

LIVES ON THE LINE



**Violence and discrimination against sexual
and gender minorities in Kenya**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report is a collaborative effort led by the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), with key contributions from Robert Waweru and Adrian Kibe, alongside our dedicated network of partners.

We acknowledge with gratitude the vital role played by all network members in monitoring, documenting, and responding to human rights violations. Their expertise in reviewing and validating the data and content has significantly enhanced the report's credibility and impact.

We extend special thanks to Coast Sex Worker Alliance, Dream Achievers Youth Organization (DAYO), galck+, Hope Rekindled, and Kenya Sex Workers Alliance. We are also grateful to LEHA, National Trans Advocacy Network, Jinsiangu, Rural to Global, and the Western Situation Room Kenya for their invaluable support in shaping this publication.

Further, KHRC appreciates Ernest Cornel Oduor for editing the report and Domnic Odipo for designing and laying it out.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Lives on the Line” marks the first comprehensive documentation of human rights violations against sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) in Kenya, covering the period from October 2023 to September 2024. It challenges the 2019 High Court ruling in Petition 16 of 2019, which dismissed claims of violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals due to a purported lack of evidence. The lived experiences captured in this report reveal a disturbing trend of abuse, contrary to the High Court’s decision.

Over the past year, select LGBTIQ+ and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) organizations documented 2,141 cases of violations affecting LGBTIQ+ Kenyans, including those who are SRHR defenders and members of sex worker networks across Nairobi, the Coast, Nyanza, Western, Rift Valley, and North-Eastern regions.

The data shows that harassment, physical assault, and emotional violence remain the most common forms of abuse. These violations are compounded by systemic barriers, including entrenched stigma, biased media narratives, and a surge in homophobia. Together, they fuel societal denial and resistance to acknowledging the realities faced by SGMs.

A central question that this report confronts is why does society continue to turn a blind eye to the suffering of sexual and gender minorities, with the findings highlighting structural and social factors that demand urgent legal and policy interventions.

The report further examines the media's influence in framing issues affecting LGBTIQ+ Kenyans. It spotlights dominant themes such as religious condemnation, accusations of foreign influence, and community-driven violence. These narratives reinforce discrimination and must be challenged through intentional, inclusive engagement.

“Lives on the Line” calls for collective action to advance understanding, dignity, and equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.



2,141

cases documented

ACRONYMS

CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KCPF	Kenya Christian Professionals Forum
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Plus
NGLHRC	National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
SGM	Sexual and Gender Minorities
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TFGBV	Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CNN	Cable News Network

BACKGROUND

In May 2019, the High Court of Kenya upheld Sections 162 and 165 of the Penal Code, provisions that continue to criminalize same-sex conduct. The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), alongside other petitioners, had challenged these sections on constitutional grounds, arguing they violate rights to equality, human dignity, privacy, and health. Disappointed by the ruling, the petitioners took the case to the Court of Appeal, where it remains unresolved as at September 2025.

Kenya's sexual and gender minorities continue to endure widespread stigma and institutional hostility. In a September 2022 interview with the Cable News Network (CNN), President William Ruto declared that LGBTIQ+ issues had no place in his administration. This was the greatest signal yet of a difficult political climate for the community. The murder of LGBTIQ+ activist Edwin Chiloba in January 2023 would prove this vulnerability, as public discussion surrounding his killing largely fixated on his sexual orientation and diverted attention from the broader concerns of his right to life and dignity.

A rare legal victory came in February 2023 when the Supreme Court affirmed the right of the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC) to register as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), ending a legal battle that spanned more than a decade. However, the ruling sparked a fierce backlash, unleashing a torrent of hate speech, disinformation, and threats targeting LGBTIQ+ Kenyans and activists.

The environment deteriorated further in April 2023 when Homa Bay Town MP Peter Kaluma sought to introduce the Family Protection Bill in Parliament. The proposed legislation aimed to criminalize LGBTIQ+ identities, sanction organizations advancing the rights of LGBTIQ+ Kenyans and sexual and reproductive health, and prohibit Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).

Simultaneously, anti-rights groups led by the Kenya Christian Professionals Forum (KCPF) drafted a Constitutional Amendment Bill to roll back perceived protections for homosexuality and abortion. These efforts were accompanied by a wave of protests and demonstrations across the country, which showed a coordinated and well-resourced opposition to the rights of sexual and gender minorities.

In June 2023, KHRC brought together key stakeholders working on gender and sexual minority rights to develop a coordinated response to escalating threats. A major obstacle identified during the convening was the absence of comprehensive data on human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ Kenyans. This information gap has long impeded effective advocacy, legal action, and policy engagement.

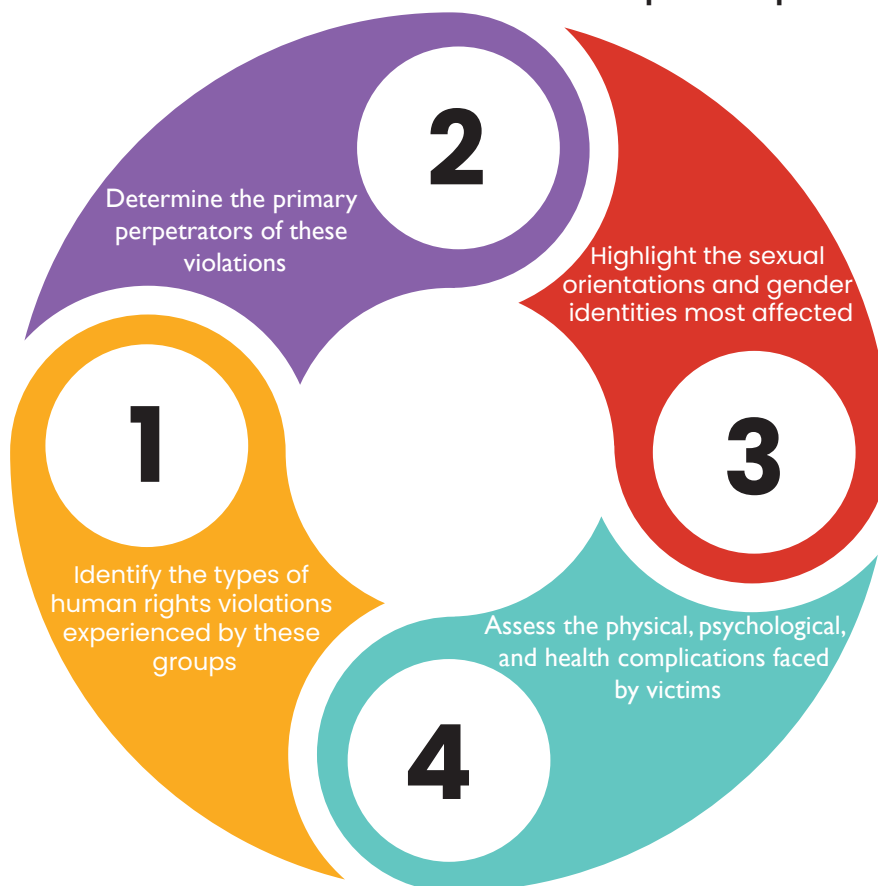
To bridge this gap, KHRC partnered with nine organizations and networks focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights and LGBTIQ+ issues to systematically monitor, document, and report violations.

This report is the first product of that collaboration. It offers an in-depth analysis of the lived experiences of sexual and gender minorities across Kenya. It reveals entrenched patterns of violence, discrimination, and marginalization.



METHODOLOGY

This data collection set out to capture and understand the lived realities of LGBTIQ+ Kenyans and sex workers in Kenya, with a focus on documenting human rights violations and their broader impact. Specifically, the study aimed to:



In March 2024, KHRC held a strategy meeting with representatives from LGBTIQ+, SRHR, and sex worker networks. The session identified key questions that informed the development of a digital data collection tool. The tool was refined through pilot testing and feedback from community members to ensure its accuracy, accessibility, and usability.

A purposive sampling method was used to select participating organizations, focusing on those actively engaged in advocacy, data work, and service provision within the LGBTIQ+ and SRHR sectors. This approach helped ensure the study drew on informed, representative voices with the capacity to contribute meaningfully.

The finalized tool facilitated seamless data entry and retrieval by partners nationwide. KHRC partnered with LGBTIQ+, SRHR, and sex worker networks to roll out the tool, with each organization contributing to its development, deployment, and data validation.

The data was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. Thematic coding helped surface recurring patterns and narratives, while statistical methods were used to identify trends and correlations. Ethical considerations were central to the process. Participants gave informed consent, and strong data protection measures, such as encryption and limited access to sensitive information, were put in place to protect their privacy.

