

EMPowerHer



Chairperson's Message: Hon. Leah Sankaire on preparing women leaders for 2027 through economic agency and SRHR protections

Bunge Highlights: Key legislative proposals on AI governance, e-waste management, power subsidies, and sexual offenses amendments

KEWOPA Mashinani: Business growth evaluations in Homa Bay and grassroots **SRHR community dialogues** in Kwale and Kisii counties

Policy to Action: Translating the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment and CFS Gender Guidelines into legislative outcomes

Guest Contribution: THE CRADLE Linking Fiscal Planning to SRHR Legislation, Maternal Health, and Child Rights

Member Spotlight: Senator Miraj Abdillah Kimby on legislative advocacy, youth empowerment, and child parent protections



2026

BODY, RIGHTS, AND POWER

Advancing SRHR, Ending Gender Violence, and Securing Women's Leadership.

Chair's Remarks

As Kenya progresses toward the 2027 General Election, the focus of our national discourse must center on whether women and young people are equipped with the legislative backing, institutional resources, and safe civic environments required to lead effectively.

This objective underpinned KEWOPA's strategic engagements throughout September 2026. Bringing together legislators, community leaders, development partners, and civil society, our initiatives focused on addressing structural barriers to political and economic equity while establishing clear frameworks for women's leadership.

At KEWOPA, we maintain that sustainable political influence relies on economic independence, legal literacy, and physical safety. A woman who possesses economic agency, understands public finance, and operates within protected legal boundaries is equipped to influence public decision-making and demand institutional accountability.

Through KEWOPA Mashinani, we expanded civic engagement and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) dialogues directly to communities in Homa Bay, Kwale, Nyamira, and Kisii. Concurrently, our partnerships with organizations like the Institute of Public Finance (IPF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) continue to translate global guidelines and national policy frameworks including the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment (NPWEE) and Sessional Paper No. 6 of 2026, into actionable legislative and budgetary outcomes.

In Parliament, our members continue to sponsor bills addressing key policy priorities, ranging from artificial intelligence governance and e-waste management to agricultural power subsidies and survivor protection. As we prepare for 2027, we remain focused on eliminating political violence, harassment, and economic barriers that inhibit women's political participation.

Women and young people are currently legislating, building enterprises, organizing communities, and shaping policy across Kenya. KEWOPA remains dedicated to ensuring this leadership translates directly into institutional representation and decision-making authority.

We remain committed to advancing women and youth from the margins to the centre of Kenya's political and economic governance.



Hon. Leah Sankaire, MP
Chairperson, KEWOPA

Bunge Highlights

Women Legislators Shaping Policy

Women parliamentarians continue to advance legislation, motions and policy proposals addressing issues that affect communities across Kenya.



Sen. Beatrice Ogolla: Sponsoring the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Bill, 2023

Sen. Beatrice Ogolla sponsored the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Bill, 2023 to create a dedicated legislative framework for quality maternal care, essential newborn interventions, and reduced maternal mortality rates. The Bill establishes standards for emergency obstetric care, skilled birth attendance, and post-natal healthcare services across all counties.



Hon. Njeri Maina: Advocating for Endometriosis & Fibroids Care in National Health Policies.

Kirinyaga County MP Hon. Njeri Maina petitioned the National Assembly to integrate endometriosis, fibroids, and chronic reproductive conditions into public healthcare benefits and Universal Health Coverage frameworks. Her advocacy focuses on lowering diagnostic costs, expanding specialist access, and removing systemic financial barriers that affect women's health and productivity.



Sen. Karen Nyamu on Reproductive Healthcare Reform for Women

Hon. Karen Nyamu has championed national policy reform for chronic reproductive health conditions like endometriosis and fibroids, calling on the Kenyan Senate to make specialized care, early diagnosis, and advanced laparoscopic treatments affordable and accessible to women across all counties while turning public awareness into direct legislative action, accountability, and technology safety measures across public and private sectors.



