

# FEMICIDE IN KENYA

**A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT**

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By  
**ANGELINA YOHANA**

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# FEMICIDE IN KENYA



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The success of this work has been possible because of the tireless effort and support from MIDRIFTHURINET Organization with the full support from the Executive Director: Joseph Omondi, Dr. Leslie Rono my supervisor and all staff members that provided support and encouragement on writing this situational analysis report on conflict and violence situation in Kenya. I am grateful to all members of the MIDRIFTHURINET who have contributed through comments and recommendations for the betterment of this report.

This report aimed to analyze the situational of conflicts and violence in Kenya. The report provides a contextual analysis of conflict and violence in Kenya by understanding the root causes of conflict (underlying factors that contribute to conflict) and implications to Peace and Security in Kenya.



# List of Acronyms & Abbreviations

ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All form of Discrimination against Women.
CHESO	Children Education Society
CSRV	Center for the study of violence and reconciliation
FGM	Female genital mutilation
IEBC	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
GBV	Gander Based Violence
HURINET	Human Rights Network
JAP	Justice access point
MAPUTO PROTOCOL	The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.
MHPSS	Mental Health psychosocial support
NCRC	National Crime Research Centre
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NOREC	Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation
NPS	National Police Services

# CHAPTER ONE

## Introduction

Conflicts and violence can be defined as a “threat to peace” and cannot be avoided as it holds back the development of a country as well as of individuals. The interplay of historical grievances, ethnic rivalries, socio-economic inequalities, and political manipulation continues to shape the landscape of conflict and violence in Africa and worldwide.

This introduction provides a detailed overview of Kenya’s history of conflicts and violence. Kenya has a long history of conflict and violence that have had a significant impact on its development and stability. From ethnic tensions and land disputes to political instability and terrorism, Kenya has faced a range of challenges that have threatened its peace and security. Apart from those Femicide in Kenya has garnered a lot of attention from both local and international partners; according to relevant statistics, thousands of women lose their lives annually due to gender-based violence, highlighting the urgent need for policies and interventions. In order to understand the current situation in Kenya regarding to gender-based violence specifically on femicide, it is essential to conduct a situational analysis to understand and examine the key factors contributing to femicide in Kenya and provide recommendations on how to address it.

**Partnership;** MIDRIFT Human Rights Network (MIDRIFT HURINET) is a non-profit organization established in 2008, focusing on three thematic areas: peace and security, governance and human rights, and institutional development and support.

Under the thematic area of promoting peace and security (within the NOREC project) MIDRIFT collaborates with three other partner organizations in Africa (JAP from Uganda, CSRV from South Africa and CHESO from Tanzania.) As a participant from CHESO Tanzania (Home Country), to MIDRIFTHURINET Kenya (Host Country) the situational analysis aims to help the participant understand the conflict and violence situation in Kenya as well as provide recommendations to the MIDRIFT on programmes that could address and respond to these conflicts.

## Definition of Key Words

**Conflict**, is a disagreement between individuals or groups that differ in attitudes, beliefs, values or needs. It can originate from past rivalries and personality differences<sup>[1]</sup>.

**Femicide**, is defined as the intentional killing of women and girls rooted in gender inequality, stereotypes, harmful social norms and unequal power relations between men and women. It is driven by discrimination against women and girls.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Violence** refers to the intentional or unintentional use of force whether physical or psychological, threatened or actual, against an individual, oneself, or against a group of people, a community, or a government<sup>[3]</sup>.

[1]<http://www.homelandplanning.nebraska.edu/Documents/planningresources/Managing%20Conflict.pdf>

[2]<https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/five-essential-facts-to-know-about-femicide>

[3]<https://www.undrr.org/understanding-disaster-risk/terminology/hips/so0006#:~:text=Violence%20refers%20to%20the%20intentional,a%20community%2C%20or%20a%20government.>

## Back ground Information on Femicide

Africa has a long history of conflicts and violence which have had a significant impact on the continent's development and stability. Almost all African countries have experienced some form of conflict, the fragile circumstances and transition from independence struggles to post independence conflicts in search for stability and state-building processes have left scars and unaddressed issues that have created conflicts manifesting in political, identity (ethnicity and religious affiliation), resource-based, civil unrest (riots, demonstration and protests), and terrorism.

