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NGEC
National Gender and Equality Commission

EQUALITY BULLETIN

Usawa kwa Wote;Equality For All

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EDUCATION BILLS FACE EQUALITY TEST

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has asked Parliament to amend four education Bills so that the laws governing Competency-Based Education protect the learners most likely to face exclusion. ... Continue to Read... Page 04



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION SECRETARY / CEO



Welcome to Edition 47 of the Equality Bulletin.

In Edition 46, we showed where Competency-Based Education is leaving learners behind. This edition sets out how the law can close those gaps.

The Commission has asked Parliament to amend four education Bills. Our proposals would extend free basic education to every child irrespective of citizenship, make disability assessment free, give young mothers an enforceable right to return to school, and correct a flaw that leaves the ban on corporal punishment without a penalty. At the KECSHA conference, I also challenged school heads to close the gender gap in school leadership.

Beyond the classroom, we report on Children Service Month in three regions and on the national response to femicide, as police data shows killings of women rising. We set out the Commission's agenda for an inclusive 2027 General Election, follow our work on gender budgeting in Kilifi and our accessibility audits of railway stations and airports, and close with our call at COP31 for persons with disabilities to have a voice in climate decisions.

I wish you an insightful read.

PURITY NGINA, PhD, MBS
COMMISSION SECRETARY/CEO
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NGEC PUSHES FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION LAWS

The Commission has tested four Bills reshaping Kenya's education system against its own evidence on who is excluded, and has set out the amendments it wants Parliament to make to protect Special Interest Groups.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has asked Parliament to amend four education Bills so that the laws governing Competency-Based Education protect the learners most likely to face exclusion.

Its memoranda to the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Education cover the Basic Education Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 50 of 2026), the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill (No. 51 of 2026), the Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill (No. 52 of 2026) and the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (Amendment) Bill (No. 53 of 2026). They are four of the six Education Sector Bills on which the Commission presented its views to the Committee, as Edition 46 reported.

FROM EVIDENCE TO LAW

Edition 46 carried the Commission's evidence on the transition to senior school: Grade 10 placements that did not match school capacity, learners arriving without assessment reports, schools that did not record learners with disabilities by sex, and mainstream schools without teachers trained in special needs education.

The memoranda carry that evidence into the statute book. They propose that placement follow an individual assessment, that functional assessment be free, that reasonable accommodation be a right in every school, examination room and teacher training college, and that each Bill require data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location.

> "
>
> The Commission respectfully urges the Committee to adopt the proposed amendments and provide for their implementation through identifiable resources, accessible procedures and effective remedies
>
> NGEC memoranda to the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Education, 2026

They also seek free basic education for every child irrespective of citizenship, admission without birth certificates or other documents, re-entry after pregnancy without punishment, proportionate sanctions for examination malpractice, the two-thirds gender principle on education boards, and recognition of skills that women, older artisans and persons with disabilities acquire outside formal schooling.

WHAT THE COMMISSION WELCOMES

The Commission welcomes the Bills' equality principles, the protection against exclusion for unpaid charges or lack of proof of age, the re-entry framework, the special needs education duties, the disability-interest seat on the assessments council, the special needs teacher education pathway and the C-minus admission provision for applicants with disabilities.

Each memorandum grounds its proposals in the Bill of Rights, including Article 27 on equality and freedom from discrimination, Article 53 on the rights of children, Article 54 on persons with disabilities, Article 56 on minorities and marginalised groups and Article 57 on older members of society. The stories that follow set out, Bill by Bill, what the Commission asked for and why.

..... Continued on page 05

..... Continued from page 04

Beyond the Bills, the edition follows Children Service Month in three regions, the national response to femicide, women's leadership ahead of the 2027 General Elections, gender budgeting in Kilifi and the Commission's accessibility audits of railway stations and airports.



1. BASIC EDUCATION BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 50 OF 2026)

A Bill for an Act of Parliament to provide for basic education and for connected purposes.

2. KENYA NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS COUNCIL BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 51 OF 2026)

A Bill for an Act of Parliament to provide for the establishment of the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council and for connected purposes.

3. PRE-SERVICE EDUCATION AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 52 OF 2026)

A Bill for an Act of Parliament to provide for pre-service education and in-service training and for connected purposes.

4. KENYA NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (AMENDMENT) BILL
(NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 53 OF 2026)

A Bill for an Act of Parliament to amend the Kenya National Qualifications Framework Act and for connected purposes.



EQUALITY ACROSS FOUR BILLS

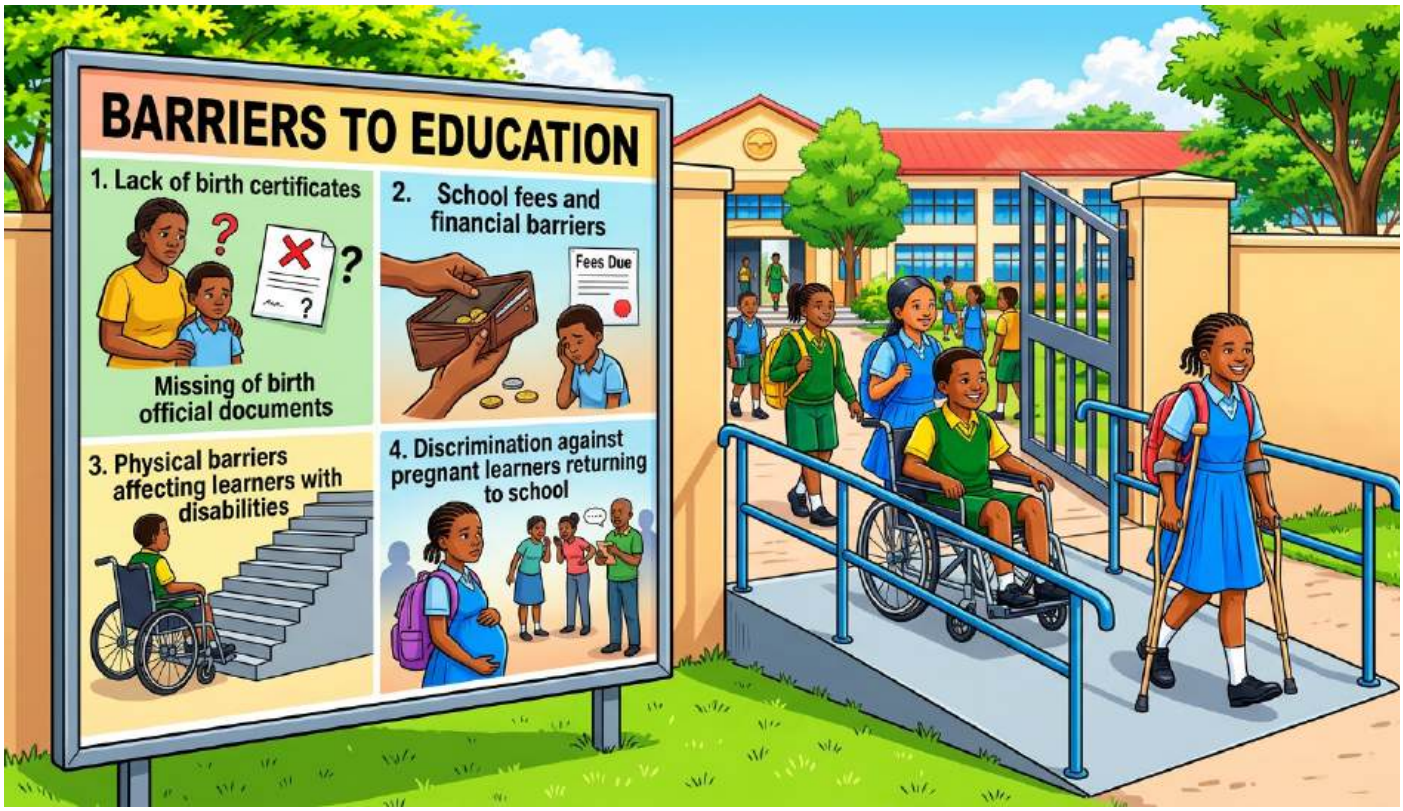
What the Commission asked Parliament to change in four education Bills, by equality issue.