Sen. Fatuma Dullo: Sponsoring the Street Naming and Property Addressing System Bill, 2024

Sen. Fatuma Dullo sponsored the Street Naming and Property Addressing System Bill, 2024, to establish a framework for physical addressing across Kenya. The legislation aims to standardize street naming and house numbering to improve emergency response efficiency, postal service delivery, urban planning, and e-commerce logistics.

Bunge Highlights



Hon. Udgoon Siyad: Sponsoring the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Hon. Udgoon Siyad sponsored the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to strengthen legal protections against sexual and gender based violence. The Bill seeks to tighten prosecution procedures, enhance survivor support services, and address emerging dimensions of gender based violence within judicial processes



Hon. Gertrude Mbeyu: Championing Employment Pathways for NYS Graduates

Hon. Gertrude Mbeyu moved a Motion proposing a policy for the structured recruitment of National Youth Service (NYS) graduates as security officers in government institutions. The initiative seeks to expand formal employment opportunities for disciplined youth while standardizing security operations across state ministries and public agencies.



Sen. Peris Tobiko: Sponsoring the Electronic Equipment Disposal, Recycling and Reuse Bill, 2025

Sen. Peris Tobiko sponsored the Electronic Equipment Disposal, Recycling and Reuse Bill, 2025, to strengthen electronic waste management protocols nationwide. The Bill creates regulatory mechanisms to promote responsible e-waste disposal, safe recycling procedures, and device reuse to mitigate environmental contamination and protect public health.



Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba: Advocating Power Subsidies for Agricultural Exporters

Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba moved a Motion requesting the national government to formulate a policy on power subsidies for export-oriented agricultural production. The proposal targets reduced electricity tariffs for agri-processors and exporters to lower production costs, enhance global competitiveness, and boost rural agricultural revenue.

Skills Turning into Stronger Business Decisions: Homa Bay County



KEWOPA, in partnership with the Institute of Public Finance (IPF), conducted an evaluation of the SPALTA Project in Homa Bay County to assess the long-term impact of its financial management and business skills training.

The evaluation revealed substantial progress in how women entrepreneurs manage their enterprises. Participants have successfully integrated core business skills including systematic record keeping, strategic business planning, cash flow management, and targeted savings. Several entrepreneurs reported stock expansion, product diversification, business registration, employee recruitment, and the integration of digital payment channels such as M-Pesa till numbers and digital marketing tools. Women are also increasingly joining SACCOs and securing credit facilities to finance business expansion.

A major focus of the training was separating personal finances from business revenue to track profitability and optimize budget planning. Local business owner Eunice Radiro highlighted the practical transformation in her operations:

"I sell clothes. Initially I only used to sell one thing. I've learnt to diversify and I have more products to sell in my boutique. I was also taught how to open till number and my customer approach has improved and my sales record has improved because I've learnt record keeping."

While the evaluation demonstrated enhanced financial discipline and operational confidence, entrepreneurs continue to face structural challenges including limited access to affordable capital, market competition, and slow growth cycles. KEWOPA remains committed to pairing skills development with advocacy for accessible capital, expanded market access, and sustained enterprise support.



Community Action for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights: Kwale County



KEWOPA convened a community dialogue on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Kwale County to address the systemic drivers of adolescent pregnancies, sexual and gender based violence, HIV transmission, and barriers to health services.

Data from the National Syndemic Diseases Control Council highlights the scale of the challenge in Kwale County, where 7,582 adolescent pregnancies were recorded in 2025, comprising 366 girls aged 10 to 14 and 7,216 aged 15 to 19. The county also recorded 379 cases of sexual and gender based violence among adolescents aged 10 to 17. Participants analyzed how early forced marriage, sexual violence, inadequate access to contraception, and poor menstrual health management compound vulnerability and truncate the educational and socio-economic prospects of young girls.

