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December 2025



AFRICA  
YOUTH  
TRUST

# Welcome Reader!

As the final chapter of 2025 unfolds, we find ourselves reflecting on a quarter that truly hummed with purpose. From the strategic energy of our boardrooms to the vibrant heartbeat of our communities, this period has been a testament to what we can achieve together. We marched in solidarity during the 16 Days of Activism, empowered individuals through legal aid clinics, and turned collective vision into tangible action.

To our incredible youth, the changemakers, volunteers, and passionate voices on the front lines, this momentum is yours. To our dedicated donors, the steadfast believers who fuel every initiative, this impact is built on your trust.

We have captured the spirit, the stories, and the milestones of these past few months in the pages that follow. Consider this your invitation to journey through the highlights, to see the direct results of your commitment, and to feel the collective pride of our shared mission.

So, find a quiet moment, scroll through, and dive in. Here is to celebrating the wins of today and the possibilities of tomorrow. Wishing you a festive season full of warmth and a new year brimming with hope.

Happy reading.

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# A New Dawn for Survivors: Nairobi's United Front Against Gender-Based Violence

In the vibrant heart of Nairobi, a quiet revolution is taking root. For one week, a group of Young Urban Women from Majengo and Mukuru's informal settlements gathered not just to learn, but to reimagine the very foundations of their economy. They convened for a capacity-building training on Feminist Economic Alternatives, facilitated by Africa Youth Trust in collaboration with ActionAid Kenya. They asked a powerful question: What if our economy were built on care, justice and solidarity, not just profit and growth?

This intensive session equipped these emerging leaders with the analytical tools to deconstruct systems that perpetuate inequality. They explored how traditional economic models, which often prioritize market efficiency, systematically overlook the unpaid care work, like raising children, cooking, and sustaining households, that falls disproportionately on women. This work, they affirmed, is the indispensable and often invisible engine of our communities, and a truly inclusive economy must recognize its value.



"Before this training, we discussed poverty, but not the deep-rooted structures that cause it," Millicent from Majengo. "Now I see the economy not as a force of nature, but as a set of rules. And rules can be changed."

The curriculum bridged theory with practical action. Participants moved from analyzing macroeconomic policies to understanding their tangible impact on access to water, sanitation, and healthcare in their own neighbourhoods. This knowledge transformed them from bystanders into empowered advocates, ready to demand transparency, accountability, and fair resource distribution at the community and county levels.

This newfound agency immediately crystallized into concrete, community-specific action plans. The group from Mukuru is preparing to lead a series of sensitization campaigns during the upcoming 16 Days of Activism. They plan to use powerful, relatable tools like community skits, songs, and peer-to-peer mentorship to demystify economic principles and spark dialogue.

Simultaneously, the Majengo team is strategizing to ensure women's voices directly shape the upcoming County Integrated Development Plan.



Their advocacy focuses on practical, transformative needs: establishing public daycare facilities to free women to pursue economic opportunities, and improving waste management systems to safeguard public health.

As the week wrapped up, the mood was full of purpose and collective strength. These young women are no longer waiting for a seat at the table; they are creating a new one, rooted in justice and shared prosperity.

"We are no longer waiting to be included," one young leader stated, her voice firm with resolve. "We are now the architects, co-creating new economic realities that value care, dignity, and equality for all."

Through their courage, clarity, and unwavering commitment, these architects of a just future are demonstrating that a better economy is not a distant ideal. It is a tangible reality being built from the ground up, one community at a time.



# Nairobi County GBV Technical Working Group forges a plan to ease the GBV burden in Nairobi.



On October 5th, that promise took a monumental leap forward. The Africa Youth Trust, alongside Action Aid Kenya and a coalition of government leaders, community advocates, and service providers, laid the foundation for the Nairobi County Gender-Based Violence Situation Room. This is not just another meeting room; it is the future heart of a coordinated, compassionate response to crisis.

Imagine a survivor's journey: the fear, the confusion, the daunting maze of police stations, hospitals, and legal aid offices. Too often, support arrives in fragments, if it arrives at all. "The gaps in our system can feel like chasms," shared one community leader at the forum. "We are building bridges across them."

