

Human rights in Kenya, addressing:

Gender-based violence

Gender stereotypes and harmful cultural practices

Violation of Children's rights

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**GIRLS
ADVOCACY
ALLIANCE**



Issue 1: Gender-Based Violence

CONTEXT

➤ Recommendations received in 2015:

- Increase efforts to address sexual exploitation of girls and women;
- Set up special units in the justice and health systems to deal with gender-based violence and discrimination;

No recommendation was given to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) at the workplace.

➤ Progress and Gaps:

- In 2017, the National Gender and Equality Commission developed the County Government Model Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Violence. **The County governments are yet to adopt and domesticate it;**
- The establishment of Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centres (GBVRCs) in 5 major government hospitals. However, there is **lack of rescue centers and safe shelters that support full recovery of the survivors;**
- Setting up of Gender Desks in Divisional Police headquarters but not in each police station. However, **some of these existing Gender Desks do not provide victim-centered /friendly services for case reporting.**

Issue 1: Gender-Based Violence

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Ensure the adoption, domestication and full implementation of the County Government Model Policy on Sexual and Gender Based Violence together with the National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework by all the 47 counties in Kenya by 2022;**

1. **Ensure the setting up of Gender Desks at all the police stations country wide and provide adequate resources, including training of the officers, to support effective reporting and handling of gender-based violence cases before the next Review;**
1. **Establish and ensure well equipped and functional Gender Based Violence Recovery Centers and safe shelters in all the 47 counties to offer comprehensive, quality care to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence before the next Review;**
1. **Allocate adequate resources for effective implementation and monitoring of laws and policies on gender-based violence at the workplace immediately.**

Issue 2: Gender stereotypes and harmful cultural practices - CONTEXT

➤ Recommendations received in 2015:

- Allocate adequate resources to implement affirmative action policies for the protection and advancement of the rights of girls and young women;
- Eliminate stereotypes and harmful practices against women (including female genital mutilation, wife inheritance, and forced and early marriage);

➤ Progress and Gaps:

- Development of the Community Dialogue and the Alternative Rites of Passage Guidelines by the Anti-FGM Board;
- The State's School Re-entry Policy of ensuring the readmission of girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy and child/forced marriages is laudable. There is, however, **minimal awareness regarding the existence and intention of this policy** amongst communities, teachers and other stakeholders across the country;
- **FGM has largely contributed to child/forced marriages**, since girls who have undergone the cut, despite being children, are considered adults. The national prevalence of **child marriage and teenage pregnancy is still high**.

Issue 2: Gender stereotypes and harmful cultural practices - RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Fast track the formulation and implementation of an End Child Marriage Policy, by 2022;**
1. **Strictly enforce the School Re-entry Policy for young mothers, and take administrative action against schools that violate the policy, immediately;**
1. **Enact the Care and Protection of Child Parents, Senate Bill 2019, immediately.** This will provide a framework within the Counties through which an expectant girl child, or a child parent, may actualise their right to basic education, and at the same time ensure the care of their children; and for connected purposes.



Issue 3: Violation of Childrens' rights CONTEXT

➤ **Recommendations received in 2015:**

- Prosecute the perpetrators of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children; End early marriages and the trafficking of minors;
- Take measures to develop an integral plan of action to combat trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and girls, including through medical and psychological assistance to victims of these crimes;
- End early marriages and the trafficking of minors (Spain)

Issue 3: Violation of Children's rights CONTEXT

Progress and Gaps:

- The draft **Children's Bill published in 2016**, following a review process that began in 2010;
- Put in place the **National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children 2015-2022** although not fully costed;
- Put in place **the National Plan of Action on Sexual Exploitation of Children 2018-2022** although not yet launched and disseminated for implementation;
- Establishment of **Anti- Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit** as well as the Transnational Organized Crime Unit; **though not well resource;**
- Setting up of the **National Assistance Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (Trust Fund)** but not yet operationalized

Issue 3: Violation of Children's rights RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Fast track the enactment of the Draft Children Bill** by ensuring that the proposed Bill is tabled in Parliament without any further delays;
1. **Fast track the review of the National Plan of Action for Children 2015-2022, and cost it appropriately** to ensure that there is a framework in place for budgeting for children in Kenya, by 2020;
1. **Disseminate and fully implement the National Plan of Action on Sexual Exploitation of Children 2018-2022**, to enhance the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation of children in Kenya, immediately;
1. **Develop a data collection and storage system of human trafficking** cases including child trafficking, by the end of 2020;
1. **Fully operationalize the Trust Fund by allocating funds and gazettelement of the regulations on the Trust Fund, immediately.**

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terre des hommes 
stops child exploitation

Terre des Hommes Netherlands
(TdH-NL)

Plan International

Coalition on Violence Against
Women (COVAW)

Women's Empowerment Link
(WEL)

Nyanza Initiative for Girls'
Education and Empowerment
(NIGEE)



Girls first



THANK YOU
from all the members
of our Coalition