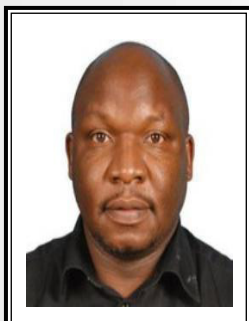


Note from the Executive Director



Thanking Friends who stood with KHRC amidst allegations by the NGO board

I am grateful for the opportunity that has been offered to me to lead the Kenya Human Rights Commission, an organization that has made a proud and distinguished contribution to the protection of human rights in Kenya.

I have joined at a time when, as part of the closing of civic space which has affected the entire civil society sector, the KHRC is fighting allegations made by the Coordination Board of Non-Governmental Organizations, that KHRC is not compliant with the regulatory requirements for NGOs and forms part of the list of more than 900 NGOs whose deregistration the Board is seeking.

This information came to KHRC as a great shock because, as a matter of fact, the KHRC takes its regulatory obligations very seriously and has always been in compliance. There has been no information about the particulars of the allegations against the KHRC, other than the announcement to the media that was made by the NGO Board. Since the announcement, the KHRC has endeavoured to obtain more information about the allegations and has written to the Board and also made several physical visits, none of which has yielded any more information.

With a view to protecting its interests, the KHRC has already commenced legal proceedings in the High Court which has already issued conservatory orders, barring the Board from taking any action towards the threatened de-registration of the KHRC.

While we await the court case to take its course, I would like to state for the record that the KHRC is and has always been fully compliant with its regulatory obligations and the allegations by the NGO Board are, therefore, simply untrue, something that we hope the court proceedings will bring out.

Following these very grave media allegations against the KHRC, we have received messages of support and solidarity from friends of the organization and colleagues in the NGO sector. We thank all of them for standing with us, and also urge their support in the court case that will vindicate our name and through other means that will ensure vigilance for the protection of the interests of the sector.

George Kegoro
Executive Director
November, 2015



Proposed Law Falls Short on Historical Land Injustices



Land has been and remains a politically sensitive and culturally complex issue for Kenya. Kenya's history in regard to the land question is characterized by indications of a breakdown in land administration, disparities in land ownership (squatting and landlessness), disinheritance, tenure insecurity and conflict. The National Assembly is currently considering the Land Laws (Amendments) Bill of 2015. The objective of this proposed law is described as seeking to amend the existing land laws in order to make them align with the Constitution. The proposed law also seeks to give effect to the constitutional provisions that relate to the investigation of historical land injustices and the issue of minimum and maximum acreages in the holding of private land.

Land historical injustices formed a key focus area under Agenda Item 4 of the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation (KNDR) process that followed the 2007/08 Post Election Violence. The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) formed from this process had an extensive chapter on land in its final report highlighting injustices that commenced with the Arab colonization of the Coast to the colonization of modern day Kenya by the British and the subsequent illegal acquisitions and displacements that occurred in the post-independence era.

Kenya's current Constitution also establishes an independent National Land Commission (NLC) that is mandated to among other things, investigate historical land injustices and recommend appropriate redress. To effectively address historical land injustices, the law should outline an institutional framework for the investigation process and the issuance of remedies such as land redistribution, restitution and compensation. In South Africa for example, the law established a Restitution of Land Rights Commission and a Land Claims Court. The affected communities must also be involved in the decision making processes that determine which remedy applies.

The Kenyan Endorois community for example successfully sued the Kenyan government at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) over the loss of their ancestral land to Lake Bogoria Game Reserve; in addition to recommending restitution and compensation, the ACHPR directed the government to "..... Engage in dialogue with the Complainants for the effective implementation of these recommendations".

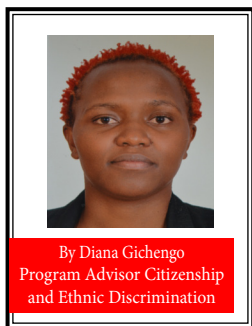
Other important considerations for such a law would include procedures for submitting claims, an appeals mechanism for the decisions made, timelines for processing the claims and financing for implementation of decisions. Section 44 of the Land Laws (Amendments) Bill which addresses historical land injustices unfortunately fails to meet these requirements. The issue is reduced to a singular provision rather than a stand-alone law as advised by the NLC.

There is no elaborate description of the institutional framework that will undertake this momentous task and the mechanisms for local participation are insufficient. The procedure for processing claims is extremely basic and offers no guidance on the standard of proof or an appeals mechanism if one is dissatisfied with the initial outcome. There are no guidelines on how the remedies would be arrived at and most importantly, it is silent on both the financing component and concrete timelines for the resolution of complaints. In his 2015 State of the Nation Address, President Uhuru Kenyatta expressed a desire to bring a close to Kenya's painful past by embracing restorative justice as path to creating unity and national cohesion.

Historical land injustices are at the heart of this painful past with close to 50 percent of statements and memoranda received by the TJRC relating to or touching on claims over land. Any process that seeks to resolve this issue must therefore be comprehensive, participatory and transparent. The Land Laws (Amendments) Bill fails to live up to the President's pledge on restorative justice and could actually inflame rather than resolve Kenya's challenge with historical land injustices.

(Shorter Edit First Published in the Daily Nation on October 5, 2015)

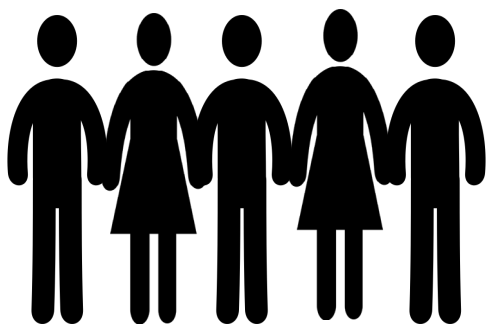
What is the two third gender rule?