The GBV Situation Room will be that bridge. It will serve as a central nervous system, integrating real-time data, resources, and rapid response teams to ensure survivors receive timely and dignified care. This means a phone call can trigger a synchronized chain of support, from a medical professional and a police officer to a psychosocial counsellor and a legal advocate, all working in tandem.



The collective determination in the room was palpable. Stakeholders agreed on urgent priorities: ensuring every voice is represented, from national agencies to grassroots champions, and guaranteeing access to the full spectrum of care. This includes not only immediate safety and justice but also the long-term tools for healing, like economic empowerment programs that offer survivors a pathway to independence.

"This is about more than coordination; it is about collective responsibility," a youth representative affirmed. "We are uniting to say that every survivor's life is our shared priority."

This initiative, championed by the Africa Youth Trust, is a testament to the power of collaboration. It is a bold step toward a safer Nairobi, where systems prevent violence as fiercely as they respond to it. A city where every survivor is met not with silence, but with an informed, united, and compassionate answer.



# The Architects of Peace: How Kwale's Youth are Building a Safer Future

In Coastal Kenya, where the gentle breeze of the Indian Ocean meets the complex realities of interfaith communities, a new generation is rising. They are determined to replace the narratives of division and violent extremism with a future built on dialogue and shared purpose. Last September, in a sunlit conference room in Diani, 30 of these young architects of peace gathered with Africa Youth Trust, ready to equip themselves for the task ahead.

The three-day Youth Advocacy Training was more than a workshop. It was a crucible where frustration was forged into strategy. The participants, a dynamic and gender-balanced group of leaders, arrived with a common conviction. "We witness the tensions in our communities, and we feel the absence of our voices in the rooms where decisions are made," shared Amina, a 24-year-old community mobilizer. "This training was our opportunity to change that. We are not just the future; we are the present, and we are ready to lead."

Guided by expert facilitators, they transitioned from theory to the practical mechanics of change. They dissected the principles of advocacy, learning to craft compelling policy briefs and petitions. They explored how storytelling and social media could serve as megaphones for their messages, transforming local actions into national conversations. The air hummed with intensity as they debated, designed and collaborated, their shared goal forging an unbreakable bond.

The pinnacle of their effort was the co-creation of the Youth Charter of Demands on Peace and Interfaith Coexistence. This document is not merely a list of requests, it is a blueprint for action, born from their lived experiences. It boldly addresses the systemic barriers they face: the lack of accessible information on countering extremism, public participation structures that sideline young people, and inadequate funding that stifles community-led solutions.

The training culminated in a session that symbolized a profound shift. Standing with quiet confidence, the youth presented their Charter to officials from the Kwale County Government. "This Charter represents our collective hope and our concrete demands," stated David, a youth representative. "We are not here to protest; we are here to partner in building a more resilient Kwale." The receiving officials commended their meticulous work and constructive approach, acknowledging that such youth-led initiatives are essential for sustainable peace. The path forward is not without its challenges. Participants noted the need for even more in-depth sessions in the future, and ensuring every community voice is represented remains a continuous pursuit. Yet, they departed not as they arrived. They left as a unified front, armed with new skills, a shared strategy, and a pledge to be the guardians of cohesion in their neighborhoods.

Africa Youth Trust remains committed to walking this path with them, providing the knowledge, tools, and platforms to ensure their voices catalyze real policy change. This story in Kwale is just one chapter. There is still more that needs to be done. Support us to reach even other regions.



# Healing, Not Just Punishment: Inside the Community's Fight for Justice in Nairobi

For many in Makadara Law Courts, the path to justice has been a long and winding road, often paved with frustration. A courtroom can feel like the end of the line, a place of last resort where the process can feel as cold as the benches waiting families must sit on. But on a late September day, inside the very heart of that system, Makadara Court 1, a different, more hopeful conversation was unfolding. It wasn't about winning or losing; it was about healing a community, one restored relationship at a time.

