

RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE:

Every person has inherent dignity and the right to have that dignity respected and protected- Article 28 of the constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Respect for human rights has a foundation in universal applicability and is based on important pillars such as equality and non-discrimination. The Constitution of the World Health Organization subscribes each individual globally to “The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition”. This has as well been emulated in constitutions of our countries as official national guidelines.

The relevance of the respect to human rights universally is narrowed down and enshrined in each country’s constitution. This is also strengthened by other ratified documents and declarations and enforced by global bodies such as the HRC (Human Rights Council). In our country, the constitution of Kenya, 2010, outlines and stamps authority on the importance of the respect of Human Rights for everyone. Article 27 expounds on Equality and freedom from discrimination, as such;

1. Every person is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law.
2. Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and fundamental freedoms.
3. Women and men have the right to equal treatment, including the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres.
4. The State shall not discriminate directly or indirectly against any person on any ground, including race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, health status, ethnic or social origin, colour, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, dress, language or birth.
5. A person shall not discriminate directly or indirectly against another person on any of the grounds specified or contemplated in clause (4).

The central guide of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to ensure that no one is left behind. For this reason, respect for human rights should be a personal goal by each and every one citizen. Vices such as marginalization and stigmatization, especially to such minority groups such as PWDs in the community are pointers that the respect for dignity still has a way to go in order to achieve full status in society. Discrimination in systems such as healthcare service access is a violation of human rights and has been dished out across minority groups, as such; outcomes in health are recorded to be suffering the planned levels of success, there grows lack of respect for each other, mental and physical health suffering.

We still have a long way to go until everyone – no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they have- learns to practice respect for human rights despite any one’s given sexual orientation or identity. This is a call to work together to tackle inequalities and discrimination such that everyone fully enjoys the benefits of their rights no matter their age, sex, religion, status, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation.