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EMPowerHer



2026

For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment

Chair's Remarks

Advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusive governance requires deliberate action, strong coordination, and sustained commitment across all levels of decision making.

This edition highlights key engagements that reflect KEWOPA's mandate to strengthen women's participation in governance, influence gender responsive legislation, and ensure that policies translate into real outcomes for women and girls.

A sensitization workshop on the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment brings together Parliament, government, and development partners to align priorities and improve implementation. The discussions reflect KEWOPA's mandate of legislative oversight and policy influence by focusing on coordination, accountability, and measurable impact.

Women leaders highlight persistent barriers affecting economic participation, including limited access to finance, markets, and skills, as well as unpaid care work and structural inequalities. These engagements reflect KEWOPA's commitment to amplifying women's lived realities and ensuring they inform policy and budget decisions.

Discussions on safeguarding women in political leadership underscore ongoing violence in physical, psychological, economic, and digital forms. These conversations align with KEWOPA's mandate to protect and promote women's political participation and strengthen accountability systems that guarantee safe and inclusive political spaces.

A strategic partnership was formalized with Oxfam Kenya through a Memorandum of Understanding to advance gender justice, strengthen women's leadership, and enhance parliamentary oversight. This collaboration supports KEWOPA's work on gender based violence, care economy, and equitable resource allocation.

In Parliament, women leaders continue to advance legislation on inclusion, economic empowerment, disability rights, clean energy, and sustainable development. Community engagement forums also continue to strengthen public participation.

Looking ahead, KEWOPA continues to deepen policy influence, strengthen partnerships, and expand grassroots engagement to ensure that rights, equality, and empowerment are realized for all women and girls across Kenya.



Hon. Leah Sankaire, MP,
Chairperson, KEWOPA

Bunge Highlights

Driving Change Through Action: Women Legislators at Work

Kenya's women legislators are transforming the policy landscape through decisive action and thoughtful leadership. Their work brings attention to pressing issues, strengthens accountability, and ensures that governance reflects the needs of all citizens. By championing meaningful reforms, they are shaping a future where public policies are more inclusive, equitable, and responsive to society.



Hon. Jane Kagiri, MP sponsored the **Local Content Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 45 of 2025)**, which progressed to Second Reading, seeking to strengthen local participation in key economic sectors and enhance domestic value creation through structured local content requirements. The Bill aims to prioritize Kenyan enterprises, skills, and labor in public and private sector value chains. It also seeks to create legal frameworks for economic inclusion in procurement and industrial development. She emphasized economic empowerment through structured legislative safeguards. The Bill further addresses equitable distribution of national economic benefits.



Sen. Hamida Kibwana, MP moved the **Clean Cooking Framework Motion**, highlighting the disproportionate burden of indoor air pollution and firewood collection on women and girls, and advocating for clean energy adoption. She also sponsored the Nuts and Oil Crops Development Bill, which introduces the two-thirds gender rule in board appointments. The Motion calls for policy interventions to promote affordable clean energy technologies. It seeks to reduce health risks associated with traditional cooking fuels. The legislative proposals link environmental health to gender equity and economic empowerment.



Hon. Umulkher Harun, MP co-sponsored the **Kenya Sign Language Bill and sponsored the Learners with Disabilities Bill**, advancing legislative measures aimed at strengthening disability inclusion, improving educational access, and safeguarding the rights of learners with disabilities. The Learners with Disabilities Bill provides for inclusive education frameworks and tailored learning support systems. It seeks to ensure equal access to educational infrastructure and resources. She emphasized protection of rights for vulnerable learners in education systems. The legislative agenda strengthens social inclusion and equitable service delivery for persons with disabilities.

Bunge Highlights



Sen. Veronica Maina, MP moved the Motion on **Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives in Legislative and Policy Processes**, calling for enforcement of the two-thirds gender rule, implementation of Article 27 on equality and non-discrimination, and integration of gender-responsive approaches in lawmaking and public policy. She also sponsored the Agriculture Produce (Minimum Guaranteed Returns) Bill and issued a statement on Kenya's participation in the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70). She emphasized closing legislative gaps that disadvantage women in access to opportunities and representation. She linked gender mainstreaming to budgetary allocation and accountability in public institutions. She further reinforced the need for institutional compliance with constitutional gender provisions across all levels of government.



Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona, MP co-sponsored the **Kenya Sign Language Bill (Senate Bill No. 9 of 2023)**, which advanced to the Committee of the Whole House, supporting formal recognition and promotion of Kenya Sign Language to enhance accessibility and inclusion for persons with hearing disabilities. The Bill seeks to mainstream sign language in public service delivery and education systems. It provides for interpretation services in government institutions and courts. She emphasized equality of communication rights for persons with disabilities. The legislation strengthens constitutional provisions on inclusivity and non-discrimination.



Hon. Mary Wamaua, MP moved the Motion on Sustainable Management and Valorization of Organic Waste from Avocado Processing, promoting environmentally sustainable waste management and value-addition within the avocado sector. The Motion encourages circular economy approaches in agricultural production systems. It supports innovation in agro-processing and waste reuse. She emphasized job creation through value chain optimization. The proposal aligns environmental sustainability with agricultural productivity and economic growth.

ADVANCING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN KIAMBU.



Inclusive electoral governance begins when women are fully represented in decision-making and governance processes. Strengthening this principle was at the center of a recent town hall that brought together women leaders, youth groups, civil society actors, and electoral stakeholders to advance advocacy for greater participation of women in leadership and governance.

The forum was convened by KEWOPA in partnership with URAIA Trust and with support from Embassy of Denmark in Kenya. It was led by Hon. Anne Muratha, and provided a platform for open dialogue on barriers affecting women and youth participation in political and governance processes.

Participants discussed key challenges including limited access to political spaces, electoral accountability gaps, and structural barriers that continue to hinder inclusive participation. Shaping governance outcomes.

The dialogue also focused on practical strategies for strengthening grassroots advocacy and enhancing policy engagement to ensure more inclusive electoral systems.

Hon. Muratha emphasized the growing recognition of women's leadership capacity, noting: "Women across this country have proven themselves as capable and successful leaders. As we approach the next election, we must sensitize our people to appreciate women who lead and support more women to step forward into leadership."

The discussions underscored a shared understanding that inclusive leadership is essential for a just, responsive, and representative democracy. Participants reaffirmed the need for continued civic education, advocacy, and collaboration among stakeholders to ensure that women and young people are not only included but actively



TRANSLATING POLICY INTO REAL ECONOMIC POWER FOR WOMEN



KEWOPA Members, Chairperson Social Protection Committee and the PS State Department for Gender and affirmative Action during the NPWEE meeting

Turning policy into real economic power for women requires deliberate action, coordination, and clear results. This was the focus of a sensitization workshop convened by KEWOPA on the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment.

The workshop brought together stakeholders from Parliament, government, and development partners to align on how the policy can be implemented in practical terms. The session was led by Principal Secretary for Gender and Affirmative Action, Anne Wang'ombe, who stressed the need to address fragmentation across existing programmes. While many initiatives exist, weak coordination has limited their impact. The policy aims to create linkages, align resources, and strengthen accountability across institutions.

Discussions focused on the gap between policy design and implementation. Participants called for clear roles and clarity on how the policy works alongside existing mechanisms such as NGAAF without duplicating mandates. There was also a strong call for better data to track how resources reach women, measure outcomes, and identify gaps at the grassroots level.

Participants also pointed to ongoing barriers, including limited market access, financing gaps, unpaid care work, and structural challenges that continue to hold women back. They stressed that progress must be visible in the daily lives of women, not only in policy documents.

The policy was positioned as a framework to bring together efforts across sectors such as agriculture, trade, and enterprise development, ensuring women benefit from public investment. It also strengthens the role of women leaders by supporting and amplifying existing initiatives.

There was agreement on the need to increase women's participation in leadership and decision making, supported by sustained civic engagement and targeted interventions. Participants also emphasized practical approaches that reflect how women organize at the grassroots, including strengthening group models and scaling successful initiatives.

KEWOPA reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the policy is clear, implementable, and responsive to the realities of Kenyan women, with a focus on delivering coordinated and measurable results.

Highlights & Engagements

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH OXFAM KENYA TO ADVANCE GENDER JUSTICE

KEWOPA has formalized a strategic partnership with Oxfam Kenya through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at advancing gender justice in Kenya. The collaboration will strengthen joint efforts on the care agenda and promote transformative women's leadership while enhancing parliamentary engagement on governance, budget advocacy, and accountability. It will also prioritize addressing gender-based violence, including violence against women in politics, and support legislative and policy influence, oversight, and equitable public resource allocation. Through this partnership, KEWOPA reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that national priorities are translated into meaningful, measurable improvements in the lives of women and girls across the country.



