



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, GENDER,
AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

**CONCEPT NOTE ON KENYA SIDE EVENT AT THE 67TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Date : Monday, 6th March 2023
Time : 4.45pm - 6.00pm
Venue: CR-4, UNHQ

**EVENT TOPIC: AMPLIFYING GENDER SENSITIVE APPROACHES: MALE
ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION IN PREVENTING
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

1. Introduction

Engagement and inclusion of men and boys can have far reaching benefits to the gender agenda. Men and boys play a key role in the realization of gender equality and empowerment of women; however their contributions to gender equality agenda have not been fully recognized. The focus on women and girls' perspectives, has denied men the opportunity to effectively participate in the gender agenda space. Consequently, as the gender equality narrative progressed, men and boys who play a pivotal role in shaping culture have been on the periphery. To redress this anomaly, it is critical to integrate men and boys not just as allies and champions, but also as central in the promotion of the realization of gender equality, while respecting their human rights.

Globally, evidence shows that while men and boys are predominantly perpetrators of gender-based violence (GBV), they are also the custodians of cultures in patriarchal social constructs. They are therefore pivotal in addressing the challenges of violations of human rights and the resultant public health problems as recognized by the African Union Declaration 2021 on Male Engagement in Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and further espoused in the Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development (2019).

Inclusion of men in the gender agenda is critical to safeguarding and protecting the human rights of women and girls from violence. It is imperative that the approaches towards gender equality focus on prevention in order to eliminate all forms of GBV as alluded in the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD@25) Plan of Action. This therefore calls for enhanced efforts towards engagement of men and boys to realize the elimination of GBV in society.

Objectives of the Side Event

- i. To showcase the success of male engagement and inclusion in preventing violence against women and girls; and,
- ii. To learn lessons in unlocking bottlenecks in promoting positive masculinity towards accelerated GBV prevention and ending FGM/Harmful practices.

3.0 Programme Methodology

The session will be modelled around discussion plenums coordinated through a multi-sectoral approach. Discussion materials will be drawn from sector experiences but directly targeted to achieve the identified specific objectives. The panelists will showcase progress made so far on the achievements on addressing gender-based violence. Guest speakers from other regions will also be invited to share in their specific relevant experiences. The side event will be undertaken as follows:

- i. **Panel Discussions:** The moderator will guide the panelists in discussions on the approaches that have employed to reduce, eliminate and address GBV.

Panelists:

- a) **Hon. Aisha Jumwa Karisa Katana**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action;
 - b) **Representatives** - Finland, Other Heads of Delegations;
 - c) **Representatives** - Council of Governors; Parliament; Senate;
 - d) **Representatives** - UNFPA
 - e) **Representatives** - Thriving Communities Africa (TCA), and The Girl Generation;
 - f) **Representatives**- AU
- ii **Plenary Session:** A 15 min Q&A plenary session to further explore key policies for women economic empowerment and other special interest groups.

4.0 Guiding Questions

- Which strategies have countries used to increase positive masculinity?
- Are there innovative models that can be used to increase financing for male engagement and ending GBV?
- What is the role of male engagement as a gender sensitive approach?
- What are the opportunities and challenges of male engagement to attain gender equality?
- How can this be implemented without posing a challenge on women & girls' development?
- What gains have been achieved thus far? How can we ensure that campaigns on ending GBV are truly gender transformative and that male champions have the capacities to challenge patriarchal structures that uphold gender-based violence and male domination over women?
- How can governments accelerate implementation of positive masculinity?
- What areas of synergy have been identified in policy, financing, and strategic implementation?

Programme: Kenya Side Event at the 67th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women

Event Topic: **Male Engagement and Inclusion in Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls**

Time	Activity	Responsibility
5mins	Arrival of Delegates	Secretariat
5mins	Introducing Side Event - Moderator	Veronica M. Nduva - Principal Secretary , State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action
10mins	Opening Statement: Overview of the policies and legislative frameworks for eliminating gender-based violence: The role of Government	Hon. Aisha Jumwa Karisa Katana, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action - Kenya
5mins	Statement	Michelle Elle - Kenya Finland Bilateral GBV Program
5mins	Statement	Data Gordon - Republic of South Sudan
5mins	Statement	Andres Thomsen – Country Director, UNFPA
5mins	Implementation of AU Declaration (2021)	AU Representative on Positive Masculinity:
5mins	Transformative approaches for empowering men and boys in rural areas	H.E. Dorcas W. Gachagua - Spouse to the Deputy President
5mins	Preventing and addressing technology facilitated violence against women and girls	Hon. Member of parliament (TBC)
5mins	Practical Results-Based Model: A case of <i>Nitasimama Imara</i> Men’s Empowerment Programme	Faith Nashipae - Thriving Communities Africa (TCA)
5mins	Financing for scale up	Asenath Mwithiga – The Girl Generation
15min	Open Discussions	Moderator
5mins	Summary & Closing Statement	Head of Delegation

RSVP via link: [HERE](#)