Gender-based violence is considered to be a global public health issue that profoundly affect communities in various regions of the world. GBV is not only individual phenomenon but a structural problem reflecting gender inequalities, which is rooted in the dynamics of control which can be observed across a range of behavior, including emotional abuse, physical violence and sexual exploitation. Prevalence of Gender based violence especially Femicide, FGM, ethnic discrimination and social exclusion is affecting individuals at the high level and the majority of the people affected on gender-based violence being children, girls and women in the communities.

Femicide is ultimate form of violence against women and girls, exists in every country and takes many forms and it is a deeply concerning global issue representing the most extreme form of gender-based violence. This crime is often perpetuated by intimate partners or family members but it can also occur in a border societal context.

Globally, patterns of femicide acts vary significantly from one place to another, depending on the specific region, country, relevant cultural factors and social groups, Femicide is further divided into two main types: intimate partner femicide and non-intimate partner femicide perpetrated by a stranger, family member or relative).

In Kenya, men turn to women with the aim to control and ending up harming them. In 2023 the total number of reported femicide cases was 150<sup>[4]</sup> however which might not be the exact number of incidences. between 2019 to 2024, 504 women were killed. According to a 2020 report by the World Health Organization, Kenya experiences one of the highest rates of femicide in Africa, with an estimated 47 women killed each week. Shockingly, this represents a 50% increase in femicide cases over the past decade. Furthermore, the majority of these cases go unreported or unnoticed due to social and cultural factors, making the situation even more alarming<sup>[5]</sup>.

Femicide transcends the boundaries of a mere criminal justice or women's rights issue and poses a broad-reaching threat to regional and even global security. Women constitute half of the global population, and when a significant number of them are subjected to violence or are missing, the very fabric of society is disrupted, affecting economic growth, public safety, and the general well-being of communities. Femicide contravenes fundamental human rights and principles such as the right to life, freedom, and justice, as well as values of peace, equality, respect, security, dignity, and honor<sup>[6]</sup>. It was reported by the National Police Services (NPS) and the National Crime Research Centre (NCRC) that at least 129 women were murdered between January and March in 2025 with most of the cases reported in Busia, West Pokot and Nandi counties.

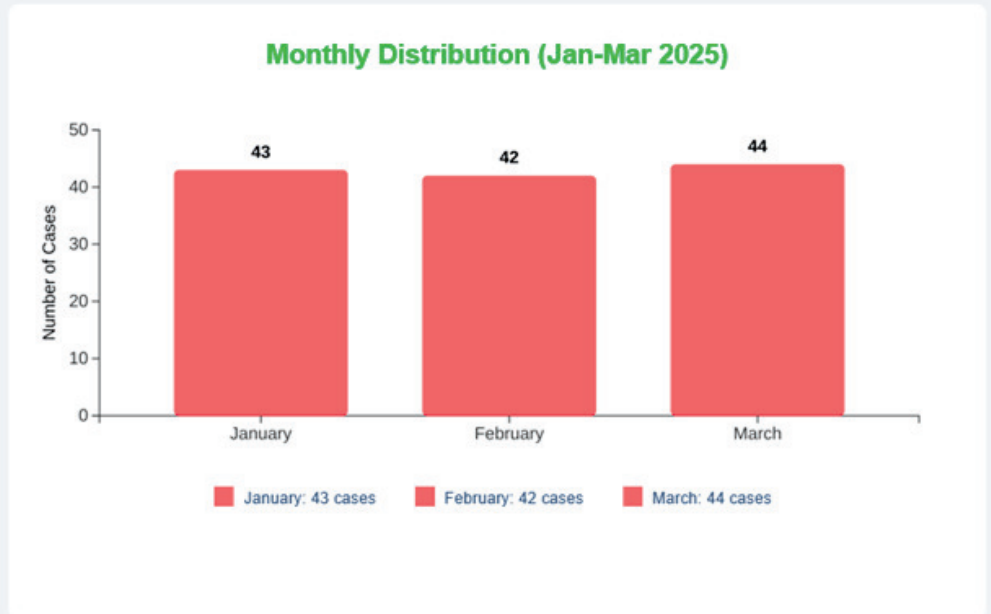
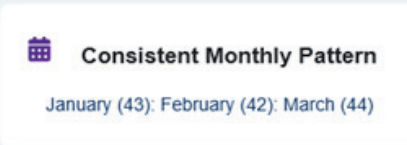
[4]<https://mediacouncil.or.ke/sites/default/files/downloads/Report%20on%20Femicide.pdf>

[5]<https://sites.uab.edu/humanrights/2024/03/14/femicide-in-kenya-a-silent-crisis/>

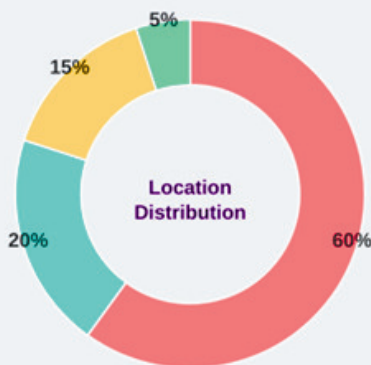
[6]Oduor, L. (2023). "Addressing Gender Based Violence in Kenya: Challenges and Opportunities ". *Journal of Gender Studies*, 15 (3). 200-2015.



## Overview of Femicide Cases



## Location Analysis of Femicide Incidents

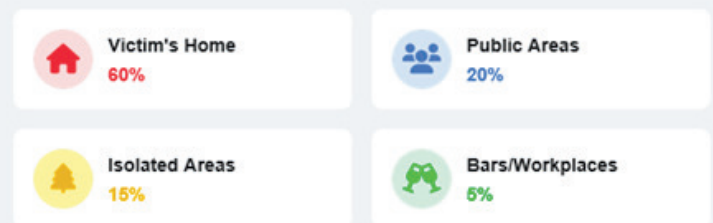


**Total Cases: 129**  
Nakuru, along with Nairobi and Kiambu, consistently ranks among the top counties for femicide-related killings.

### Key Location Insights

**60%** of femicide cases occurred in victims' homes, highlighting the domestic sphere as a primary site of danger.

Public areas account for **20%** of cases, while isolated areas and bars/workplaces represent 15% and 5% respectively.



## Perpetrator Profiles in Femicide Cases

**80% of femicides committed by people known to victims**



### Known vs. Unknown Perpetrators

**Family Members**

60% of cases

**Intimate Partners**

20% of cases

**Strangers**

10% of cases

**Neighbors**

5% of cases

#### Key Insight

The majority of femicide perpetrators are individuals with known relationships to victims, highlighting the hidden nature of this violence.

# CHAPTER TWO

## Literature Review

This section provides an overview of femicide, the root causes therein and approaches undertaken to curb violence against women and girls. This is inferred from articles, journals and news reports on femicide and trends in Kenya within the recent past.

### Femicide incidents

In the recent past, Kenya recorded a surge in Femicide cases more than ever before. Femicide is more than a series of tragic events; it is a systemic issue deeply rooted in misogynistic norms and societal structures that perpetuate violence against women as a method of control and dominance. there has been a notable increase in reported cases of women being murdered by intimate partners or family members especially to the last year 2024, where many cases remain unresolved<sup>[7]</sup>.

The legal framework on femicide under the Constitutional of Kenya, the Sexual Offenses Act No.3 of 2006 and international conventions illustrates the following; Under the Article 19(2) of the bill of rights highlight the purpose of recognizing and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms which is to preserve the dignity of individuals and communities and to promote social justice and the realization of the potential of all human beings.

Article 21(3), Article 26 on right to life, Article 27 on equality and freedom from discrimination and Article 28 on human dignity, require a duty of state and every state organ to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights and fundamental freedom in the bill of rights.<sup>[8]</sup>

Kenya is also a party to international human rights treaties, as provided under Article 2(5) of the Constitution of Kenya, which states that the general principles of international law shall form part of the laws of Kenya for example The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo protocol), requiring the government to take effective measures to prevent, investigate and address gender-based violence and femicide<sup>[9]</sup>.