Alongside documenting human rights violations, KHRC also tracked media coverage of sexual and gender minorities. The study analyzed how negative portrayals in mainstream media perpetuate harmful stereotypes, fuel stigma, and contribute to systemic marginalization. Findings from this monitoring were intended to inform advocacy for more inclusive and accurate media representation.



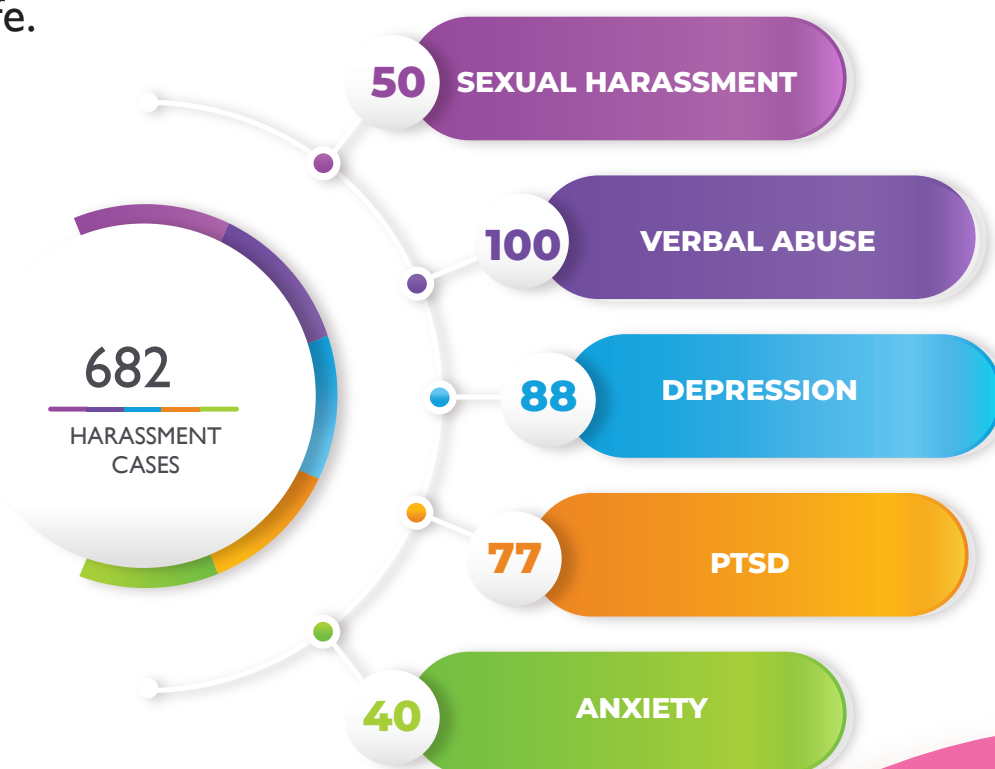
FINDINGS

Section I: Widespread violations against sexual and gender minorities

This study found that sexual and gender minorities in Kenya continue to face widespread human rights violations, fueled by deep-seated societal discrimination and laws that criminalize same-sex relationships. While the Kenyan Constitution guarantees equality and protection for all, the lived experiences of queer communities often contradict these legal promises. A detailed analysis of violations recorded during the study reveals the two dominant categories are harassment and violence.

Harassment

A total of 682 cases of harassment were documented across multiple regions. These included 50 cases of sexual harassment and 100 instances of verbal abuse. The psychological toll on victims was significant, with 88 cases of depression, 77 cases of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), 40 cases of anxiety, and five reported suicide attempts. One case involved substance abuse linked to trauma, and five individuals expressed suicidal ideation. The study found that stigma, rejection, and discrimination, often from family, service providers, and the wider public, deepened feelings of alienation and hopelessness, severely affecting victims' mental health and quality of life.



Violence

Physical and sexual violence was also prevalent. The report captured 440 cases of physical assault, 91 instances of rape or sexual assault, and 292 cases of emotional abuse. Housing insecurity was another pressing concern, with 102 evictions recorded. There were also 43 cases of unlawful arrests and 149 incidents of intimate partner violence. These attacks were not without serious health consequences. The report documented 13 cases of abortion complications, 17 gynecological issues, five sexually transmitted infections, and five unplanned pregnancies, all linked to acts of violence.

While Article 28 of Kenya's Constitution affirms every individual's inherent right to dignity and protection from degrading or inhumane treatment, the data paints a blunt picture. Many of the violations were perpetrated by people known to the victims, with 235 respondents identifying familiar assailants, while 110 said their attackers were strangers.

