

Summary of the PDF

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 bodies 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. It also examines media content, noting that while many outlets adhered to ethical standards, some failed to maintain sensitivity and accuracy, particularly in cases like the murders of Scarlet Wahu and Rita Waeni. The media's role in setting the agenda, hosting panel discussions, and following up on cases is acknowledged, but there is a call for more ethical reporting and long-term engagement to address the root causes of femicide. The report concludes that while the media has been instrumental in informing and educating the public about femicide, there is a need for improved adherence to professional standards to avoid sensationalism and insensitivity. The Media Council of Kenya urges media outlets to follow the code of conduct and maintain integrity in their reporting.