Supported by Africa Youth Trust, the Court Users Committee meeting pulsed with a shared conviction: justice must be a force that repairs, not just punishes. In a room filled with judicial officers, police, and community paralegals, the agenda was human-centered and clear: to dismantle the barriers that stand between people and the dignity of a fair resolution.

At the heart of the discussion was a powerful, age-old yet revolutionary approach: Alternative Justice Systems (AJS). Imagine two neighbours, their conflict escalating over a shared boundary. Instead of a lengthy, expensive and intimidating court battle that might leave one in jail and both families shattered, they sit together under a tree. Guided by respected elders, they speak, listen, and find a way to make amends.

"We are learning to shift our focus from punishment to repairing harm," shared a community paralegal, her voice steady with conviction. "When a young person acknowledges their wrongdoing, provides restitution, and is genuinely welcomed back into the fold, that is when true healing begins. It mends the very fabric of our community and stops the cycle of violence before it can continue."

This vision of restorative justice is already taking root. The announcement that Makadara Court will be upgraded to a High Court was met with quiet hope, a signal that the system is reaching out to bring its highest services closer to the people. Recognizing the immense emotional toll on those who bear witness to trauma, the court has initiated mental health debriefing sessions for staff handling harrowing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence cases. It is a critical acknowledgment to care for others; the caregivers themselves must be supported.

Yet, the path forward is not without its stark obstacles. The meeting grappled with hard truths, a mother describing how systemic glitches prevented her from paying a fine, trapping her in legal limbo. The frequent absence of children's officers leaves the most vulnerable in a painful state of waiting. The shadow of addiction was also acknowledged not just as a crime, but as a deep-seated barrier to justice and stability, calling for compassionate, integrated rehabilitation.

But in the face of these challenges, the resolve of this coalition only grows stronger. Their commitment is a testament to what's possible when a community decides that justice should be accessible, compassionate, and rooted in human dignity for all. This is more than a meeting summary; it is a snapshot of a movement in motion.

By supporting this work, you are not just funding a program; you are investing in a future where justice is a source of peace, not more pain.



# The Broken Path and the Menders: Forging a New Journey for Survivors

The room at the Ruben Centre hummed with a quiet, determined energy. It was not the sound of a typical meeting. Around the table sat a high-court judge, a police inspector, a community health worker, and a young paralegal who had once been a survivor herself. They had gathered, convened by Africa Youth Trust and ActionAid International Kenya, for a single, urgent purpose: to repair the broken path to justice for those who have endured gender-based violence through the Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP).

“When a survivor finally finds the courage to come forward, that moment is fragile,” shared the police officer at Reuben police post, his voice low with conviction. “Our duty is to protect that courage, not extinguish it with a bureaucratic hurdle or a cold response.”

The conversation began with hope, highlighting lifelines they had built together. The 21094 hotlines, a simple number, have become a beacon. Community paralegals now stand in the gap, guiding survivors through the system. “We are seeing cases move faster,” a legal officer noted. “When doctors and police coordinate, a survivor receives not just a case number, but holistic care.”

But the hope was tempered by stark reality. The group leaned into the difficult truths. They spoke of the P3 form, a mandatory medical document that can cost a survivor a day’s wages, or more. “Imagine,” a soft-spoken public prosecutor interjected, “a woman has been assaulted, and the first thing we must tell her is that the proof of her pain has a price. It is a price on her dignity.”

Other obstacles were laid bare: a survivor navigating a fragmented web of police stations, hospitals, and courtrooms alone; the critical shortage of forensic kits that can make or break a case; the devastating lack of safe houses, forcing some to choose between violence and the street. Yet, from this raw honesty, a clear, collective blueprint for change emerged. It was a plan built not on abstract ideas, but on the lived experiences of those in the room.

The judge spoke of advocating at the highest levels to abolish the P3 fee. The police inspector committed to deeper, sustained sensitivity training for his officers. “We must move from being gatekeepers of law to guardians of justice,” he said. From the medical sector, the resolve was just as firm. “A forensic examination should be free, full stop,” stated a health worker. “And a survivor should never leave a hospital without a dignity kit, soap, clean clothes, and a small but profound restoration of their autonomy.”

