



**CTWOO**  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

COME TOGETHER WIDOWS AND ORPHANS ORGANIZATION  
(CTWOO)  
BLESSED HOUSE, off Thika Super Highway, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Rm. 110  
P.O. BOX 34664 – 00100, Nairobi  
Tel: +254 789 577 476, +254 702 577 477 EMAIL: info@cometogewoo.org  
Website: www.cometogewoo.org

---

# REPORT ON POST- INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATIONS 2023.

---

*JUNE, 2023*



**JULY 7, 2023**  
COME TOGETHER WIDOWS AND ORPHANS ORGANIZATION

## INTRODUCTION

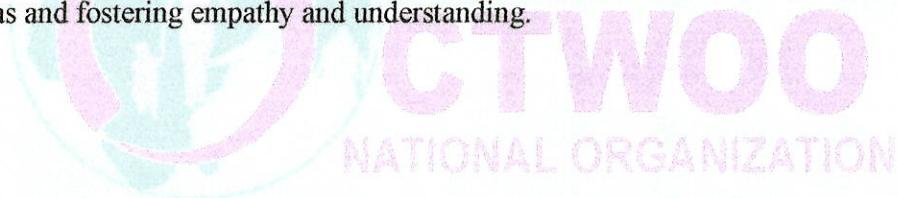
After the International Widows Day Celebration that was held in Nakuru County on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization continued to showcase its inspiring efforts in uplifting and empowering widows.

The primary objective of the Post-International Widows Day Celebrations was to commemorate and extend support to widows, recognizing the challenges they face and the importance of empowering them economically and legally. The theme "**Prosperity For Widows**" underlined the organization's commitment to fostering an environment where widows can lead dignified and fulfilling lives.

The celebrations consisted of a multi-county approach, reaching out to widows in three diverse regions – **Meru County, Mombasa County, and Kilifi County**. By spanning across different counties, the events ensured inclusivity and aimed to make a tangible difference in the lives of widows from varied backgrounds.

The Post-International Widows Day Celebrations featured a comprehensive array of Empowerment Sessions that were conducted to meet the specific Economic Needs of Widows in each County. These included financial literacy training, assistance on how to access credit and microfinance from various institutions, and legal awareness sessions to equip widows with essential knowledge about their rights and available support.

These Celebrations also emphasized the vital role of community support in empowering widows with an aim of creating a nurturing environment for widows, breaking down societal stigmas and fostering empathy and understanding.



## **POST-INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION 2023 HELD AT FULL GOSPEL CHURCH HALL, MERU TOWN, MERU COUNTY ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization participated in a Post-International Widow's Day Celebration organized by the Ladies of Valour. The Celebration was held at Full Gospel Church Hall, Meru Town. The event aimed to shed light on the unique challenges faced by widows and explore effective coping mechanisms to support their empowerment and well-being. Under the theme "**Coping Mechanisms for Widows,**" the celebration brought together **800** widows from all the sub counties within Meru County, community leaders, Advocates for Widows Rights and other stakeholders to discuss and share experiences related to the issues faced by widows in their daily lives.

The event served as an opportunity to raise awareness about the social, economic, and emotional hardships encountered by widows, while emphasizing the importance of developing sustainable coping mechanisms to help them overcome these challenges. By addressing these issues, the celebration sought to foster a supportive environment and enable widows to lead dignified and fulfilling lives.

### **DETAILS OF THE EVENT.**

The event began at exactly 9:00 am with a warm reception of the guests and welcoming of the widows who were present during the celebration.

### **PSYCHOTHERAPY SESSION- Dr. Monica Gitonga**



*Dr. Monica Gitonga offering emotional support to widows during a Post-International Widows Day Celebration 2023 at Full Gospel Church, Meru Town*

Dr. Monica Gitonga started the session by introducing herself and creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. She talked about grief as a result of widowhood and how to overcome it.

She also provided widows with information about common grief reactions, the importance of self-care, and strategies for building resilience.

She encouraged widows to join family support system and safe spaces to help them overcome stress and depression. She emphasized that widows need to embrace each other because the encouragement from fellow individual widows can help one to recognize the loss of her late husband and accept the situation and stay positive amidst every situation.

The session concluded with a closing discussion, where Dr. Monica encouraged widows to continue seeking support from available resources, such as counselling services, support groups, and community organizations.

### LEGAL EMPOWERMENT by Kule Wario



Miss Kule Wario empowering widows about their legal rights and informing them about the reporting channels of reporting cases concerning their violated rights during a Post-International Widows Day Celebration 2023 in Meru Town

The Ombudsman Kenya Isiolo Office was present to remind Widows about their rights to be served well in Public Offices. The Widows were reminded about Article 35 in our Kenya Constitution about their rights on Access to Information. They were also reminded of the reporting channels in case their rights are violated. They were encouraged to report cases to the Office of the Ombudsman Kenya so as to ensure that their rights and properties are protected and safeguarded.