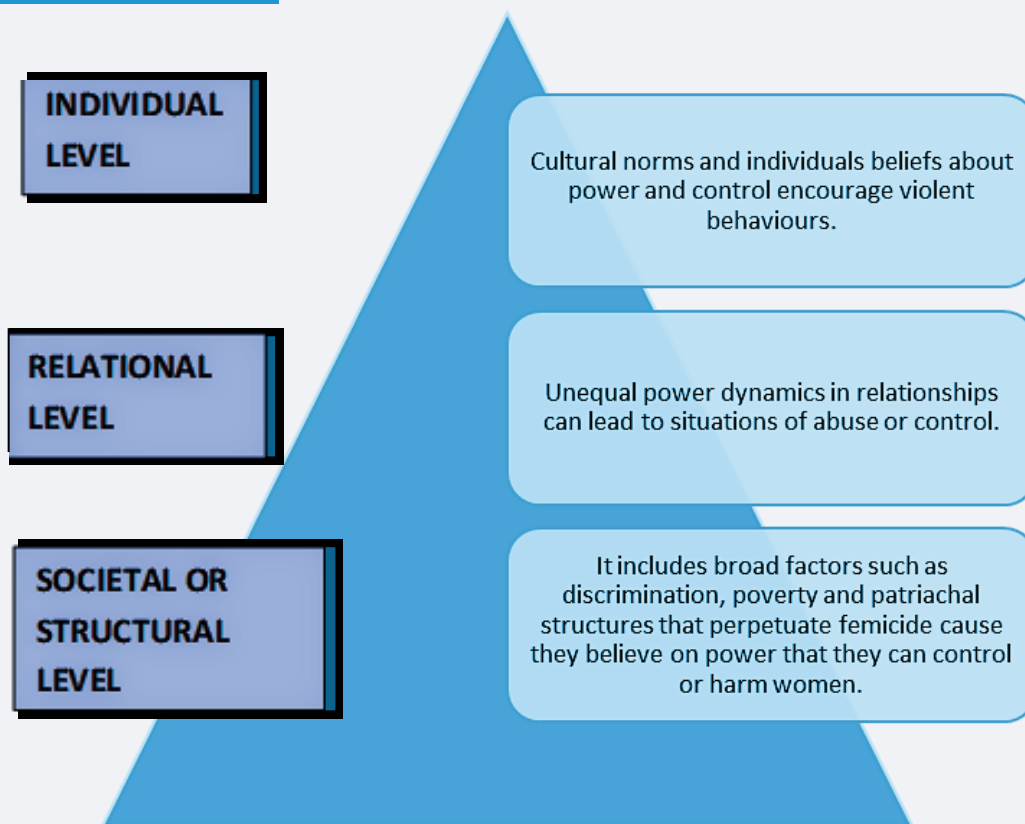
**The following diagram shows how femicide is influence by various levels, from the individual level to the societal level, as a cause of femicide to women and girls.**

[7] <https://equalmeasures2030.org/blogs/kenyas-urgent-battle-against-femicide/>

[8] Vanished Voices: Kenya's Escalating Femicide Emergency - ICJ Kenya

[9] <https://cobsinsights.org/2024/02/20/victim-blaming-isnt-the-solution-to-the-alarming-rise-in-femicide-cases-in-kenya/>





**The main cause that drives women into dangerous situation includes;  
Gender inequality**

This is on unequal power relations between men and women. Where women are treated as second-class and are subjected to discrimination and violence. Gender roles deeply rooted in Kenyan society perpetuate a patriarchal system that devalues women. Women are expected to be submissive, nurturing, and bound by societal norms. Patriarchy creates a culture of power imbalance, where men feel entitled to control and dominate women, both within and outside the household. This inequality can lead to women being killed by men who believe they have the right to control or harm them<sup>[10]</sup>.

**Harmful social norms**

In some communities' men believe they have the right to control their wives and that women should be submissive to their husbands. Traditional beliefs and practices that devalue women, endorse violence and perpetuate gender stereotypes that contribute to femicide. Examples of traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriages, and wife inheritance, further perpetuate the vulnerability and defeat of women. These practices condone violence against women in the name of cultural preservation and perpetuate harmful gender norms<sup>[11]</sup>.

