

Summary Report

The **Media Council of Kenya** published an **Analytical Overview of Femicide Reporting in Kenya** for January 2024, highlighting the alarming rise in femicide cases and the media's role in addressing the issue. Femicide, defined as the intentional killing of women because they are women, has become a significant concern in Kenya, with over 500 cases reported between 2016 and 2023. The report emphasizes the media's critical role in raising awareness, setting the agenda, and pressuring authorities to act, while also critiquing instances of sensationalism and unprofessional reporting.

Key Points:

1. **Rising Femicide Cases**: January 2024 saw a spike in femicide cases, including high-profile murders like those of **Scarlet Wahu** and **Rita Waeni**, prompting national outrage and calls for action.
2. **Media's Role**: The media played a crucial role in informing the public, hosting discussions, and advocating for justice. However, some outlets, like **Anguo FM**, **Taifa Leo**, **The Star**, and **Kiss FM**, were criticized for insensitive and sensational reporting.
3. **Legal Framework**: Kenya's Constitution and international conventions protect women's rights, but gaps in enforcement and preventive measures remain.
4. **Media Content Analysis**: Broadcast, print, and digital media extensively covered femicide, with hashtags like **#EndFemicideKE** trending. However, some coverage lacked sensitivity, victim-blaming, and accurate reporting.
5. **Institutional Responses**: Organizations like **FIDA Kenya**, **Zamara Foundation**, and **Usikimye** condemned femicide, while government bodies like the **Ministry of Tourism** and **Airbnb** addressed safety concerns in short-term rentals.
6. **Ethical Concerns**: The report calls for adherence to the **Code of Conduct for Journalism**, emphasizing accuracy, sensitivity, and respect for victims' dignity.
7. **Conclusion**: While the media effectively highlighted femicide, some outlets fell short of ethical standards. The Media Council urged professionalism and adherence to ethical guidelines in reporting.

The report underscores the need for comprehensive measures to combat femicide and calls for responsible media coverage to drive societal change.