



CTWOO
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

COME TOGETHER WIDOWS AND ORPHANS ORGANIZATION
(CTWOO)

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REPORT ON PRE- INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATIONS 2023.

JUNE, 2023



JULY 7, 2023

COME TOGETHER WIDOWS AND ORPHANS ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION

During the Month of June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization Recognized and Celebrated Pre-International Widows Day Celebrations 2023 that were held in Vihiga County, Kericho County, Kiambu County, and Nyandarua County in the month of June 2023. These events acted as build-up events in preparation for the Main International Widows Day 2023 that was held on 23rd June in Nakuru County.

These events served as a platform to honour and empower widows, raise awareness about their rights, and promote their prosperity through various empowerment initiatives.

The primary objective of the Pre-International Widows Day Celebrations was to recognize the resilience and strength of widows while addressing the unique challenges they face. The theme of the celebrations was "**Prosperity for Widows**," reflecting the commitment to equipping widows with the necessary tools and resources to overcome obstacles and lead dignified and fulfilling lives.

The celebrations were thoughtfully designed with a multi-location approach to ensure a broader impact on widows from diverse backgrounds and communities i.e in **Vihiga County** (Chemosot Ward and Tebesonik Ward), **Kericho County**, **Kiambu County** (Kimende Ward), and **Nyandarua County**, allowing for a comprehensive outreach to widows in various regions and laying a foundation for collective commitment in Achieving Prosperity For All Widows in various parts of the country.



PRE-INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 2023 HELD IN VIHIGA COUNTY ON 7TH JUNE 2023.

INTRODUCTION

On 7th June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization in Collaboration with The Heart of Christian Foundation under the Directors Dr Mr and Mrs Imbuki organized a Pre-International Widows' Day Celebration at Phanero School, Mbale- Vihiga County. The event brought onboard more than 400 widows who got empowered and felt loved and valued because of this special celebration. The theme of the Pre-International Widows Day was 'PROSPERITY FOR WIDOWS'.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT.

The event began at exactly 10:30 am with the mentions and welcoming of the event participants, organizational partners present and Madam Dianah Kamande- Executive Director CTWOO who was the chief guest of the event.

WIDOWS CAPACITY BUILDING

Legal Empowerment by FIDA-KISUMU BRANCH



FIDA-Kisumu Representative encouraging widows to develop the need of seeking legal assistance for their violated rights through FIDA office during a Pre-International Widows Day Celebration 2023 in Vihiga County

The FIDA-Kisumu Representative began by acknowledging the unique and often difficult circumstances that widows face after the loss of their spouses. She emphasized the importance of recognizing widows as marginalized members of society who require specific attention and support to overcome legal and socio-economic challenges.

She also delved into the critical issue of inheritance rights, especially Land Inheritance which is a major concern for widows in many communities.

She emphasized the need for the widows to seek justice. She later elaborated on the various legal protections available to widows under the law, including domestic violence laws, maintenance rights, and child custody rights. She stressed the role of FIDA-Kisumu in providing support and guidance to widows in navigating the legal processes which encouraged many widows who were present during the Celebration to link up with FIDA and promised to seek justice through their office.



Economic Empowerment-by Women Enterprise funds (WEF) – Ms. Tracy



Ms. Tracy informing Widows about WEF and its role in providing economic assistance to widows and ways to access WEF Funds especially the Thamini Mjane Loan Product

Ms. Tracy highlighted the critical role of economic empowerment in breaking the cycle of poverty and vulnerability that many widows face. She stressed that providing widows with the necessary tools and resources to start or expand their businesses would not only benefit them individually but also have a positive impact on their families and communities. She also discussed the significance of financial literacy and business training in empowering widows to make informed financial decisions and

manage their businesses effectively. She also emphasized on how WEF as an entity is dedicated and committed to fostering economic growth and independence among widows to ensure a dignified and fulfilling life for them. She shared examples of successful widows' groups that have benefited from the Fund's training programs and the **Thamini Mjane Loan Product under WEF** that has helped to transform their small ventures into thriving enterprises. This encouraged widow groups that were not aware of the Funds and How to Access it to make commitments in seeking these funds to help them achieve economic independence. The session left the audience motivated and hopeful, knowing that women, especially widows, have access to resources and support that can transform their lives positively.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



