

Summary Report

The Media Council of Kenya published an analytical overview of femicide reporting in Kenya from January 1st to January 31st, 2024. The report highlights the rising cases of femicide, defined as the intentional murder of women because they are women, and emphasizes the need for intervention by all stakeholders, including the media. The media has played a crucial role in reporting these cases, pressuring government organs to act, and raising public awareness. However, some media outlets have been criticized for unprofessional, sensational, and insensitive reporting.

The report includes a legal analysis, referencing the Kenyan Constitution, Acts of Parliament, and international conventions that protect women's rights and address gender-based violence. It also provides a media content analysis, examining broadcast, print, and digital media coverage of femicide cases. The analysis reveals that while some media outlets adhered to ethical standards, others engaged in victim-blaming and sensationalism.

Key femicide cases, such as the murders of Scarlet Wahu and Rita Waeni, received significant media attention, prompting national debates and calls for action. The report concludes that while the media has been effective in setting the agenda and providing accurate reporting, there is a need for improved adherence to ethical standards and continued efforts to combat femicide. The Media Council of Kenya calls for professionalism and sensitivity in reporting to better address this critical issue.