

Summary Report

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

Q1: What is femicide?

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

Q2: What is the current state of femicide in Kenya?

A: Kenya has seen a rise in femicide cases, with at least 10 women killed in January 2024 alone. Between 2019 and 2024, 504 women were killed, with Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nakuru counties reporting the highest incidents. The cases often involve intimate partners or strangers, with methods like stabbing, strangulation, and hacking being common.

Q3: How has the media covered femicide in Kenya?

A: The media has played a crucial role in reporting femicide cases, setting the agenda, and creating public awareness. However, some outlets, like Anguo FM, Taifa Leo, The Star, and Kiss FM, have been criticized for unprofessional, sensational, and insensitive reporting.

Q4: What legal frameworks address femicide in Kenya?

A: Kenya's Constitution (Article 26) guarantees the right to life, and other laws like the Sexual Offences Act (2006) and the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2011) address gender-based violence. Kenya is also party to international treaties like CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol, which mandate the protection of women's rights.

Q5: What are the key findings from media content analysis?

A: Broadcast and print media extensively covered femicide cases, with TV and radio stations hosting panel discussions and interviews with experts. However, some reports were criticized for victim-blaming, inaccuracy, and insensitivity. Digital media also played a role, with hashtags like

#EndFemicideKE trending.

Q6: What are the ethical concerns in femicide reporting?

A: Some media outlets breached the Code of Conduct for Journalism by publishing sensational headlines, intruding on grief, and failing to protect victims' dignity. For example, Taifa Leo and The Star were cited for explicit and insensitive reporting of gory details.

Q7: What role do institutions and organizations play in addressing femicide?

A: Organizations like FIDA Kenya, the Zamara Foundation, and Usikimye have condemned femicide and called for action. The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) emphasized the need to recognize signs of violence and address root causes like toxic relationships and inadequate parenting.

Q8: What are the recommendations for improving femicide reporting?

A: The Media Council of Kenya urges media outlets to adhere to ethical standards, avoid sensationalism, and report femicide cases with sensitivity and accuracy. The media should also continue to create awareness and provide platforms for expert discussions on addressing femicide.

Q9: What is the conclusion of the report?

A: While the media has been instrumental in highlighting femicide cases and driving public discourse, there is a need for improved professionalism and adherence to ethical guidelines. The media must balance the urgency of breaking news with the responsibility of respecting victims and their families.

Q10: What are the key statistics on femicide in Kenya?

A: Between 2016 and 2023, over 500 femicide cases were reported, with 2018 recording the highest number. In 2023, 150 femicide cases were reported, and in January 2024 alone, at least 10 women were killed. Africa recorded 20,000 femicide cases in 2022, the highest globally.