

Summary Report

The Media Council of Kenya's report on femicide in January 2024 highlights a surge in gender-based killings, with 10 cases reported that month and 150 in 2023, primarily in Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nakuru. Patriarchal norms and gender inequality are key drivers. Media coverage varied: broadcast and digital media amplified awareness and advocacy, though some outlets were criticized for sensationalism and insensitivity. Print media often breached ethical guidelines by publishing explicit details. Kenya's legal framework offers protections, but enforcement is weak. Civil society and government responses included calls to declare femicide a national disaster and measures to regulate short-term rentals. Challenges in reporting include sensationalism and inadequate systemic analysis. The report recommends strengthening media ethics, improving collaboration, and enhancing data collection to combat femicide effectively.