## **PROSPERITY AND GROWTH FOR WIDOWS-Madam Dianah Kamande**



*Madam Dianah Kamande addressing widows during a Post-International Widows Day Celebration 2023 in Meru Town, Full Gospel Church Hall*

not been easy. She also thanked them for always carrying the weight of loss, grief, and social barriers, and yet you have found the resilience to move forward.

Speaking about “**PROSPERITY AND GROWTH FOR WIDOWS**” she urged widows to recognize that prosperity is not solely measured in financial terms. True prosperity encompasses emotional well-being, social connectedness, and the ability to live a fulfilling life. It is about reclaiming one's identity, finding purpose and passions.

She also encouraged widows to embrace the power of unity. She mentioned that together, they will stay stronger. She advised them to create networks, support groups, and mentoring platforms that foster solidarity and empowerment because by sharing their stories, experiences, and lessons learned, they can uplift one another and inspire a collective spirit of resilience and growth.

She concluded by mentioning that prosperity for widows is not an unattainable dream because it is within our grasp. She urged every stakeholder present during the celebration to continue to advocate for Widows' Rights, offer support, and create opportunities for growth. According to her, together, we can break down barriers, nurture resilience, and build a society where widows are not only survivors but thrivers.

### **CONCLUSION**

Collectively, this Special Celebration created a holistic approach to address the unique needs of widows, recognizing their emotional, economic, and legal challenges. The event fostered a sense of solidarity, resilience, and hope among widows, offering them practical strategies, support networks, and opportunities for growth. It reminded everyone that widows are not defined by their loss but by their resilience, strength, and capacity to overcome challenges.

Through our collective efforts, we can build a society that values and supports the empowerment of widows, leaving no one behind.

She began by acknowledging the incredible courage and determination of the widows present during the event. She applauded them for staying strong and positive because the journey they have always walked with CTWOO has



## **POST-INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION 2023 HELD AT TONONOKA SOCIAL HALL, MOMBASA COUNTY ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization in partnership with Hope and Dreams CBO participated in a Post-International Widow's Day Celebration in Mombasa County. The event aimed to honour widows, raise awareness about their challenges, and promote their empowerment and well-being. It brought together more than 1000 widows within the Coast Region who were very willing to be empowered.

### **DETAILS OF THE EVENT.**

The event began at exactly 11:00 am with a warm reception of the guests and welcoming of the widows who were present during the celebration. After the welcoming, various sessions were conducted with the aim of empowering widows so as to ensure Prosperity For All.

### **LEGAL EMPOWERMENT- Ombudsman Kenya Mombasa Office**



*CAJ Representative empowering widows about their rights in Mombasa County during a Post-International Widows Day Celebration at Tononoka Social Hall*

resources. He was able to raise awareness about widows' legal rights and protections, equipping them with tools to navigate the legal system effectively, and connecting them with legal support services.

He also mentioned about the journey their office has walked together with Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization to ensure that Widows have Access to Justice. He also encouraged widows to always stay alert on their rights to ensure that these rights are not violated without them being aware.

The Ombudsman Kenya Mombasa Office showed their commitment in protecting and safeguarding widows' right by empowering widows present during the celebration. The CAJ

Representative provided widows with legal knowledge, guidance, and



## **MESSAGE FROM MOMBASA COUNTY WIDOWS' CO-ORDINATOR- Madam Jane**

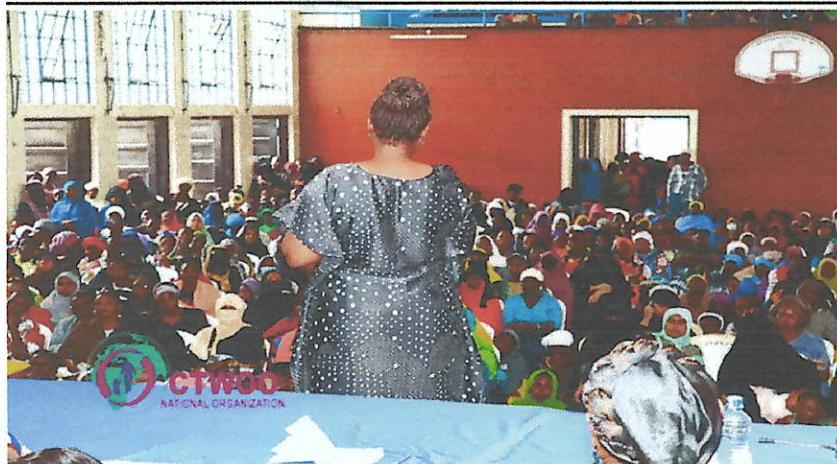


*Mombasa County Widows' Co-ordinator addressing widows during a Post- International Widows Day Celebration in Mombasa County*

As the Widows Co-ordinator of Mombasa County, she began by mentioning that it is her privilege to work alongside CTWOO and Hope and Dreams CBO and other dedicated individuals who are committed to ensuring that Widows Rights are protected and that Widows voices are heard. She urged the widows to know that they are valued, cherished, and respected. She also reminded them that their contributions to the community are invaluable, and their

resilience is a testament to your strength. She concluded by assuring widows that she will continue to work tirelessly with them and with other stakeholders to ensure widows rights are addressed.

## **MESSAGE FROM COAST REGION WIDOWS' CO-ORDINATOR-Madam Prudence**



*Prudence Kai delivering a speech during a Post-International Widows Day Celebration in Mombasa*

### **Kai**

She began by recognizing Government's efforts in shaping policies, implementing programs, and allocating resources for the betterment of our communities. She therefore urged Government officials present during the celebration to join

hands in supporting widows and ensuring their prosperity becomes a shared responsibility. She also challenged the officials to allocate adequate resources and funding towards programs that specifically cater to the needs of widows.

She concluded by mentioning that the support provided by Government is pivotal in transforming the lives of widows and that their commitment and actions will send a powerful message that widows are not forgotten, that their prosperity matters, and that they deserve equal opportunities to thrive in our society.



## **MESSAGE FROM MADAM DIANAH KAMANDE**



*Madam Dianah Kamande addressing widows during a Post-International Widows Day Celebration in Mombasa County*

Widows' prosperity is not a solitary mission—it is a collective responsibility. She emphasized that her support, whether through resources, mentorship, or advocacy, can make a profound difference in the lives of widows. She concluded by mentioning that Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization, along with other supportive organizations, is committed to providing the widows with the tools, resources, and support they need to prosper. Through the organization's various programs, the organization aims to empower them in order to achieve prosperity.

## **MESSAGE FROM AREA MP-HON. ZAMZAM**



*Hon. Zamzam speaking during a Post-International Widows Day Celebration 2023 at Tononoka Social Hall, Mombasa County*

said that she will work to create initiatives that provide widows with a platform to achieve self-independence.

Furthermore, she was committed to advocating for policies that protect the rights and well-being of widows. In collaboration with the relevant authorities, she emphasized that she will work towards the elimination of violation of Widows' Rights that render them vulnerable together with their children.

She mentioned that as Widows strength and resilience is celebrated, the importance of Advocacy should also be recognized. She urged widows to use their voices to advocate for their rights, challenge societal norms, and demand the support and resources they deserve. She also asked Hon. Zamzam, Area MP to join her together with other dedicated individuals and organizations in this noble cause since

She mentioned that as the Celebration was being held to honour the strength and resilience of widows, she was so happy to know that their voices matter, their struggles are acknowledged, and that their rights will be protected. She stated that she stands as widows' Representative who is ready to advocate for the changes and support needed to uplift widows in Mombasa County.

One of her key priorities is economic empowerment for widows where she



## **CONCLUSION**

The celebration served as a stepping stone for ongoing efforts to support widows in Mombasa County. It emphasized that widows are not alone in their struggles and that their prosperity is a shared responsibility. The spirit of unity and collaboration fostered during the celebration will continue to inspire action, promote policy reforms, and create a supportive environment where widows can thrive.



**POST-INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION 2023 HELD AT DIP  
MAWESA GROUNDS, RABAI -KILIFI COUNTY ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023.**



**INTRODUCTION**

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization in partnership with Hope and Dreams CBO participated in a Post-International Widow's Day Celebration in Kilifi County. The event aimed to honour widows, raise awareness about their challenges, and promote their empowerment and well-being. It brought together more than 750 widows within Rabai who were very willing to be empowered.

**DETAILS OF THE EVENT.**

The celebration brought together various partner organizations including FIDA-Mombasa Branch, a leading legal aid organization; the Commission on Administrative Justice, responsible for promoting good governance and protection of human rights, Hopes and Dreams CBO, an esteemed CBO dedicated to supporting widows within Kilifi County and Honourable Member of Parliament, Rabai Constituency- Hon. Kenga Wehu who showed his passion and dedication to working with widows within his constituency.