SPEECHES

MRS. DR IMBUKI- DIRECTOR, THE HEART OF CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION



Mrs. Dr. Imbuki delivering a speech during Pre-International Widows Day Celebration 2023 in Vihiga County

She commenced her speech by providing a brief overview of The Heart of Christian Foundation. She mentioned that the Foundation was established with a deep-rooted commitment to serving the most vulnerable in the society, and according to the Foundation, Widows hold a special place in its heart. She also stated that since the Foundation's inception, they have been dedicated to

empowering widows with the tools they need to lead prosperous lives, despite the challenges they face.

She continued by saying that throughout the years, they have witnessed the Strength and Resilience of Widows in the face of adversity as well as the hardships they endure due to Social Stigmatization, Economic Struggles, and Legal Complexities. This became evident that they must extend their helping hand to Uplift and Empower these brave women.

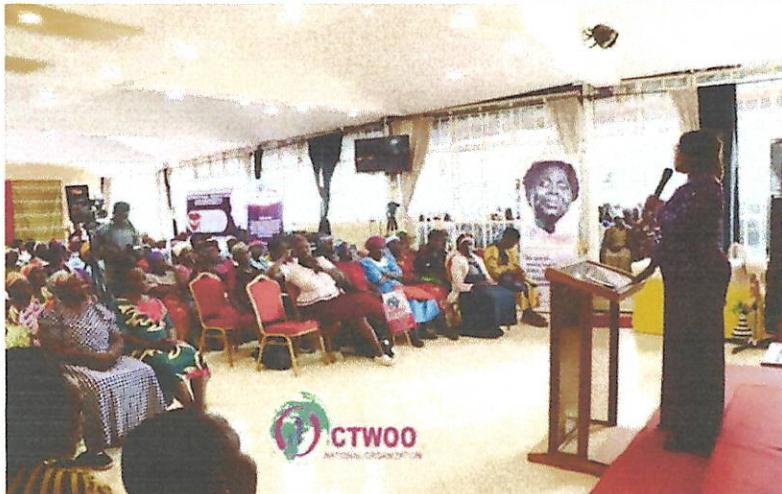
She mentioned how the Foundation has had a great impact on the Emotional Wellbeing of the widows because they have embraced the widows in their churches and has encouraged the society to also embrace them.

She thanked CTWOO for their support for the Foundation because none of their achievements would have been possible without their support and collaboration.

She concluded by saying that on this Special Celebration she speaks not just as the Director of The Heart of Christian Foundation, but as an advocate for the Rights and Well-being of Widows. She urged everyone within our Kenyan societies to come together as a community, as one voice, to support and uplift these remarkable women.



MADAM DIANAH KAMANDE-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CTWOO



Madam Dianah Kamande, Founder CTWOO, speaking to Widows during a Pre-International Widows Day in Vihiga County

Widows," let everyone renew his/her commitment to empowering widows. She encouraged them to be relentless in pursuit of Justice, Equality, and Economic Opportunities for Widows.

She mentioned that the strangest journey is Widowhood where no preparation is done. When widowhood strikes actually friends run away or they are the first ones to stigmatize you. Widowhood comes with tears while other life events come with laughter. She emphasized that it is important for the world to know that Widows have rights that are even recognized in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, better known as the **Maputo Protocol**.

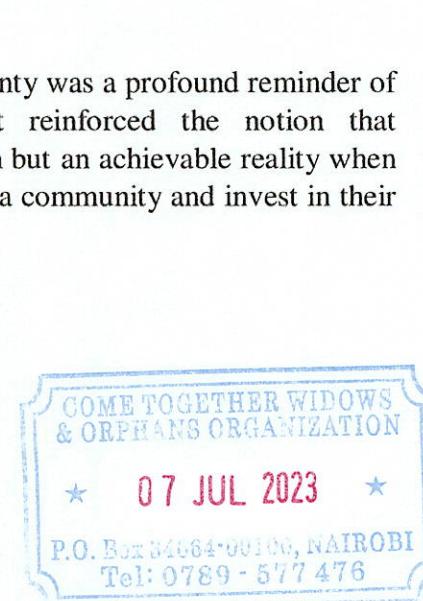
She ended her speech by extending a heartfelt invitation to widows to attend and participate in the **Main International Widows Day event** which was scheduled to take place in **Nakuru County on 23rd June 2023**. She encouraged the widows to attend that particular event because the event would offer a larger platform for them for their voices to be heard.

CONCLUSION

The Pre-International Widows Day celebration in Vihiga County was a profound reminder of the transformative power of unity and compassion. It reinforced the notion that '**PROSPERITY FOR WIDOWS**' is not just a distant dream but an achievable reality when we everyone in our Kenyan Societies today come together as a community and invest in their Empowerment

She began by saying that such special Celebrations remind her of the journey that led to the inception of CTWOO since it was formed out of a deep-seated desire to create a positive impact in the lives of widows and orphans, who are often overlooked and forgotten by society.

She mentioned that on this Pre-International Widows Day, as we celebrate the theme of "Prosperity for



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PRE-INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 2023 AND CHEMOSOT WARD WIDOWS ASSOCIATION LAUNCH HELD IN CHEMOSOT VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE, CHEMOSOT WARD, KERICHO COUNTY ON 13TH JUNE 2023.

INTRODUCTION

On 13th June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization in Collaboration with the Office of MCA, Chemosot Ward held a Pre-International Widows' Day celebration in Chemosot Ward, Kericho County. The event brought onboard 700 widows from the entire Ward. The main reason for holding the celebration was to **launch Chemosot Ward Widows Association**, to raise awareness about the challenges faced by widows and to promote legal empowerment and support for widows in the community.

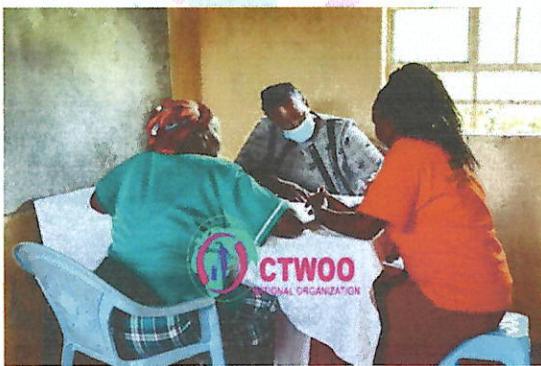
The celebration also brought to our attention that Sexual and Gender Based Violence is a major challenge in this tea zone area as reported by **Bureti Deputy County Commissioner- Mr. Lawrence Omondi**. The DCC also mentioned that he gets **over 45%** of such cases in a month. **50% of 700** widows who participated in the Pre-International Widows Day Celebration reported that they face difficulties in securing their property and inheritance rights which put them at risk of violence and harassment.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT.

The event began at exactly 10:30 am with the mentions and welcoming of the event participants, organizational partners present and Madam Dianah Kamande- Executive Director CTWOO who was the chief guest of the event.

WIDOWS CAPACITY BUILDING

Legal Empowerment by FIDA-KISUMU- Ms. Janet Anyango



Ms. Dianah Watila attending to a client with a legal issue

The celebration commenced with a session on legal empowerment conducted by the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)-KISUMU. Ms Janet Anyango delivered a presentation highlighting the legal rights and protections available to widows through FIDA offices. She provided valuable information on inheritance laws, property rights, and legal avenues for seeking justice and support. She also encouraged widows to access FIDA services and advised them to always contact FIDA offices for assistance whenever they face Land Disinheritance and Succession cases. The session aimed to equip

widows with knowledge and resources to assert their rights and navigate legal challenges. She also challenged the Kericho County elders concerning the cultural land ties because most cases that had always been presented in their desks by widows from that region was majorly Land cases.

After the legal empowerment session, Ms. Janet together with her colleague, Madam Dianah Watila, managed to attend to Succession and Land Disinheritance cases that were presented by 38 widows.

Economic Empowerment

The economic empowerment session was conducted by different representatives from various financial institutions who empowered widows with knowledge and resources to enhance their economic independence and improve their livelihoods.

Women Enterprise funds (WEF) – Mr. Michael Rono



Mr. Michael Rono enlightening widows about WEF and Thamini Mjane Loan

Bureti Constituency WEF Coordinator, Mr. Michael Rono, provided an overview of the Women Enterprise Fund where he informed the widows about the fund's objectives, its role in promoting women's economic empowerment, and the support it offers to women entrepreneurs. He also explained about the Fund's eligibility criteria, application procedures, and required documentation that should be provided by the widows in order to access the funds.

He later talked about the Thamini Mjane Loan Product by WEF that is specifically tailored for widows. He finished by encouraging widows to apply for Thamini Mjane Loan product since the Loan product has no interest.

Financial Education by Equity Bank- Mr. Kiprono Lang'at



Equity Bank Representative (Kericho Branch) conducting Financial Literacy Training for widows

Mr. Kiprono Lang'at conducted an impactful financial literacy training session where he provided widows with crucial knowledge and skills related to savings and financial management. By emphasizing the importance of group savings, introducing effective strategies, and facilitating interactive discussions, he was able to empower widows to take control of their financial well-being. The session served as a stepping stone for widows to develop a savings mindset, make informed

financial decisions, and build a more secure and prosperous future for themselves and their families.



Financial Literacy by Small and Medium Enterprises Authority-Ms. Michelle



Ms. Michelle conducting financial literacy training for widows

She began by mentioning about the mandates of Small and Medium Enterprises Authority. She also encouraged widows especially small-scale traders to register their businesses with SMEA (Small and Medium Enterprises Authority) so that they can apply for the loans provided by their institution so as to support their businesses.

SPEECHES

HON ANITA BYEGON-MCA CHEMOSOT WARD, KERICHO COUNTY



Hon. Anita Byegon (MCA Chemosot Ward) delivering a speech during the Launch of Chemosot Ward Widows Association and the Pre-International Widows Day Celebration 2023

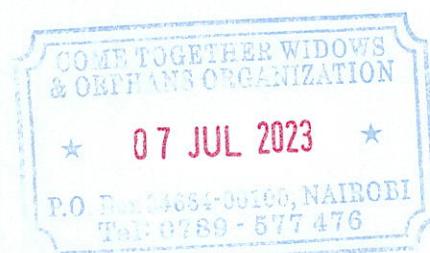
The MCA began her speech by acknowledging the significance of the occasion, emphasizing the need to address the challenges faced by widows in that particular Ward and provide them with necessary support and empowerment. She highlighted the unique struggles widows face, including economic hardships, social exclusion especially on land inheritance issues. She challenged the Kalenjin culture of denying girls and women their rights to own culture since it was making women to become more vulnerable. The speech emphasized the importance of recognizing the contributions made

by widows to society and the need to address the issues they face, promoting their rights and well-being.

She also stressed the significance of launching the **Chemosot Ward Widows Association** since it would serve as a platform for widows to come together, support each other, and advocate for their rights. The association would also serve as a voice for widows, enabling them to access resources, information, and opportunities for their empowerment.

She promised that her office will stay committed supporting widows by creating sustainable opportunities for their economic and social empowerment.

She also pledged continued support for widows through policy advocacy and allocation of resources.



MADAM DIANAH KAMANDE-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CTWOO



Madam Dianah Kamande-Founder, CTWOO giving a speech during the Launch of Chemosot Ward Widows Association and the Pre-International Widows Day celebration 2023 in Chemosot Ward

Being the **Chief Guest** and a very **Passionate Advocate for Widows Rights**, she began her speech by showcasing the remarkable work of Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization in supporting widows. She acknowledged the challenges widows face and the unique journey they embark upon after the loss of their spouses. She emphasized the importance of recognizing widows' experiences, struggles, and their resilience in overcoming adversity. She spoke passionately about the organization's commitment to empowering widows

economically by highlighting the organization's partnerships with Uwezo Fund and Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), which have enabled widows to access financial resources, training, and mentorship. Through these collaborations, widows have been able to start businesses, develop sustainable livelihoods, and improve their economic well-being. She also mentioned the collaboration between Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization and FIDA Kenya in promoting legal empowerment for widows and how the partnership has enabled widows to receive legal advice, representation, and advocacy, empowering them to assert their rights and navigate the legal system.