The call expanded to include the entire journey of healing. They envisioned robust psychosocial support, government-funded safe houses, and a national hotline. Crucially, they highlighted that true justice includes economic empowerment. “A survivor cannot be truly free if she is financially tethered to her abuser,” argued a youth representative. “Livelihood programs are not an add-on; they are essential to recovery.”

As the day closed, the roadmap for 2026 was clear: remove the financial and bureaucratic barriers, weave a seamless net of support, and invest in the long-term resilience of survivors.

This is more than a project plan; it is a covenant. It is a promise, forged in collaboration, that the path to justice will no longer be a path of thorns. It will be a journey walked with dignity, safety, and unwavering support, every step of the way. The menders are at work, and their collective resolve is the most powerful tool a survivor has.



# "STRENGTHENING YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN DIGITAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTION IN MOMBASA"



For Amina, a 22-year-old community advocate in Mombasa, the online world had become a place of shadows. Every time she posted about a local injustice, a wave of suspicious accounts would swarm her feeds, drowning her facts with noise and doubt. Harmful rumors followed. The very tool she used to amplify truth seemed to be turning against her. "I started to second-guess everything, even myself," she confesses, her voice quiet but firm. "The digital space, which should be our megaphone, felt like a trap."

Her story is not unique. Across Kenya, a new generation of Youth Human Rights Defenders is rising to speak truth to power, only to find the digital landscape mined with misinformation and hidden threats. Their courage is met with coordinated campaigns to silence them. They have the fire to change their communities, but lack the armor to protect themselves online. This is the urgent gap that Africa Youth Trust, in powerful partnership with DW Akademie and Trust Lab and with pivotal funding from the European Union in Kenya, has moved to fill. We are proud to launch the KAA-RADAA Project—a lifeline for young advocates like Amina.



KAA-RADAA, meaning "Be alert" or in Swahili, is more than a training program. It is a six-month journey to build a digitally resilient generation. We are equipping 50 passionate Youth Human Rights Defenders from across Mombasa County with the essential skills to navigate the online world: digital safety to shield themselves from harm, advanced media literacy to dissect disinformation, and strategic technology use to powerfully advance their advocacy.

This vision was powerfully articulated as the project formally commenced in Mombasa. Project Officer Levi Juma addressed the inaugural gathering of defenders, his conviction clear: "This is a game-changer. We are giving these young leaders the lens to clearly distinguish fact from fiction, and the tools to defend themselves against digital harms. They carry the weight of our communities' stories; we must ensure they are not carrying that weight unprotected."



The vision of KAA-RADAA extends far beyond the initial six months. Each member of this first cohort will become a "Trainer of Trainees," radiating this crucial knowledge outward. Amina will not only secure her own voice but will learn how to fortify the voices of dozens more in her network. This creates a multiplying effect, a growing community of confident, critical, and safe digital citizens who can participate in civic life without fear.

Imagine a digital ecosystem where young leaders, armed with expertise and solidarity, can reshape the narrative. They will not only identify harmful practices but will actively champion a healthier, more truthful online environment. They will turn the megaphone back on, louder and clearer than before.

"Now, I see not just the risks, but the strategy," Amina shares, a new light in her eyes after the project's inception sessions. "I see how to hold my ground, verify what is real, and use technology not as a foe, but as the powerful ally it was meant to be. My voice is mine again."

This is the impact of your support. By investing in Africa Youth Trust, you are investing directly in the Aminas of this continent—the brave young defenders who are on the front lines of truth. You are providing more than tools; you are providing hope, security, and the unwavering belief that their voices deserve to be heard.



Together, we are not just running a project. We are lighting a signal fire, ensuring that no young advocate has to stand alone in the digital storm.

# Lifeline in the Palm of Her Hand: How One Text Can Begin to Heal a Community, 2025 case dissemination.

In the quiet darkness, the glow of a simple mobile phone screen can be a beacon of desperate hope. For Anna (name changed for protection), a young mother in Nairobi, that light became a lifeline. After months of silent suffering, she found the courage to type a message, a few fragile words that set in motion a journey toward safety, healing, and justice. Her text was one of 442 cries for help that reached our SMS platform between December 2024 and June 2025, each one a story of pain, but also of profound resilience.

