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KENYA WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CONDEMNS ABUSE AND SLAVERY OF KENYAN WORKERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association – KEWOPA today joins fellow Kenyans in condemning the assaults and abuse witnessed in the Middle East towards Kenyan female domestic workers. These acts not only amplify violence against women but also depict the sadistic nature in the human race.

KEWOPA strongly decries the recent acts of sexual violence, physical and mental abuse against migrant workers in the Middle East countries. Gulf state employers have been dogged by allegations of mistreating their migrant workers for years. Most migrant workers have been deprived off their freedom of expression and speech as they are not allowed to access any forms of communication from the outside world including their relatives. They are forced to work in multiple homes and for longer hours and are denied enough sleep. Most employment agencies have also failed to protect the rights of the Kenyan women by giving out false re-assurance to the victims' families.

Most workers are neither allowed to seek for medical attention nor allowed to leave the country since their passports have been confiscated by the so called agency officials. A case was witnessed in the past few months when online photos of a Kenyan lady who was ill-treated and molested while working in Saudi Arabia went viral. She is one of the very lucky workers who got public attention and was able to return home. But what about other families who are forced to receive dead



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bodies of their daughters and sisters, without any clear information of what happened to them?

As KEWOPA and the women leaders of this country, we take this opportunity and plead with the government to regulate the agencies taking our girls, sisters and mothers to the Middle East. There is need for an intensive multi-sectoral engagement with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Immigration, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to substantially work on a long term solution. For the government authorities to ban the deployment of Kenyan domestic workers to the Middle East until protection measures are taken because Kenyan workers do not deserve such kind of cruelty.

For further information,

Contact KEWOPA Communications Office: info@kewopa.org or call: 0748 264294