She ended her speech by extending a heartfelt invitation to widows to attend and participate in the **Main International Widows Day event** which was scheduled to take place in **Nakuru County on 23rd June 2023**. She encouraged the widows to attend that particular event because the event would offer a larger platform for them for their voices to be heard.

CONCLUSION

The event contributed to a significant milestone in recognizing and supporting widows in Chemosot Ward because it brought together widows, community leaders, government representatives, and various stakeholders to address the unique challenges faced by widows and promote their rights and empowerment. The sessions provided widows with valuable knowledge, skills, and resources to enhance their financial independence, legal protection, and overall well-being.



PRE-INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 2023 AND TEBESONIK WARD WIDOWS ASSOCIATION LAUNCH HELD IN CHEMOSOT TEBESONIK WARD, KERICHO COUNTY ON 14TH JUNE 2023.

INTRODUCTION

On 14th June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization in Collaboration with the Office of MCA, Tebesonik Ward held a Pre-International Widows' Day celebration in Tebesonik Ward, Kericho County. The event brought onboard 544 widows from the entire Ward. The main reason for holding the celebration was to **launch Tebesonik Ward Widows Association**, to raise awareness about the challenges faced by widows and to promote legal empowerment and support for widows in the community.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT.

The event began at exactly 10:30 am with the mentions and welcoming of the event participants, organizational partners present and Madam Dianah Kamande- Executive Director CTWOO who was the chief guest of the event.

WIDOWS CAPACITY BUILDING

Legal Empowerment by FIDA-KISUMU- Ms. Mercy



Ms. Mercy empowering widows about their Legal Rights

The celebration commenced with a session on legal empowerment conducted by the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)-Kericho Office.

Ms Mercy mentioned about the challenges that widows face in Kericho County especially land disinheritance challenges. She provided valuable information on inheritance laws, property rights, and legal avenues for seeking justice and support. She also encouraged widows

to access FIDA services and advised them to always contact FIDA offices for assistance whenever they face Land Disinheritance and Succession cases. The session aimed to equip widows with knowledge and resources to assert their rights and navigate legal challenges.

She also challenged the Kericho County elders concerning the cultural land ties because most cases that had always been presented in their desks by widows from that region was majorly Land cases.



Economic Empowerment

The economic empowerment session was conducted by different representatives from various financial institutions who empowered widows with knowledge and resources to enhance their economic independence and improve their livelihoods.

Women Enterprise funds (WEF) – Mr. Patrick



Mr. Patrick (WEF Coordinator, Bureti Constituency) enlightening widows about WEF, Thamini Mjane Loan and how to access the Fund

Bureti Constituency WEF Coordinator, Mr. Patrick, provided an overview of the Women Enterprise Fund where he informed the widows about the fund's objectives, its role in promoting women's economic empowerment, and the support it offers to women entrepreneurs. He also explained about the Fund's eligibility criteria, application procedures, and required documentation that should be provided by the widows in order to access the funds.

He later talked about the Thamini Mjane Loan Product by WEF that is specifically tailored-made for widows. He concluded by encouraging widows to make efforts in applying for Thamini Mjane Loan product since the Loan product so as to help them boost their income generating activities and in turn achieve economic independence.

Financial Education by Equity Bank- Mr. Kiprono Lang'at



Equity Bank Representative (Kericho Branch) conducting Financial Literacy Training for widows

Mr. Kiprono Lang'at conducted an impactful financial literacy training session where he provided widows with crucial knowledge and skills related to savings and financial management. By emphasizing the importance of group savings, introducing effective strategies, and facilitating interactive discussions, he was able to empower widows to take control of their financial well-being. The session served as a stepping stone for widows to develop a savings mindset, make informed

financial decisions, and build a more secure and prosperous future for themselves and their families.