The data tells a stark story: 97 cases of domestic violence, where fear lived behind closed doors; 28 cases of defilement, shattering childhoods; 17 reports of rape. Behind every number is a person like Anna. "I did not know where to go," we can infer her whispering, her voice thick with exhaustion. "But the message was private. It felt like someone might finally listen." And listen, we did. Each message triggers a dedicated, human response. For a survivor of sexual violence, this means immediate medical care, HIV testing, preventative treatment, crucial legal forms, wrapped in compassionate psychosocial support. For an eight-year-old girl, whose case is among those we serve, it means safe shelter with her mother and ongoing counselling to navigate a trauma no child should ever know. For many, it also means the daunting path to justice: navigating police stations, courtrooms, and the emotional weight of testimony. We stand with them at every step.

Yet, the system we help build extends beyond crisis intervention. Of the 97 domestic violence cases, 44 found resolution through mediated dialogue, facilitated by local chiefs and community elders, a testament to the power of restoring peace and preventing further harm. Our outreach teams have engaged over 3,383 community members directly, empowering women and girls with knowledge of their rights, while our radio programs have sparked conversations that reach over 700,000 people, breaking the silence that allows violence to fester.

The journey is never linear. Some, overwhelmed by fear or societal pressure, withdraw their cases. Others, like the 61 individuals we could not re-contact, slip back into the shadows, a reminder of the fragility of the trust we work tirelessly to build. This is why our work is so vital. Every resolved mediation, every child reunited with a parent, every survivor who finds the strength to testify, reinforces a new norm: that violence will be met with support, not stigma.

You make this lifeline possible. Your support fuels the technology that receives Anna's midnight message and funds the trained responder who answers with empathy and action. It sustains the community dialogues that prevent violence before it starts. You are not just funding a program; you are upholding hope for hundreds of Annas, telling them they are not alone. Together, we are transforming silent suffering into a story of community strength. Help us ensure that every call for help is heard, and every survivor is met with the comprehensive care and unwavering support they deserve to reclaim their lives.



# "Today, I Feel Like a Kenyan": A Story from the Mukuru Legal Aid Clinic



The vibrant rhythm of drums and song, not a siren, announced something extraordinary in Mukuru kwa Reuben. It was the first day of the 16 Days of Activism, but for the gathered community, it was a day of practical hope. A colorful caravan, led by Africa Youth Trust and our partners, wound its way to the Maendeleo Health Clinic, signaling a simple but powerful mission: to bring the pillars of identity and justice directly to the people.

Too often, legal bureaucracy is a maze of distant offices, costly travel, and intimidating procedures, a labyrinth that leaves the most vulnerable locked out. In partnership with the Nairobi County Government, Huduma Kenya, and the Social Health Authority, we transformed the clinic into a one-stop legal aid centre. Even magistrates from the Makadara Law Courts were present, their presence a symbol of a system intentionally stepping out of its hallways and into the heart of the community.



Our Access to Justice and Security Officer, Teresa Monchari, watched as queues formed for birth certificate registration, health scheme onboarding, and direct court consultations. "When we bring services directly to the people," she observed, "we are not just processing documents. We are breaking the very barriers that make justice feel exclusive. We are making belonging seamless."

Her words were given life by the residents themselves. One woman, cradling a birth certificate application form, shared a story familiar to many: "I tried getting this before. It was a long, confusing process, and I gave up midway. For some of us, without even a birth notification card, we have felt like aliens in our own country. But Huduma Kenya is coming to us... Africa Youth Trust is doing this for us... Today, I feel seen. I feel like a Kenyan."

As the event culminated, the Mukuru Officer Commanding Station (OCS) flagged off the caravan, offering not just official approval but heartfelt commendation. He applauded Africa Youth Trust for our sustained work and noted the community's overwhelming response, a testament to the deep, unmet need for such dignity-driven interventions.



