

EMPowerHer



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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

2026

Hon. Cecilia Asinyen Ng'itit Ishuu

Woman Representative,
Turkana County

Chair's Remarks

Advancing Inclusive Electoral Governance Through Collective Action

As Kenya continues to strengthen its democratic institutions and prepare for the next electoral cycle, inclusive electoral governance remains critical to ensuring that women and young people participate meaningfully in decision-making processes. Achieving this requires deliberate policy action, accountable leadership and collaboration among stakeholders to create systems that enable equal participation and representation.

This month's engagements demonstrated the importance of women and youth-led advocacy in shaping policies and strengthening democratic processes. Through the launch of the WPL Kenya Cohort, KEWOPA created a platform for women parliamentarians to collaborate, strengthen leadership networks and address barriers affecting women's political participation. The Policy Café held in Turkana County further amplified youth voices by promoting civic awareness, public participation and policy engagement on electoral governance.

KEWOPA also continued advancing legislative and policy conversations on women's economic empowerment, gender-responsive budgeting, protection of women and girls from gender-based violence, and implementation of the Two-Thirds Gender Rule. These engagements reaffirm that inclusive governance requires laws, institutions and policies that respond to the realities of women and young people.

As we move towards the 2027 General Election, KEWOPA calls upon Parliament, political parties, government institutions, civil society, development partners and citizens to strengthen efforts towards building an electoral environment where women and youth can participate without barriers. Addressing political violence, misinformation, unequal access to resources and discriminatory norms remains essential to creating a level playing field.

This month's progress has been made possible through the continued partnership and support of the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya. KEWOPA sincerely appreciates the Embassy's commitment to strengthening inclusive democratic governance, promoting women's political leadership and supporting initiatives that advance meaningful participation of women and young people in Kenya's electoral processes. This partnership continues to strengthen collective efforts towards building a more inclusive and representative democracy.

KEWOPA remains committed to advancing reforms, strengthening partnerships and supporting advocacy initiatives that promote inclusive leadership. A democratic society is stronger when women and young people have the opportunity to contribute, lead and influence decisions that shape Kenya's future.



Hon. Leah Sankaire, MP
Chairperson, KEWOPA

Bunge Highlights

Throughout the month, KEWOPA members continued to play a pivotal role in shaping Kenya's legislative agenda by sponsoring Bills, moving Motions, proposing amendments, and raising matters of national importance in Parliament. Their work addressed a wide range of issues, including agriculture, education, healthcare, road safety, clean energy, environmental sustainability, technology, and youth empowerment. This month's Legislative Spotlight highlights some of the women legislators whose contributions reflect KEWOPA's commitment to responsive, inclusive, and impactful law-making.



Hon. Irene Nyakerario Mayaka: Championing Sports Sector Reforms Through the Sports (Amendment) Bill 2026

Hon. Irene Nyakerario Mayaka sponsored the Sports (Amendment) Bill, contributing to legislative efforts aimed at strengthening governance and development within Kenya's sports sector. Her work reflects the role of women legislators in advancing policies that create opportunities, improve accountability and support sectors with significant social and economic impact.



Sen. Catherine Mumma: Advancing Reproductive Health and Disability-Inclusive Legislation

Sen. Catherine Mumma continued her legislative advocacy through engagement on the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, disability-inclusive education and access to rehabilitation services. Her interventions demonstrate a commitment to advancing inclusive policies that respond to health, education and social protection needs across different groups in society.



Sen. Karen Nyamu: Championing Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Through the AI Bill 2026

Sen. Karen Nyamu advanced discussions on emerging technologies through the Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, which seeks to establish a governance framework for responsible artificial intelligence development and use. The Bill reflects the growing need for policies that promote innovation while ensuring accountability, ethical use and protection of citizens' interests, and is now at the second reading stage in senate.

Bunge Highlights



Hon. Rahab Mukami: Advocating for Mandatory Guidance and Counselling Programmes in Schools

Hon. Rahab Mukami moved a motion proposing mandatory guidance and counselling programmes in primary and secondary schools to strengthen learner support systems and promote safer learning environments. The initiative highlights the importance of addressing students' social and emotional wellbeing through structured support mechanisms within learning institutions.



Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba: Advancing Support for Export-Oriented Agricultural Production

Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba advanced discussions on agricultural development through a motion proposing a National Policy on Power Subsidies for Export-Oriented Agricultural Production. The proposal seeks to address challenges affecting agricultural productivity, reduce barriers for farmers and strengthen opportunities within Kenya's agricultural value chains



Sen. Hamida Kibwana: Promoting Sustainable Solutions Through the Clean Cooking Framework

Sen. Hamida Kibwana championed environmental sustainability and public health through her motion on mainstreaming a framework for clean cooking in Kenya. Her advocacy highlights the importance of sustainable solutions that improve livelihoods, protect the environment and address challenges affecting households, particularly women who are often disproportionately affected by energy access challenges.

Turkana Policy Café Amplifies Youth Voices in Electoral Governance



Participants at the Inclusive Electoral Governance training in Turkana County

KEWOPA, convened a Policy Café in Turkana County on enhancing inclusive electoral governance through youth-led advocacy and policy engagement.

The dialogue examined constitutional principles guiding Kenya's electoral system, including political rights, universal suffrage and the conduct of free, fair and inclusive elections.

Participants discussed barriers affecting women and youth participation in leadership, including discriminatory social norms, limited campaign financing, election-related violence and unequal access to opportunities. The forum highlighted the role of civic education, public participation and continuous advocacy in strengthening democratic processes.

The dialogue was led by Hon. Cecilia Ngiti and was convened in partnership with URAIA with support from the Embassy of Denmark.

“As young people, we must actively participate in the electoral process and raise awareness within our communities.” - Shamim Arumu.



Building Women's Economic Opportunities Through Skills Development in Taita Taveta County



Participants during the Women Entrepreneurs Capacity Building Workshop in Taita Taveta County.

KEWOPA conducted a Women's Economic Empowerment training in Taita Taveta County to equip women entrepreneurs with practical skills for building sustainable businesses.

The training covered financial management, business planning, customer service, responsible borrowing, time management and business growth strategies. Participants shared experiences, identified challenges affecting their enterprises and explored opportunities available through government programmes, procurement and financial services.

Led by Hon. Lydia Haika, the engagement encouraged women to share knowledge within their communities and support other women in strengthening their businesses. The initiative contributes to building economically empowered women who can participate effectively in development and decision-making processes. This is part of the SPALTA project in partnership with the Institute of Public Finance,



“When women support women in leadership, we create stronger voices for change.”- Hon. Lydia Haika

Highlights & Engagements

KEWOPA and WPL Launch Platform to Strengthen Women's Political Leadership

KEWOPA and the Women Political Leaders (WPL), launched the WPL Kenya Cohort, a platform bringing together women parliamentarians to strengthen collaboration, policy engagement and leadership development.

The engagement focused on increasing women's political participation, strengthening support systems for women leaders and addressing barriers affecting women seeking elective positions. Discussions explored political violence against women, misinformation and AI-enabled disinformation, campaign preparedness, digital safety, economic empowerment and collaboration between national and county leadership.

Participants emphasised the need for legislative and policy interventions that protect women leaders, strengthen accountability and expand women's representation in elective and appointive positions. The platform will support experience sharing, mentorship and collective advocacy towards a more inclusive political environment ahead of the 2027 General Election.



Hon. Millie Odhiambo speaks during the WPL meeting on July 22nd July 2026

KEWOPA Advances Protection of Women and Girls in Refugee and Host Communities



A section of KEWOPA members pose for a photo with officials from the Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK) after the meeting.

KEWOPA in partnership with Refugee Consortium of Kenya convened a high-level advocacy engagement with government institutions, development partners and technical experts to examine legislative and policy gaps affecting women and girls in refugee and host communities.

The discussions focused on strengthening gender-responsive legislation, improving access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence and enhancing accountability within protection systems. Stakeholders examined challenges arising from displacement, limited access to services and gaps in existing legal frameworks.