Equality issue	Basic Education Bill (No. 50)	Assessments Council Bill (No. 51)	Teacher Education Bill (No. 52)	Qualifications Framework Bill (No. 53)
Reasonable accommodation 	Defined and made a guiding principle; free functional assessment; accessibility a condition of school registration	Free of charge, decided individually with reasons and urgent review; no certificate required for interim support	Duty on every provider; accessible colleges and trainee assessments	No additional fee; accessible assessment, recognition and verification
Exclusion barriers 	No exclusion for citizenship, missing documents, pregnancy or disability	No refusal for age, pregnancy, parenting status or lack of a birth certificate; assisted offline registration	No exclusion on Article 27(4) grounds, including age, pregnancy or disability	Offline services; recognition of skills learnt outside school
Affordability 	Confidential fee waivers; need-based bursaries reflecting disability, transport and boarding costs	Fee waivers on need; free certificate replacement after disaster, displacement or violence	Targeted financial assistance; no teacher excluded from in-service training for inability to pay	Full or partial fee waivers based on need, disability or geography
Fair procedure 	Reasons and 30-day review for bursary decisions; proportionate discipline with hearings	Evidence, hearing and independent review before sanctions; access to marked scripts	Notice, hearing and reasons before removal of board members	Decisions within 90 days with reasons; 30-day review
Representation 	Two-thirds gender principle on boards; disability and marginalised-community seats	Disability seat held by a person with a disability; two-thirds and diversity	Two-thirds and diversity on boards; at least one member with a disability	Consultation with women, persons with disabilities, minorities, older persons and youth
Data 	Anonymised data by sex, age, disability and location	Anonymised reporting on accommodation, hardship and review	Annual disaggregated reporting on admissions and completion	Annual disaggregated reporting on access and recognition

***Source**: NGEC memoranda to the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Education, 2026.*

FEE CLAUSE THREATENS REFUGEE CHILDREN

Clause 11 of the Basic Education Bill would allow tuition charges for non-citizens. The Commission says free basic education must reach every child, and that no child should be turned away for missing documents.



Refugee, asylum-seeking, stateless and migrant children could be shut out of free basic education under the Basic Education Bill, 2026, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has warned.

Clause 11(2) of the Bill permits tuition charges for non-citizens. The Commission notes that Article 53(1)(b) of the Constitution guarantees free and compulsory basic education to every child, and proposes that the guarantee apply *"to every child irrespective of citizenship or immigration status."*

CHARGES AND EXCLUSION

Clause 12(3) already prohibits barring a child from attending school for non-payment. The Commission proposes going further: an approved charge should never be enforced by excluding a child from instruction, assessment, transition or learning materials, and every school should provide a confidential procedure for waivers or financial assistance where a parent or guardian cannot pay.

DOCUMENTS AS BARRIERS

The Bill protects children who cannot prove their age. The Commission warns that other documents and database numbers may create further barriers for marginalised or displaced families, and proposes a new clause 13(9).

> "Lack of a birth certificate, national identification document, disability registration certificate or education management information system number shall not prevent a child's admission or continued attendance."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Basic Education Bill, 2026

Under the proposal, the head of the institution would assist with verification and registration. The Commission also asks that the right to challenge a refusal of admission extend to private schools, and to learners and authorised representatives as well as parents.

It proposes that single-sex schools may continue to admit learners of one sex, while registration as a special school should not authorise discrimination on the basis of disability.

OLDER AND MARGINALISED LEARNERS

The memorandum asks the Cabinet Secretary to provide accessible adult and continuing education through flexible schedules, assisted offline enrolment, appropriate languages and learning materials, and reasonable accommodation, with no eligible adult excluded solely because of age.

For nomadic, indigenous, remote and other marginalised communities, it proposes that the responsible Council plan its programmes with representatives of the communities served, publish annual targets for enrolment, retention and completion, and provide mobile schooling, school feeding, safe access and culturally responsive learning. The Commission cites Article 56, which requires affirmative action for minorities and marginalised groups.

BASIC EDUCATION BILL | INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

NGEC SEEKS FREE DISABILITY ASSESSMENT

Drawing on its Grade 10 findings, the Commission wants the Basic Education Bill to make functional assessment free, end disability-based exclusion from general schools and build accessibility into school registration.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has proposed that public assessment and resource centres provide functional assessment to learners with disabilities free of charge and without delay.

Its proposed clause 55(3) of the Basic Education Bill, 2026 reads: *"Public assessment and resource centres shall provide timely, accessible functional assessment and referrals without charge; assessment shall not be a precondition for admission or urgent support."*

THE EVIDENCE BEHIND IT

The proposal follows the Commission's own findings. Its October 2026 report, Reimagining Inclusive Education under the Competency-Based Education Framework, found that many Grade 10 learners with disabilities arrived in senior school without assessment reports, leaving schools to assess them after admission. At Lenana School, 118 learners with diverse disabilities had been placed in a school without the facilities and specialised staff to support them.

The memorandum states that free functional assessment prevents poverty from becoming an additional barrier.

> "The amendment preserves individual assessment and specialized support while preventing automatic segregation or delay pending diagnosis."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Basic Education Bill, 2026

INCLUSION IN GENERAL SCHOOLS

The Commission proposes a new clause 49(6): no learner shall be excluded from a general education institution solely on the basis of disability. Placement would follow an individual assessment, consider the views of the learner and the parent or guardian, provide reasonable accommodation and support, be reviewed periodically, and not rest solely on a diagnostic category.

ACCESSIBLE BY LAW

The memorandum asks that a school be registered only if it complies with prescribed physical, communication and digital accessibility standards and has arrangements for reasonable accommodation. It seeks identified budget lines for accessible infrastructure, assistive technology, individualised support, specialist personnel and outreach assessment services, so that families are not left to purchase essential support.

It also proposes new definitions. Special needs education would mean education and individualised support adapted to a learner's requirements arising from disability, learning differences or giftedness and talent, avoiding definitions of learners by impairment. Integrated schools would be those in which learners with and without disabilities learn together with appropriate support.

The Commission grounds the proposals in Articles 27, 53(2) and 54 of the Constitution and section 20 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025.

NO PUNISHMENT FOR RETURNING MOTHERS

Across three Bills, the Commission seeks an enforceable right for pregnant learners and young mothers to keep learning, sit examinations and train as teachers, without forced repetition or intrusive disclosure.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has asked Parliament to give pregnant learners and young mothers an enforceable right to continue their education and return to school without punishment.

Clause 21 of the Basic Education Bill, 2026 requires a re-entry framework. The Commission notes that it does not itself confer an enforceable right to continued learning or prompt return, and proposes that no learner be excluded from education because of pregnancy, childbirth, parenting responsibilities, disability, health status or having experienced violence.

SUPPORT PLANS FOR RE-ENTRY

Under the proposal, the head of the institution would facilitate continued learning or prompt re-entry through an individual support plan covering reasonable accommodation, flexible attendance, catch-up learning, counselling and referral to appropriate services. The learner's views and best interests would guide the plan.

Re-entry would not be conditional on punishment, a compulsory repeat year or disclosure of confidential medical information beyond what is necessary for support and safety.

> "Individual plans permit suitable catch-up learning without automatic repetition or stigma."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Basic Education Bill, 2026

IN THE EXAMINATION ROOM

The memorandum on the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill seeks practical measures for candidates affected by pregnancy, childbirth, illness, bereavement, violence, displacement or disasters. These include accessible alternative venues, hospital assessment, rest or lactation breaks, equivalent rescheduled assessment and preservation of completed components.
Requests would be determined promptly and confidentially, with written reasons, and no candidate would be required to sit an assessment against medical advice. No transfer fee would apply where hardship requires a transfer, and no qualified candidate could be refused registration solely because of age, pregnancy, parenting status or lack of a birth certificate.

In October, the Commission's Chairperson reminded parents in Isiolo that every registered candidate must sit the national examinations, including girls who are pregnant or already mothers.

IN TEACHER TRAINING

The memorandum on the Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill extends the same protection to trainee teachers. It proposes that colleges be registered only if they provide for continuation and resumption of training during and after pregnancy, support for parenting students, appropriate sanitation, lactation facilities and flexible attendance.
Providers would be barred from excluding an otherwise qualified applicant on a ground prohibited by Article 27(4) of the Constitution, including age, pregnancy or disability.

PICTURE SPEAK



Participants during a session at the National Police Training Needs Assessment (TNA) External Stakeholder Dissemination and Implementation Support Conference



Hon. Hanna Wendot Cheptumo, Cabinet Secretary ,Ministry of Gender Culture and Children Services speaking to stakeholders during the Biannual National Gender Sector Working Group Meeting at Safari Park Hotel.



Commission Vice Chairperson Thomas,EBS Koyier speaking to members during the Consensus Building Workshop at The Social House, Nairobi



The Commission Secretary /CEO ,Dr. Purity Ngina with representatives from CivSource Kenya during their courtesy visit to the Commission.



A group of stakeholders convene during the National Police Training Needs Assessment (TNA) Conference to discuss the assessment findings and support the implementation of its recommendations. The conference was held on 11 November 2026 at Fairview Hotel, Nairobi.



Stakeholders during the National Police Training Needs Assessment (TNA) External Stakeholder Dissemination and Implementation Support Conference, held on 11 November 2026 at Fairview Hotel, Nairobi



Commission officers alongside some of the Railway Station staff during the audit at Syokimau Railway Station.



A commuter train at the Imaara Daima Railway Station visited during the railway accessibility audit.