[10] [The Danger of Being a Woman in Ecuador – DDRN](#)

[11] <https://equalmeasures2030.org/blogs/kenyas-urgent-battle-against-femicide/>

**Economic disparities** play a significant role in intensifying femicide in Kenya. Poverty and lack of access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities disproportionately affect women. As women depend on men for support may lead them to troubles and being controlled by men. When women are economically dependent on their partners or families, they are often trapped in abusive relationships with no means of escape<sup>[12]</sup>.

**Society's normalization and acceptance of violence against** women contribute to the perpetuation of femicide. Many cases of domestic violence go unreported due to fear, stigma, or lack of trust in the criminal justice system. In some cases, many people, instead of helping, tend to record videos of violation toward women and post them on social media<sup>[13]</sup>. And it has reached a point where women see the abuse from their intimate partners as a normal situation deciding to stay quiet and its end result perpetuate violence.

**Domestic violence and intimate partner violence**, a history of abuse where many women are subjected to physical, psychological and sexual violence is a significant risk factor for femicide. For intimate partner violence, many cases involve intimate partners or ex-partners leads to situations where women are killed due to jealousy, control or especially when women have less power or resources<sup>[14]</sup>.

**Lack of access to justice**, many women who are victims of domestic violence and femicide do not have access to justice, this can be due to a lack of resources, corruption and cultural barriers that hinder survivors' ability to seek justice.

Kenya has taken steps to develop laws and policies for the protection of women against sexual and gender-based violence, through the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act 2006, the Protection against Domestic Violence Act 2015 and the National Policy for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence Act 2014. However, none of these laws or policies define or criminalize femicide in Kenya. The perpetrators of the few reported femicide cases brought before the criminal justice system in Kenya are charged with murder under the penal code, with no consideration of the fact that these crimes are often gender motivated and perpetrated by intimate partners<sup>[15]</sup>.

### Impacts of femicide

**emotional and psychological trauma**, femicide can have a profound impact on the emotional and psychological well-being of survivors and the community. Example a woman who has experienced the loss of a loved one to femicide may suffer from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. And the trauma can also affect the family members and friends of the victim, leading to feelings of anger and helplessness<sup>[16]</sup>.

**Social and economic consequences**, gender inequality, discrimination and escalating conflicts, result to women being perceived as vulnerable and less capable of participating in society. This can lead to reduced economic opportunities and limited access to education and employment<sup>[17]</sup>.

[12] *Femicide, its causes and recent trends: What do we know?*

[13] <https://www.knbs.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-Economic-Survey-Popular-Version.pdf>

[14] Mabunda Annah; Mpata, Mokgatle Mathildah; Madiba Sphiwe. *Social Sciences*; Basel Vol. 14, Iss. 4, (2025): 250

[15] <https://www.kelinkenya.org/femicide-the-hidden-pandemic-are-we-doing-enough-to-protect-women/>

[16] <https://www.humanium.org/en/femicide-from-a-global-perspective/>

[17] De la Parra-Guerra, A C; Truyol-Padilla, J; García-Alzate, C A; Fuentes-Gandara, F. *Global Journal of Environmental Science and Management*; Tehran Vol. 11, Iss. 1, (Winter 2025): 343-36

**Community- level impact,** femicide can have a significant impact to the community as a whole, for instance, it can create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. Women may feel unsafe in their own homes and communities. This can lead to increased social isolation and a negative impact on the community's reputation as it can attract negative attention and damage the community's socio-economic well-being<sup>[18]</sup>.

**Perpetuation of violence,** femicide can lead to perpetuation of violence in the communities. Example is when femicide is not adequately addressed and prosecuted, which can lead to an escalation of violence against women and other marginalized groups, as it can create a culture of impunity and normalize the use of violence as a means of control and oppression.