The engagement brought together actors including the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, National Gender and Equality Commission, State Department for Gender, Department of Refugee Services and other non-state actors to identify policy actions that strengthen protection mechanisms for vulnerable women and girls.

KEWOPA Hosts Side Event at the 4th Edition of the Nalafem Summit



Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba makes her commitments during the Nalafem summit.

The 4th Edition of the Nalafem Summit 4.0 brought together policymakers, women leaders, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to advance women's leadership and gender equality across Africa.

On the sidelines of the summit, KEWOPA convened a high-level roundtable on pathways towards achieving gender equity in elected positions across Africa.

The roundtable brought together women parliamentarians, political leaders, activists, development partners where they called for legislative reforms, stronger political party accountability, improved digital safety, and sustained investment in women-led movements. Discussions focused on practical actions to increase women's representation in elected positions and strengthen inclusive governance across Africa.

Strengthening Legislative Action on the Two-Thirds Gender Rule

KEWOPA members participated in a Legislative Forum on taking stock of the implementation of the Two-Thirds Gender Rule, convened by Mzalendo.

The forum brought together legislators, civil society organisations, development partners and media stakeholders to discuss progress, constitutional reform proposals and practical measures to achieve equitable representation.

Discussions highlighted that achieving gender equality in leadership requires more than legislative reform. Addressing political violence against women, campaign financing barriers, online harassment, political party support and harmful social norms remains critical to creating an enabling environment for women's participation in politics.



Hon. Martha Wangari speaks during the legislative forum on the Two - Thirds Gender Rule

KEWOPA Strengthens Regional Partnerships to Advance Women's Rights



KEWOPA Executive Director Ms. Mercy Mwangi with Hon. Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie, Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru, and AU representatives.

KEWOPA Executive Director, Ms. Mercy Mwangi, joined Commissioner Caroline Lentupuru of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) in a meeting with Hon. Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, and representatives from the African Union Women, Gender and Youth Directorate. The engagement focused on strengthening partnerships to advance the rights of women and girls through coordinated regional action and policy advocacy.

A key area of discussion was the promotion of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU CEVAWG), including efforts to encourage its signature and ratification by Member States including Kenya. The meeting highlighted the value of collaboration between regional institutions and national stakeholders in strengthening legal and policy frameworks that protect women and girls and advance gender equality across the continent.



KEWOPA and Denmark Working Together to Promote Women's Political Representation



Democracy works best when everyone takes part in shaping it. Yet women still face barriers to leadership and decision-making, despite making up half the population. This is a global pattern. The Inter-Parliamentary Union puts women's share of parliamentary seats worldwide at 27.5 per cent as of January 2026. At the current pace, UN Women projects gender parity in national legislatures by 2063.

In Kenya, the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA) has been at the forefront in advancing gender parity in political representation. Its vision is a just, democratic and inclusive Kenya, with women at the centre of that leadership. Denmark shares this vision. Danish development policy recognises women's leadership as key to lasting peace and stable societies, and Denmark is committed to defending the rights of women and girls worldwide.

The Danish Embassy in Kenya and KEWOPA have built a partnership on a simple idea: inclusive societies happen when women and men have equal opportunity to lead. Together, they contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality, particularly Target 5.5, on women's full and effective participation in political, economic and public life.

Working through Uraia Trust, the partnership supports women parliamentarians and aspiring leaders as they build governance and decision-making skills. It creates spaces for citizens to engage directly with women legislators and help shape legislative priorities. It also supports media campaigns that challenge stereotypes about women in leadership and tell the stories of women driving change in governance. At the same time, marginalized women and youth networks have been empowered to raise their voices and influence electoral reforms, legal frameworks, and political party practices.

KEWOPA's mission of advancing women's leadership through parliamentary engagement remains an important contribution towards deepening Kenya democracy.

Driving Inclusive Electoral Reforms Through Grassroots Advocacy Policy Cafes

Across Kenya, women and young people are increasingly taking their place at the forefront of conversations shaping the country's electoral future. Through the Strengthening Public Accountability and Responsiveness in Kenya (SPARKE) programme, KEWOPA has been implementing the Enhancing Inclusive Electoral Governance through Women and Youth-led Advocacy and Policy Engagements project, a six-month initiative designed to strengthen the participation of women and youth in electoral reform and governance processes.