Emphasizing the imperative for local responsibility and immediate reporting, community member Abu noted:

"Kujua haki zetu haitoshi. Lazima tujue kuona ukatili, kusema bila kuogopa, kuwalinda wasichana na kusaidia wale wameathirika wapate msaada wanao-hitaji."

Addressing these triple threats requires an integrated, multi-sectoral approach involving families, educational institutions, healthcare providers, local administration, and community leadership. KEWOPA continues to strengthen grassroots advocacy to improve access to comprehensive SRHR services, enhance legal protections, and secure timely justice and support for survivors.



Promoting Inclusive Electoral Governance and Women's Leadership in Nyamira County



Women's meaningful participation in governance requires safe spaces to speak, access to information, and the ability to influence decisions. In Nyamira County, the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association engaged women and youth on inclusive electoral governance, focusing discussions on public participation, gender-based violence, electoral violence, and the systemic challenges women face in political and civic spaces.

The engagement examined critical structural barriers including discriminatory cultural norms, intimidation, harassment, limited financial resources, exclusion from decision-making, and restricted access to information, all of which continue to affect women's participation in governance and electoral processes.

"Cultural barriers have held many women back from politics. We need the skills, knowledge, and confidence to be more proactive and take our place in public participation." - Mary Barongo

The session provided women and youth with practical skills and knowledge to identify priority community issues, engage state institutions, participate effectively in public forums, advocate for their interests, and hold decision-makers accountable. Discussions highlighted the necessity of moving beyond surface-level participation toward genuine voice, influence, safety, and institutional accountability, while equipping women and young people to engage meaningfully throughout the entire electoral cycle. Conducted by KEWOPA in partnership with Uraia, the engagement was supported by the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya and Somalia.



Community Action for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights: Kisii County



KEWOPA convened a community dialogue in Kisii County to address intersecting challenges surrounding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV), and access to essential health services.

Data from the Kisii County Gender Data Sheet highlights the urgency of these interventions: 35.7% of women aged 15 to 49 in Kisii have experienced physical violence since age 15, while 16% have experienced sexual violence. Furthermore, 47.2% of women agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances, illustrating the deep-seated cultural norms that perpetuate harm.

The forum brought together local administration, health practitioners, law enforcement, young mothers, and survivors of forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Healthcare providers outlined emergency response protocols, including the immediate provision of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), emergency contraception, and clinical evidence collection. Law enforcement officials committed to swift prosecution of defilement cases without victim-blaming.

Addressing gender-based violence and SRHR barriers requires multi-sectoral coordination, proactive community engagement, and responsive public institutions to ensure justice, care, and protection for women and girls across Kisii County.



Highlights & Engagements

Translating Global Frameworks into Local Action for Women's Empowerment

KEWOPA participated in the FAO In-Person Learning Programme on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.

Represented by Legal Associate Daniel Murakaru, KEWOPA joined key stakeholders to examine mechanisms for translating global guidelines into practical national and community action. The session addressed systemic barriers limiting women's participation in food systems and the broader economy, including unequal access to land, financial services, markets, and productive resources, alongside the burden of unpaid care work, discriminatory social norms, and underrepresentation in governance.



Stakeholders collaborate to advance gender responsive policies.

Discussions emphasized the essential role of Parliament in bridging global commitments and national implementation through gender-responsive legislation, dedicated county and national budget allocations, robust legislative oversight, and inclusive policy design. Facilitating dialogue on institutional capacity building, Murakaru highlighted strategies for equipping legislators, engaging grassroots leadership, and contextualizing international standards to match local socio-economic realities.

Institutional Alignment for the 2027 Electoral Cycle: KEWOPA Staff Retreat



Mercy Mwangi guides staff institutional alignment retreat.

KEWOPA convened its internal staff retreat to evaluate ongoing program implementation, synthesize operational lessons, and strategically align institutional priorities ahead of the 2027 electoral cycle.