Mercy Mwangi, KEWOPA ED, and Mwongera Mutiga, Oxfam ED hold the MOU after the official signing

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION: SAFEGUARDING WOMEN IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP



Njoki speaks during the Nordic Africa Institute conference

Women's political participation in Kenya continues to be constrained by persistent systemic barriers and violence, underscoring the urgent need to build safer and more inclusive political ecosystems for women in leadership. At a convening hosted by the Nordic Africa Institute in partnership with the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association, leaders and practitioners examined the gap between constitutional guarantees and the lived realities of women in politics, noting that despite increased participation, women continue to face physical, psychological, economic, and digital violence that undermines their ability to engage and lead effectively. Drawing from lived experiences and advocacy work, panelists highlighted the need for stronger accountability mechanisms for perpetrators, improved institutional responses, and safer digital and grassroots political spaces. The convening concluded with a collective call for sustained collaboration among institutions, political actors, and citizens to move beyond commitments and take deliberate action toward enforcing existing protections, strengthening accountability, and guaranteeing safe, equitable participation for women in politics.

REGIONAL FORUM ADVANCES GENDER-RESPONSIVE PARLIAMENTARY REFORMS IN LOMÉ



Participants during the regional forum on strengthening gender-responsive parliaments held in Lomé, Togo.

The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) was represented by Executive Director Mercy Mwangi at a regional forum in Lomé, Togo, that convened Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, and civil society representatives from Kenya, Ghana, and Togo to discuss strengthening gender-responsive parliaments.

Discussions focused on strategic and operational planning, inclusive human resource policies, and management practices that support gender-responsive parliamentary institutions.

Participants shared experiences on gender-responsive human resource policies and strategic planning across parliaments and examined practical approaches for integrating gender into institutional systems, policies, and management frameworks.

The forum also provided a platform for peer learning and exchange of comparative experiences to strengthen inclusive parliamentary governance.

KEWOPA's participation reaffirmed its commitment to advancing institutional reforms that promote inclusive, gender-responsive legislative processes.



THE GRASSROOTS CONVERSATION: COUNTY DIALOGUES RESHAPING WOMEN'S POLITICAL POWER AND PARTICIPATION.



The Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya (CMD Kenya) is a national democracy support organisation that provides neutral platforms for diverse actors including government institutions, civic actors, religious institutions, the private sector, diplomatic missions and academia to engage in open, inclusive, and issue-based dialogue on governance and sustainable development. Through this, CMD Kenya has, over the last 22 years, played a pivotal role in advancing inclusive democratic governance, citizen participation, and sustainable development in Kenya. CMD Kenya has deliberately created and supported platforms that bring stakeholders to share experiences, explore local solutions, and drive progress towards the meaningful inclusion of women in politics and governance.

Through a partnership approach, CMD Kenya and Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) curated and convened a series of county-level public town-hall forums in Samburu, West Pokot and Nakuru Counties bringing together community members, grassroots leaders, elected women members of parliament including; Hon. Pauline Lenguris (Samburu County Women Representative), Hon Rael Kasiwai (West Pokot County Women Representative), Hon Jayne Kihara (Member of Parliament, Naivasha Constituency) among other elected duty bearers. The forums provided inclusive platforms for citizens, particularly women, to articulate and interrogate barriers limiting women's participation in governance processes at the local level and offer practical reform oriented proposals.

Issues that emerged largely revolved around harmful cultural norms that have entrenched social roles, societal notions and degrading criticisms attributed to women in politics. Gender Based Violence in the form of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which is still actively practised in areas such as Samburu, also emerged as an oppressive tool for women, and a contributing factor to the minimal participation and ultimately representation of Women in governance. The general consensus was that; political and leadership spaces need to be adequately representative of all demographics to ensure decision making is holistic therefore strengthening the nation's democracy.

A key recommendation from the participants, including the male participants, was to introduce and intensify existing training programs, targeted at men, to enhance knowledge on the harms and negative physiological and psychological effects of the practice. This action would be aimed at converting men into male Anti-FGM champions, and would be complemented by protective policies against this harmful practise. Overall, by directly connecting the citizens to the KEWOPA's unified advocacy agenda, and elected legislators, the forums served as a bridge between grassroots concerns and formal policy processes.