Over the past months, KEWOPA has successfully convened Community Policy Advocacy Cafés in Kiambu, Uasin Gishu, Turkana, Nairobi and Homa bay counties. These forums have brought together women, youth, persons with disabilities, civil society organisations, political party representatives, electoral reform actors, local artists, and women leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue on the barriers to inclusive political participation and identify practical, locally driven policy solutions.



A participant presents community recommendations during a Policy Advocacy Café, contributing grassroots solutions to strengthen inclusive electoral governance.

The county dialogues have strengthened the capacity of women- and youth-led networks to advocate for inclusive electoral policies, fostered stronger linkages with Parliament and key governance institutions, and promoted collective action through policy submissions, advocacy campaigns, and strategic partnerships. Beyond creating spaces for dialogue, the initiative is laying the foundation for sustainable advocacy platforms that amplify grassroots voices and institutionalise women-led electoral advocacy within KEWOPA's legislative and oversight agenda.

The lessons and recommendations emerging from the county engagements will culminate in a National Women and Youth Convention, where advocacy priorities will be consolidated to inform Kenya's ongoing electoral reform process and advance a more inclusive, accountable, and representative democracy.



Women, youth, and community stakeholders engage in a Community Policy Advocacy Café, identifying grassroots priorities to shape inclusive electoral reforms in Kenya

Member Spotlight

Hon. Cecilia Asinyen Ng'itit Ishuu: Championing Inclusive Development and Community Transformation in Turkana.

Hon. Cecilia Asinyen Ng'itit Ishuu is the Turkana County Woman Representative in Kenya's 13th Parliament, a leader committed to advancing inclusive development, women's empowerment, and social justice. With a background spanning governance, communication, entrepreneurship, and public leadership, she brings a wealth of experience to her legislative role.

Before joining elective politics, Hon. Cecilia served as a Board Director at the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (2013–2016) and the National Oil Corporation of Kenya (2020–2021), contributing to strategic oversight and institutional development. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication and Public Relations from Moi University and a Master of Business Administration from Mount Kenya University.

In Parliament, she serves on the Energy Committee and the Special Funds Accounts Committee, where she contributes to policy discussions and oversight on matters affecting Kenyans. Through the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), she has supported education bursaries, women and youth empowerment initiatives, programmes for persons living with disabilities, and grassroots development projects across Turkana County.

Beyond Parliament, Hon. Cecilia draws on her experience in business and political leadership to advocate for infrastructure development, economic inclusion, and enterprise growth.

A strong advocate for marginalized communities, Hon. Cecilia continues to champion equitable opportunities, resilience, and sustainable development for the people of Turkana.



**Hon. Cecilia Asinyen
County MP, Turkana County**



“ Successful political leadership requires strong campaign management, sustainable financing, and mentorship. Women aspiring for leadership should learn from those who have successfully navigated the journey before them.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo
MP, Suba North



“ A society cannot thrive when women are excluded from decision making. We need more women at the table, shaping policies and influencing the decisions that define our future.

Hon. Beatrice Ogolla
Nominated Senator.



“ Protect the integrity of Kenya's political space by advocating for gender-responsive budgets and championing policies that improve the health, wellbeing, and economic opportunities of women and children.

Hon. Lydia Haika
County MP, Taita Taveta



“ Advancing women's economic empowerment is a shared responsibility. It is not just a women's issue, but a national development priority that calls for the commitment of every leader.

Hon. Leah Sankaire
County MP, Kajiado



“ When women empower one another, we build stronger leaders and stronger communities.

Hon. Gathoni Wamuchomba,
MP, Githunguri North



“ 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



“ Budgets are more than financial documents; they reflect national priorities and values

Hon. Esther Passaris
County MP, Naitrobi

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**



Inclusive electoral governance ensures that women, youth and marginalized groups have equal opportunities to influence decisions, shape public policy and participate meaningfully in democratic processes.