**LEGAL EMPOWERMENT by FIDA MOMBASA BRANCH**



FIDA Representative Mombasa empowering widows about their legal rights during Post-International Widows Day Celebration in Rabai, Kilifi County

The legal empowerment session commenced with an introduction to FIDA-Mombasa Branch, a prominent legal aid organization dedicated to promoting and protecting women's rights, including those of widows. The representative emphasized the importance of FIDA's work in providing legal support to vulnerable groups and the commitment to advocating for

widows' rights. One of the key focuses during the empowerment session was Inheritance Rights and Property Ownership for Widows. The representative discussed the legal provisions that protect Widows' rights to inherit property and assets from their deceased spouses. She explained the importance of obtaining proper documentation, such as wills, to safeguard widows' interests and prevent potential disputes over inheritance. Recognizing the challenges many widows face in accessing legal services, the representative highlighted FIDA-Mombasa Branch's role in providing free legal aid to women, including widows. She explained the process of seeking assistance and encouraged widows to reach out for support whenever needed. She shed light on the legal protections available to widows, including those against domestic violence and discrimination. She emphasized the importance of seeking legal assistance in cases of violence or abuse, encouraging widows to Access Justice without fear or hesitation.

## **MESSAGE FROM MADAM PRUDENCE KAI, DIRECTOR HOPES AND DREAMS**



### **CBO**

Emphasizing the theme of the celebration, "Prosperity for Widows" Madam Kai spoke passionately about the need to ensure that widows are not only surviving but thriving. She stressed the significance of Economic Empowerment and Legal Protection in empowering widows to build sustainable livelihoods and lead dignified lives.

*Madam Prudence Kai giving a speech during Post International Widows Day in Rabai, Kilifi County*

efforts and dedication of CTWOO in advocating for Widows' Rights and Welfare. She promised to ensure continued collaboration with CTWOO to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for widows in Kilifi County.

Concluding her speech, Madam Prudence Kai issued a call to action for the Government especially the Office of the MP, to stand in solidarity with widows by working hand in hand to remove barriers that hinder widows from accessing opportunities and resources.

## **MESSAGE FROM MADAM DIANAH KAMANDE**



She delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking speech. Her words resonated deeply and encouraged a renewed commitment to supporting widows in their journey towards Prosperity and Empowerment. Her dedication to the cause of widows served as a driving force in the collective effort to create a brighter and more equitable future for widows in Kilifi County.

She shared her vision for a future where Widows are Empowered, Educated, and Economically Independent. She expressed her commitment to continue advocating for Widows' Rights and Welfare, fostering a society that embraces and supports them.

She urged the community to appreciate and celebrate the strength of widows, recognizing their invaluable contributions in the society to make them feel valued, loved and appreciated by the community. She concluded her speech by stressing on a Call for Unity especially among the Rabai Constituency Member of Parliament Office to stand firm in supporting widows so as to ensure that they live a happy and fulfilling life.



## **MESSAGE FROM THE MP-HON. KENGA WEHU**



As the Rabai Constituency MP, Honourable Wehu assured the audience of the government's commitment to the welfare of widows.

He emphasized the theme of the celebration, "Prosperity for Widows," and underscored the need for collective efforts to empower widows. He

recognized the resilience and strength demonstrated by widows and pledged to work towards creating an enabling environment for their prosperity.

He stressed that widows are an integral part of society and should be treated with dignity and respect where he urged the community to embrace widows and provide them with emotional support and a sense of belonging.

Concluding his speech, the MP pledged his commitment to advocating for widows' rights and welfare. He assured the widows that he would continue working closely with relevant stakeholders to create sustainable solutions for widows' empowerment.

In conclusion, the involvement of esteemed organizations like FIDA-Mombasa, led by dedicated legal experts, underscored the importance of legal empowerment in safeguarding widows' rights. Their valuable insights and guidance on inheritance rights, property ownership, and available legal protections offered a ray of hope to widows seeking justice and equal opportunities.

The Celebration set a precedent for future initiatives and highlighted the need for continued advocacy and support for widows within the community. It also served as a reminder that widows are not defined by their losses but by their strength and determination to rebuild their lives and secure a better future for their families.



## CONCLUSION

The Post-International Widows Day Celebrations were a resounding success, leaving a profound impact on the lives of widows in these diverse regions. Under the theme "**Prosperity For Widows**," the celebrations aimed to honour and empower widows, advocating for their rights, and fostering an environment where they could lead dignified and fulfilling lives.

Together with its partners, CTWOO demonstrated unwavering dedication and commitment to Supporting Widows. The multi-county approach allowed for a comprehensive outreach, reaching widows from various backgrounds and communities, ensuring that no widow was left unnoticed or unsupported.

Through these Celebrations, CTWOO got encouraged and reminded to carry the spirit of ensuring that the theme of "Prosperity For Widows" remains at the forefront of its efforts to Uplift and Empower Widows in the days to come.