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Kenyans face many challenges, and when they go to hospitals, they deserve proper care. It is wrong for a mother to carry a baby for nine months, only for the child to be at risk or die because of sharing a bed with very sick patients.

Hon. Amina Udgoon
County M.P, Garissa County



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No mother deserves to lose her life while giving birth, and no child should grow up without immunization.

Hon. Beatrice Ogolla,
Nominated Senator



““

We must build health systems that serve every mother and every child, including those with disabilities.”

Hon. Crystal Asige
Nominated Senator



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The National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) has improved lives at the community level. It has helped many children go to school and supported youth, women groups, and other vulnerable people. Although the funds may be little, but the difference they make is huge.

Hon. Naomi Waqo
County M.P, Marsabit County



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Women across this country have proven themselves as capable and successful leaders. As we approach the next election, we must sensitize our people to appreciate women who lead and support more women to step forward into leadership.

Hon. Ann Muratha,
County MP, Kiambu County



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Health is a devolved function and we must give it the attention it deserves through sustainable immunization financing.

Hon. Consolata Wakabubi
Nominated Senator



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As women, we must confront our fears, rise with courage and take our rightful place in leadership and shaping the future of our nation.

Mary Wanjiru
Resident, Kiambu County



Gender equality is not a women's issue alone; it is a societal imperative that drives justice, progress, and shared prosperity in Kenya.

A LEGACY OF FIRSTS: HON. PROF. MARGARET KAMAR'S INFLUENCE ON GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSION

Hon. Prof Margaret Kamar is Senator in Senate of Kenya from 2017 to date and Member of Pan African Parliament from 2022 to date. She serves as Vice Chair of Education Committee and Member of Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. In the Pan African Parliament, she chairs the Health Labour and Social Services Committee. She is immediate former Senator Uasin Gishu County and former Deputy Speaker of Senate of Kenya and first woman Deputy Speaker of Senate of Kenya. She previously served as Vice Chair of Procedures and Rules Committee.

Hon. Prof Kamar has held senior executive roles including Assistant Minister of Environment and Mineral Resources and Minister for Higher Education Science and Technology. She is a Professor of Soil Science at Moi University specializing in soil and water conservation with over twenty years lecturing experience. She has served as Campus Principal for five years and Deputy Vice Chancellor for three years demonstrating strong academic leadership. At national and regional level, she served in East African Legislative Assembly for five years and in National Assembly for five years representing Eldoret East Constituency. In Parliament she was first Kenyan woman on Speakers Panel serving as Temporary Speaker while also serving in Budget Committee and House Procedures and Standing Orders Committees.

She represented National Assembly in ACP EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly where she chaired Social and Environmental Committee covering environment climate change and sustainable development. Legislatively she has sponsored two bills in 2023. **The Kenyan Sign Language Bill Senate Bill No 9, 2023 passed and is at National Assembly for consideration.** **The Learners with Disabilities Bill Senate Bill No 4, 2023 passed and referred to National Assembly for consideration.**

These interventions reflect commitment to inclusive education and rights of persons with disabilities. Her leadership continues to advance inclusive governance education reform and regional integration across Kenya, East Africa and the African Continent through legislative oversight and academic engagement at national level sustainably.



Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar

We extend our sincere appreciation to our esteemed partners for their invaluable support, collaboration, and commitment.

United Nations Agencies

UN Women, UNFPA

Government Institutions and State Agencies

Parliament of Kenya, State Department of Gender, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)

Development Partners and Bilateral Agencies

Global Affairs Canada, DANIDA

Research and Policy Institutions

Institute of Public Finance (IPF), African Centre for Economic Policy Analysis (ACEPA), Centre for Parliamentary Studies (CPST)

Civil Society Organizations and Networks

Uraia, CREAM, ICJ, FIDA, Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), CRAWN Trust, Health NGOs Network (HENNET), ELGIA Africa

Professional Associations

Kenya Paediatric Association, Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA)

International NGOs and Implementing Partners

Oxfam, Journalists for Human Rights (JHR), Jhpiego, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD-Kenya), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)

We value each partnership and remain committed to strengthening these collaborations in advancing our shared goals.

Snapshots





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