The two third gender rule is one of the affirmative actions enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya in Article 27(8) of the Bill of right to help enhance equality. The two third gender rule requires that not more than two thirds of any elective or appointive position in the government of Kenya shall be of the same gender. It's enshrined in the devolution chapter and is principle electoral governance in Kenya as per Article 81(b) of the Constitution. The senate , national assembly , county assemblies , all cabinets (national government and county Government , Boards , the judiciary , constitutional commission and all state offices are therefore bound by this rule .

Kenya is operating well even with the current representation. Why is it necessary to implement this rule?

Democracy thrives on several factors; key among them is equality and political tolerance. Equality therefore entails before the law, equality of opportunity in the realisation of individual capacities without regard to one's race, gender, ethnic background or religion. We therefore must endeavour to create a society where men and women are equally involved in leadership. Demographic of the Kenyan population would lead us to equality however the Constitution guides us to start with the not more than two third as a form of affirmative action. Most importantly balanced gender perspective is key to sustainable growth and development of our economy.



Why do women want free things? Shouldn't we encourage women to vote instead of asking for nominations?

Nomination in Kenya is an electoral process and nominations ought to be conducted through proportional representation which is an election. Further to this we know that the basis of nominations and other affirmative action measure is to equip women to gain the requisite experience .Electing women is not about women's representation but ensuring that the male and female perspective are included in policy formulation, budgeting and oversight The prioritisation of men and women benefit both men and women but if one gender is under represented it results in imbalanced prioritisation.

There are other formulas to achieve the two third gender principle; Why Formula 136?

Formula 136 encourages a bigger pool of women to contest elections and engage with the electoral process and its challenges. This is particularly for areas that historically, have had very low women participation. Formula 136 will change the political climate in Kenya in terms of women's participation and citizenry. Formula 136 also gives equal recognition to the National government and the County government which is critical for the devolved system of government to operate.

How does the two third gender rule affect "Wanjiku"?

It helps Wanjiku to have a more balanced legislature. The legislative arm of government is critical in setting priorities and formulating policies and laws to guide holistic and sustainable development of Kenya.



#ActOnGenderRule

Strong dispute resolution system can help woo more Investors



By Fredrick Njehu
Programme Advisor-
Trade Justice

The G-7 leaders recently met for their annual summit in Schloss, Germany. In one of their declarations, they vowed to protect and promote investments and

maintain a high level playing field for all investors. International standards for public export finance are key to avoiding or reducing distortions in global trade, emphasized support for the international working group on standards for public export finance. Back home, negotiators from East African partner states are behind closed doors negotiating an EAC draft framework and investment model treaty that will guide them while engaging the third parties on trade and investment. This urge was precipitated by the haphazard manner in which EAC partner states went negotiating bilateral investment treaties with third parties, most of which remained inactive.

The most intense investment negotiations EAC preparing to enter into is with the US, a member of the G-7. As trade diplomacy dictates, it is the role of the states to enter into any international trade and investment agreement. Democracy and to an extension the Kenyan constitution further prescribes that these agreements must be transparent, fair and able to meet public interest demands. So, public stakeholder consultations are imperative for public inputs to ensure that EAC partner states are able to carry along the development aspirations and retain a sizable level of sovereignty. Already, private sector and civil society have already kick started these consultations in earnest. Nevertheless, one of the most profound and evident flaws in any investment agreement is the unwavering powers of corporate courts that has of recent formed part of the dispute settlement mechanism. The investment arrangement aims at transferring massive powers from government to big businesses. In the current negotiations, it is critical to maintain a state to state dispute settlement mechanism to allow countries take on board public interests issues.

A Human Rights Information Goldmine



By Grace Were Programme Advisor
Information and Knowledge
Management

Relevant research is a key foundation of evidence-based policies. However, research cannot have an impact if it is confined within the bookshelves. Advocacy is only achieved when

it is shared with those who can learn from it, use it, share it, build upon it and adapt it. The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) understands the value of its in-house knowledge and research work. This understanding has led to the establishment of an institutional repository; better known as the KHRC digital library and managed at the KHRC Information Centre. This is a fundamental advocacy tool for the organization and its partners as well. As part of its commitment to promoting open access to research output, the KHRC launched its digital library in July 2013. This is a platform that maximizes the public's online access to all KHRC publications. Created using D-SPACE, an open source software that systemize the existing KHRC resources, the digital library facilitates a faster, more efficient and personalized online delivery. It also serves as a catalog

that provides basic information about the resources of the digital library, and it is equipped with user-friendly finding aids compliant with the International Standards for Resource Access Description. The repository delivers an increasing quantity of digitized KHRC publications from 1992 to date, making them available for the public users who cannot come to KHRC offices to read from the Information Centre.

With this repository, KHRC is also able to facilitate digital preservation for institutional memory as well as research communication. It also provides for an open access platform that captures, stores, index and distribute globally a wide range of research output thereby promoting the institution's research profile. To date, the repository has one hundred and fifty three publications focusing mainly on transformative justice, economic & social justice and political pluralism and diversity which are the main thematic areas of KHRC's work. It is an information resource worth reading from as it goes a long way in promoting human rights research. As Kofi Annan once echoed, Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise, in every society and in every family, so will I. Take this rare opportunity and visit the KHRC Digital Library and enhance your power to liberate the world.

Electoral Reform for Lasting Peace in Kenya



Lack of public oversight of electoral actors and processes is a major problem in Kenya's electoral issues. Over 3,000 reports that include photos, audio and visual recordings from 57 human rights' election monitors across the country indicate that funds and other state resources in several sectors are being misused. The Commission of Administrative Justice (CAJ) confirmed that majority of those involved were public servants who abused their powers for the sake of their parties. The 2013 general elections marked the first time in the history of Kenyan elections, justice to those who were involved in electoral malpractices such as voter bribery; votes rigging during an election processes were arrested and charged. Election monitoring has enhanced better preparation of elections with election monitors ensuring that adequate election materials are available at the polling stations. They have also worked closely with the electoral bodies and civil society groups to ensure that results are released with ease through the use of electronic devices.