Financial Education by Small and Medium Enterprises Authority-Ms. Michelle



She began by mentioning about the mandates of Small and Medium Enterprises Authority. She also encouraged widows especially small-scale traders to register their businesses with SMEA (Small and Medium Enterprises Authority) so that they can apply for the loans provided by their institution so as to support their businesses.

SPEECHES

MESSAGE FROM HON KIPNGENO KIRUI, TEBESONIK WARD MCA, KERICHO COUNTY



Hon. Kipngeno Kirui delivering a speech during Tebesonik Widows Association Launch and Pre-International Widows Day Celebration in Tebesonik Ward

He began by extending his appreciation to all the individuals and organizations that have contributed their unwavering commitment and dedication to the cause of empowering widows. He mentioned that through the association, his leadership will aim to foster a sense of belonging and create an enabling environment where widows can access various support services, including financial assistance, skills training, and legal aid. He also emphasized that empowering widows

means empowering the entire community.

He concluded by urging everyone who had shown commitment and dedication in the cause of widowhood to strive for a world where widows are not marginalized but celebrated for their strength, resilience, and contributions.

He also mentioned that it is only by working together that the society can bring about positive change and build a society that values and uplifts every member especially widows, regardless of their widowhood status.



MESSAGE FROM MADAM DIANAH KAMANDE-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CTWOO



Madam Dianah Kamande-Founder, CTWOO giving a speech during the Launch of Tebesonik Ward Widows Association and the Pre-International Widows Day celebration 2023 in Tebesonik Ward

She began by congratulating the widows of Tebesonik Ward who came together to form the remarkable Association. She informed them that through the association, they had taken significant step towards empowerment and solidarity. She as well encouraged them by telling them that together, they will overcome the challenges they face and forge a path of hope and dignity for themselves and future generations.

She also extended her deepest appreciation to Hon. Kipgeno Kirui and all the individuals and organizations who have

contributed to the launch of the association by congratulating them for their commitment and dedication to the cause of widows' empowerment. She mentioned that through the dedication and commitment, a lasting change can be realized ensure that no widow is left behind.

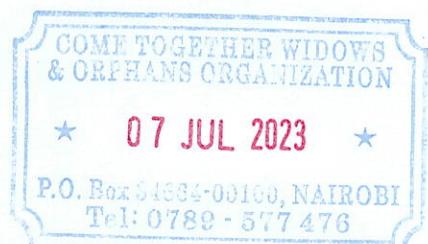
She also stated that as the Tebesonik Ward Widows Association was being launched and as preparations for the Main International Widows Day was being made, everyone should remember that empowering widows is not just an act of charity but a matter of justice. She also said that widows deserve our support, respect, and recognition because they are the backbone of families and communities and their contributions must be acknowledged and valued.

She ended her speech by extending a heartfelt invitation to widows to attend and participate in the **Main International Widows Day event** which was scheduled to take place in Nakuru County on 23rd June 2023. She encouraged the widows to attend that particular event because the event would offer a larger platform for them for their voices to be heard.

CONCLUSION

The event served as a reminder that empowering widows is not just an act of charity but a matter of justice. It called upon individuals, organizations, and the wider community to stand in solidarity with widows, recognizing their rights and supporting their journey towards independence and self-sufficiency.

Through the launch of Tebesonik Ward Widows Association and the celebration of Pre-International Widows Day, a profound message was sent that widows will no longer be marginalized or forgotten. Instead, they will be celebrated for their strength and provided with the necessary support to thrive in all aspects of their lives.



PRE-INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 2023 HELD IN KIMENDE, LARI CONSTITUENCY, KIAMBU COUNTY ON 19TH JUNE 2023.

INTRODUCTION

On 19th June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization held a Pre-International Widows' Day Celebration at ACK Kiriita Church in Lari Constituency. The event brought onboard **200 widows** from different Widows Working Groups in Kiambu County. The main purpose of holding the Celebration was to prepare widows for the Main International Widows Day 2023 where they could present their widowhood plights to various stakeholders.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT.