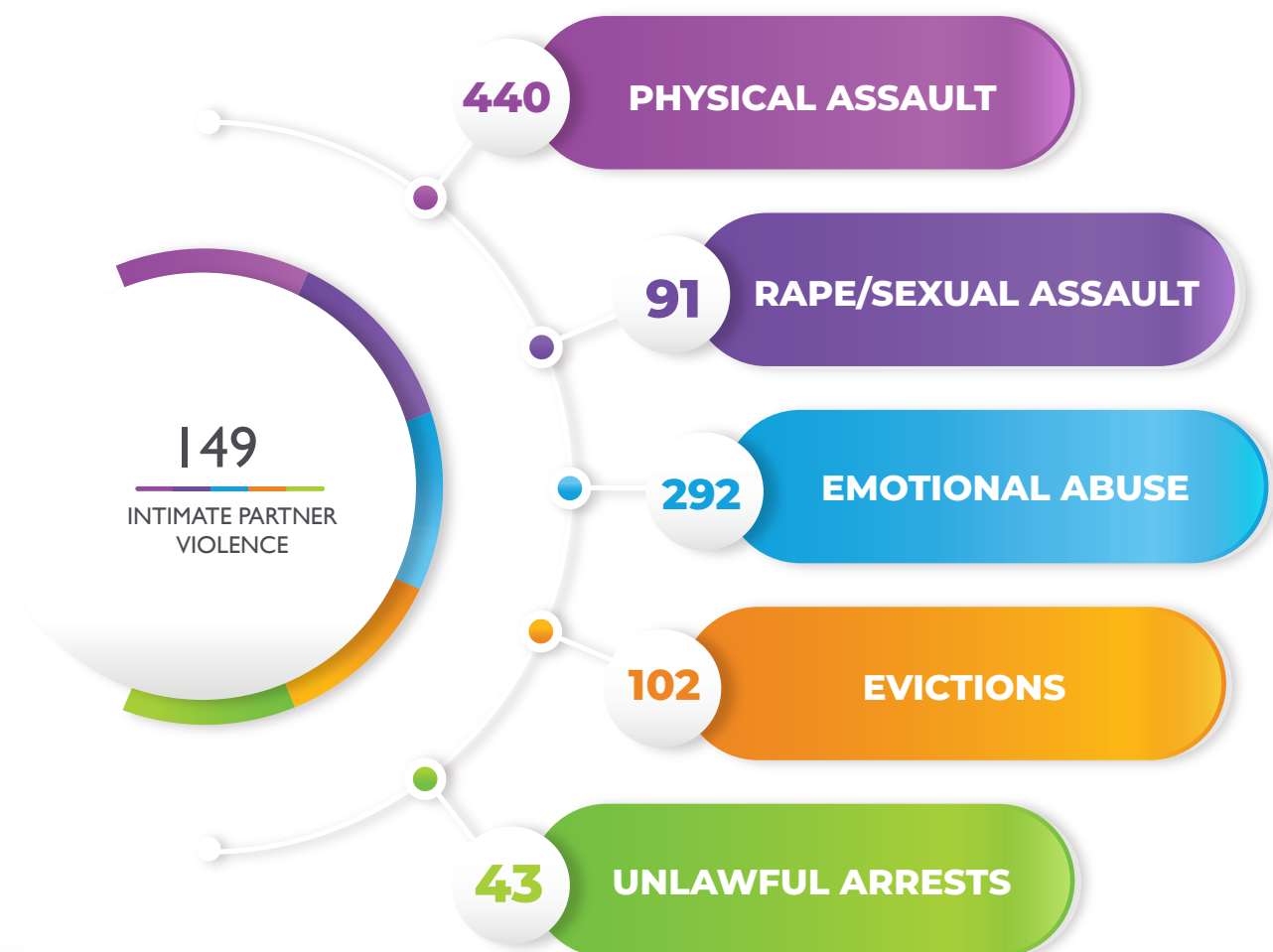


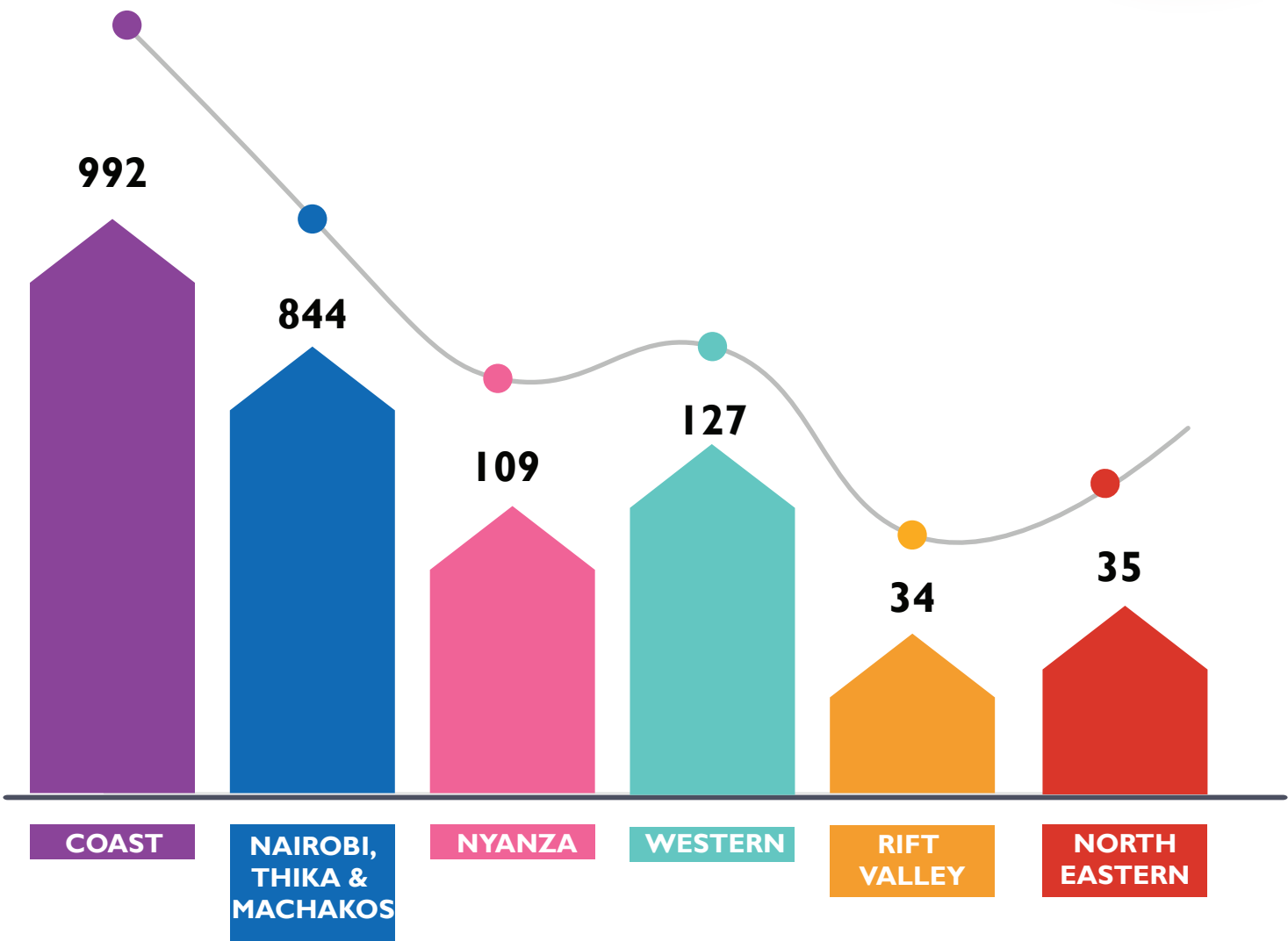
Table 1: Types and number of documented violations

Type of incident	Coast	Nairobi, Thika, and Machakos	Nyanza	Western	Rift Valley	North-Eastern	Total
Emotional violence	147	97	8	25	8	7	292
Eviction	56	34	3	5	3	1	102
Financial violence		1		1			2
Harassment	438	210	8	14	4	8	682
Illegal arrest	17	18	2	5	1		43
Intimate partner violence	80	45	6	11	3	4	149
Land dispute	3	5		2	3		13
Physical assault	146	223	35	17	9	10	440
Rape	13	67	2	9			91
Sexual harassment	10	25	1	13	1		50
Suicide attempt		14	1		2	1	18
Technology-facilitated gender-based violence	70	57	14	14		4	159
Verbal abuse	12	48	29	11			100
Grand Total	992	844	109	127	34	35	2141

682

Harassment cases

Regional analysis by the total number of incidents reported



992
Incidences reported in Coast region -

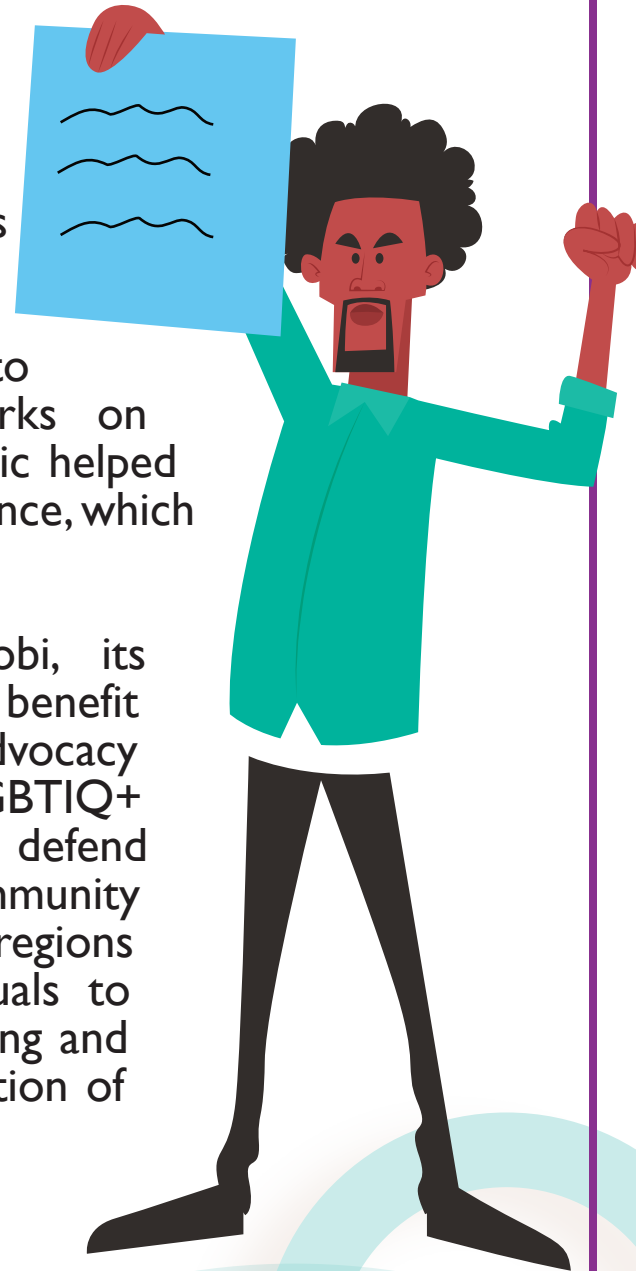
Hotspots of violence

The counties of Nairobi, Thika, and Machakos, and the Coastal region, emerged as the most affected areas for sexual and gender minorities, accounting for 1,836 reported cases, or roughly 85 percent of all documented violations nationwide. These regions were also the epicenter of organized anti-LGBTIQ+ protests, where state and non-state actors actively spread misinformation, incited public hostility, and, in extreme cases, issued death threats against queer communities.

Following the Supreme Court's decision affirming the right to association for LGBTIQ+ groups, anti-gay protesters, led by religious associations, including Muslim and Christian groups, took to the streets calling for the removal of the judges involved. Demonstrators carried inflammatory banners with messages like “Kenya is not Sodom and Gomorrah,” “LGBTIQ+ is not African,” and “Demons inspired LGBTIQ+.”

Political and religious leaders largely failed to exercise restraint in their public remarks on LGBTIQ+ issues. Their inflammatory rhetoric helped fuel a climate of fear, discrimination, and violence, which emboldened others to target SGMs.

Despite these threats, SGMs in Nairobi, its surrounding towns, and the Coastal region benefit from higher visibility and stronger advocacy networks. The presence of active LGBTIQ+ organizations has helped raise awareness, defend rights, and provide spaces for community expression. Compared to rural areas, these regions offer relatively more freedom for individuals to express their identities, encouraging reporting and facilitating more comprehensive documentation of violations.



