

Summary Report

Q&A; Summary: Analytical Overview of Femicide Reporting in Kenya (January 1–31, 2024)

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1. What is femicide?

Femicide is defined as the intentional murder of women because they are women. It is a global issue driven by gender inequality, discrimination, and harmful social norms.

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2. What is the current state of femicide in Kenya?

- 1 ****Statistics****: In 2023, 150 femicide cases were reported, with over 500 cases recorded between 2016 and 2023. In January 2024 alone, at least 10 women were killed.
- 1 ****Trends****: Intimate partner violence and stranger killings are prevalent, with methods like stabbing, hacking, and strangulation being common. Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nakuru counties report the highest cases.
- 1 ****Global Context****: Africa recorded 20,000 femicide cases in 2022, the highest globally.

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**3. How has the media covered femicide in Kenya?

- 1 ****Role of Media****: The media has been instrumental in setting the agenda, raising awareness, and pressuring authorities to act. It has provided platforms for discussions involving human rights groups, activists, and experts.
- 1 ****Challenges****: Some media outlets, like Anguo FM, Taifa Leo, The Star, and Kiss FM, have been criticized for sensational, inaccurate, and insensitive reporting, including victim-blaming and graphic details.
- 1 ****Ethical Concerns****: Violations of the Code of Conduct for Journalism, such as intrusion into grief and lack of sensitivity, were noted.

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**4. What legal frameworks address femicide in Kenya?

- 1 ****Constitution of Kenya****: Guarantees the right to life, equality, and protection from violence (Articles 26, 27, 28, and 43).
- 1 ****Acts of Parliament****:
 - 1 ***Sexual Offences Act (2006)***: Criminalizes sexual violence.
 - 1 ***Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011)***: Bans harmful cultural practices.
 - 1 ***Children's Act (2022)***: Protects children from abuse.
- 1 ****International Conventions****: Kenya is a party to treaties like CEDAW, the Maputo Protocol, and the Convention Against Torture, which mandate action against gender-based violence.
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****5. What are the key findings from media content analysis?****

- 1 ****Broadcast Media****: Coverage of high-profile cases like Scarlet Wahu and Rita Waeni was extensive, but some outlets engaged in victim-blaming and sensationalism.
- 1 ****Print Media****: Headlines in outlets like Taifa Leo and The Star were criticized for being insensitive and graphic.
- 1 ****Digital Media****: Hashtags like #EndFemicideKE and #SilencingWomen trended, highlighting public outrage and calls for justice.
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****6. What are the recommendations for improving femicide reporting?****

- 1 ****Adherence to Ethics****: Media should follow the Code of Conduct for Journalism, avoiding sensationalism and respecting victims' dignity.
- 1 ****Expert Involvement****: More engagement with psychologists, activists, and legal experts to provide context and solutions.
- 1 ****Government Action****: Strengthen legal frameworks, ensure swift justice, and implement preventive measures.
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****7. What is the conclusion of the report?****

The media played a crucial role in highlighting femicide, but some outlets fell short of ethical standards. Accurate, sensitive, and professional reporting is essential to combat femicide effectively. The government must also take decisive action to address the root causes and ensure justice for victims.

This summary captures the key points of the report, focusing on the definition, trends, media coverage, legal frameworks, and recommendations for addressing femicide in Kenya.