunity to thrive within their community.

Leading the Charge to End GBV Amid Alarming Rise in Femicide

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has wrapped up its powerful advocacy campaign marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which took place from November 25 to December 10.

Throughout the campaign, NGEC spearheaded awareness initiatives across Kenya, holding dialogues, radio programs, and webinars. Collaborating with local governments and key stakeholders, the Commission launched new policies to prevent GBV, including the creation of safe spaces and recovery centres for survivors.

However, the alarming rise in femicide, often perpetrated by intimate partners or family members, remains a pressing concern. In response, NGEC has called for men to take active roles in ending GBV, alongside advocating for stronger legal frameworks.

A defining moment of the campaign occurred on December 10, when peaceful protesters in Nairobi were met with a violent police response. NGEC condemned the excessive use of force and reiterated the importance of upholding the right to peaceful assembly.

As the campaign concludes, NGEC continues its commitment to eradicating GBV, stressing the urgency of ensuring that every woman and girl can live free from violence and fear.

Pastoralist Leadership Summit Paves the Way for Tech, Gender, and Youth Empowerment

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has underscored the importance of addressing gender, youth, and emerging social issues, particularly in the context of technology, at the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit held in Wajir from December 8 to 10, 2024. The summit, a critical platform for policy engagement, brought together both national and county leadership to focus on the pressing needs of pastoralist communities across Kenya.

The discussions, led by experts and stakeholders, explored the intersection of technology, gender equality, and youth empowerment in the pastoralist context.

With the rise of digital innovations and their transformative potential, the summit aimed to highlight how these advances can be leveraged to improve the livelihoods of pastoralist communities, especially women and youth.

“We are at a crossroads where technology presents both challenges and opportunities,” said Goretty Osur from NGEC. “It is essential that we ensure inclusivity, ensuring that the benefits of these advancements reach every member of society, especially those in remote and marginalized areas.”

The summit explored how emerging technologies, from mobile applications to digital financial platforms, can offer pastoralist communities better access to markets, healthcare, and education.



Participants pose for a group photo at the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit held in Wajir

However, the discussions also highlighted significant barriers, including digital illiteracy and unequal access to resources, which continue to hinder the full participation of women and youth in the digital age.

The NGEC’s participation in the summit reflects its ongoing commitment to fostering gender equality and promoting inclusive growth. By facilitating conversations around the roles of women and youth in shaping the future of pastoralist communities, the commission is contributing to national efforts to address social inequalities and empower all sectors of society.

In closing, the summit called for increased collaboration between national and county governments, local leaders, and private sector players to implement policies that harness the potential of technology while also tackling the challenges posed by gender and youth disparities.

As Kenya looks to the future, the need for inclusive and sustainable policies that prioritise the pastoralist communities remains urgent—ensuring that no one is left behind in the wake of technological progress.

NGEC Bulletin Editorial Team

Produced by the Public Communications Division under the Executive Office of the Commission Secretary/CEO

Daniel Waitere - Head of Public Communications
Eric Muchiri - Graphic Designer, Photographer and Writer
Ngina Mainah - Writer
Alice Njeri- Writer



CONTACT US

P.O. Box 27512-00506, Nairobi, Kenya
1st Floor, Solution Tech Place, 5 Longonot Rd, Upper Hill,
Nairobi, Kenya

Toll Free : 0800 720 187
HQ Reception : +254 709 375 100

Kisumu Regional Office
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