The violence witnessed during the 2007 elections in Kenya, prompted human rights groups like the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) to train their personnel on how they to monitor and report human rights violations cases that results through elections so as to avert future crisis. Positively, the Electoral Monitoring and Reform project, supported by the Danish Embassy through the Drivers of Accountability Program (DAP), resulted in a paradigm shift from not only monitoring elections on the election day but also towards monitoring that is based on the electoral cycle i.e pre-election, election and post-election.

Arguably, one of the most important aspects of this project was working with existing human rights networks on the ground and individuals to enhance a sustainable growth approach on human rights awareness among the communities. With the advent of new media, KHRC and Institute for Education and Democracy (IED) jointly created a WhatsApp group



Electoral



Reform



Peace

which enables CSOs, election monitors, IEBC commissioners and senior management to engage on key emerging electoral issues in real time. There are numerous African leaders who have sought to undermine democracy in a desperate bid to cling to power, for example, Burundi in 2015. Thus, regionally, KHRC's electoral governance assessment framework has been utilized in South Africa, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia. The organization has raised the potential for an African framework on election monitoring at the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) where there has been significant interest on it by the various Human rights groups. In recognition of its established track-record on electoral governance matters, KHRC was admitted as a member to the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitoring (GNDEM).

This membership will enhance its regional and international advocacy on electoral governance. This is because it avails a global platform to engage with likeminded organizations on topical electoral governance issues. It will also share reports and other resources. Through this, people outside of Africa can benefit from the use of the practical election process monitoring tool.

Protection Freedoms and preservation of Security:- Towards a complimentary approach



Security is a fundamental right and its absence is a threat to other rights and freedoms. The State has a primary obligation to guarantee its citizens security.

In the past four years, Kenya has experienced insecurity ranging from terror attacks, inter-ethnic conflicts, cattle rustling, resource based conflicts and gang attacks against communities. These conflicts have claimed more than 3000 lives.

To deal with this state of insecurity the State has adopted a security model premised on security control through use of military force, legal reviews, law enforcement, border management, building counter-terrorism centers and countering violent extremism. The Freedom of Expression and the right of access to information are among the rights that have been impeded. Notably, the Security (Amendment) Act 2014 introduces provisions to effectively give security agencies sweeping powers to invade citizen's privacy under the guise of national security.

The government has a strategy to unjustifiably limit legitimate speech on insecurity as enshrined in Article 33(1) of the Constitution. The exclusion of freedom of speech from propaganda for war, incitement to



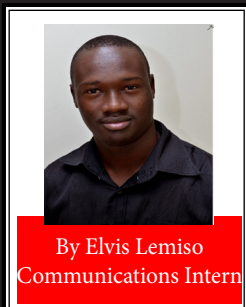
violence, hate speech or advocacy of hatred in Article 33 (2) of the Constitution is not a leeway for the arbitrary limitation of the freedom of expression views also held by the UN Human Rights Committee and the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression.

In tackling insecurity, security agencies must recognize that human rights and freedoms are compatible with and are a key component to the achievement of sustainable peace and development as espoused in Article 238 of the Constitution. The State can also show accountability by implementing recommendations from various inquiries such as the Baragoi attack and the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the Ethnic Violence in Tana River. Only State collaboration and consultations with the community, civil society and other relevant stakeholders will address root causes of insecurity, conflict and instability (including negative radicalization) to realize a sustainable and comprehensive response to the runaway insecurity in the country.

We should remain guided by the words of UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon who recently observed: "Civil society must remain a key partner – in implementing the new development goals, building democracy, countering extremism and pointing the way towards a world of dignity for all."

National
Security shall be
pursued in
compliance with the
law and with utmost
respect for the rule of law,
democracy, human rights
and fundamental
freedoms. - Article 238
of the Constitution
of Kenya

How can we protect the voice of a girl?



From a distance, ululations can be heard, songs of praise emanating from aged and middle aged women rents the air, all with one message, “You are now

a true African woman, re-born and united again in the spirits of our forefathers”. We are not only celebrating you but we are also so proud of who you are at the moment”. The happy voices of those who came to witness the initiation ceremony reverberated in the ears of Mary Naipanoi (Not her real name) a young Masai lass from Kajiado County. These were the voices that lured her and many other young girls to undergo the painful process of being a pure African woman. She is barely 12 years old but already she has undergone the painful and torturous cut, all because her mind was fed with a wishful mentality of her being a true Africa woman. This happened in August 2012 in a remote village in Kajiado when a friend invited me to attend to the ceremony in their rural home. Since time immemorial, Female Genital Mutilation was the order of the day in almost all African cultures across the continent.

In the Kenyan context, according to statistics from Maendeleo ya Wanawake report of 2009 young girls as young as 12 years in the country have undergone the vice with a premonition that if they cannot undergo the “cut” then they were deemed to fall prey of pre-marital pregnancies or being infected with Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs). The practice involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Statistics from World Health Organization, (WHO) reveals that between 100 million and 140 million women and girls suffer the consequences of FGM globally with the most affected being women (young of age) from Nomadic/pastoral regions and some from deep rooted Islamic religion.

A majority of these girls who have undergone the practice tend to cut short their promising lives as most of them end up being married off to older men by their parents who value wealth more than the comfort of their reserved and innocent daughters, and at times others succumb to injuries as a

result of excessive bleeding. Such acts not only hurts but violates the rights of these girls that prompts all of us to speak up and denounce this practice with the strongest terms possible. According to the constitution of Kenya chapter four on human dignity which states that every person (s) has an inherent dignity and the right to have that dignity respected and protected means that this has been violated. The act reflects a deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women and minors who are always prone to such.