That day in Mukuru was more than a clinic; it was a declaration. A declaration that every Kenyan deserves legal identity, deserves to be seen by their government, and deserves to access justice without fear or obstacle. This is the core of our work: turning activism into tangible action, and partnership into profound, personal change.

Your support makes these journeys of dignity possible. Together, we are not just delivering services; we are giving recognition, one birth certificate, one consultation, one restored dream at a time.



# Finding Hope and a Lifeline at Anointed Academy during 16days of Activism.

Every Friday evening, as the sun sets over the community, something remarkable happens at the Anointed Academy for Boys and Girls. In a safe circle of trust, young voices rise, not in play, but in powerful conversation. They speak about things often left in shadows: sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). These dialogues are their shield, born from our teacher training and nurtured by their incredible bravery.

On December 10, during the last day of 16 Days of Activism, our team joined their circle. Accompanied by dedicated counselors like Francisca, we listened. The room hummed with a mix of apprehension and resolve as we split into focused groups, boys and girls sharing their fears, questions, and hopes separately, yet together in purpose.

We discussed the vital support systems that can protect them, from personal hygiene to a simple, powerful tool: our SMS lifeline, number 21094. This is not just a number; it is a promise. A private, immediate connection to help, reminding every child they are not alone.



Our Access to Justice Project Officer, Teresa Monchari, witnessed the raw courage in the room. "Here, in these honest conversations, we see the first steps toward healing and justice," she reflected. "These young people are not just survivors; they are advocates for their own futures. Their courage is why we do this work."

We were deeply honored to be joined by Dinah Wambua, an officer from our donor partner, ActionAid Kenya, whose support makes this critical program possible. Moved by the session, they commended the team: "The selfless dedication I've seen here today is transforming lives. You are building a foundation of safety and knowledge that will impact this generation and the next."

At Africa Youth Trust, we believe safety is a right, not a privilege. The journey of these students at Anointed Academy, from silence to strength, is why we persist.

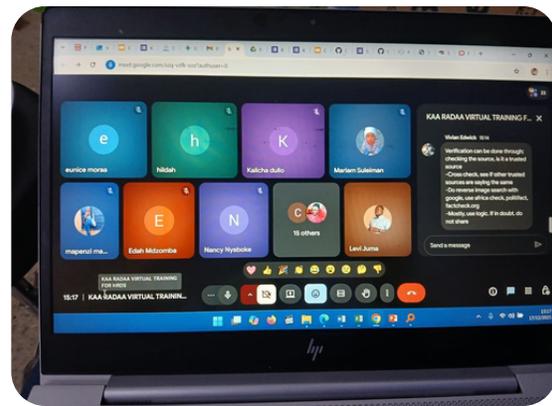
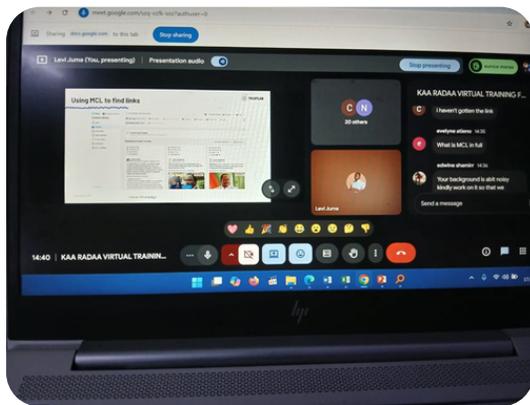


# Empowering the Digital Frontline: From Awareness to Action in Mombasa

In the digital age, the fight for human rights has a new frontier. For activists and defenders, particularly women and youth, the online world is not just a tool for mobilization, it is a battleground. Here, gendered disinformation, coordinated harassment, doxing, and digital surveillance are wielded to intimidate, discredit, and silence critical voices. The need for armor in this space is not a luxury; it is a matter of safety and survival.

Recognizing this urgent need, Africa Youth Trust, through the KAA RADAA project, recently convened a vital gathering. Twenty youth and women Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) from Mombasa County came together not as passive attendees, but as future architects of digital resilience. This was a strategic investment in their security and their voice.