Despite efforts by the Kenyan Government to curb the rising cases of femicide, cases are still rising; for instance, in January 2024, Mohamed Amin, Kenya's Director of Criminal Investigations, announced the formation of a special unit to accelerate the investigation process of femicide cases, the president also formed a task force to investigate Femicide cases and speed up their prosecution in 2025. Also, non-governmental organizations initiated national wide campaigns on 16 Days of activism under the theme "**Komesha Dhuluma**" meaning end violence was initiated by lawyers at the parliament buildings in Kenya to end violence to women and girls, focusing to combat all forms of violence on gender-based violence particularly femicide. These initiatives go beyond raising awareness on femicide said Hon. Sankaire "We are working with stakeholders including women's right movements, the judiciary and law enforcement, to ensure survivors receive justice and support."<sup>[19]</sup>.

[18] <https://www.samrc.ac.za/sites/default/files/2023-03/FemicideStrategy.pdf>

[19] women legislators launch nationwide campaign against femicide, gender-based violence | The Kenyan Parliament website

[20] <https://equalmeasures2030.org/blogs/kenyas-urgent-battle-against-femicide/>

[21] <file:///D:/women%20in%20Kenya%20demand%20justice%20for%20femicide%20amid%20spate%20of%20killings.html>

Despite the efforts, critics especially local communities view this as a response to the escalating crisis and mounting public pressure. Some leaders have placed blame on the victims themselves. This sentiment was evident in a statement by Senator Tabitha Mutinda, who stated that the murders of young women were a result of their own financial ambitions leading them into dangerous situations. These attitudes reveal the uphill battle Kenyan women face in demanding justice and systemic reforms against Gender Based Violence<sup>[20]</sup>

Beyond legal and political gaps, societal complicity remains a challenging force against femicide. Deep-seated issues have conditioned communities to view violence against women as an unfortunate but inevitable reality. Survivors and families of gender-based violence and femicide are threatened into silence either by family members who fear societal backlash, or by abusers who threaten them. Kenya has existing laws meant to protect women, like the sexual offenses Act and the protection Against Domestic Violence Act. But their implementation is weak<sup>[21]</sup>.

They have been notable increase in reported cases of femicide by intimate partners or family members especially in the year 2024, where many cases remain unresolved. The main cause that drives women into dangerous situations and domestic violence is economic insecurities and non-involvement of women on decision making. Despite the initiated nationwide campaigns on 16 Days of activism in Kenya to end violence against women and girls, focusing on combating all forms of violence, there still remains much to be done.



## CHAPTER THREE

### Findings

Under this section, the paper will show the efforts that MIDRIFT has been implementing and preventing gender-based violence and femicide.

The report highlights a range of factors contributing to femicide incidents including gender inequality, economic disparities, harmful social norms, society's normalization, domestic violence, intimate partner violence and lack of access to justice, together with its impacts from the individual to the society level. So, under this section the findings will also show the need to reinforce the existing legal framework to address femicide.

**The following are the efforts that MIDRIFT has been implementing gender-based violence under the prevention programmes for many years.**

Using digital platforms for awareness creation, this involves leveraging the power of digital technology to spread awareness about gender-based violence. This has been done by utilizing social media campaigns to spread awareness on GBV and femicide to reach a wider audience<sup>[22]</sup>.

Campaigns against gender-based violence including femicide, which include the public events and educational programs that aim to change societal attitudes and challenge the harmful social norms. For instance, MIDRIFT has been doing campaigns on the 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence which rallies communities globally to fight GBV and focusing on combating all forms of violence.

Investing in research and data collection to track GBV trends and improve interventions using the publications of gender-based violence for awareness raising. That the findings are published to inform the policymaker, activists and Civil Society Organizations to develop more effective interventions and track the progress of these interventions over time<sup>[23]</sup>.

Multi-sectoral collaboration, on the partnership of the government, Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations to pool their resources and expertise to develop more effective strategies for preventing and responding to gender-based violence. MIDRIFT has been collaborating with other stakeholders and have one voice to ensure that the rights of women and girls are protected. And this year 2025 MIDRIFT attended one of the forums organized by the technical working group on gender-based violence shared MEMORANDUM on the causes of femicide and gender-based violence and recommendations towards the matter<sup>[24]</sup>.