The practice also violates a person's rights to health, security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death. This can be stopped if the government, human rights groups and other state agencies join hands together and come up with systems, such as educating the masses in the prone areas on the dangers associated with the practice creating campaigns and promoting them in different forms of media that targets large audiences in some way will help reduce the practice. A German revolutionary Carl Shurz once said that equality of rights springs identity of our highest interests; you cannot subvert your neighbor's rights without striking a dangerous blow at your own, means that young girls and other women in the globe will never suffer like how Mary Naipanoi and the many of the other girls suffered silently without being heard. This is our time to stand up, speak out and hear the voices of our crying girls.

“Pamoja
tunaweza
kukomesha
ukeketaji!”

Pictorial



KHRC and Ministry of Devolution and Planning - Department of Monitoring and Evaluation staff members at a dissemination meeting of the Model County Framework



(From Left to Right) Esther Waweru, Diana Gichengo, Martin Mavunjina and Elizabeth Kariuki celebrate after a training on the Green Amendment Campaign.



Daniel Chumba, Legal assistant offers legal advice during the Law Society Kenya week



Raila Odinga signs a visitor's book at a KHRC stand during the book fair at Sarit Center

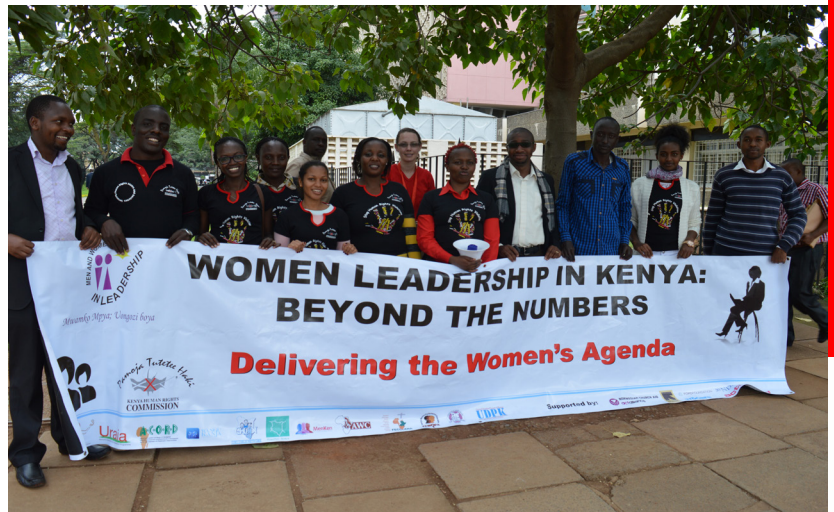


From Left to Right) Lady Justice Mumbi Ngugi, Mburugu M'marete, Mzee Gitu Wa Kahengeri, Amb.Amina Mohammed, Dr.Christian Turner, Dr.Hassan Wario, Prof.Makau Mutua, Faith Alubbe during the unveiling of the MauMau monument at Freedom Corner.



KHRC staff members at the 2015 People's forum

Pictorial



KHRC staff members Supporting various campaigns



I recently attended a Forum on Internet Freedom in East Africa 2015 in Kampala, where I met several accomplished researchers, activists, lawyers and development works who are paving the way on how internet governance in Africa.

This informative session challenged me to interrogate privacy, and in particular – online bullying particularly women, who are considered as a minority group in the internet world. The State of Internet Freedom in East Africa 2015 was launched at the same forum stated that lack of professionalism and ethics before sharing information online with and publishing personal details was a major cause of privacy and security vulnerabilities in East Africa resulting to cyber bullying. However, the question remains, is the internet not a free platform where people can post whatever they wish? Does this not go against the mantra and guiding principles of Freedom Speech?

Cyberbullying is a major problem for Kenyans online with several cases reported of individuals going through various forms of online abuse. As more people embrace the use of social media, some are turning this into a bullying platform. In 2013, Kenya noted an increase in cyberbullying including use of text messages or emails, posts on social networking sites. This abuse has been on the rise in Kenya with women with high online profiles making up majority of the victims with incidents of cyber stalking, sexual harassment, persistent abusive mobile messages, sex trafficking and humiliating comments that reinforce gender stereotypes.

Tackling Cyberbullying. The Forum provided a good platform for different experts in the internet freedom world to exchange ideas on online security. What struck me most was the availability of simple tricks to avoid online harassment. I recommend that we as internet users apply the same caution online as we do in our offline lives. Assuming that our computers, phones or any gadgets are our homes, there are several safety measures we could apply to avoid content posted online from hurting us.

Ensure that you have quality locks: When operating online it is important to ensure that passwords that are not easily ‘picked’ by people who can access you accounts, this would come in hand to keep away anybody from posting incorrect information on your timelines. Just as quality locks would keep people away from accessing your home is the same way they would struggle to get into your accounts. Avoid using birthdays, names of family members as passwords. Use letters, numbers and punctuations marks to enhance the strength of passwords.



Keep doors locked even when you are home: Even when you are home, you could be in the kitchen preparing a meal but a burglar comes in through the front door and does whatever he so wishes in your house without your knowledge and leaves. The burglar could pick up your private photo album and distribute your photos in public. In this case therefore, avoid leaving your gadgets unattended and accounts logged in while you are away.

Do not write your full names on your roof top or front door: When operating online share only what you feel is necessary. Distribute minimal information about yourself. Cyberbullying can escalate to offline abuse if locations are shared. Cyber bullying has sometimes been faced by people who share every kind of information online, from where they work to where they are travelling to.

Do not welcome strangers to your home: Opening doors to strangers can be a risky affair. Therefore, one should be cautious when associating with people they do not know online. If the harassment/ bullying comes in form of text messages, comments on social media sites one should use privacy tools to block the intruders. We can have enriching experiences online even as we practice more caution in our associations. Stay safe!