The session moved beyond theoretical warnings. It was a practical, interactive deep dive into the mechanics of digital threats. Participants unpacked the very real challenges they face, transforming abstract fears into identifiable tactics. But the core of the day was empowerment through skill-building. We equipped these emerging leaders with the critical tools to navigate this complex landscape: sharpened critical thinking to dissect information, robust verification practices to separate truth from falsehood, and concrete defense strategies to shield their personal data.



Crucially, this empowerment was grounded in the law. The training provided a clear map of their digital rights and protections under Kenya's legal framework, including the Data Protection Act (2019) and the newly enacted Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (2024). Knowledge of the law transforms a defender from a target into an informed citizen, aware of both their vulnerabilities and their recourses.

However, the true impact of this initiative lies in its multiplier effect. These twenty individuals were not only upskilled, but they were also consciously developed as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs). They are now ambassadors of digital literacy, poised to return to their communities and networks to spread this crucial knowledge. From participants, they have become partners in our mission, extending the reach of this work far beyond a single day.

This is how we build a resilient digital civil society: not by creating isolated strongholds, but by fostering interconnected networks of informed, skilled, and secure individuals. By protecting our defenders, we protect the very essence of civic dialogue and democratic participation. This session in Mombasa was more than a workshop; it was a deliberate step toward a future where every activist can operate online with confidence, security, and the unwavering support of a prepared community.

# Kenya's Youth Are Building the Future—It's Time They Own the Blueprint

By, Kelvin Njai

I have seen the future of Kenya, and it is not in a boardroom or a cabinet meeting. It's in a vibrant tech hub in Nairobi, where a young woman is debugging an app that could revolutionize mobile payments. It is in a field in Kericho, where a young farmer is using his phone to track sustainable crop yields. This generation is already building, creating, and leading with a boldness that inspires me daily.

Yet, when I examine our nation's voter registration rolls, I see a disturbing disconnect. The very architects of our tomorrow are, en masse, absent from the table where the blueprints for that future are drawn. This is not just a missed opportunity; it is a national paradox. How can a demographic that constitutes over 70% of the population, a sleeping giant of political influence, so often feel that its voice doesn't matter? I've spoken to countless young Kenyans, and the frustration is palpable. "They are all the same," a brilliant young graphic designer in Mombasa told me, shrugging. "What difference will my one vote make?"

I understand that cynicism. But I also know it is a luxury we can no longer afford. Disengagement is not a protest; it is a surrender. It is handing the keys to your future over to others and hoping they drive in a direction you like. The right to vote was hard-won through the sacrifices of previous generations. To treat it as disposable is to forget that the freedoms we enjoy, to innovate, to criticize, to assemble, were secured through political struggle. The platforms young Kenyans use to build businesses and mobilize communities exist within a framework built by policy. Who shapes those policies matters intensely.

We must reframe what it means to vote. It is not an endorsement of a system; it is an act of ownership. That little voter's card is not just a ticket for election day, it is a stake in the ground. It is your claim on the issues that define your life: the cost of data, the availability of jobs worthy of your skills, and the health of our environment.

Look at what this generation has already accomplished without waiting for permission. They are global leaders in tech and culture. This is not a generation that lacks initiative or vision. So why, when it comes to the political arena, does that formidable energy falter? The answer is not a lack of will, but a failure of imagination. We have not done enough to demonstrate that politics is not a distant, corrupt game, but rather the ultimate lever for systemic change. The same innovative spirit that gave birth to M-Pesa and drives the afrobeat scene can be channeled into reshaping our democracy.

Imagine a Kenya where the polling stations are as crowded as the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on a holiday weekend. Imagine a parliament that reflects the vibrant, tech-savvy, and entrepreneurial character of its people. It is not a fantasy. It is a direct and achievable consequence of collective action.

The call to action is simple, but profound: Register. Go vote. But don't stop there. Talk to your friends. Make a plan. Turn the act of registration into a movement as powerful as the ones you have built online.

The future is not a passive destination. It is a structure being built every day. Kenya's youth are the most dynamic builders we have. It's time they took control of the blueprint.