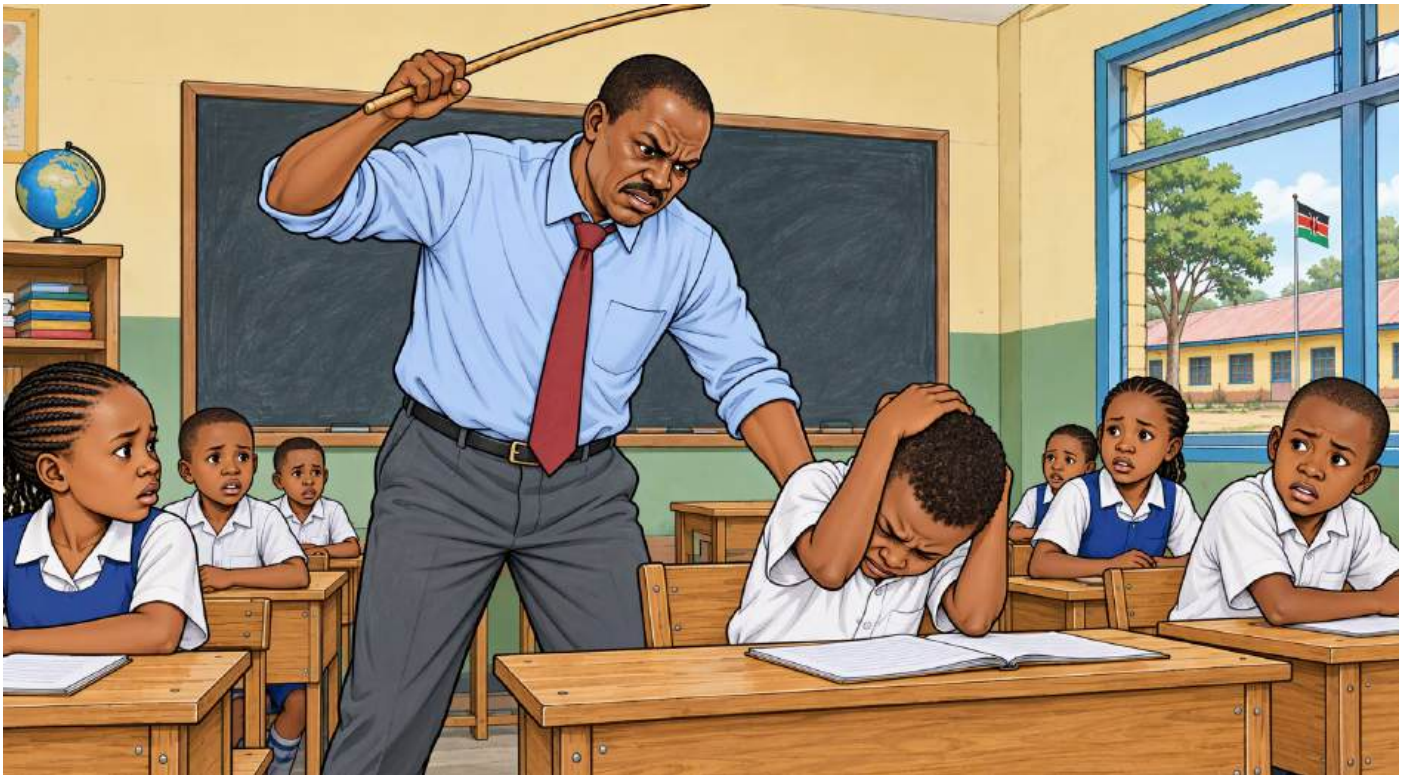
Ticket scanners at one of the railway stations .



Designated seats for persons with disabilities at the Nairobi Terminus

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BAN LACKS PENALTY

A cross-reference in the Basic Education Bill penalises the wrong subsection, leaving its ban on corporal punishment without a sanction, the Commission says. It also seeks disability-aware discipline and confidential abuse reporting in every school.



The penalty clause in the Basic Education Bill, 2026 punishes breach of the wrong provision, leaving the ban on corporal punishment and degrading treatment without a sanction, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has said.

Clause 19(2) prohibits corporal punishment and degrading treatment. Clause 19(3), which creates the penalty, refers to subsection (1). The Commission proposes substituting "subsection (2)" for "subsection (1)", a correction it says makes the prohibition enforceable.

FAIR DISCIPLINE

The Commission proposes that disciplinary action be proportionate, consider age, disability and the child's best interests, and follow an accessible hearing with written reasons.

Suspension, expulsion or transfer would include arrangements for continued education. The memorandum also proposes that a failure caused solely by poverty, the lack of an accessible school place or the failure to provide required accommodation should not constitute an offence under the Bill's compulsory attendance provisions.

> "Disability-related behaviour shall first be assessed for unmet support needs."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Basic Education Bill, 2026

REPORTING ABUSE

The Commission seeks a duty on schools to maintain accessible and confidential procedures for reporting and responding to abuse, sexual harassment, bullying and discrimination, to protect complainants from retaliation and to refer suspected offences promptly to competent authorities. It says such a duty protects children, girls and learners with disabilities in particular. The memorandum cites Articles 27, 29, 47 and 53 of the Constitution on dignity, fair procedure and child protection.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS

The Commission's published evidence underlines the stakes. The Teachers of Kenya audit, conducted with the Teachers Service Commission, records that the TSC upheld 421 cases of sexual offences against learners involving teachers between the 2021/22 and 2023/24 financial years. The Commission's 2025 study of schools in 19 marginalised counties found that 23.9 per cent of surveyed schools reported learners experiencing some form of violence.

The Commission Secretary/CEO, Dr Purity Ngina, sits on the Multi-Stakeholder Task Team on Unrest in Schools, whose terms of reference include school safety, safeguarding, bullying and gender-based violence.

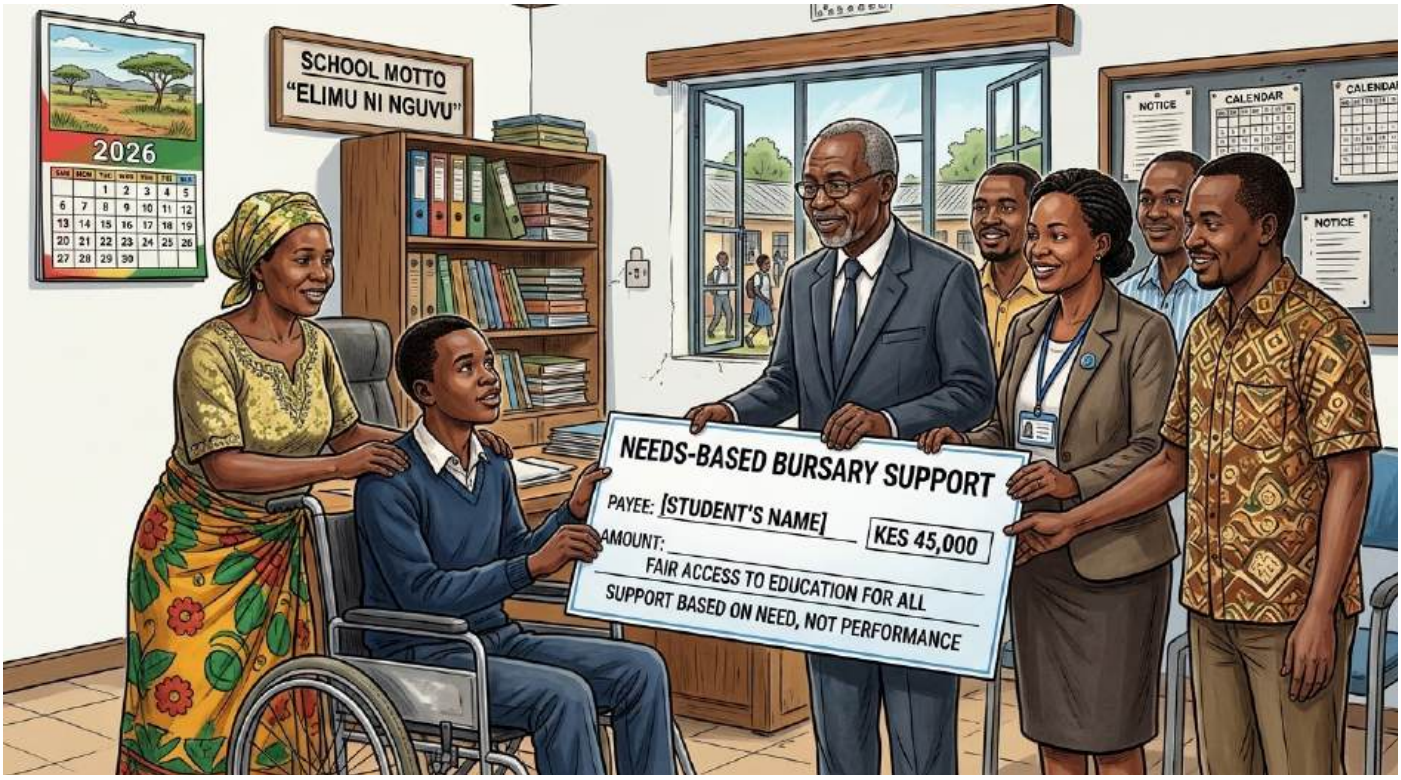
#SafeSchools

#ChildProtection

#EndCorporalPunishment

NGEC SEEKS NEED-BASED BURSARIES

The Commission wants bursaries assessed on household means and the real costs of disability, transport and boarding, with reasons and a review for every unsuccessful applicant, and data that shows who support reaches.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has proposed that need-based bursaries under the Basic Education Bill, 2026 assess household means and disability-related, transport, boarding and care costs, without regard to academic rank.