Success Stories

The KHRC has through its programmes; Transformative Justice, Economic and Social Justice, Political Pluralism and Diversity and Institutional Support and Development achieved tremendous achievements.

Transformative Justice

- 1.) KHRC's electoral governance assessment framework has influenced actions taken by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to reform the electoral system. For example, the IEBC has; initiated continuous voter registration, developed a policy roadmap, begun to review the election observer guidelines, set up and committed to make more inclusive an IEBC/CSO Platform, and are working with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development to include voter education in school and tertiary education curricula. The framework has also enabled KHRC to input to a regional discussion on a human rights based approach to election observation and re-energize East and Horn of Africa (E-HORN) network; a regional network on the same.
- 2.) KHRC has ensured Justice for Torture Victims - Following the statement of regret and positive settlement by the British Government with the Mau Mau War Veterans Association (MMWVA); KHRC together with MMWVA and the British High Commission (BHC) has designed and constructed a Mau Mau Monument. 4 of the cases filed for the widows and orphans of Nyayo House torture victims have proceeded to full hearing. 1 case so far has resulted in a judgment with an award of approx. 562,545 Kshs to a widow.
- 3.) KHRC has consistently identified and illuminated systematic patterns of insecurity along with the human rights concerns therein, while also facilitating multi-stakeholder responses to issues such as: counter-terrorism operations by the government; irregularities in police recruitment; the enactment of the Security (Amendments) Act, 2014 and; the ongoing police vetting process.

Political Pluralism and Diversity

- 1.) A presidential directive to begin the process of registration of the Makonde community in Kwale County who are stateless.
- 2.) Male legislators championed and made positive statements in Parliament in support of the Protection Against Domestic Violence (PADV) Bill after being convened by KHRC. The Bill was passed.
- 3.) Adoption of the National Action Plan on the Women's Charter.
- 4.) During the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Kenya accepted a recommendation to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law affording protection to all individuals, irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- 5.) Through its pivotal role as the convener of the LGBTI Rights Community's Litigation Collective a number of positive judicial decisions were delivered to 1) protect freedom of association for NGOs focused on LGBTI rights, 2) require the Attorney-General to develop and submit to Parliament laws and guidelines on the registration of intersex children, and 3) enable a transgender individual to have her examination transcripts changed by the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) to reflect the change of names.
- 6.) KHRC has submitted proposals for the realization of the Constitutional 2/3rds Gender Principle and offered leadership towards ensuring a mechanism and process for election of more women in Kenya.

Economic and Social Justice

- 1.) The exporter, Finlay's Horticulture Kenya (FHK), committed to learn more about becoming human rights compliant and reaching a 'Good for Business; Good for workers' equilibrium;
- 2.) Workers and farmers in the horticulture supply chain (exporter, importer and UK based retailers) for green beans have an improved situation in terms of practical realities such as access to healthcare and their ability to negotiate strategically with actors along the supply chain.
- 3.) The Annual Model County Awards Scheme and its 10 point human rights criteria has been validated and endorsed by key stakeholders and partners. For example, the Transitional Authority jointly launched the criteria for the award scheme and the M&E Directorate engaged in developing research indicators.
- 4.) African CSOs mobilized at the 55th Session of the ACHPR to ensure a living wage from transnational corporations.
- 5.) KHRC has a 3 way partnership with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR) to develop a Country Guide on Business and Human Rights

Institutional Support and Development

- 1.) KHRC Has Remained Relevant by Being Flexible in its Strategic Direction: Strategic plan developed printed and launched; KHRC remained flexible to further strategic reorientation after the launch of the organisational strategy. KHRC developed its current operational plan in January. Nonetheless produced and agreed an institutional sustainability strategy: Some of the key elements of this strategy have now been endorsed by KHRC's Board.
- 2.) Prevented Negative Changes to the PBO Act on a Number of Occasions: As convener of the CSO reference group's PBO Act Advocacy team KHRC has audited Bills, mobilised joint media statements and ensured broad participation in the task force meetings.
- 3.) Ensured More Rights Violations Addressed: The ICT project has increased the reporting of Rights Violations. The Short code reporting system was particularly popular because it is free and easy to remember and it received an average of 15 reports of human rights violations each month. On average 2-3 reports are received through social media each month. All of the survivors received legal aid or were referred to partners for assistance.
- 4.) Improved Capacity of KHRC to use ICT for National Advocacy: KHRC's followers on Facebook have increased by 23% since the project began. KHRC now has regular Twitter chats which are documented on line, have dispelled myths about LGBTI people and seen influential leaders join the discussions.
- 5.) Increased Influence With County Government: Visions Facilitators Network, Kwale Hurinet and Mid-Rift HURINETs have used WhatsApp groups to help the County Government to disseminate information as well as to collate information on human rights violations and to share these with Government agencies. Partners are now e-mailing Government officials achieving engagement with duty bearers on-line that had not occurred off-line.
- 6.) Broadened Social Mobilization: Partners have been able to get more members of the public active in addressing human rights abuses by using social media pages to instigate action.
- 7.) Improved Capacity of Community-Based Human Rights Defenders to Use ICT: This is evidenced by increased usage of ICT by HURINETs. 3 HURINETs have done step-down trainings in their locations meaning that the project has had a multiplier effect. HURINETs have also used their computers to submit applications for funding.
- 8.) Achieved Justice or Relevant Support to 616 Legal Aid Clients: Improved satisfaction of clients due to more efficient systems.

Staff Profile

Carol Werunga is a Programme Advisor, Electoral Governance at the Kenya Human Rights Commission. She speaks to our Newsletter editor Catherine Kamatu.



Catherine: When did you join Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and what has been the journey like?