Kelvin Njai is a Communications Officer and governance advocate dedicated to leveraging strategic communication to promote policy change and civic engagement across East Africa. At Africa Youth Trust, he amplifies the voices of young people through communication. He is committed to using media and communication as tools for accountability, transparency, and transformative governance.

# Pictorials



Roseline Mukabana from Nairobi County Gender and Inclusivity leads a presentation for the GBV Technical Working Group at Monarchy Hotel, Nairobi.



Fr. Maxwell of Makadara Parish delivers a presentation on the PRRP initiative at the Reuben Center.

PART



A health specialist from Kenyatta National Hospital contributes to the discussion during the Technical Working Group meeting.



Women pose for a photo during the march on 16 Days of Activism in Mukuru.



Terresah Monchari, Access to Justice Project Officer, addresses the Technical Working Group during their meeting at The Monarch Hotel.



Participants dance happily at maendeleo health center during the legalaid clinic.

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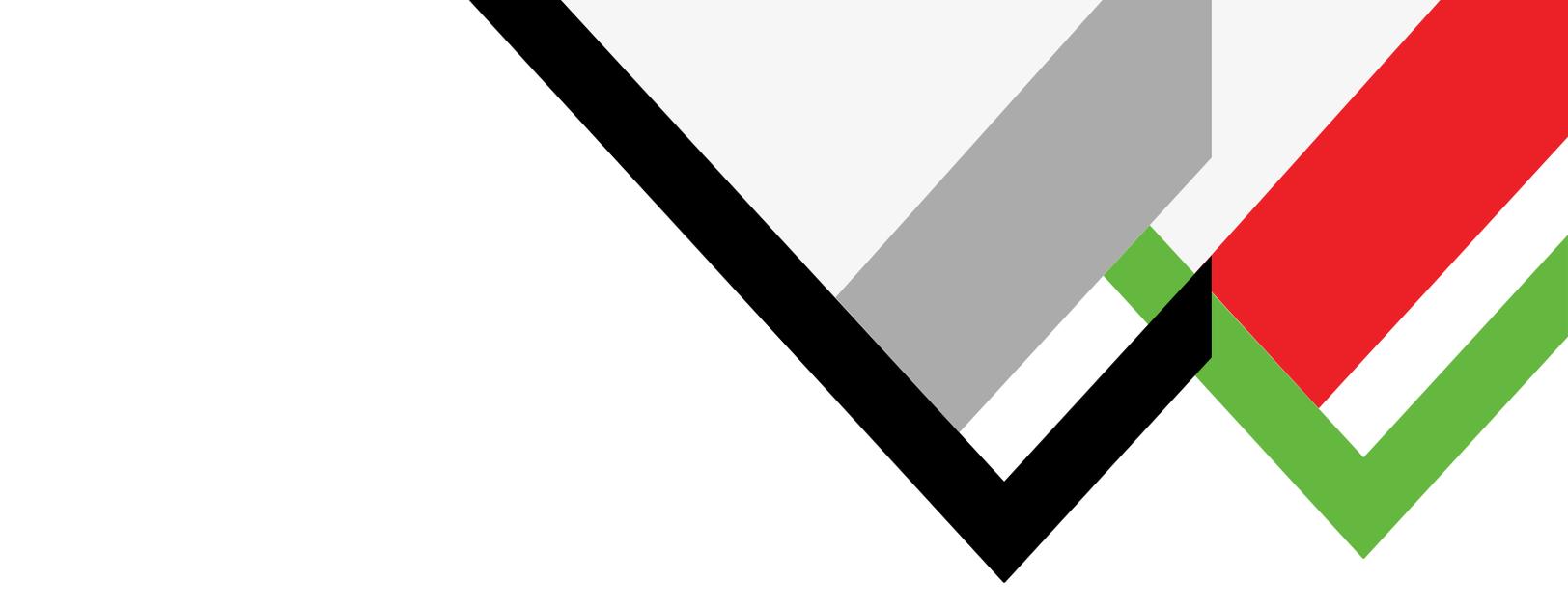
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