**Need to reinforce the existing legal framework to address femicide.**

There are legal gaps in Addressing femicide in Kenya looking at the laws, regulations and the international conventions. Despite the existence of various national laws and international conventions aimed at protecting women from violence, the legal framework remains inadequate in explicitly recognizing and addressing femicide as a distinct and punishable crime. This gap has contributed to systemic failures in prevention, investigation, prosecution, and accountability.

[22] <https://midrifthurinet.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2-Peace-and-Security-1.webp>

[23] [https://midrifthurinet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/43-Creating-Peaceful-Fair-and-Non-Violent-Elections\\_print\\_V02-1\\_2.pdf](https://midrifthurinet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/43-Creating-Peaceful-Fair-and-Non-Violent-Elections_print_V02-1_2.pdf)

[24] <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJ6HXssMm8K/>

## **International and Regional Commitments**

Kenya is a signatory to several international and regional human rights instruments that obligate the state to protect women from violence:

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) calls for comprehensive legal and policy measures to eliminate violence against women.

The Maputo Protocol (Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa) mandates state parties to enact laws that specifically address gender-based violence, including femicide.

Despite these commitments, these instruments have yet domesticated fully into its national legal framework. The lack of alignment between international obligations and domestic enforcement mechanisms has resulted in weak implementation and limited impact on the ground.

## **Enforcement and Judicial Challenges**

The enforcement of existing laws is marred by several institutional and operational shortcomings, inconsistent application of laws, prosecutors and judges often lack the training and sensitivity to recognize femicide as a gendered crime, leading to lenient sentencing and misclassification of cases.

Weak coordination among agencies, Law enforcement, forensic investigators, and judicial officers operate in silos, resulting in delays, lost evidence, and compromised prosecutions. Also, because of the limited resources, Gender-based violence units are underfunded and understaffed, hindering effective investigation and victim support.

Absence of specialized courts, lacking of dedicated courts to handle femicide and other forms of gender-based violence, which could otherwise ensure expedited and informed adjudication.

And Poor witness protection, the Survivors and witnesses often face intimidation and lack adequate protection, discouraging them from coming forward or testifying. The other challenges in addressing gender-based violence and femicide includes the absence of the witnesses and withdrawal of the cases by the victims or survivor's victim. While courts strive to resolve cases, their efforts are often undermined by community leaders who promote forgiveness over justice, and by the persistent absence of witnesses due to fear of retaliation and institutional intimidation.

Also, corruption within the police force, including bribery, further compromises investigations and delays justice, while inadequate training among officers exacerbates the problem. Survivors frequently withdraw complaints under social pressure and cultural norms that discourage reporting, perpetuating impunity and harmful gender stereotypes. Additionally, widespread lack of awareness about legal rights and support systems contributes to underreporting and prolonged abuse. These systemic issues contribute to a culture of impunity, where perpetrators of femicide are rarely held accountable, and victims are denied justice.

## **Data and Tracking Deficiencies**

The absence of a legal definition of femicide also impedes data collection and analysis. Without disaggregated statistics and standardized reporting mechanisms, it is difficult to assess the scale of the problem, identify trends, or formulate targeted interventions. This lack of empirical evidence further weakens advocacy efforts and policy formulation.

Therefore, there is a need for legislative reforms to address femicide by establishing a legal framework that explicitly defines femicide and distinguishes it from ordinary murder, strengthening laws to ensure harsher penalties for perpetrators of femicide, introducing policies that mandate gender sensitive training for law enforcement and judicial officers, establishing the specialized courts on gender-based violence and strengthening witness protection programs to encourage reporting and prosecution on femicide cases.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## Conclusions and Recommendations

In view of the above findings, the following are general conclusions and recommendations to the organization and other stakeholders.

### CONCLUSIONS

Taking this into account, femicide incidents must be dealt with collectively powers with strategies which are credible enough to emanate peace in Kenya because the government's response has been inconsistent, often failing to address the underlying causes of these femicide incidents and also this form of violence affects the implementation of programs to the organization on promoting peace and security. However, there're challenges in prevention of femicide incidents which includes the limited access of justice, economic disparities, social norms and cultural attitudes that perpetuate cycles of violence and conflicts to the communities.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section the analyst makes a series of recommendation aimed on the strategies which can be used on violence prevention as a way or reducing risks to women and girls on the process of preventing gender-based violence to promote peace and security to women and girls and community as whole against femicide as a form of violence in Kenya.