The retreat focused on sharpening the Association's legislative agenda, policy advocacy, and technical capacity to support women parliamentarians and aspiring women leaders. Staff members analyzed emerging policy trends, gender-responsive legislative priorities, and target areas for parliamentary engagement in the upcoming legislative term.

Participants also reviewed organizational workflows, monitoring frameworks, and inter-departmental coordination mechanisms to optimize program delivery. By reinforcing its internal structure and strategic roadmap, KEWOPA continues to strengthen its institutional readiness to advance women's political leadership, equitable representation, and democratic governance moving toward 2027.

Translating Policy Commitments into Economic Opportunities: National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment



Members of Parliament and stakeholders at the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment (NPWEE) forum

KEWOPA, convened Members of Parliament for a two-day strategic engagement on the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment (NPWEE) and Sessional Paper No. 6 of 2026.

With Sessional Paper No. 6 of 2026 currently before Parliament, the forum focused on evaluating policy priorities, resource allocation, cross-governmental coordination mechanisms, and framework metrics for monitoring implementation across both national and county levels. Interrogating evidence across sectors, participating parliamentarians assessed strategies to align policy commitments with implementation in agriculture, social protection, enterprise development, and public finance.

Opening the conference on behalf of KEWOPA Chairperson Hon. Leah Sankaire, Hon. Esther Passaris, OGW emphasized the transition from policy formulation to direct impact:

"Most importantly, let us ensure that the National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment does not remain only a framework on paper, but becomes a basis for coordinated action that expands women's economic opportunities."

Representing the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Social Protection, Hon. Hillary Kosgei underscored the policy's role in streamlining government programs:

"The Sessional Paper seeks to fill this void by serving as a comprehensive framework to address systemic barriers to women's economic empowerment in Kenya."

The engagement also examined the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment as a specialized tool for embedding women's economic advancement within the agricultural sector. KEWOPA remains dedicated to driving legislative oversight and gender-responsive budgeting to ensure the NPWEE delivers tangible economic opportunities for women nationwide.

Strengthening Community Action and Legislative Reform for GBV Prevention and SRHR

KEWOPA convened a project inception and partner coordination meeting for the Strengthening Community Action and Legislative Reform for GBV Prevention, Including Femicide, Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV), and SRHR in Kenya initiative.

The project connects grassroots community dialogues and targeted SRHR policy cafes directly to parliamentary advocacy, ensuring that community-level evidence informs legislative reform. During the inception session, KEWOPA and partner organizations aligned implementation frameworks, safeguarding standards, risk mitigation strategies, and community engagement protocols.

Beyond policy alignment, the initiative aims to increase public awareness regarding GBV and SRHR prevention pathways, expand support services for survivors, and generate empirical evidence to drive systemic legal reforms. KEWOPA remains dedicated to collaborating with civil society, service providers, and policymakers to turn grassroots insights into actionable legislative protections for women and girls across Kenya.



Daniel Murakaru speaks on strengthening community GBV prevention.

Breaking the Silence on Reproductive Health: Championing Fibroids Awareness and Care



Stakeholders and advocates make the universal fibroid awareness gesture during the launch of FAF-Kenya in Nairobi.

KEWOPA Executive Director Mercy Mwangi joined founder Deborah Auko Tendo for the official launch of the Fibroids Awareness Foundation Kenya (FAF-Kenya). As Tendo highlighted, the initiative exemplifies the impact of African-led leadership tackling critical health challenges facing local communities. FAF-Kenya aims to address uterine fibroids, a condition affecting millions of women across Kenya by delivering free community screenings, mobile health clinics, and comprehensive public education campaigns.

This partnership directly reinforces KEWOPA's strategic focus on advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and gender-responsive healthcare. As FAF-Kenya mobilizes support for its community health programs, KEWOPA remains committed to championing policies that expand health access and secure dedicated resource allocations for women's reproductive health nationwide.