Snapshots



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

United Nations Agencies

UN Women

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

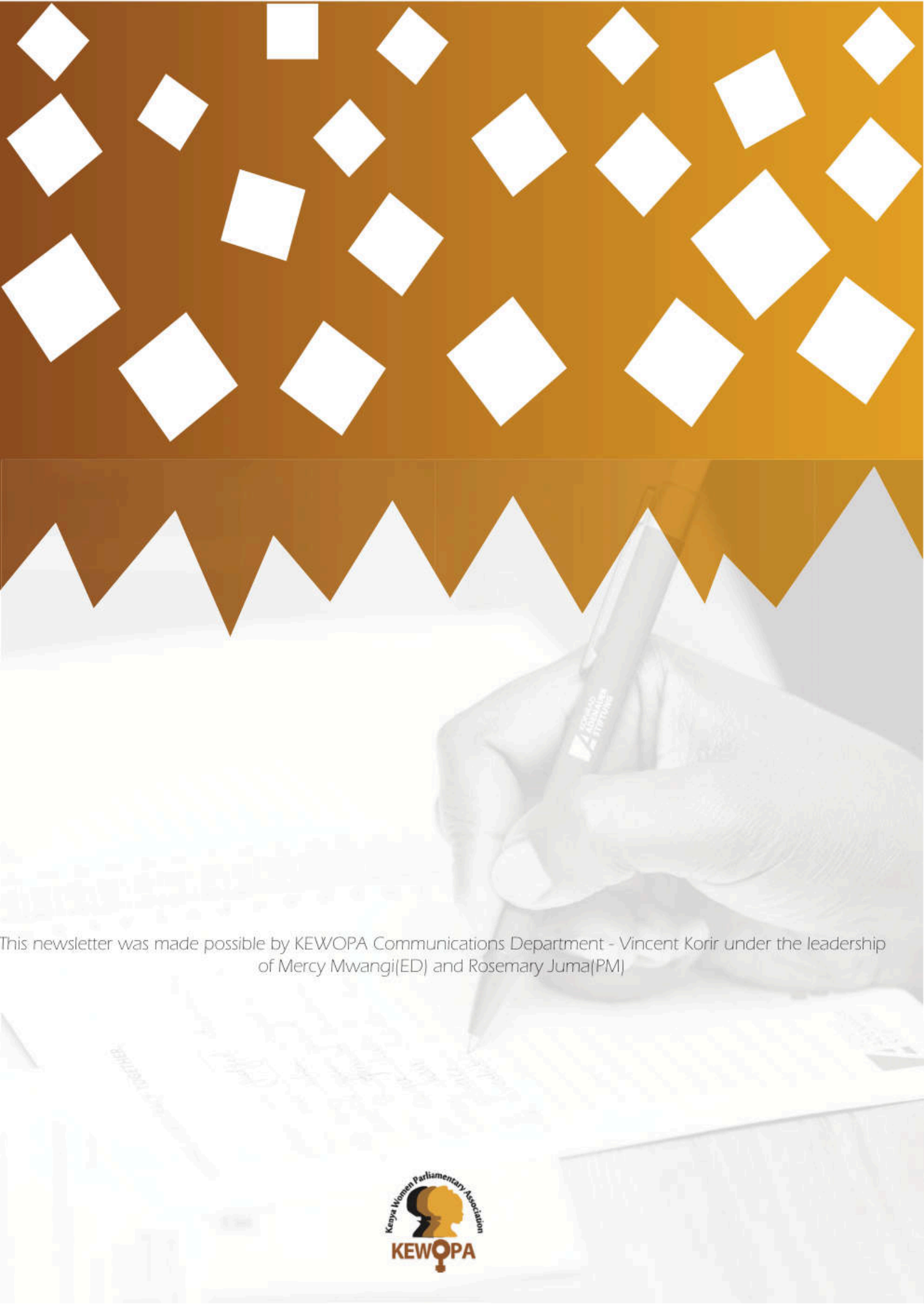
Professional Associations / Parliamentary Caucuses

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), Center for Reproductive Right(CRR)

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



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