Low reporting in rural regions masks a deeper crisis

Western, Nyanza, Rift Valley, and North-Eastern regions together accounted for only 305 documented incidents, making up six percent, five percent, two percent, and two percent, respectively, of all reported cases nationwide. This relatively low figure, however, is not indicative of fewer violations. Instead, it shows the deeply entrenched stigma and conservative social norms in these largely rural and semi-urban areas, where SGMs have limited visibility. Harassment, discrimination, and social backlash are widespread, often discouraging victims from coming forward or reporting abuses.

LGBTIQ+ organizations operating in these regions face significant challenges. Underfunded and frequently targeted, they work under immense pressure within unsupportive environments. The toll on activists and community members alike is severe, with many experiencing burnout and ongoing threats to their physical and mental well-being. The low numbers, therefore, are less a sign of safety and more a measure of fear, silence, and underreporting.

Analysis by type of incidents documented

Harassment, physical assault, and emotional violence were the most frequently documented violations against SGMs across Kenya, accounting for 1,414 cases, or roughly 66 percent of all recorded incidents. These were followed by intimate partner violence, TFGBV, sexual harassment and assault, and forced evictions, which collectively totaled 551 cases, representing 26 percent of the national figure.

The Coastal region emerged as a hotspot for multiple forms of abuse. It recorded the highest number of harassment cases at 438, emotional violence at 147, and intimate partner violence at 80, representing 72 percent, 50 percent, and 54 percent of all such instances documented countrywide.

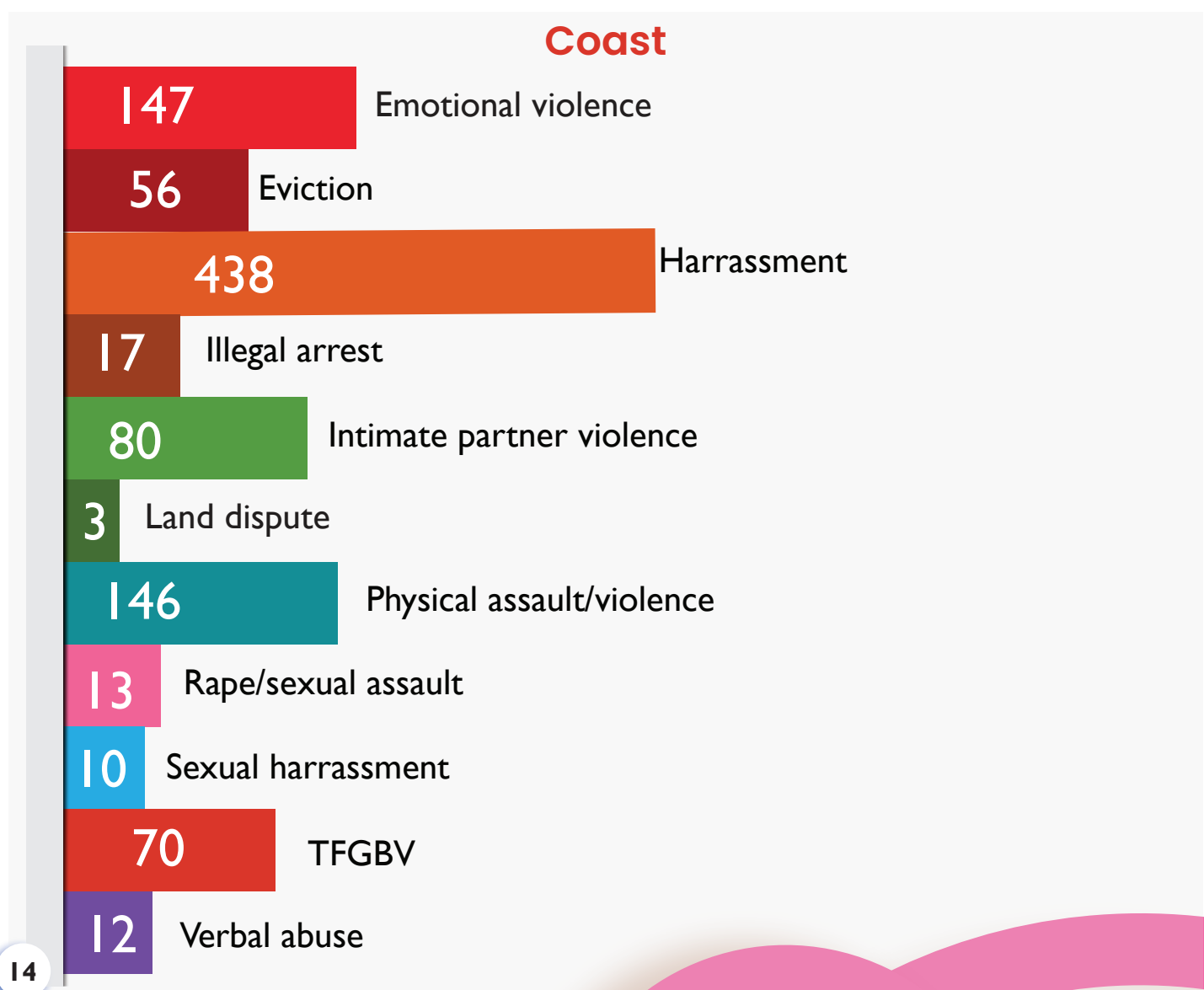


1,414
cases

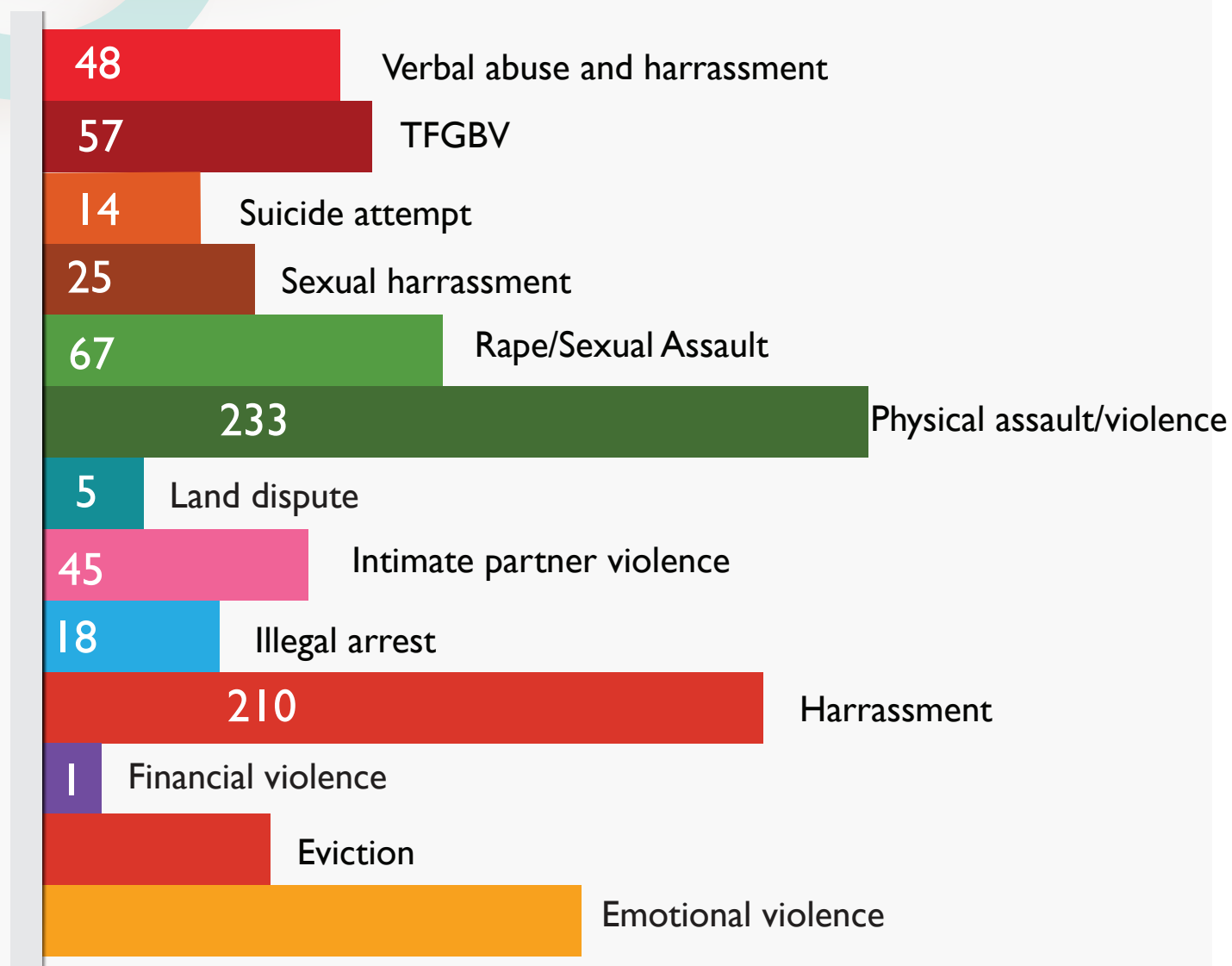
These findings suggest a strong correlation between heightened anti-LGBTIQ+ rhetoric and protests in the region and increased real-world harm targeting SGMs.