#### Implementing and developing effective contingency plans

This includes identifying potential risks and vulnerabilities and minimize their impacts, developing mitigation plans and regularly reviewing and updating these plans as needed to ensure their effectiveness through the following;

#### Raising awareness

By educating people with the intention of change from one point to another considering the problems to be addressed, outcome to be achieved, targeted relevant groups, messages, methods to be used, monitoring and evaluation. Which can be done through press release, briefings, disseminating reports, studies, publications and engaging the communities. Also raising awareness of MHPSS service for survivors and strengthen referral networks. This is to ensure that survivors receive the support they need and to avoid traumatization.

#### Advocacy and sensitization

Emphasizing people to take action through providing knowledge to reduce risk to the communities to understand and responds on gender-based violence. Especially on prevention of Gender Based Violence, that even girls and women have the right to be involved in decision making processes and providing the education on Female Genital Mutilation risks which endangers women lives, raising their voice and no more silence to forms of abuse by reprimanding harmful norm practices not continuing to exist in societies for eradication of femicides.

#### Reinforce the existing legal framework

To effectively combat femicide, the government must undertake comprehensive legislative and institutional reforms including:

- Define femicide in law, establish a clear legal definition that distinguishes femicide from general homicide, recognizing its gendered nature and societal impact.
- Strengthen penalties, introduce harsher sentencing guidelines for femicide to reflect the gravity of the crime and deter potential offenders.



- Mandate gender-sensitive training, equip law enforcement and judicial officers with the skills to identify, investigate, and prosecute femicide cases effectively.
- Establish specialized courts, create dedicated courts for gender-based violence to ensure timely and informed handling of femicide cases.
- Enhance witness protection, develop robust programs to protect survivors and witnesses, encouraging reporting and participation in the justice process.
- Improve data systems, implement standardized protocols for tracking femicide cases, enabling evidence-based policymaking and accountability.

### **Capacity strengthening**

To build an individual capability with external support, knowing the context, addressing the weaknesses by implementing the strategies and seeking sustainable solutions on target areas that need improvement. Comprehensive educational programs should be implemented from an early age to challenge harmful gender norms, promote gender equality, and raise awareness about women's rights. This includes teaching both boys and girls, as well as women and men, about healthy masculinity and respect for women. For instance, to empower girls and women with information and skills, ways of creating economic opportunities and engaging the communities to address negative gender norms which are harmful and risk to young girls and women, providing knowledge for improving law enforcement on police skills for effective community to respond on conflicts and violence in Kenya.

### **Collaboration among public and private sectors**

For the entities or organizations, civil societies, government, local communities, religious sector and parliament working together by sharing best practices and develop innovative solutions to achieve a goal on peacebuilding, conflict transformation and violence prevention. By fostering open communication and collaboration with stakeholders to build trust and maintaining the strong relationships. And there's need of supporting the work of feminist organization and activists who are on the front lines of the struggle. Example the CSOs play a crucial role in advocating for policy change, raising awareness and provide support.

### **Community Peace Education Programmes**

The communities should be offered with peacebuilding and conflicts resolution trainings especially to the young aged people in order to change their mind set on societal normalization to the areas that are disposed to femicide incidents and to empower the communities with skills to protect themselves to any form of gender-based violence for women and girls to feel safe and be free in their communities. So, Peace education programmes are to be implemented to provide understanding and exposure in communities that experience the incidents of gender-based violence and femicide.

### **Empowerment and economic independence,**

efforts must be made to empower women economically. This can be achieved through vocational training, access to micro-financing, and opportunities for entrepreneurship. Women who are financially independent are better equipped to escape abusive relationships and have control over their lives.

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## NOTES

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## Contacts



**Tel. No**

+254 700 423 262



**Email**

info@midrifthurinet.org



**Website**

www.midrifthurinet.org



@midrifthurinet

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