The memorandum notes that the Bill distinguishes scholarships from need-based bursaries, and seeks to protect that distinction. A partial award from another source would not, by itself, disqualify a learner with an unmet need.

REASONS AND REVIEW

Every unsuccessful applicant would receive reasons and could seek an accessible review by an officer not involved in the initial decision, determined within thirty days.

Clause 72(4) restricts publicly funded awards to public schools. The Commission proposes a narrow, verified exception: public awards would prioritise learners in public institutions, but could support a learner in a registered non-public institution where no reasonably accessible public institution can provide the required education or disability support. Eligibility and costs would be verified against published criteria. The memorandum cites Articles 27(6) and (7), 43, 47, 53 and 54.

> "Absence or error in a database entry shall not alone deny admission, capitation, an assessment opportunity or otherwise established eligibility for assistance."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Basic Education Bill, 2026

DATA THAT COUNTS EVERYONE

The registers created under the Bill hold children's family details, disability information and financial vulnerability. The Commission proposes that their processing comply with the Data Protection Act, with lawful purposes, minimum necessary data, authorised access, retention periods and accessible correction procedures.

The bursary report would include anonymised award and unmet-need data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location, where lawful and relevant. The memorandum says anonymised reporting reveals whether support reaches disadvantaged groups without publishing identifiable beneficiary lists.

The proposal answers a gap the Commission has documented. In its assessment of Grade 10 placement, none of the seven schools assessed reported learners with disabilities by sex, so the system could not see whether girls and boys with disabilities were treated equally.

#InclusiveEducation

#DisabilityInclusion

#EducationForAll

#NeedBasedBursaries

#EqualAccessToEducation

NGEC SEEKS FREE EXAM ACCOMMODATION

The Commission wants the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council to provide Kenyan Sign Language, Braille, assistive technology and extra time at no extra fee, and to register candidates who cannot use online systems.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has asked Parliament to require the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council to provide reasonable accommodation to candidates at no additional fee.

The Commission proposes replacing clause 28 of the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill, 2026 with an accessible procedure for requesting accommodation at registration or at any later stage when a need arises. The memorandum notes that a candidate may acquire a disability or identify a need after registration, so early disclosure should not become an absolute condition.

INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS

The Council would determine requests individually and in time for the assessment, consult the candidate and, where appropriate, the parent or guardian, give written reasons and provide an urgent review of refusals.

The lack of a disability registration certificate would not alone prevent an assessment of need or interim support. Accommodation would preserve the essential competency assessed and extend to formative, summative, practical and digital assessment, and the Council's funds would cover accessible materials, personnel and technology.

> "Accommodations shall include appropriate formats, Kenyan Sign Language, Braille, assistive technology, communication support, additional time and suitable venues according to individual need."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill, 2026

REGISTRATION WITHOUT EXCLUSION

Clause 27 relies on an online platform, signatures and specified identity documents. The Commission warns that these requirements may exclude older learners, candidates with communication or physical impairments, displaced persons and people whose births were not registered. It proposes assisted offline registration, an alternative identity verification procedure, and a prompt correction and late-registration procedure where an omission arose from institutional error, displacement or disability-related barriers. A candidate would bear no penalty caused solely by institutional error.

CENTRES AND SCREENS

Before hosting candidates elsewhere or merging centres, the Council would consult those affected and arrange accessible venues and transport, so that distance, cost or disability does not exclude a candidate. The memorandum names girls facing unsafe travel among those at risk.

On digital assessment, the Commission warns against turning electricity, connectivity or device availability into assessment criteria. It proposes that the Council verify accessibility, equipment, connectivity and contingency arrangements before using an e-assessment platform, provide an equivalent alternative where digital participation is not reasonably possible, and ensure that technical failure beyond a candidate's control does not reduce a score.

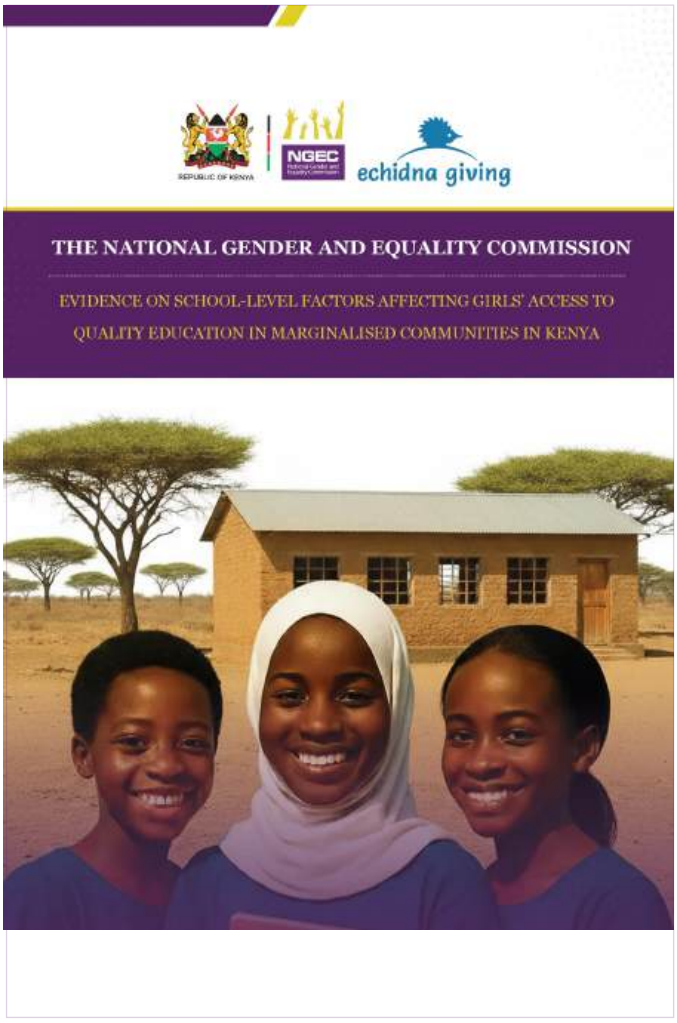
The Commission's assessment of Grade 10 placement noted that KNEC registration already requires candidates with special needs to submit medical and assessment reports. The memorandum seeks to ensure that missing paperwork does not translate into missing support.

REPORT FOCUS

AT A GLANCE

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) surveyed public primary schools in 19 counties in September 2025, finding that girls made up 48% of enrolment, while 76% of headteachers were male. Only 26% of schools had toilets accessible to girls with disabilities, and menstruation-related absenteeism was higher in areas with inadequate sanitation (15.8% against 7.3%). Teenage pregnancy was reported in 30% of schools, while 74% knew the School Re-entry Guidelines. The report highlights gaps in Mandera, Wajir and Garissa and good practices in Nairobi City, Tharaka-Nithi and Makueni, noting that the findings are not nationally representative.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO READ THE REPORT



KEY FINDINGS

√ **School leadership:** 76% of headteachers were male; Wajir and Mandera had no female headteachers.

√ **Enrolment:** Boys accounted for 52% and girls 48%; Mandera had the lowest GPI (0.63).

√ **Transition:** Boys' transition averaged 53.4% against girls' 46.6%; Mandera, Turkana and Garissa recorded GPI of 0.6.

√ **Sanitation:** Pupil-toilet ratios were 43:1 for boys and 32:1 for girls, exceeding national standards.

√ **Menstrual health:** Absenteeism was 15.8% in counties with inadequate sanitation, against 7.3% where standards were met.

√ **Disability inclusion:** Only 26% of schools had accessible girls' toilets; learners with disabilities accounted for under 1% of enrolment.

√ **Teenage pregnancy and child marriage:** 30% of schools reported teenage pregnancies, 21.4% girls' re-admission and 13% child marriage cases.

RECOMMENDATIONS

√ **Gender-responsive leadership:** Train school boards and enforce gender-representation quotas.

√ **School re-entry:** Enforce re-entry guidelines and provide flexible learning for young mothers.

√ **Education access:** Expand school feeding, bursaries and transport support in vulnerable counties.

√ **Inclusive sanitation:** Provide accessible toilets and menstrual-health products.

√ **Child protection:** Enforce laws against FGM, child marriage and child labour.

√ **Data Accountability:** Integrate gender and disability data into EMIS.

√ **Digital and climate education**: Expand digital learning and climate education.

MALPRACTICE RULES NEED DUE PROCESS

The Commission warns that whole-examination cancellations on suspicion alone could disrupt years of education, and seeks evidence, hearings, independent review and a candidate's right to see a marked script.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has proposed that examination malpractice be established through evidence and a fair hearing before results are cancelled, warning that the Bill's current provisions could punish innocent candidates.

