



International and Regional Level

ICJ Kenya works at the international and regional level. ICJ Kenya engages in strategic partnerships and engages in advocacy at regional and international human rights platforms including the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.



National Level

ICJ Kenya works towards policy and Legislative reforms that favour women at the national level. ICJ Kenya undertakes research and uses findings for advocacy. ICJ Kenya also partners with other like-minded organizations and individuals who promote women's rights.



County and Local Level

ICJ Kenya works to reach the community through paralegal networks, freedom of information networks, and Court User Committees located across the region.

12. Work on Alternative Justice Systems (AJS)

The Kenyan Constitution provides for alternative forms of dispute resolution mechanisms, including traditional approaches, as long as they do not contravene the Bill of Rights, are not repugnant to justice or morality or inconsistent with the Constitution or any written law.

ICJ Kenya conducted research on civil society perspectives on Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) and was appointed and gazetted as a member of the Alternative Justice Systems Taskforce by the Chief Justice to conduct research into other forms of alternative dispute resolution and recommend to the Judiciary guidelines for incorporating them into the mainstream justice system. Since the appointment, ICJ Kenya has been part of the process of collection of data on AJS mechanisms in Kenya.

The AJS taskforce has seen many decisions issued that benefit women. In some instances, the local mechanisms have recalled cases where they have seen to have been unfair to women and issued new favourable decisions.

These are a few of the interventions that ICJ Kenya has undertaken in the past 5 years. For more information kindly contact us on:



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Our Work on Women Rights
Fact sheets on trends and best practices on our regional women's rights work



Some of Our Recent Work Promoting Women's Rights

1. Research: Profiles and Status of Women in Judiciaries in East Africa

Equal representation of women in the judiciary serves several critical social functions, including enhancing institutional legitimacy, positively impacting equality in other sectors of society, and fulfilling government commitments under multiple international instruments. Unfortunately, multiple factors impede the full realization of equal representation of women within the judiciary.

The overall objective of the study is to generate a current snapshot of gender equality within the judiciaries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

2. Policy Brief: Consolidating gains and confronting challenges: nominated women's experiences in Parliament and County Assemblies

Although the population of Kenyan women has always been high in comparison to men's and remains so to date, women have not participated meaningfully in elective politics. It is because of Kenya's patriarchal system that is supported by tradition; cultural beliefs; religious beliefs which hold that leadership positions are to be held by men; and traditional gender roles wherein boys are groomed to be leaders and girls to be homemakers therefore the expectation is that women would not be both homemakers and politicians.

The brief identifies confronts the gains and challenges faced by nominated women in Parliament and County Assemblies

3. Strengthening implementation of the Maputo protocol

There is a continuing discrimination and subjection of women to harmful practices. While judicial intervention has made a modest contribution towards reversing these violations, judicial officers are still under-capacitated and are currently unable to effectively deal with new and emerging challenges to the realization of women's rights. The project will thus target the strengthening of judicial capacities to protect women from harmful practices and to administer appropriate redress where violations occur.

4. Gender Policy: Research and later publication of a policy brief making key policy recommendations intended to support implementation of affirmative action in Kenya.

5. Gender Equality and political processes in Kenya

Around the world, the representation of women in politics is the subject of growing interest and scrutiny. The book looks into Kenya's efforts to achieve gender equality in political representation.

6. Ending Technology Assisted Violence Against Women

The Internet and mobile technologies have created new ways to connect, share resources, experiences and build communities. However, these digital spaces have also provided tools and platforms for the replication and continuation of the perpetration of violence against women. – ICJ Kenya Human Rights Report, 2016.

Despite the surge of incidences of TAVAW documented in Kenya, the domestic legal regime provides very limited legal responses to the phenomenon. While Kenya's National Cyber Security Strategy and the National ICT Master Plan, for instance, identify cyber-security as a national priority, there is no mention made of TAVAW.

Between 2015 and 2016, ICJ Kenya conducted a survey to gauge the extent and manifestations of TAVAW in Kenya and to analyze the legal protections and remedies available. Primary data was collected through questionnaires and interviews of sampled respondents, non-governmental organizations, telecommunications company representatives, Internet service providers (ISPs) and law enforcement personnel. The study also relied on secondary data sources such as international instruments, domestic legislation, regulations, terms of service and user policies.

7. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs): Petition 273 of 2011 -

Between the dates of December 2007 and February 2008, or thereabouts, there was an unprecedented level of violence and forcible evictions in Kenya following the 2007 general elections (the 2007 PEV). As a consequence of the 2007 PEV, over 1,200 Kenyan citizens were killed and over 600,000 were internally displaced as a result of forcible evictions from their property. Harms suffered by individuals during the 2007 PEV were grievous bodily injury, rape and other sexual offences, torture, and such other harms. The offences took place in different parts of Kenya.

The 2 petitions are aimed to achieve justice and reparation for victims of sexual and gender based violence as well as internal displacement.

8. Paralegal Work in the Counties

A hallmark of ICJ Kenya's human rights work is community empowerment. ICJ Kenya has continued its decade long support for its network of more than 400 paralegals across six counties i.e. in Meru, Laikipia, Taita Taveta, Narok, Kwale and Kitui. ICJ Kenya, despite funding gaps, organized the paralegals into community based organizations and equipped them with knowledge and other resources which they now use to independently provide legal aid, monitor, respond and advocate for human rights and good governance at the local level.

The paralegals provide legal aid to thousands of women across the counties.

9. Participation at the African Commission Sessions

ICJ Kenya regularly participates at the African Commission on Human and People's Rights to advance women's rights through ensuring the State's accountability to national, regional and international obligations.

10. Support to East African Magistrates and Judges Association (EAMJA) and Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) Annual Conferences

Our support for the EAMJA and KMJA has enabled the women judges in two judiciary association to consider establishment of mentorship women structures within the associations.

Due to our partnership, the EAMJA Council passed a resolution to inculcate into their country training curriculum for judicial officers, a course on women rights while our proposal on application of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Maputo Protocol in women rights led to a resolution to use international and regional instruments, including the Maputo Protocol in decision making to advance the rights of women in Africa.

11. Decriminalization and Re-classification of Petty offences in Kenya

The enforcement of laws that provide for petty offences often target specific groups such as women, young men, the poor and the disadvantaged. Further, mass arrests especially of street families, low-income people, minority groups and refugees, are common.

ICJ Kenya has been part of an ongoing regional campaign for decriminalization and reclassification of petty offences in Africa. ICJ Kenya coordinates the national taskforce on decriminalization and reclassification of petty offences.