Nairobi and its surrounding areas also saw high levels of abuse. While the capital documented 210 cases of harassment, 97 of emotional violence, and 45 of intimate partner violence, it led the country in physical violence at 223 cases and sexual harassment and assault at 92 cases, accounting for 51 percent and 65 percent of all incidents in those categories, respectively. This points to a heightened risk of physical harm for SGMs in urban centers, where their visibility is higher, but so too is the backlash.

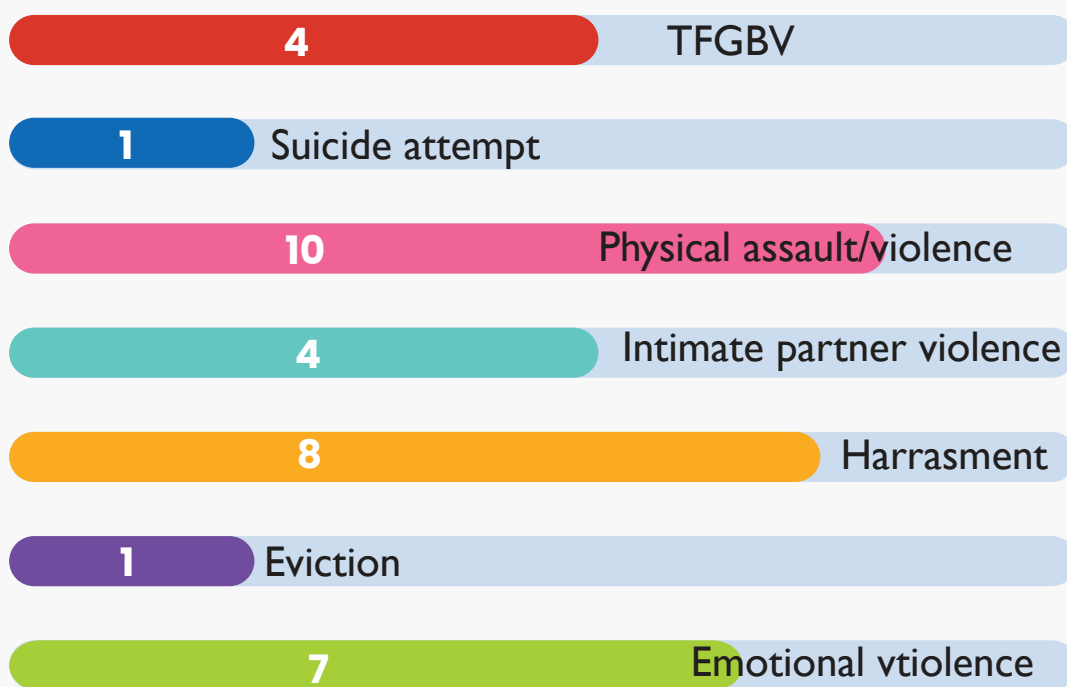
In other regions, including Western, Nyanza, Rift Valley, and North-Eastern, most reported violations involved emotional abuse, physical assault, and harassment, though in smaller absolute numbers. The following graphs provide a regional breakdown of the documented incidents.