The event began at exactly 9:30 am with welcoming of the event participants. The Widow Representative thanked the widows for turning out in large numbers to mark and celebrate the Pre-International Widows Day-an event that gave them platform to get full knowledge about their rights as some of them were able to get access to justice concerning their violated rights.

WIDOWS CAPACITY BUILDING

Legal Empowerment by Advocate Pauline Kiteng'e



Advocate Pauline Kiteng'e taking the widows through the Legal Framework during a Pre-International Widows Day Celebration at ACK Kiriita Church, Lari Constituency

The Legal Framework Program was an integral part of the Pre-International Widows Day Celebration, organized to raise awareness about the rights and challenges faced by widows in Kimende, Lari Constituency. Advocate Pauline Kiteng'e, a renowned legal expert, led the program, providing valuable insights and guidance on legal matters affecting widows.

Key Activities

Presentation on Widows' Legal Rights

Advocate Pauline Kiteng'e delivered an informative presentation highlighting the legal rights of widows in Kenya. This encompassed areas such as inheritance laws, property rights specifically land rights and access to support and resources. The presentation aimed to empower widows with knowledge, enabling them to protect their rights and seek justice for their rights.

Q&A Session

Following the presentation, a question-and-answer session was held, allowing widows to seek clarification on legal matters and share their personal experiences. Advocate Pauline Kiteng'e



provided expert advice, addressing specific concerns and guiding individuals on the appropriate legal steps to take in various situations.

Individual Consultations

To provide personalized support, Advocate Pauline Kitenge offered one-on-one consultations with widows who required further legal assistance. These consultations provided an opportunity to delve into specific cases, offer tailored advice, and explore potential legal solutions.

SPEECH

MADAM DIANAH KAMANDE-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CTWOO



Madam Dianah Kamande addressing widows during a Pre-International Widows Day Celebration at ACK Kiriita Church, Lari Constituency

widows in Lari Constituency. She highlighted the significance of advocating for the legal rights of widows where she thanked Advocate Pauline Kiteng'e for ensuring that widows have increased awareness about existing laws and policies that protect their rights, including succession and land rights. She ended her speech by extending a heartfelt invitation to widows to attend and participate in the **Main International Widows Day event** which was scheduled to take place in **Nakuru County on 23rd June 2023**. She encouraged the widows to attend that particular event because the event would offer a larger platform for them for their voices to be heard.

CONCLUSION

The Legal Framework Program led by Advocate Pauline Kiteng'e during the Pre-International Widows Day Celebration at Kimende, Lari Constituency, played a vital role in raising awareness about the legal rights of widows and empowering them with knowledge. The program's impact will continue to resonate in the lives of widows, enabling them to navigate the legal system with confidence and assert their rights. We extend our gratitude to Advocate Pauline Kitenge for her invaluable contributions and dedication to the cause of widows' rights.



PRE-INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY 2023 HELD IN OLKALOU, NYANDARUA COUNTY ON 21ST JUNE 2023.

INTRODUCTION

On 21st June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization together with partner organizations held a Pre-International Widows' Day Celebration at Olkalou Catholic Church, Nyandarua County. The Pre-International Widows Day Celebration served as a platform to shed light on the struggles widows encounter and foster support and understanding within the community as well as amplifying the voices of widows in our society. The event brought together **200** widows from different Widow Working Groups from the entire County.

DETAILS OF THE EVENT.

The event began at exactly 10:30 am with welcoming of the event participants. The celebration encompassed a series of impactful speeches and presentations from notable individuals, including the Nominated MCA, Madam Dianah Kamande - Executive Director of Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization, Representatives from the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) as well as Representatives from the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC). These speakers contributed valuable insights and initiatives aimed at promoting the well-being and empowerment of widows within our community.

WIDOWS CAPACITY BUILDING

Legal Empowerment Session by Representative from the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) Nyandarua County Office



CAJ Representative equipping widows with knowledge on how to obtain legal aid and informing them about the available support offered by the CAJ Office

The representative from CAJ began with mentioning the mandates of the Commission and how it carries out its work to ensure widows have access to justice for their violated rights. He also shared information about the legal aid services available to widows, the process involved in obtaining legal aid and the support available

throughout the legal proceedings. He also offered guidance, advice, and clarification on legal matters following the questions and concerns raised by widows which enabled widows to better understand about the legal aid process and make informed decisions.