Under the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill, 2026, clause 41(3) mandates disqualification from the entire assessment, clause 42 permits cancellation where the Council has "reasonable cause to believe" malpractice occurred, and clause 43 allows results to be withheld without a stated time safeguard.

PROPORTIONATE SANCTIONS

The Commission proposes that, where malpractice is established, the Council cancel the affected paper or component and impose a proportionate prohibition of up to three years. Cancelling an entire assessment would require written reasons why a lesser measure would be insufficient.

Before any adverse decision, each affected person would receive accessible notice, the relevant evidence, an opportunity to respond and written reasons. Withheld results would be reviewed within thirty days, and a candidate could seek review by a panel whose members did not investigate or make the decision.

> "These measures can disrupt years of education and may wrongly treat assistive support as misconduct."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council Bill, 2026

Sanctions would address individual responsibility and consider age, disability and the child's best interests. Authorised accommodation would not count as malpractice, and candidates not involved at a sanctioned centre would receive alternative arrangements. No child would face an automatic prohibition, and proceedings against a child would comply with the Children Act. The memorandum says the amendments preserve strong sanctions for proven malpractice without granting immunity for cheating.

ACCESS TO MARKED SCRIPTS

Clause 33 imposes a blanket ban on access to scripts. The Commission proposes that a candidate or authorised representative may request secure access to the marked script, the marking criteria and the reasons for an adverse decision, within fourteen days. Restrictions would apply only where the Council demonstrates specific prejudice to assessment integrity or privacy, with redaction or secure inspection considered first.

Because clause 32 authorises automated marking, the Commission also seeks human reconsideration of any materially adverse decision based solely on automated processing.

CERTIFICATES AND FEES

The memorandum proposes fee waivers for replacing certificates lost through disaster, displacement or violence, even without a national disaster declaration, published fee rates, waivers based on financial need and no charge for reasonable accommodation. It also seeks anonymised annual reporting on accommodation requests, hardship measures and review decisions, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location.

The proposals come in the season in which a record 3,634,846 candidates sat the national examinations.

NGEC SEEKS INCLUSIVE TEACHER TRAINING

The Commission wants every teacher trained in Kenya to learn inclusive pedagogy, Kenyan Sign Language and child safeguarding, and wants training colleges opened to women, persons with disabilities and marginalised communities.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has asked Parliament to require that every teacher trained in Kenya learns inclusive pedagogy, Kenyan Sign Language and child safeguarding.

Its memorandum on the Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill, 2026 proposes that the curriculum include inclusive pedagogy, the diverse needs of learners with disabilities, Kenyan Sign Language and accessible communication appropriate to teaching roles, gender equality, child safeguarding and culturally responsive teaching.

THE TEACHER GAP

The Commission's own evidence shows why. In its 2025 study of public primary schools in 19 marginalised counties, an average of 7.7 per cent of teachers had been trained in special needs education. At Aquinas High School, none of 53 teachers was trained in special needs education, although the school had ten learners with disabilities. The Teachers of Kenya audit found that teachers with disabilities make up 1.7 per cent of all TSC-employed teachers, against a five per cent threshold.

The memorandum adds that disability should not be treated as a single uniform category. It asks the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council to provide accessible assessments and reasonable accommodation for trainees, without altering the essential competencies assessed.

OPENING THE COLLEGE DOOR

The Commission proposes an express duty on every provider to offer reasonable accommodation and affirmative action for women, persons with disabilities, minorities and marginalised groups, older members of society and youth.

> "Children benefit through teachers able to support different learning and communication needs."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill, 2026

Providers would publish admission criteria in accessible formats and could not exclude a qualified applicant on grounds including age, pregnancy or disability. The Cabinet Secretary, with the Teachers Service Commission, would prescribe bridging pathways for disadvantaged applicants.

The Commission welcomes the C-minus admission concession for applicants with disabilities, and proposes clarifying that it applies to the mean grade, with subject requirements met through the prescribed grade or a recognised bridging qualification.

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE COLLEGES

Colleges would be registered only if their premises, sanitation, residences, digital platforms and materials are accessible, and if they prevent sexual harassment and abuse, protect children during teaching practice and run confidential complaints procedures.

The memorandum seeks a plan for equitable geographical access with offline alternatives to digital delivery, published fees, a targeted financial assistance scheme covering fees, disability-related costs and transport, and identified budget allocations. No teacher would be excluded from mandatory in-service training solely because of inability to pay.

Each institution would publish an annual report on admissions, completion, reasonable accommodation and complaints, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location.

#GenderEquality

#DisabilityInclusion

#InclusiveEducation

#EqualAccessToEducation

#InclusiveTeacherEducation

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP GENDER GAP EXPOSED

Women are half of Kenya's teachers and head about a quarter of its primary schools, the Commission's Chief Executive told heads of comprehensive schools, setting out five commitments for gender-responsive leadership.



NGEC Commission Secretary/CEO Dr Purity Ngina, MBS, addresses the 2026 KECSHA Annual General Meeting and Conference in Mombasa.

Women make up 50.2 per cent of Kenya's teaching workforce and head only 24 per cent of primary schools and 34 per cent of secondary schools, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has told school heads.

Commission Secretary/CEO Dr Purity Ngina, MBS, spoke on 11 November 2026 at the KECSHA Annual General Meeting and Conference in Mombasa, calling on more than 15,000 heads of comprehensive schools to close the gap through deliberate, gender-responsive leadership.

WHAT THE AUDIT FOUND

Dr Ngina drew on the Commission's 2025 audit of 425,613 teachers, conducted with the Teachers Service Commission. It found that women make up 31 per cent of STEM teachers, that only 65 of 21,064 primary school heads are under 35, and that teachers with disabilities are 1.7 per cent of the workforce against a five per cent threshold.

Recalling her own path as a young woman who pursued a career in science and earned a PhD in Mathematics, she told the heads: *"Women, too, can lead."*

"Talent and intellectual ability have no gender," she said.

> "No girl should miss school because of menstruation, abandon her education because of pregnancy, or have her future compromised by sexual abuse."
>
> Dr Purity Ngina, MBS, Commission Secretary/CEO, National Gender and Equality Commission

FIVE COMMITMENTS

Dr Ngina invited every school head to make five commitments: promote equality, protect learners, advance inclusion, mentor women and young teachers for leadership, and make equality measurable in school plans and budgets.

She urged the heads to support girls' transition to junior school, provide adequate sanitation and menstrual hygiene facilities and help adolescent mothers return to school, and called for stronger safeguards against sexual abuse.

Her call echoes the Commission's proposals on the education Bills reported in this edition, including an enforceable right to re-entry after pregnancy and confidential procedures for reporting abuse in every school.

#GenderEquality

#GirlsEducation

#EqualOpportunities

#InclusiveEducation

#WomenInLeadership

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RECOGNISING SKILLS LEARNT OUTSIDE SCHOOLS

The Commission wants the qualifications framework to recognise competencies gained through work, community and indigenous knowledge, with offline services and fee waivers, and safeguards against child labour.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has proposed that the Kenya National Qualifications Authority publish accessible procedures to recognise skills acquired outside formal schooling, including by women returning after care responsibilities and older artisans.

Its memorandum on the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (Amendment) Bill, 2026 proposes a new section 18F on recognition of prior learning and credit transfer. The procedures would assess demonstrable competencies acquired through formal, non-formal or informal learning, including community and indigenous knowledge, with published standards, evidence requirements, determination periods, reasonable accommodation and an accessible review procedure.

WHO BENEFITS

The memorandum notes that the principal Act already recognises competencies, mobility and flexible access, and that clear implementation duties would benefit older artisans, women returning after care responsibilities, persons with disabilities, and marginalised communities whose skills may not be reflected in formal certificates.

It sets a firm limit. Recognition would preserve the essential competencies of a qualification and would not authorise child labour or displace a child's right to free and compulsory basic education.

ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

The Commission proposes accessible information, assisted offline services and reasonable accommodation in assessment, recognition and verification, with no additional fee for accommodation. Fees and service standards would be published in accessible formats, and regulations would provide full or partial waivers based on financial need and on costs arising from disability or geographical disadvantage.

> "Digital-only access, travel costs and fees can exclude persons with disabilities, older applicants, low-income women and remote communities."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (Amendment) Bill, 2026

PROTECTING LEARNERS IN TRANSITION

The Bill introduces registration of qualification-awarding institutions. The Commission proposes that existing institutions have twelve months to apply for registration and may continue awarding qualifications meanwhile, that qualifications lawfully awarded before commencement remain valid, and that learners at a refused institution be assisted to complete or transfer, with fees and records protected.

The Authority would decide registration applications within ninety days with written reasons, subject to review within thirty days. Before developing or reviewing the framework, it would consult representatives of women, persons with disabilities, minorities and marginalised communities, older members of society and youth.

Within twelve months, the Authority would publish an implementation plan with targets and resources for accessible assessment and outreach to underserved areas, and report annually on access, recognition and remedies, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location.