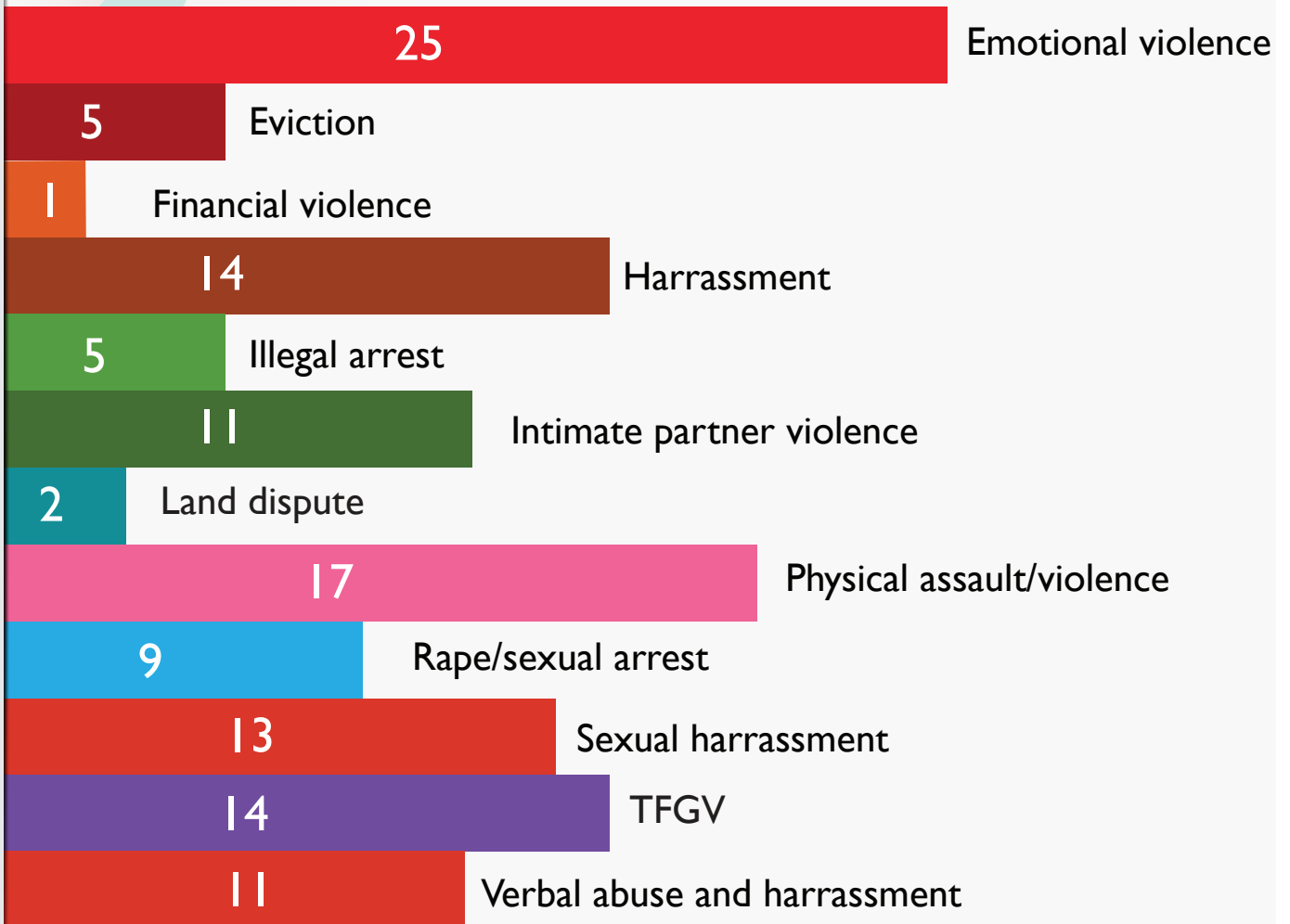
Nairobi, Thika and Machakos



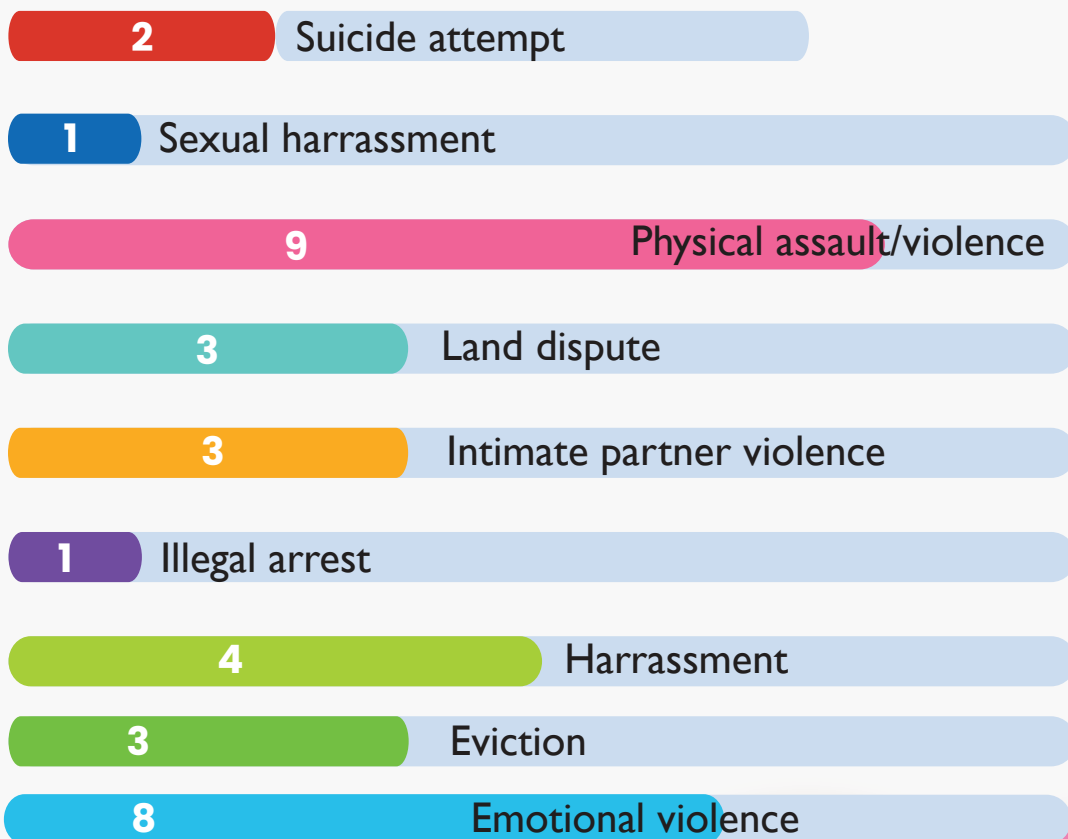
North-Eastern



Western



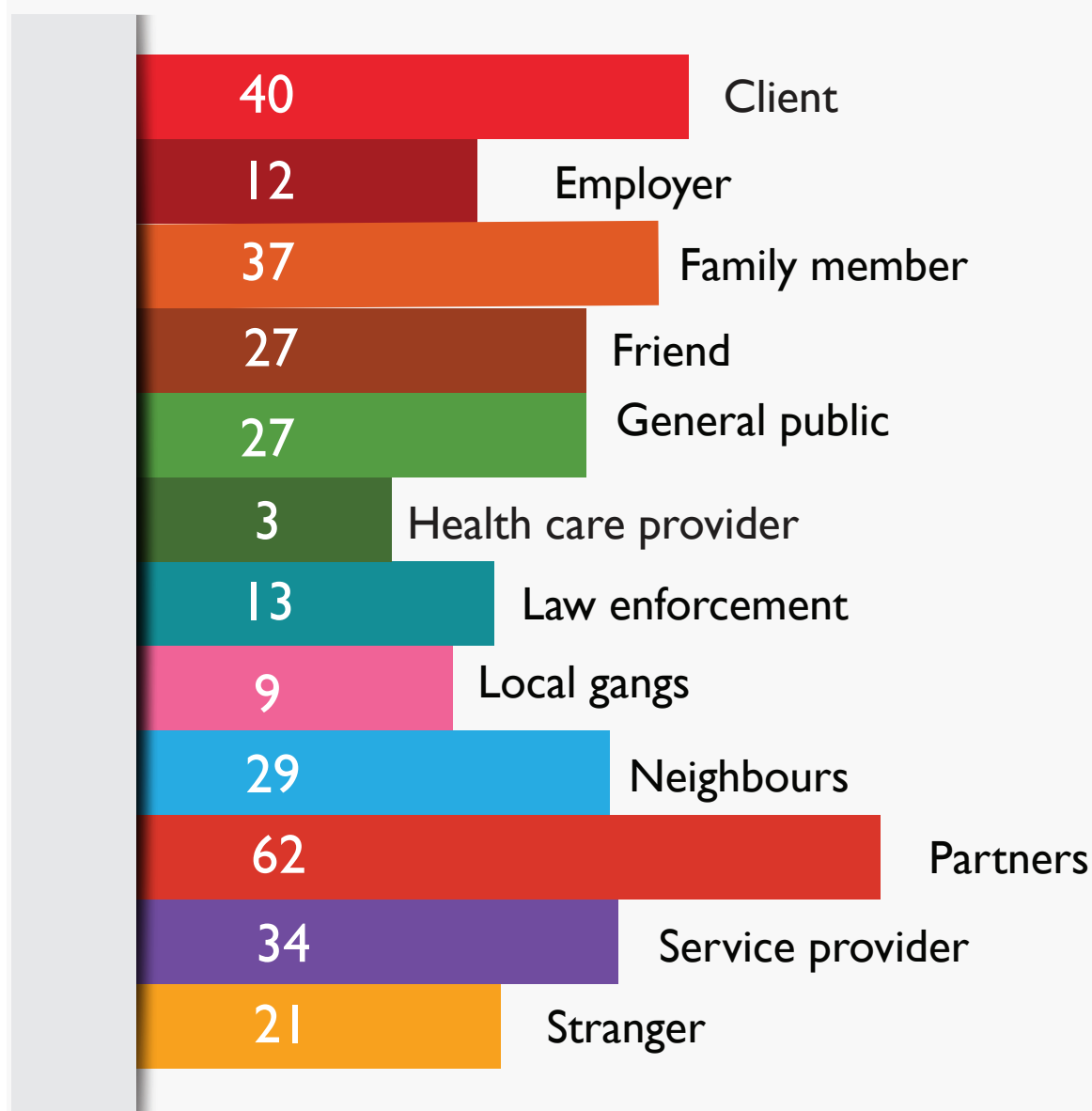
Rift Valley



Analysis based on the perpetrator of violence

The data revealed that most violence against SGMs is perpetrated by individuals within their immediate environment. The highest number of incidents involved intimate partners (62 cases), followed by sex work clients (40), family members (37), service providers (34), neighbors (29), and friends (27). These findings showed that SGMs face the greatest risk of harm in the spaces where they should feel safest—at home, at work, and while seeking basic services. The proximity of these perpetrators forces many individuals to make impossible choices. They either protect their safety or risk exposure in order to earn a living, access healthcare, or maintain vital social connections.