Figure 3 Widows reading the brochures to ensure they have Access to Information

He later distributed legal resource materials to the widows. The legal resource materials included brochures, pamphlets, and information booklets, containing relevant information about their legal rights, legal aid services, and relevant

legislation. These materials served as references, empowering widows to continue their legal education and seek further assistance if needed

Legal Empowerment Session by Representative from the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC)



KNHCR Representative conducting a legal empowerment program for the widows during a Pre-International Widows Day Celebration in Olkalou Catholic Church, Nyandarua County

The KNHRC Representative conducted a comprehensive presentation on widows' legal rights. The presentation covered various areas, including inheritance laws, property rights, access to education, healthcare, and social welfare programs. Widows were provided with insights into their entitlements and the legal mechanisms available to protect their rights. The session empowered widows to navigate the legal system

more effectively, enabling them to make informed decisions and seek redress when necessary.



SPEECHES

MESSAGE FROM HON. MILKAH WANJIRU-NOMINATED MCA, KIRIITA WARD, OLKALOU SUBCOUNTY



Hon Milkah Wanjiru speaking to the widows during a Pre-International Widows Day Celebration in Olkalou Catholic Church, Olkalou Subcounty

thrive.

She assured widows to stay committed to advocating for policies and initiatives that uplift widows and promote their well-being. She mentioned that she will push for the establishment of programs that provide financial and entrepreneurial support to widows, empowering them to become self-reliant and economically independent. She also mentioned that the celebration is a stepping stone towards greater change. It is a reminder that we must continue the dialogue, continue advocating, and continue working towards creating an environment where widows are recognized, valued, and supported.

She concluded by reminding the widows that they are not alone and that she is always with them and will always stand with them. She mentioned that together, a future will be created where widows are not defined by their loss, but rather by their strength, resilience, and limitless potential.

She began by extending her heartfelt gratitude to all the widows present during the event. She mentioned that their resilience, strength, and determination in the face of immense challenges inspire her. She emphasized that the loss of their partners, becoming the sole providers and caretakers for their families as well as their triumphs have not gone unnoticed, and it is the community's duty to stand beside widows, support them, and work towards empowering them to



MESSAGE FROM MADAM DIANAH KAMANDE, FOUNDER CTWOO



Madam Dianah Kamande-Founder CTWOO encouraging widows during a Pre-International Widows Day Celebration in Olkalou Catholic Church, Olkalou Subcounty

other in their widowhood journey. She encouraged the widows through her story where she mentioned that it has taken her bravery and dedication to stand again as a strong widow.

She ended her speech by extending a heartfelt invitation to widows to attend and participate in the **Main International Widows Day event** which was scheduled to take place in **Nakuru County on 23rd June 2023**. She encouraged the widows to attend that particular event because the event would offer a larger platform for them for their voices to be heard.

In conclusion The Pre-International Widows Day Celebration served as a platform for widows to get support from the stakeholders present. They were also to have Access to Information that will always help them to Access Justice whenever their rights are violated.



CONCLUSION

The Pre-International Widows Day Celebrations in Vihiga County, Kericho County, Kiambu County, and Nyandarua County in June 2023 marked a significant milestone in the collective efforts to uplift and empower widows. The events showcased the dedication and commitment of various stakeholders towards promoting gender equality and supporting widows in their journey towards prosperity.

The empowering initiatives, legal awareness sessions, and awareness campaigns during the celebrations have undoubtedly left a lasting impact on the widows and the wider community. It is our hope that these efforts will continue to resonate and inspire further actions in the pursuit of a more inclusive and equitable society for widows.

We express our sincere gratitude to all the Widow groups together with their Representative, Partners who honoured our calls and dedicated their time to walk with us in this journey of ensuring Prosperity For Widows and all the Government Officials who showed their commitment in walking with widows to ensure they live a dignified and fulfilled lives. Your dedication and support have set a strong foundation for ongoing initiatives to uplift and empower widows in the future.

