

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 150 reported in 2023 and at least 10 cases in January 2024 alone. Between 2019 and 2024, 504 women were killed. Nairobi, Kiambu, and Nakuru counties report the highest incidences.

Q3: How has the media covered femicide in Kenya?

A: The media has played a critical 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.

Q5: What are the ethical concerns in media reporting on femicide?

A: Concerns include victim-blaming, sensationalism, and privacy violations. For example, some media outlets used insensitive headlines or discussed victims' personal lives, breaching the Code of Conduct for Kenyan journalists.

Q6: What role do institutions and organizations play in combating 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) has also emphasized the need for awareness and support systems.

Q7: How has social media responded to femicide?

A: Hashtags like #SilencingWomen, #TotalShutdownKE, and #EndFemicideKE trended, with activists, leaders, and organizations calling for justice and gender equality. Social media has been a platform for advocacy but also faces issues like trolling and harassment.

Q8: What are the key findings from media content analysis?

A: Media coverage was consistent and focused, with platforms like Citizen TV and NTV hosting panel discussions. However, some outlets failed to adhere to ethical standards, publishing sensational or inaccurate reports.

Q9: What recommendations are made to improve femicide reporting?

A: The Media Council of Kenya urges media outlets to adhere to professionalism and the Code of Conduct, ensuring accurate, sensitive, and ethical reporting on femicide.

Q10: What is the conclusion of the report?

A: While the media has been instrumental in raising awareness about femicide, there is a need for improved adherence to ethical standards to avoid sensationalism and victim-blaming. The report calls for sustained efforts to address the root causes of femicide and ensure justice for victims.