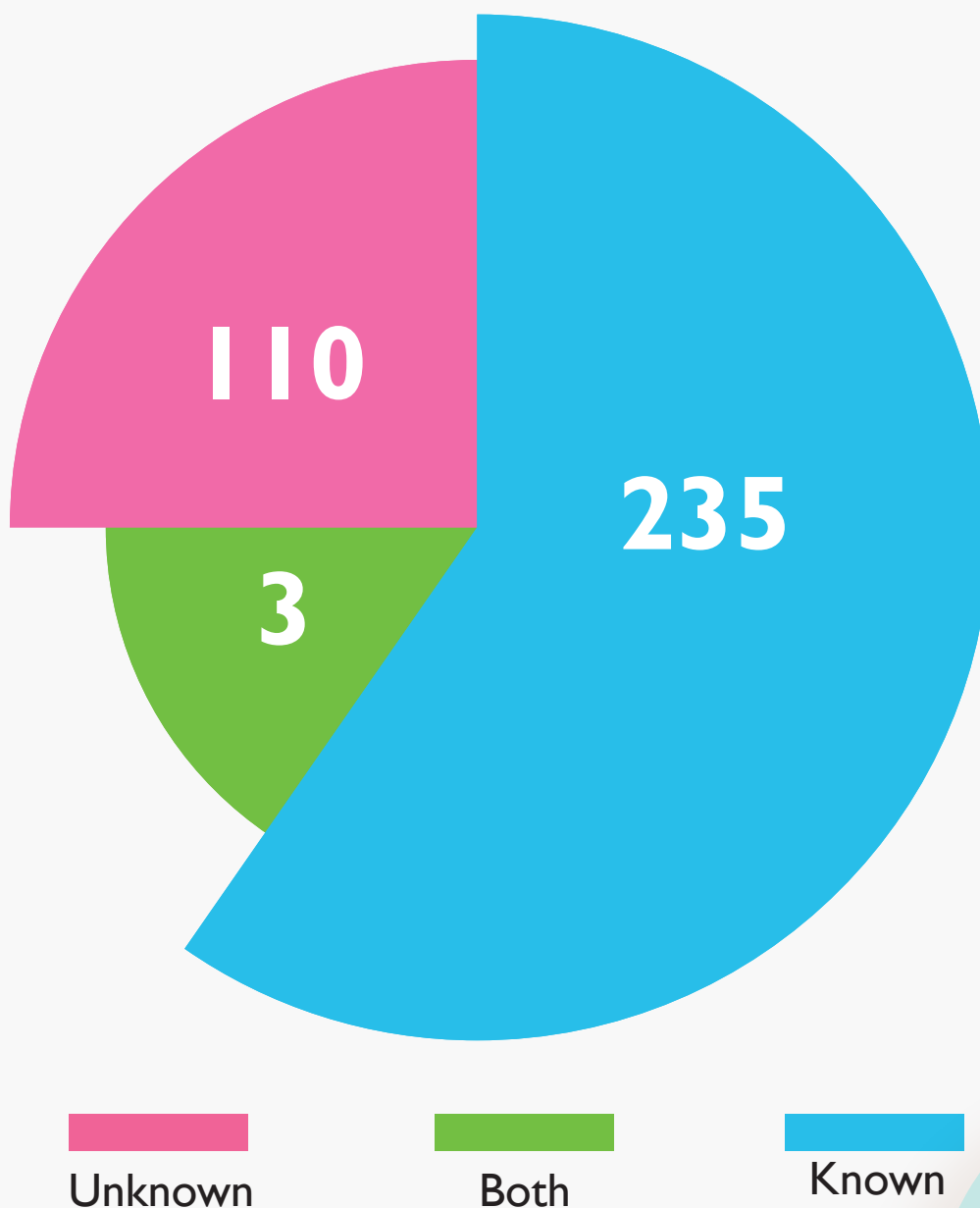
Perpetrator of violence



Analysis based on knowledge of perpetrator

Findings indicated that 68 percent of survivors knew the individuals who perpetrated violence against them. This supports earlier data identifying common perpetrators as intimate partners, family members, clients, and service providers--people survivors interact with regularly. The familiarity between survivors and perpetrators presents a significant barrier to justice. Fear of retaliation, social exclusion, and backlash from family or community often discourages victims from reporting abuse, leaving many to suffer in silence.

Survivor knowledge of the perpetrator



Analysis based on types of violations per gender identity

Row Labels	F	M	Non-binary	Transgender	Intersex	(Blank)	Grand total
Emotional violence	53	65	57	94	5	18	292
Eviction	11	24	16	45	1	5	102
Financial violence	2						2
Harassment	73	140	107	256	11	95	682
Illegal arrest	2	18	6	13		4	43
Intimate partner violence	42	27	27	38		15	149
Land dispute	3	7	1	1		1	13
Physical assault /violence	106	83	65	151	3	32	440
Rape/sexual assault	21	5	5	59		1	91
Sexual harassment	35	5	7	3			50
Suicide attempt	13	2	1			2	18
TFGBV	27	52	24	42	2	12	159
Verbal abuse and harassment	41	25	25	6		3	100
(blank)	1						1
Grand total	430	453	341	708	22	188	2141

Transgender individuals experienced the highest number of reported human rights violations, with 708 cases, accounting for 33.1 percent of all incidents documented nationally. The most common violations included 256 cases of harassment, 151 physical assaults, and 94 instances of emotional abuse.

A gender-based breakdown of the data showed that 453 incidents involved men, 430 affected women, 341 involved non-binary individuals, and 22 were reported by intersex persons. The consequences were severe for many survivors. Some 95 women, 23 men, seven non-binary individuals, and two transgender persons reported physical injuries.

Additionally, 16 women suffered reproductive health complications linked to the violence they experienced. The report also highlighted a worrying trend in technology-facilitated gender-based violence, with transgender individuals and men facing the brunt of these digital attacks. A total of 42 cases were reported among transgender persons and 27 among men.

Section 2: Media coverage analysis of sexual and gender minorities in Kenya

Between September 2023 and June 2024, the KHRC partnered with Globe-Track to monitor and examine how the Kenyan media covered issues related to LGBTIQ+ rights, safe abortion, and comprehensive sexuality education. The report focused specifically on the portrayal of LGBTIQ+ issues, tracking the volume, tone, framing, key narratives, and drivers behind media coverage from October 2023 to June 2024. The report revealed over 300 human rights violations linked to media-fueled discrimination, including denial of services, lack of legal recognition, and physical abuse. The analysis of coverage and narratives of the SRHR issues was covered in a different report., “Who Shapes the Narrative?”.

Traditionally, LGBTIQ+ issues receive minimal attention in Kenyan media due to prevailing social taboos. However, coverage spikes whenever high-profile court rulings, legislative proposals, or controversial statements by public figures draw attention to the topic. According to the report, October and November saw the highest levels of LGBTIQ+ media coverage, accounting for 54 percent of all stories related to sexual and reproductive health issues. Coverage remained high in December at 72 percent, January at 56 percent, and again in February and April at 71 percent.

Much of this coverage was driven by backlash to progressive judicial rulings and fueled by religious and political figures. Following the Supreme Court’s ruling affirming the right of LGBTIQ+ organizations to register, religious leaders and anti-LGBTIQ+ campaigners led street protests, condemning the decision. Groups such as the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK) organized weekly demonstrations, particularly in Nairobi and the Coastal region, with slogans like “Kenya is not Sodom and Gomorrah” and “LGBTIQ+ is not African.” These narratives were amplified by state and non-state actors, often portraying queer identities as a foreign threat to African values.



The increased media attention significantly heightened the visibility of SGMs, often to their detriment. Reports linked the spike in coverage to a rise in human rights violations, including harassment, physical and sexual violence, social ostracism, and disrupted access to essential services. In Mombasa, for instance, anti-LGBTIQ+ groups called for investigations into health clinics suspected of serving queer individuals, resulting in raids and increased fear among service providers and clients.

In November 2023, media coverage intensified as Homa Bay MP Peter Kaluma criticized delays in the publication of his proposed Family Protection Bill, which seeks to criminalize LGBTIQ+ identities. His remarks reignited national debate, especially following the late Pope Francis' comments on blessing same-sex couples. Religious groups responded with petitions calling for fast-tracking of Kaluma's bill and the deregistration of LGBTIQ+ organizations. Nyali MP Mohammed Ali read a petition in Parliament purportedly on behalf of Christian and Muslim communities, denouncing same-sex marriage and framing queer identities as incompatible with Kenyan values.

While a few dissenting voices within the church questioned the Pope's stance, the dominant messaging, echoed by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), maintained that homosexuality remained incompatible with African cultural norms. Although KCCB clarified that the Pope did not endorse same-sex unions, media reporting continued to frame queer lives as morally deviant. This reinforced the idea that LGBTIQ+ people need to be "saved" or "rehabilitated".

This framing has had damaging consequences. SGMs have reported increased levels of stigma, social exclusion, and violence. Many were attacked, harassed, or rejected by family and friends, with some forced into hiding out of fear for their safety. Mental health challenges have also risen sharply within the community.

Further compounding the situation, the Kenya Counselling and Psychologists Association (KCPA) recommended the introduction of counselling as a subject in secondary schools to address identity-related crises, including those linked to LGBTIQ+ issues. While framed as a mental health initiative, critics fear such recommendations risk queer identities if not approached from a rights-based and inclusive perspective.

Overall, the narratives promoted in the media during this period, often driven by state and religious actors, have deepened public hostility and harmful stereotypes. This has made it increasingly difficult for LGBTIQ+ Kenyans to access services, build safe relationships, or live freely.

In a society where visibility can be dangerous, the tone and framing of media coverage remain critical. When media narratives depict sexual and gender minorities as threats or moral failures, they legitimize violence and deny queer Kenyans their basic human rights.



RECOMMENDATIONS

To the President of Kenya:

1. Issue an executive memorandum to all government ministries reaffirming the state's commitment to the constitutional principles of equality and non-discrimination.
2. Use the authority of your office to publicly affirm the dignity and rights of all citizens, particularly sexual and gender minorities, through speeches and public engagements.
3. Reject any laws, regulations, or policies that discriminate against sexual and gender minorities by denying them access to healthcare, housing, or protection from violence.
4. Lead the development of a comprehensive national strategy to guarantee equal access to essential services and protection for all, including sexual and gender minorities.

To government institutions:

1. Integrate disaggregated data from sexual and gender minority communities into national policy frameworks, particularly in health, education, and social services.
2. Create regular consultative platforms with key populations to address systemic challenges collaboratively.
3. Allocate specific funding for programs serving the needs of sexual and gender minorities.
4. Set up safe, confidential mechanisms for reporting hate crimes and discrimination.
5. Train police, health workers, and judicial officers on respectful and professional engagement with sexual and gender minority communities.
6. Foster institutional collaboration by involving the Department of Justice, National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) in equality and non-discrimination initiatives.
7. Rigorously enforce laws prohibiting hate speech and discrimination by state and non-state actors.