Carol: I joined KHRC in March, 2014 and since then things have not been the same. I have met and engaged with people from all levels including Human rights activists who have changed the way I previously viewed human rights. I have learnt to do things differently and moved away from my comfort zone. It was at KHRC, that I did my first street protest and what an amazing experience. Not only have I engaged and advocated for human rights particularly civil and political rights at the national level, but also at the regional and international levels.

Catherine: What is a typical day at work for you?

Carol: Busy, busy and busy. First I check my emails contrary to other people's opinion who recommend not checking your emails the first thing; however I am that kind of person who wants to know what is required from me so that I prioritize. After checking my emails I proceed to scheduling my tasks for the day which include report writing, desktop research, attending meetings, liaising with partners, activity planning and sometimes reviewing consultant's reports.

Catherine: What inspires you to defend human rights?

Carol: The historically and rampant violation of rights by duty bearers charged with the important mandate of promoting and protecting all rights.

Catherine: What are some of the challenges that you face in your work?

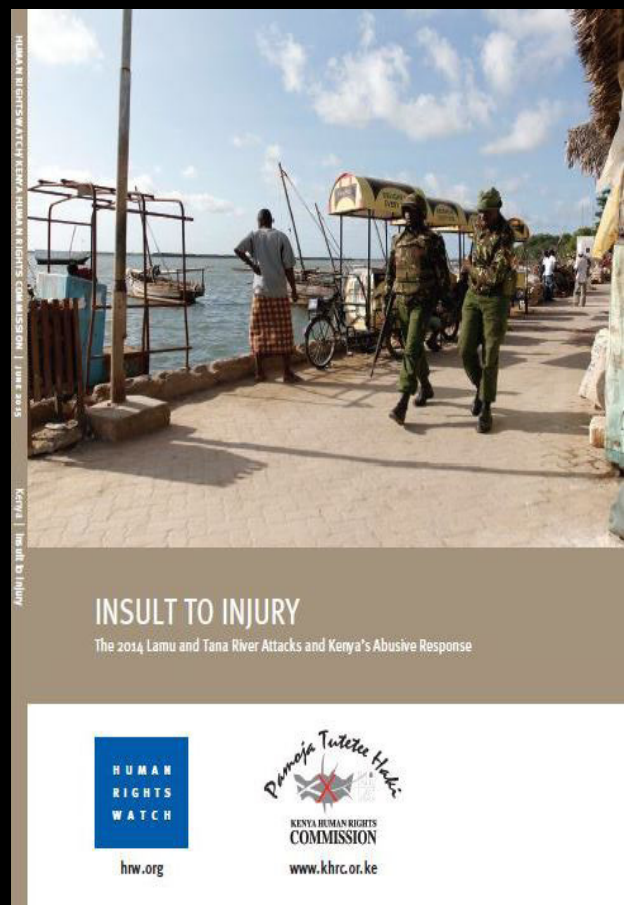
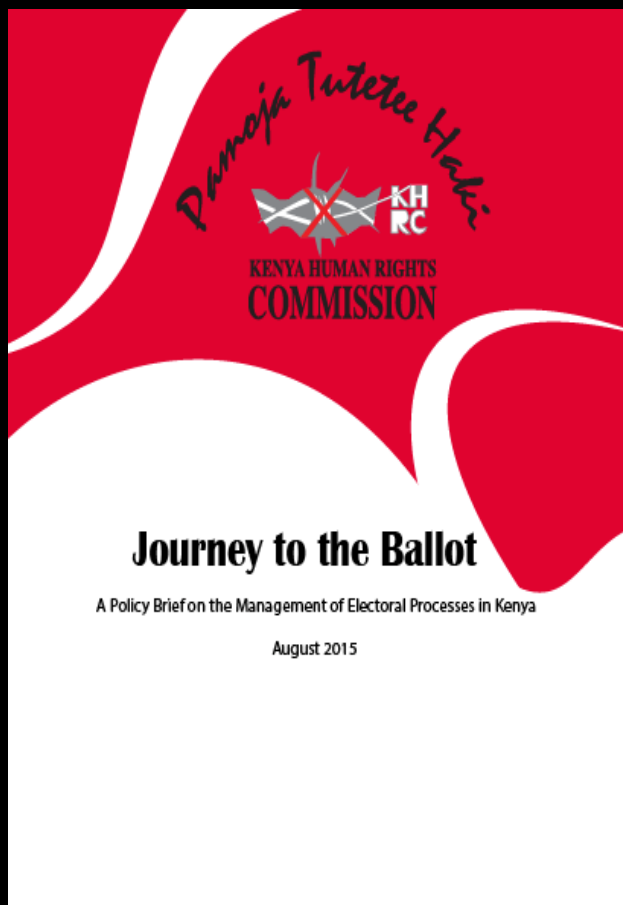
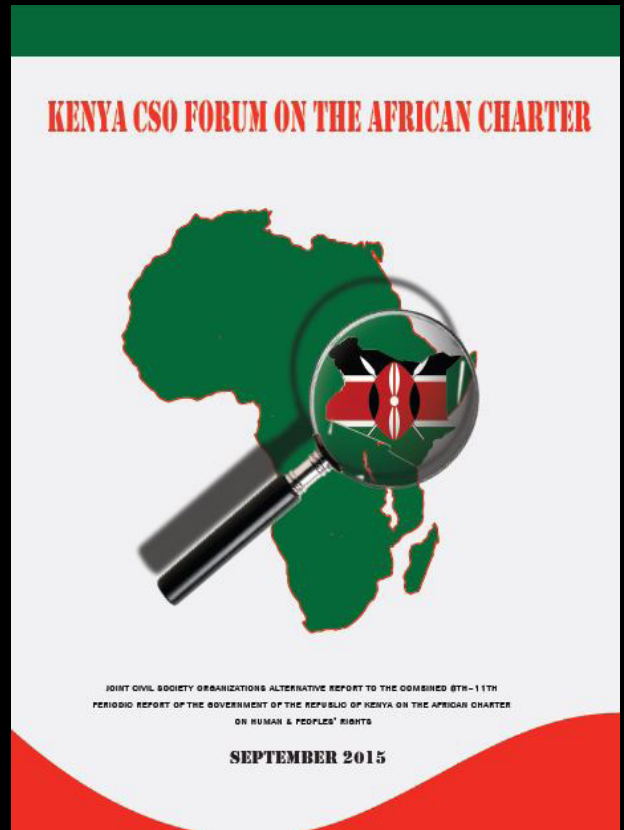
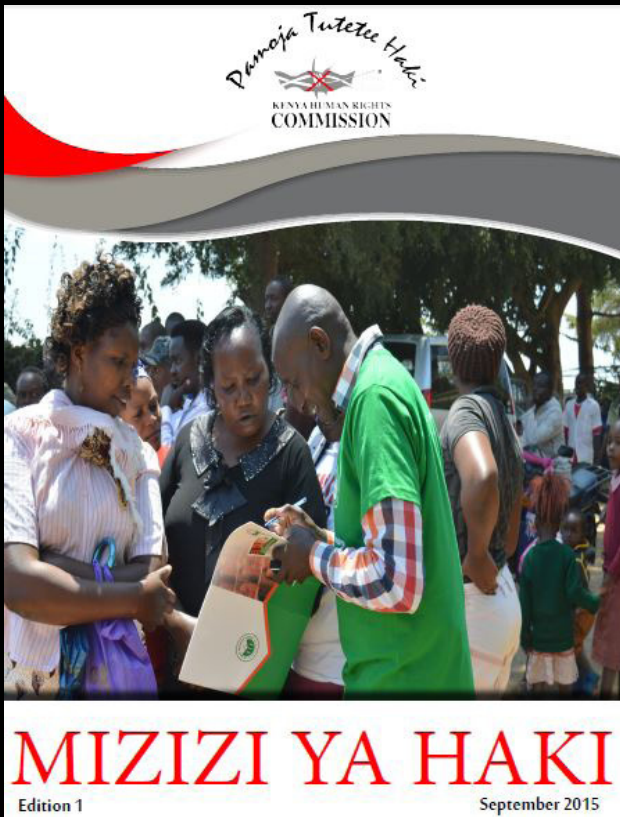
Carol: Failure of duty bearers to act on the recommendations made to them despite prior engagement as well as lack of political will.