Advancing SRHR Through Legislative and Budgetary Collaboration



For nearly three decades, The CRADLE – The Children Foundation has been at the forefront of advancing child rights and gender justice in Kenya. Established in 1997, The CRADLE has been a leading institution in shaping laws, policies, and systems that protect children and empower communities. The CRADLE’s mission is to promote and protect the rights of the child, especially the girl child, while building a just society where children’s voices are heard, respected, and acted upon.

Building on this long standing legacy of child centered advocacy and legal reform, The CRADLE has extended its expertise into the sphere of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Our collaboration with the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) reflects this evolution, as we work to ensure that SRHR priorities are embedded not only in legislation but also in fiscal planning.

Together with KEWOPA, we have engaged Members of Parliament in deliberations on key legislative frameworks, including the Family and Reproductive Health Bill and the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care Bill. These bills represent critical milestones in safeguarding the rights of women, men, adolescents, and children by addressing issues such as maternal health, adolescent reproductive health, obstetric violence, and inclusive provisions for intersex persons.

Our joint efforts have also extended to budget advocacy, where we have emphasized the importance of child sensitive and gender responsive allocations. By linking SRHR priorities to fiscal planning, we have supported MPs in identifying gaps in health and education financing, and in championing resources that directly address teenage pregnancies, HIV prevention among adolescents, and comprehensive sexuality education.

This collaboration underscores the power of legislative champions and civil society working hand in hand to advance rights based reforms. It also reflects our shared vision: that SRHR is not only a health issue, but a matter of dignity, equality, and justice.

Member Spotlight

SENATOR MIRAJ ABDILLAH KIMBY

Senator Miraj Abdillah Kimby, popularly known as “Mama Haki,” is a nominated Member of the Senate of the Republic of Kenya and a passionate advocate for justice, dignity, social protection, women’s rights, children’s welfare, youth empowerment, peacebuilding and inclusive development.

She serves as Vice Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and is a member of the Standing Committee on Labour, Social Welfare and Sports and the Standing Committee on Roads, Transportation and Housing. Through these responsibilities, she contributes to legislative, oversight and policy work on technology, employment, social protection, sports, infrastructure, transport, housing and community development.

Senator Kimby has championed the Care and Protection of Child Parents Bill, 2023, advocating for systems that protect children who become parents while safeguarding their education, healthcare, dignity and opportunities. She has also sponsored the County Hall of Fame Bill and championed amendments to the Law of Succession, strengthening the rights and protection of widows and women, including their inheritance rights following remarriage.

For the Coast Region, Senator Kimby has championed greater international connectivity through international landing rights at Moi International Airport, Mombasa, advocating for direct access to attract tourists, investors, trade and business opportunities and strengthen the regional economy.

At the community level, she is the champion of Mtoto Asome, through which she sponsors 40 vulnerable students from Form One through Form Four, supporting their education, mentorship and completion of secondary school. Through initiatives such as the Mama Haki Peace Super Cup, she promotes youth empowerment, peaceful coexistence and community development.

Her commitment to youth extends to the international parliamentary arena. At the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, she advocated for the meaningful inclusion of young people in peace processes, emphasising that young people should be active participants in peacebuilding and decision-making.

Her development vision for Likoni and the wider Coast Region focuses on land-title regularisation, clean water, drainage, affordable housing, digital access, tourism, the blue economy, industrialisation, youth enterprise, investment and connectivity.

Senator Kimby believes that leadership must listen before it speaks, protect the vulnerable, uphold dignity and transform community concerns into practical solutions and lasting opportunities.



Sen. Miraj Abdillah Kimby
Nominated Senator





“ We need stronger funding for women's businesses, financial literacy, education and second-chance opportunities for girls.

Hon. Fatuma Masito,
Kwale County MP.



“ The Sessional Paper seeks to fill this void by serving as a comprehensive framework to address systemic barriers to women's economic empowerment in Kenya

Hon. Hillary Kosgei
Deputy Chairperson, Committee
on Social Protection



“ We cannot keep pushing this constitutional requirement to the next election; we must pass the legislation and create a safe environment for women to compete now.