The Commission welcomes the binding national framework, the registration of institutions, the national qualifications database and the application of data protection and access-to-information law.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

TWO-THIRDS RULE FOR EDUCATION BOARDS

The Commission wants the two-thirds gender principle, disability representation and regional diversity written into the boards and councils that will run Kenya's schools, examinations and teacher training.



The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has asked Parliament to apply the two-thirds gender principle to the boards and councils created under three education Bills.

In the Basic Education Bill, 2026, the Commission proposes replacing the reference to "the principle of gender equity" in clause 32(2) with the requirement that not more than two-thirds of members are of the same gender.

SCHOOL BOARDS

Boards would also reflect the community served and provide for the participation of persons with disabilities. The memorandum fills a gap in the composition of boards for special schools, adult learning and multipurpose institutions, proposes that at least one member appointed to the responsible Council be a person with a disability, and that members representing marginalised communities be drawn from those communities through an open, accessible nomination process.

ASSESSMENT AND TEACHER EDUCATION

For the Kenya National Educational Assessments Council, the Commission proposes that the reserved disability-interest seat be filled by a person with a disability, nominated through an accessible process involving representative organisations of persons with disabilities. Appointments would meet the two-thirds principle and reflect regional and ethnic diversity, with due consideration to minorities and marginalised groups.

> "Appointment and nomination to a Board of Management shall ensure that not more than two-thirds of its members are of the same gender."
>
> NGEC memorandum on the Basic Education Bill, 2026

For the boards established under the Pre-Service Education and In-Service Training Bill, it proposes the same gender and diversity requirements and at least one member who is a person with a disability.

A member could be removed for incapacity only after an individual assessment found them unable to perform essential duties despite reasonable accommodation, and only after written notice, a hearing and written reasons.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

The memoranda cite Articles 27(8), 54(2), 56 and 232 of the Constitution on gender balance, disability representation, the participation of minorities and the values of public service.
The Commission's Teachers of Kenya audit shows how far representation still has to go: teachers with disabilities make up 1.7 per cent of all TSC-employed teachers, against a five per cent threshold.

CHILDREN SERVICE MONTH 2026 | NAKURU, MALINDI, KITUI

COURTS TO EXPEDITE CHILDREN'S CASES

As the Judiciary's Children Service Month marks ten years, the Commission joined court users committees in Nakuru, Malindi and Kitui in pressing for timely, child-friendly justice and stronger child protection.



Learners and stakeholders at the launch of Children Service Month 2026 at Shaabab Social Hall, Nakuru.

The Judiciary is using Children Service Month 2026 to expedite pending children's cases and address delays in justice, with the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) among its partners in three regions.

The month runs through November and marks ten years of the initiative. Its theme centres on strengthening multi-agency action to safeguard childhood through child-centred justice, and its focus includes stronger multi-agency collaboration so that every child has timely access to justice through child-friendly, responsive systems.

NAKURU

The Commission's Nakuru Regional Office, a member of the Nakuru Children Court Users Committee, joined the Judiciary and other state and non-state actors at the launch at Shaabab Social Hall, Nakuru, which followed a procession from Nakuru Law Courts.

The Chief Guest, Chief Magistrate Hon. Tito Gesora, stressed the importance of placing children at the centre of the justice system and pointed to the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 as a key foundation for protecting their rights, dignity and welfare.

MALINDI

In Malindi, the Commission's Malindi Regional Office took part in the launch at the Malindi Law Courts as a member of the Malindi Court Users Committee, established under the National Council on the Administration of Justice framework. The launch called for coordinated interventions that protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination.

The Commission called for a multi-sectoral approach to strengthen accountability, close gaps in child protection systems and ensure that every child, including children with disabilities and those from marginalised communities, has equal access to protection, justice and opportunity.

KITUI

In Kitui, the Commission's Kitui Regional Office joined members of the Environment and Land Court Users Committee, stakeholders and community members at Kiini Primary School grounds for a Judiciary-led commemoration.

The engagement highlighted parental responsibility, public awareness of children's rights, timely reporting of child abuse and the expeditious resolution of children's cases. Participants raised particular concern over the interconnected threats of gender-based violence, HIV and teenage pregnancy to children's safety, education and health. Stakeholders donated essential supplies to the school and planted trees. The Commission holds that safeguarding children is a shared responsibility, requiring families, communities, public institutions and justice actors to prevent abuse, strengthen reporting and referral, ensure accountability and create safe, inclusive environments in which every child can thrive.

FEMALE MURDERS RISE TO 579

Development partners, foundations and civil society met at Harambee House Annex to align support with the recommendations of the Presidential Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence, including Femicide.



Participants at the Partners' Consultative Meeting on implementing the Presidential Technical Working Group recommendations on gender-based violence, including femicide, at Harambee House Annex, Nairobi.

Police recorded 579 female murder victims in 2024, up from 534 in 2023, partners heard at a consultative meeting on implementing the recommendations on gender-based violence (GBV), including femicide.

Commission Secretary/CEO Dr Purity Ngina joined the Office of the Deputy President, Dr Christopher K. Wanjau and Principal Secretaries in setting the context for the Partners' Consultative Meeting at Harambee House Annex, Nairobi. The figures come from National Police Service data cited in the Technical Working Group's findings.

FROM REPORT TO ACTION

The President established the Technical Working Group through Gazette Notice No. 109 of 10 January 2025, and the Group submitted its report on 26 January 2026. The State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action presented an overview of the report and the status of implementation following Cabinet endorsement, including priority interventions, implementation gaps and resource requirements.
Development partners, foundations, the private sector and civil society discussed existing interventions and opportunities for technical and financial support aligned to the priority interventions.

WHAT DRIVES THE VIOLENCE

The Group's findings point to patriarchal norms, harmful cultural practices and economic dependency as key drivers of violence. They also show that stigma, fear of retaliation and distrust of institutions keep most cases unreported.

The Commission sat on the Technical Working Group and submitted institutional memoranda to it, as Edition 46 reported. It will continue to monitor implementation of the recommendations, advise state agencies on compliance, and work with county governments and communities on prevention, protection and access to justice for survivors.



Daisy Amdany, executive director Crawn Trust at the Partners' Consultative Meeting on implementing the Presidential Technical Working Group.

GBV PREVENTION | KAJIADO

ORINIE RESIDENTS CONFRONT HOUSEHOLD CONFLICT

Under its joint project with JICA, the Commission brought men and women in Orinie Village together to name the sources of tension in their homes and agree on non-violent ways of resolving them.



Residents of Orinie Village, Kajiado Central Sub-County, with Commission officers after the community dialogue forum on household conflict and gender-based violence.

Men and women in Orinie Village, Kajiado Central Sub-County, have identified the sources of conflict in their households and agreed on non-violent ways to resolve them at a National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) forum.

The Commission convened the community dialogue with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under their joint project, Enhancing County Governments' Responses to Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

Participants first met in separate groups of men and women to identify the main sources of tension in their households. They then reconvened to share perspectives and agree on peaceful approaches to resolving disagreements.

MEN AS PARTNERS

The Commission's Head of the Male Engagement Division, Mr Lewis Mwaniki, stressed the importance of engaging men in challenging negative masculinity and retrogressive cultural practices that perpetuate gender inequality and GBV. He also underscored the need to recognise and address men's vulnerabilities, and to engage men as partners in prevention and social transformation.

The Commission holds that sustainable change requires addressing the attitudes and practices that normalise violence and creating spaces for constructive dialogue and accountability. Ending GBV, it says, begins at home, with challenging harmful norms, respecting individual dignity and resolving disagreements through dialogue.



Participants engaging in group discussion during the community dialogue forum on household conflict and gender-based violence.

NGEC BACKS GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICE TRAINING

At the dissemination of the National Police Service Training Needs Assessment, the Commission called for training that equips officers to respond to technology-facilitated gender-based violence and the needs of Special Interest Groups.



Participants at the National Police Service Training Needs Assessment dissemination conference, Fairview Hotel, Nairobi, on 11 November 2026.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has called for gender equality and inclusion to be built into the continuous training of National Police Service officers.

The Commission took part in the National Police Service Training Needs Assessment (TNA) External Stakeholder Dissemination and Implementation Support Conference on 11 November 2026 at Fairview Hotel, Nairobi. The engagement focused on translating the assessment's recommendations into practical reforms that strengthen gender responsiveness, accessibility and inclusion across policing institutions.

EMERGING THREATS

The Commission noted that technology, evolving legal frameworks and emerging crimes such as technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) demand new knowledge, skills and competencies from officers. Continuous professional development, it said, must address emerging threats, safeguard human rights and respond to the needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and other Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

FROM TRAINING TO PRACTICE

Implementing the recommendations offers an opportunity to strengthen institutional capacity, close training gaps and embed equality and inclusion in police operations and service delivery. The Commission stressed the need for sustained collaboration, effective monitoring and evaluation, and deliberate efforts to ensure that training changes policing practice.