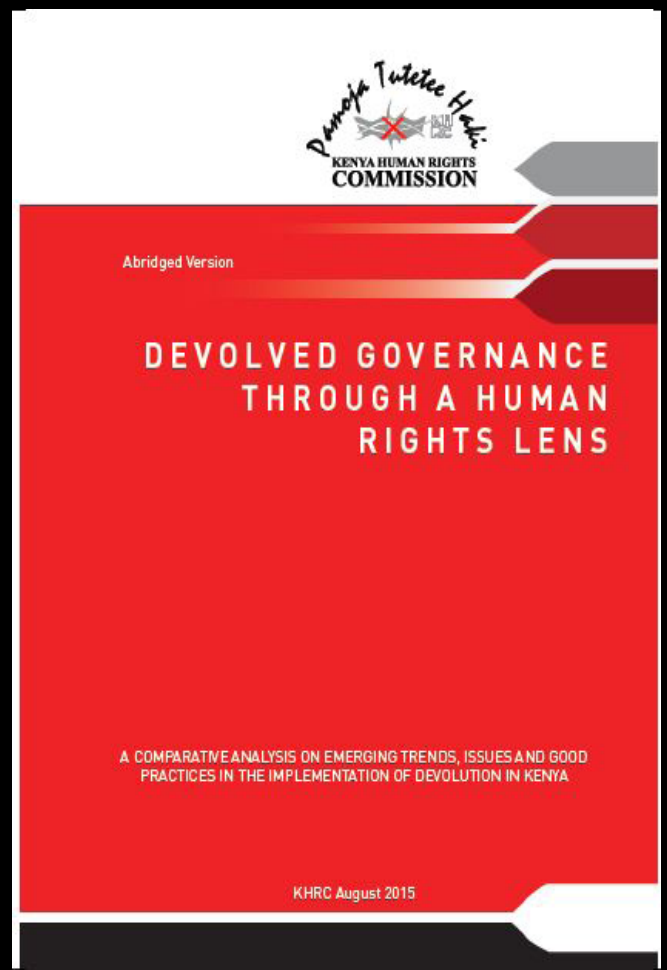
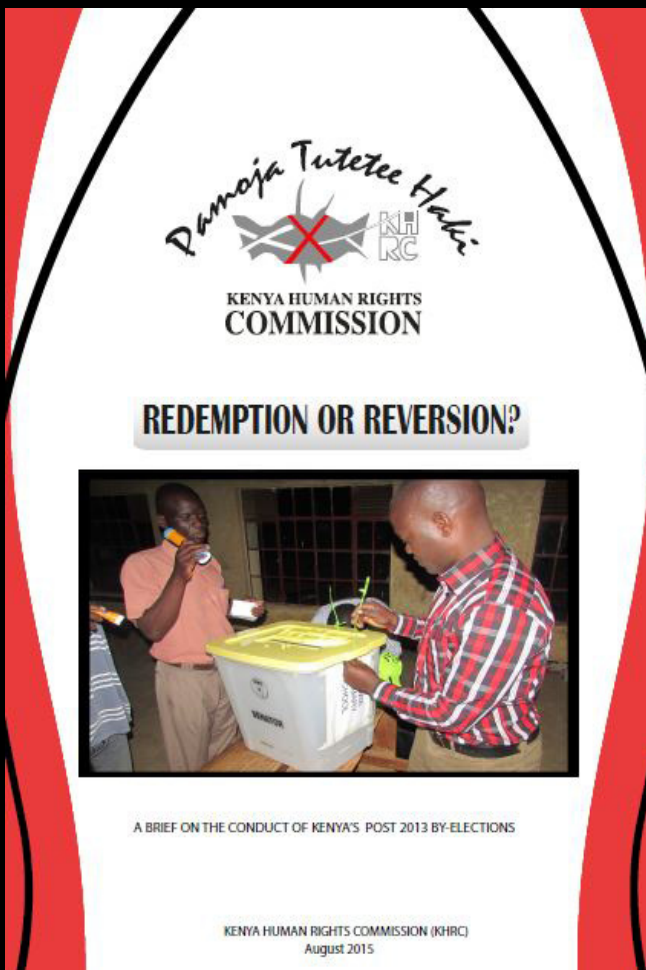
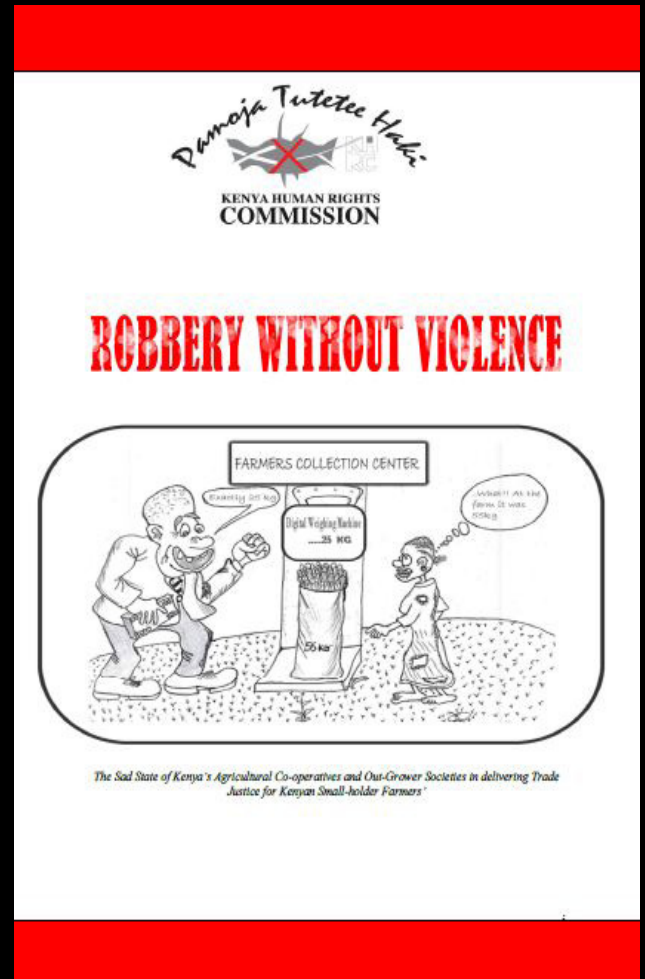
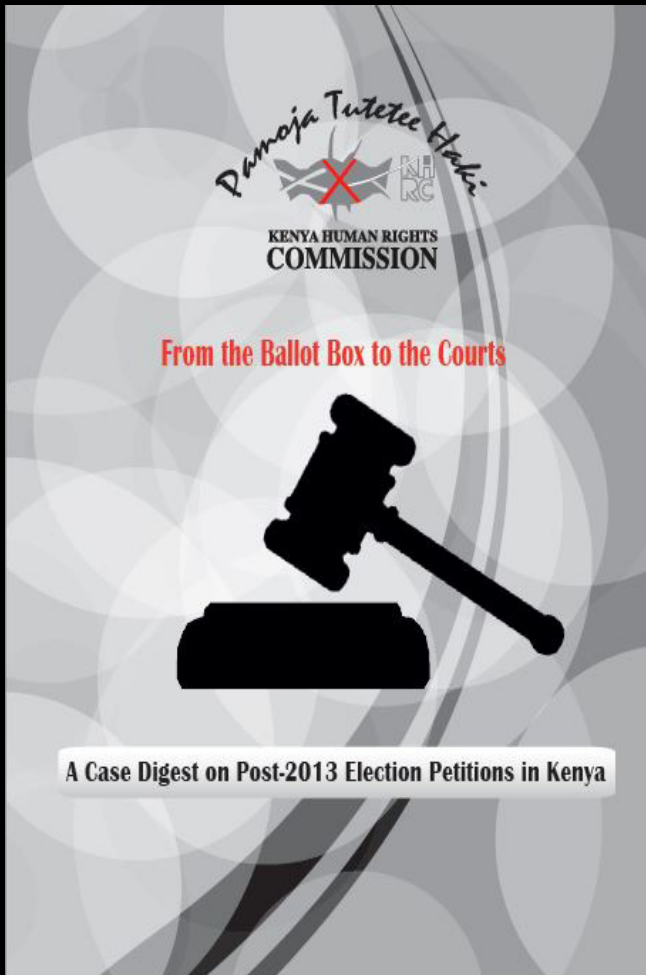
Catherine: What has been your most rewarding experience at KHRC?

Carol: Being in a position to share and advocate for transparent and credible electoral processes in Kenya at the national, regional and international levels.

Quick Facts About Carol Werunga

1. Hobbies: travelling, reading, cooking and dancing
2. Favorite food: Grilled chicken and chips
3. Favorite perfume: La vie est belle by Lancome
4. Favorite TV show: Mshamba
5. Favorite destination: Johannesburg, South Africa
6. Pets: None
7. Best Outfit: Skater dresses preferably African
8. Now reading: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen .R. Covey
9. Life Statement: "If you can't, you must. If you must, you can". Anthony Robbins
10. Vision for Kenya: A corruption free Kenya where each citizen enjoys his/her rights without any form of discrimination.







Memorial Monument at Freedom Corner Uhuru Park, to the Victims of Torture and Ill-Treatment During the Colonial Era (1952—1960)



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