Hon. Beatrice Elachi,
MP, Dagoretti South



“ Women's full, equal and safe political participation is a constitutional mandate, democratic necessity and prerequisite for lasting peace and social cohesion

Hon. Leah Sankaire
County MP, Kajiado



“ Long lasting inequalities in education continue to limit women's political participation.

Sen Miraj Abdillah
Nominated Senator



“ Women's economic empowerment is more than a gender issue. It is an economic imperative that drives inclusive growth and national prosperity.

Hon. Irene Mayaka
Nominated MP



“ We must create a peaceful and inclusive political environment where women, youth and marginalised groups can participate fully in leadership and governance.

Hon. Naisula Lesuuda
MP, Samburu West

DID YOU KNOW?



Community dialogues organized under KEWOPA Mashinani empower local leaders and youth to serve as first-line responders in identifying and reporting early warning signs of GBV and FGM.

Snapshots



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save the date

celebrate, inspire, advocate, connect



THURSDAY

3rd December 2026
4.00p.m - 9.00 p.m



NAIROBI



Stay tuned for the full invitation

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, Royal Danish Embassy

Research and Policy Institutions

Institute of Public Finance (IPF), African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (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, ELOG.

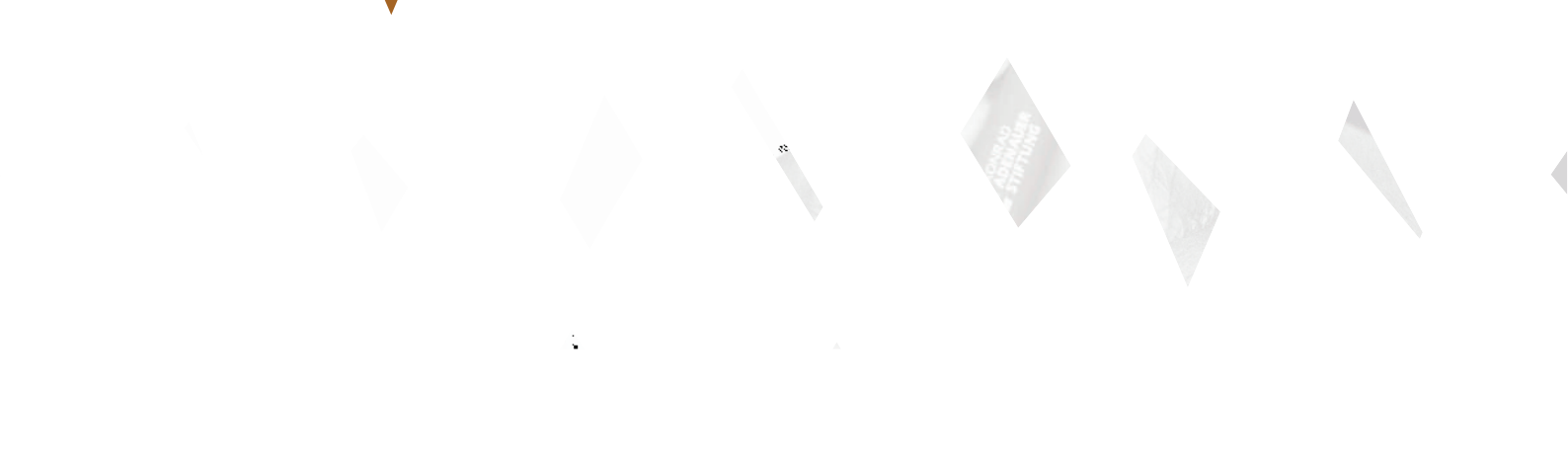
Professional Associations / Parliamentary Caucuses

Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA)

International NGOs and Implementing Partners

Oxfam, Dioraphte Foundation, Jhpiego, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Nivishe Foundation

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



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