The Commission has committed to supporting the National Police Service through the implementation and evaluation of the recommendations. It holds that an inclusive police service earns public trust, protects vulnerable populations and guarantees equal access to justice and security for all.



Lewis Mwaniki from the Commission follows a session during the National Police Service Training Needs Assessment (TNA) External Stakeholder Dissemination and Implementation Support Conference on 11 November 2026 at Fairview Hotel, Nairobi.

TURKANA PLANS 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN

Stakeholders in Turkana County agreed priority interventions and mobilisation activities ahead of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which begins on 25 November.



Stakeholders at a planning meeting in Turkana County ahead of the 2026 16 Days of Activism.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has joined stakeholders in Turkana County to plan for the 2026 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which officially begins on 25 November.

The planning meeting agreed on priority interventions and mobilisation activities to build momentum towards the campaign launch, and on stronger collaboration in addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

INCLUSIVE RESPONSE

The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to working with stakeholders in Turkana County and the wider region so that prevention, response and support services are inclusive, accessible and responsive to diverse populations, particularly those at risk of discrimination and marginalisation.

A YEAR-ROUND RESPONSE

The Commission holds that the response to gender-based violence must continue after the campaign closes, through sustained partnerships, stronger community engagement and coordinated action against all forms of gender-based violence. Ending it, the Commission says, demands collective responsibility and action every day.



Nahaso Lotaruk attends a ameeting meeting in Turkana County ahead of the 2026 16 Days of Activism.

NGEC SETS ELECTION EQUALITY AGENDA

Sixteen years after the Constitution set the two-thirds gender principle, women hold about 23 per cent of National Assembly seats. The Commission's Chief Executive set out how it will hold parties and the electoral process to account before 2027.



NGEC Commission Secretary/CEO Dr Purity Ngina, MBS, delivers the keynote address at the Annual Reflection and Learning Forum on Preparing Women for the Electoral Period in Nairobi.

Women hold about 23 per cent of seats in the National Assembly, fifteen years after the Constitution set the not more than two-thirds gender principle, Commission Secretary/CEO Dr Purity Ngina has said.

Dr Ngina delivered the keynote address at the Annual Reflection and Learning Forum on Preparing Women for the Electoral Period, convened in Nairobi by Echo Network Africa Foundation, the Democracy Trust Fund and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

> "The Constitution has decided that Kenya's leadership must reflect its people. Our task is to make sure the ballot does the same."
>
> Dr Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS,
> Commission Secretary/CEO, National Gender and Equality Commission

THE COMMISSION'S PLAN

She said the Commission is working to see the legal framework for the gender principle completed before the election, and is holding political parties to their equality and inclusion obligations through its joint audit with the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties.

The Commission is also preparing communities through county dialogues and supporting voter registration in the lowest-registering counties. It will monitor nominations and campaigns to act on gender-based electoral violence online and offline, and its Election 2027 tracker will keep the public and the media informed of key electoral milestones.

A MESSAGE TO ASPIRANTS

Dr Ngina urged women, youth and persons with disabilities seeking office to register early, know the rules and report every violation to the Commission.

#Election2027

#SafeguardingGenderGains

#TwoThirdsGenderPrinciple

GENDER SECTOR PREPARES FOR 2027

At the first biannual meeting of the National Gender Sector Working Group, the Chairperson set out the barriers that keep women and other Special Interest Groups out of electoral processes and the Commission's response. 25 November.



NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa (second right) with Cabinet Secretary Hon. Hanna Wendot Cheptumo and other stakeholders at the First Biannual National Gender Sector Working Group Meeting, Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi.

NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa has called for stronger collaboration so that every eligible Kenyan can register as a voter, take part in electoral processes and be represented in the 2027 General Elections.

She spoke at the First Biannual National Gender Sector Working Group Meeting at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, alongside Hon. Hanna Wendot Cheptumo, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services. The meeting was held under the theme "Election Preparedness for Women and Other Special Interest Groups".

PERSISTENT BARRIERS

The Chairperson stressed the need to address persistent barriers that limit the participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other Special Interest Groups in electoral processes.

THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSE

She outlined the Commission's ongoing work to support voter registration, promote inclusive political party nominations, strengthen grassroots engagement and address violence against women in politics.



Chairperson, Hon. Rehema Jaldesa speaking to the delegation during the National Gender Sector Working Group Meeting at Safari Park.

FUNDING FOR 44 WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS

The renewed Women's Voice and Leadership Kenya programme will fund women's rights organisations across the country until 2030, including those serving women with disabilities, refugees and arid and semi-arid communities.



Partners at the launch of the Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership Kenya programme.WHO IT REACHES

An estimated 44 women's rights organisations and networks will receive multi-year flexible funding under the renewed Women's Voice and Leadership Kenya (WVL-K) programme, launched with the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) in attendance.

The Commission joined Global Affairs Canada, CARE Kenya and consortium partners CREAW, Uraia Trust, CRAWN Trust and UAF-Africa at the launch.

WHO IT REACHES

The programme runs for five years, from 2025 to 2030, and includes 40 rapid response funds for emerging needs. It reaches grassroots and national organisations across the country, including those serving women with disabilities, refugees and communities in arid and semi-arid areas.

ALIGNED WITH THE MANDATE

Speaking for the Commission, Head of the Gender and Women Division Ms Goretty Osur said the programme aligns with the Commission's mandate to promote equality and freedom from discrimination for women, youth, persons with disabilities, older members of society and other marginalised groups. She commended its focus on women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.



Miss Goretty Osur from the Commission, speaking to the delegation during the launch of the Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership Kenya programme.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION | PARTNERSHIP

NGEC, CIVSOURCE EXPLORE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

CivSource Kenya and the Commission discussed how to open more decision-making spaces to young women and youth, and how to combine their platforms and networks to that end.



NGEC Commission Secretary/CEO Dr Purity Ngina, MBS, with CivSource Kenya representatives during their courtesy visit to the Commission.

Commission Secretary/CEO Dr Purity Ngina has received representatives of CivSource Kenya, Ms Stella Nderitu and Ms Ivy Jebet, on a courtesy visit to explore collaboration between the two organisations.

The discussions focused on the meaningful participation of young women and youth in key decision-making spaces, so that their voices are heard, their perspectives valued and their contributions reflected in decisions that shape their lives and communities.

The two organisations also explored how their platforms, networks and resources could create more opportunities for young women and youth to participate, influence decisions and advance gender equality in Kenya.

#YouthParticipation

#WomenInLeadership

#MeaningfulParticipation

#InclusiveDecisionMaking



A CivSource Kenya representative during their courtesy visit to the Commission.

INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS | ISIOLO

ISIOLO FORUM PLANS PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

At a forum convened by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, the Commission's Isiolo office pressed for the participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous communities in the 2027 elections.



Participants at the multi-stakeholder forum on peaceful 2027 General Elections in Isiolo County, convened by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has called for inclusive electoral processes at a multi-stakeholder forum on peaceful 2027 General Elections in Isiolo County.

The forum was convened by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). It brought together government institutions, county security leadership and stakeholders, including NCIC Commissioners Josephine Eregae and Hassan Billow.

PEACE AND INCLUSION

Participants deliberated on strategies for promoting peaceful coexistence, addressing hate speech and political intolerance, and preventing election-related conflict. The discussions emphasised stronger institutional collaboration, peacebuilding and the development of a County Action Plan towards peaceful elections.

The Commission's Isiolo Regional Office stressed the meaningful participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous communities and other Special Interest Groups, in line with Articles 27 and 56 of the Constitution on equality, non-discrimination, and the participation and representation of minorities and marginalised groups in governance.

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PUBLIC FINANCE | KILIFI

GENDER BUDGETING COMES TO KILIFI

The Commission's Malindi office worked with Kilifi County's budget and gender sector working groups and Members of the County Assembly to build gender equality into every stage of the county budget cycle.



Members of the Kilifi County Assembly during the Commission's workshop on gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has worked with Kilifi County to embed gender equality in every stage of the county budget, from planning and resource allocation to implementation and accountability.

From 10 to 12 November 2026, the Commission's Malindi Regional Office and Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection worked with the County Budget Sector Working Group, Members of the Kilifi County Assembly (MCAs) and the Gender Sector Working Group at the Kilifi County Convention Centre. The engagement was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES

The Commission cites Article 201 of the Constitution, which requires a public finance system that promotes an equitable society. Gender-responsive budgeting, it says, means public investments, programmes and services that respond to the needs and lived realities of women and men, girls and boys, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, minorities and marginalised communities.

THE ROLE OF MCAS

The Malindi Regional Office also led a capacity-building workshop for MCAs on gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting, to strengthen their ability to integrate gender equality and social inclusion into county legislation, planning, resource allocation and oversight.

As key players in county governance, MCAs decide how public resources are allocated. The Commission holds that every budgetary decision should promote fairness, inclusion and equitable development, so that equality is visible in where public money goes.



Participants follow a session during the gender-responsive budgeting engagement.