To the Parliament of Kenya:

1. Reject proposed legislation that seeks to criminalize LGBTIQ+ Kenyans or organizations, such as the Family Protection Bill or Hifadhi Jamii Constitutional Amendment Bill.
2. Repeal or amend Sections 162 and 165 of the Penal Code to comply with Article 27 of the Constitution on equality and freedom from discrimination.
3. Close legal loopholes that allow violence and discrimination against sexual and gender minorities.
4. Establish an independent equality commission to investigate discrimination, raise public awareness, and promote inclusivity.



To the media:

1. Enforce editorial standards that ensure accurate, respectful, and balanced coverage of LGBTIQ+ issues.
2. Provide training on ethical reporting to reduce bias and harmful stereotypes.
3. Work with LGBTIQ+ organizations to co-create media guidelines on inclusive reporting.
4. Partner with the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) to integrate sexual gender minority reporting ethics into the national journalism code.
5. Introduce fact-checking segments to counter misinformation and disinformation about sexual and gender minorities.
6. Amplify positive narratives of resilience, contribution, and community within LGBTIQ+ groups.

To Civil Society Organizations:

1. Promote intersectionality by partnering with other marginalized groups. Monitor, document, and report human rights violations against sexual and gender minorities.
2. Provide safe spaces and legal aid centers for LGBTIQ+ Kenyans.
3. Advocate for global solidarity and representation of Kenyan sexual and gender minorities on international platforms.
4. Engage grassroots and international human rights bodies for inclusive advocacy and resource mobilization.
5. Lead public awareness campaigns to dispel societal myths and foster a culture of dignity and inclusion.



To academia:

1. Integrate Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) into relevant curricula.
2. Conduct interdisciplinary research on the lived realities of sexual and gender minorities and disseminate findings in public-friendly formats.
3. Develop short courses for professionals on SGM rights and inclusion.
4. Partner with research institutions like the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) to inform evidence-based policymaking.
5. Collaborate with community organizations to translate grassroots data into academic and policy outputs.
6. Use academic forums to challenge bias and promote evidence-based public discourse.

To faith leaders and religious institutions:

1. Preach compassion, love, and acceptance, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. Publicly denounce hate speech, misinformation, and violence.
3. Host interfaith forums to promote dialogue on inclusion and acceptance.

4. Offer training to religious leaders on supporting LGBTIQ+ members of their congregations.
5. Partner with theological institutions to embed inclusive teachings in religious education.
6. Foster reconciliation and healing within families and communities.
7. Provide non-judgmental mental health support within places of worship.

To the private sector:

1. Develop inclusive workplace policies that protect against discrimination.
2. Support LGBTIQ+ economic empowerment through training and mentorship programs.
3. Prioritize supplier diversity by partnering with queer-owned businesses.
4. Allocate CSR funds to support LGBTIQ+ initiatives in health, education, and mental wellness.

To law enforcement agencies:

1. Train officers on human rights and appropriate engagement with sexual and gender minorities.
2. Create accountability frameworks to address abuse and misconduct.
3. Treat all reports of violence and discrimination seriously and ensure timely investigations.
4. Ensure survivors can report violations through safe, confidential channels.
5. Partner with LGBTIQ+ organizations to improve responsiveness and trust.
6. Maintain and share anonymized data on rights violations to support policy and legal reform.



To community elders and local leaders:

1. Facilitate dialogue and reconciliation at the grassroots level.
2. Emphasize respect, dignity, and nonviolence in community forums.
3. Advocate for safe spaces where sexual and gender minorities can thrive.
4. Build support networks for those facing stigma or violence.
5. Cooperate with law enforcement to safeguard all community members.
6. Promote the visibility and empowerment of sexual and gender minorities in civic life.

To the judiciary and legal community:

1. Uphold constitutional protections for sexual and gender minorities through fair interpretation of the law.
2. Train judicial officers to deliver unbiased rulings in SGM-related cases.
3. Develop legal guidelines for the sensitive handling of SGM cases.
4. Recognize violence against sexual and gender minorities as hate crimes or GBV, and prosecute accordingly.
5. Define discrimination, hate speech, and harassment in law to strengthen legal protections.
6. Ensure survivors can safely access justice without fear of exposure or re-traumatization.

To regional and international bodies:

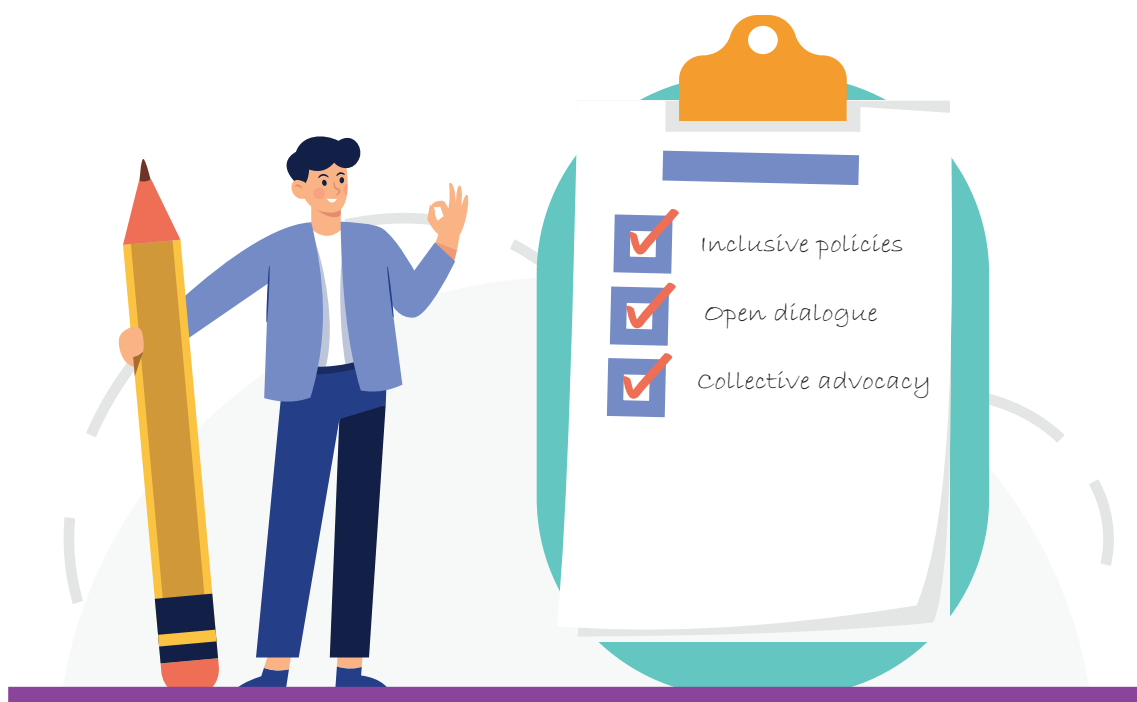
1. Engage with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for advocacy and technical assistance on SGM rights.
2. Support grassroots organizations through funding, training, and capacity-building.
3. Back programs that document violations, offer legal aid, and push for policy reform.
4. Push for stronger protections within international and regional human rights instruments, including the African Charter.

CONCLUSION

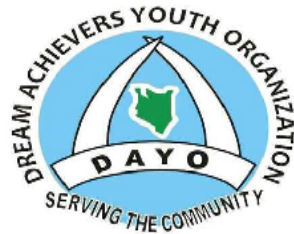
Sexual and gender minorities in Kenya continue to face systemic discrimination, violence, and entrenched anti-LGBTIQ+ rhetoric. Yet, amid this hostile environment, a resilient and determined movement for equality is growing, one that demands justice, dignity, and inclusion. This ongoing struggle cannot be won by the LGBTIQ+ community alone. It requires solidarity from allies across all sectors, including civil society, government institutions, and the broader public, to challenge harmful stereotypes, defend fundamental rights, and push to repeal discriminatory laws.

The media has a critical role to play in this effort. Balanced, accurate, and respectful reporting can reshape public understanding and cement a culture of acceptance. Shifting the narrative to reflect the full humanity and diverse experiences of LGBTIQ+ persons is essential in dismantling stigma and promoting empathy.

Moving forward, Kenya must commit to inclusive policies, open dialogue, and collective advocacy. Only through sustained collaboration can the nation ensure that every Kenyan, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, can live openly, safely, and with pride in their identity.



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