A group photo of Participants in the gender-responsive budgeting engagement at the Kilifi County Convention Centre.

RAILWAY STATIONS FACE ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

Commission officers visited nine stations and travelled with passengers to Nairobi Central to test whether rail services work for women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.



A passenger using a white cane boards a train during the Commission's railway accessibility audit.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has begun an accessibility audit of railway stations and train services to assess whether they are inclusive and accessible to all members of society.

The audit examines how accessible stations, boarding facilities, trains and related services are to women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, older members of society, and minorities and marginalised communities, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) at the centre of the Commission's mandate.

ON THE PLATFORM

Commission officers visited Ruiru, Doholm, Embakasi Village and Limuru stations, then Syokimau Railway Station, Nairobi Terminus, Nairobi Central Station and the Kenya Railways Corporation headquarters, observing facilities and engaging station personnel.

ON THE TRAIN

At Kahawa Railway Station, officers interviewed the Station Master and ticketing staff, then boarded a train for the one-hour journey to Nairobi Central Railway Station. On board, they interviewed passengers drawn from different Special Interest Groups about their experiences of station facilities, buying tickets and travelling by train, and asked for practical recommendations.

A second team engaged the Station Master and Passenger Service Assistant at Imaara Daima Railway Station on operations and the measures in place for different categories of passengers, then travelled with passengers to Nairobi Central Railway Station.

WHAT COMES NEXT

The audit will identify barriers, gaps in infrastructure and service delivery, and good practice, and will generate practical recommendations to strengthen accessibility, promote universal design and enhance gender equality and social inclusion in the railway sector. The Commission holds that accessible transport is a right that must be enjoyed by all.



Embakasi Village Station, among the stations visited by Commission officers.



Nairobi Terminus, one of the stations assessed during the railway accessibility audit.



A breastfeeding area at one of the stations assessed during the audit.



Imaara Daima Railway Station, where Commission officers engaged the Station Master and Passenger Service Assistant.



Nairobi Central Railway Station, where Commission officers ended a one-hour train journey from Kahawa.



A passenger using a white cane on board a train, beside a seat marked for p ersons with disabilities.

ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT | AVIATION PORTS OF ENTRY

AIRPORTS FACE EQUALITY AUDIT

With IOM Kenya, the Commission is auditing whether aviation ports of entry serve women, men, girls, boys, persons with disabilities and older persons equally, and has convened partners to validate the audit's tools.



Participants at the consensus-building workshop on the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion audit of aviation ports of entry, The Social House, Nairobi.

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Kenya are undertaking a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) audit of aviation ports of entry.

The audit falls under the Regional Counter-Smuggling Programme, supported by the United Kingdom Government. The Commission convened a consensus-building workshop at The Social House, Nairobi, to review and validate the audit's data collection tools with partner institutions and stakeholders.

PORTS FOR EVERYONE

The Commission stresses that ports of entry serve all persons, including women, men, girls and boys, persons with disabilities, older persons and other Special Interest Groups. Validated data collection tools, it says, strengthen the credibility of audit findings and support their practical application.

THE MANDATE

Under Section 8 of the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, the Commission promotes gender equality and freedom from discrimination, audits the status of Special Interest Groups and coordinates the mainstreaming of gender, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups in national development. It has committed to working with IOM Kenya, government institutions and partners to integrate equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for human dignity into migration governance and border management.



Participants follow a presentation during the consensus building workshop at The Social House, Nairobi



Emma Kimencu from the commission making a presentation during workshop.

COP31 URGED TO INCLUDE DISABILITY

Before the United Nations Secretary-General, the Commission delivered a statement on behalf of more than 120 organisations seeking a Disability Climate Constituency and the inclusion of disability in climate finance.



The Commission's delegation to COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) has called for formal recognition of a Disability Climate Constituency under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at a high-level meeting with the UN Secretary-General at COP31.

The Commission's delegation to COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, was led by Chairperson Hon. Rehema Dida Jaldesa. At the meeting on disability inclusion in climate action, the Commission's program officer Josephine Mwatibo delivered the statement of the Disability Climate Caucus, a network of more than 120 organisations, most of them from the Global South.

TWO REQUESTS

The statement asked for formal recognition of a Disability Climate Constituency under the UNFCCC, to give persons with disabilities direct access to climate negotiations, and for the inclusion of disability in climate finance, adaptation and the just transition.

WHO IS AT RISK

There are 1.3 billion persons with disabilities worldwide, and most live in countries that face the most severe floods, droughts and heatwaves. In disasters, they are two to four times more likely to be injured or killed, and early warning systems, shelters and climate finance often remain out of their reach.

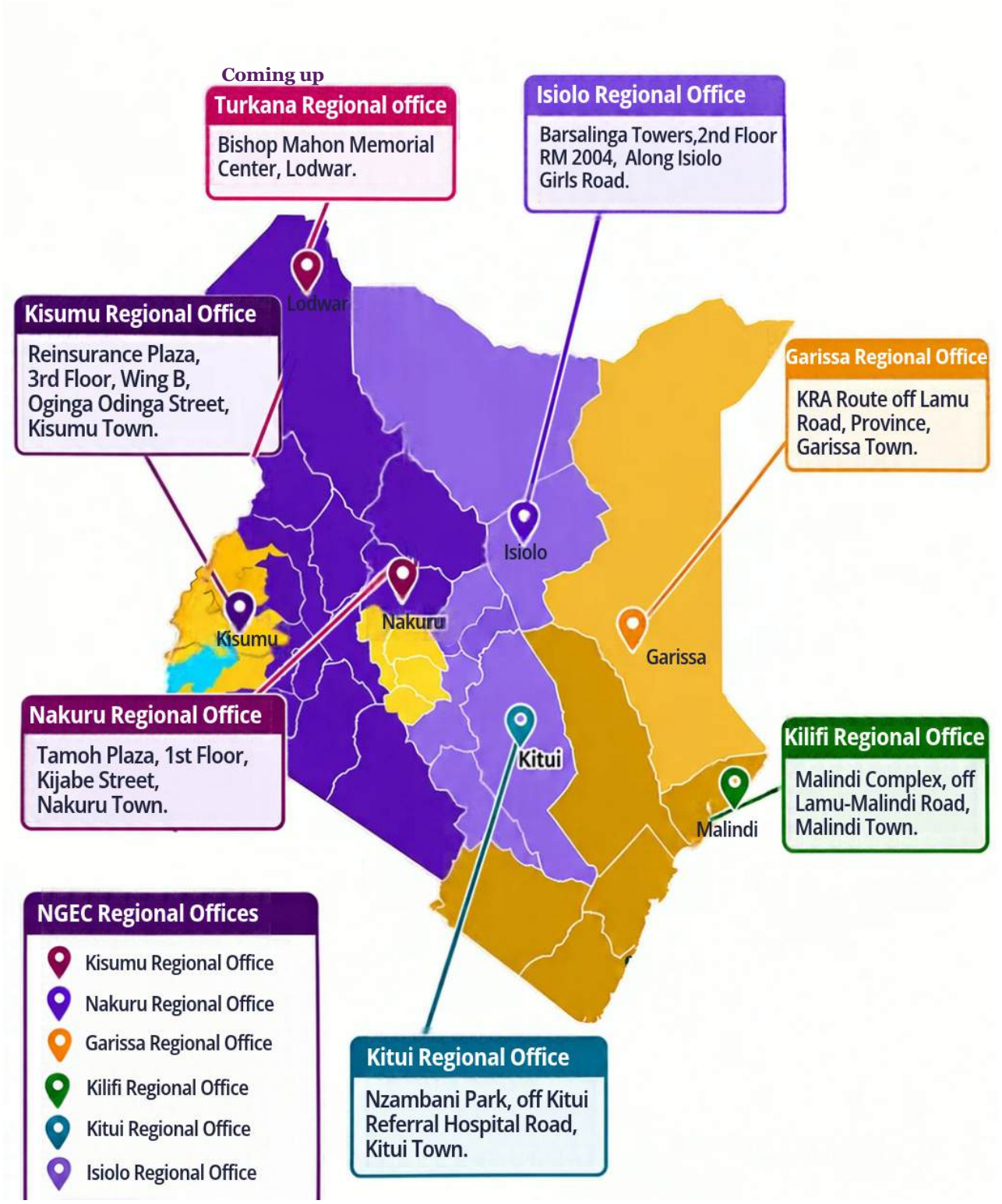
KENYA'S OBLIGATIONS

The Commission's engagement reflects Kenya's obligations under Article 54 of the Constitution, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025, and Article 4(3) of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which requires States to involve persons with disabilities in decisions that affect them.
The engagement follows the Chairperson's participation in the biodiversity COP17 in Yerevan in October, reported in Edition 45.



The Commission's Josephine Mwatibo delivers the Disability Climate Caucus statement at the high-level meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General at COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye.

NGEC NATIONAL FOOTPRINT



About NGEC

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) is a Constitutional Commission established under Article 59 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. Our mandate is to promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination for all.

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