

REPORTING PEACE AND SECURITY

JOURNALISTS' HANDBOOK

ON UN RESOLUTIONS 1325 AND 1820



**REPORTING PEACE AND SECURITY:
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UN RESOLUTIONS 1325 AND 1820**

Reporting on women, peace and security

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Feature Service (AWCFS)**

Acknowledgements

This handbook on reporting Women, Peace and Security comes at time when Kenya and her neighbouring countries have been experiencing various levels of conflict and insecurity in their territories. The handbook is designed to improve the reporting of conflict, peace and security processes from a gender perspective and to appreciate the role of women in this critical processes and happenings. To this end, our sincere thanks go to journalists and editors whose constant feedback and views on coverage of peace and security issues informed the design of this handbook.

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Forward

The 2007/2008 post election violence was a watershed to the many sectors of the Kenyan society. One of the key sectors which was affected both professionally and financially by this violence was the media. How the journalists covered the pre, during and post- elections events, played a key role to what happened during and after the violence, and to the realization of justice for the victims. Indeed, the media was accused of fueling violence that almost ripped the country apart. One of the media practitioners is currently facing charges at the International Criminal Court for contributing to the violence.

The media was also accused for failing to expose the violations that women and children experienced during the violence. Journalists were accused of being gender blind as they covered the impact of this conflict on women, children and men. In most of the cases, the conflict was covered through the eyes of the men. As a result, there are still hundreds of voiceless women and children who are still suffering in silence. Their issues are yet to get the due visibility they deserve. Nevertheless, the experiences of the conflict and how media covered it brought to the fore the lack of skills and know how among many media practitioners on how to report conflict, peace and security issues.

A major gap was lack of knowledge on the existence of international and national instruments on protection of women during conflict and their involvement in peace processes after the war. Little references were made to these instruments. They were was also clear evidence majority of the media practitioners lacked the skills on how best to bring out gender perspectives when reporting conflict, peace and security processes.

Journalists who were interviewed said they did not have a tool to guide them to do just that. This lack of skills and knowledge products, emerged as a major gap that contributes to the poor coverage of gender dimensions in the many conflicts and peace processes happening the country. One of the key documents that many of the media practitioners did not have an idea about, and which would have informed how they reported gender issues during conflict and post-conflict times, was the United Nations Resolutions 1325 and 1820. This resolutions offer a powerful perspective on women issues during conflict times and their participation in peace and security processes before, during and after the conflict.

The initiative by African Woman and Child Feature to develop a handbook that looks at the two UN Resolutions and the Kenya National Action Plan that is to operationalize these resolutions is aimed at filling this knowledge gap. The handbook also provides journalists with tips on how to cover conflict and peace issues from a gender perspective. It gives examples of articles that have done some justice towards covering these issues through a gender lens. In the book we also discuss the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are going to succeed the Millennium Development Goals, which come to an end in 2015. The SDGs recognize gender and peace and security as key elements for sustainable development.

It is my hope this handbook will enrich the resourceful materials that have been designed to guide media practitioners on how they engage and report on conflict, peace and security issues through a gender lens. I also my hope this book will help change the narrative on conflict and peace issues in the media to show the positive contributions made by women in addressing these issues.

Arthur Okwemba



Executive Director, African Woman and Child Feature Service

Preface

Why a journalists' handbook on UN Resolutions 1325 and 1820?

The role of the media in promoting peace and security in the country for the past 50 years cannot be overemphasized. This is what has informed the idea of coming up with a handbook for members of the Fourth Estate to use when reporting on issues of peace and security within the framework of United Nations Resolutions, 1325 and 1820.

Kenya now enjoys a more robust media environment with many media outlets, making the media occupy a central place in enhancing national dialogue and setting the agenda for national discourse. In the process, the media is influencing the pace and tempo of national development.

This handbook comes at an opportune time six years after the country's darkest hour when over 1,000 people were killed during Post-Election Violence (PEV) in 2007 which also left over 600,000 people displaced and property worth billions of shillings either looted or destroyed, especially in the expansive Rift Valley region. Media was accused of playing a key role in fuelling the violence.

Since then, one of the three suspects who have been indicted at the International Criminal Court at The Hague in Netherlands is a journalist, who was a producer for a vernacular radio station, Kass FM. Joshua Sang, like his co-accused President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President, William Ruto, have all denied the charges leveled against them that they played a key role in the PEV.

This handbook will help journalists to look at the issues of conflict, peace building and security in a more soberly and informed manner. It is instructive to note that the gender perspective in peace and security reporting has been emphasized in the two UN Resolutions and KNAP.

This is because the agenda-setting role of the media and journalists, and the investigative and information dissemination roles have become more important in helping citizens influence the affairs of the various levels of government and ensuring the leaders are accountable and transparent.

It is expected that this handbook will be a useful tool for all journalists across the country and beyond in helping them report on security and peace issues in more informative and compelling manner. Further, the handbook will enable the journalists appreciate the Kenya National Action Plan which is implementing UN Resolutions, 1325 and 1820.

Definition of terms

Conflict: Conflict is a state of open, often prolonged fighting or a state of disagreement or disharmony between persons or ideas. Academic Leadership Support defines conflict as disagreement through which the parties involved perceive a threat to their needs, interests or concerns.

Security: A state of being free from danger or threat.

Peace: Freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquility. Freedom from or the cessation of war or violence

Peace building: A range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development. Peace building strategies must be coherent and tailored to the specific needs of the country concerned, based on national ownership, and should comprise a carefully prioritized, sequenced, and relatively narrow set of activities aimed at achieving the above objectives (a 2007 definition by United Nations, Secretary-General's Policy Committee on peace building).

Gender: Is about socially constructed roles, attributes, and other behaviours assigned to women and men by the society, and which change over time.

Sex: Is the biological differences between men and women. It does not focus on roles but on physical and biological differences between the two genders.

Gender mainstreaming: Is about appreciating the gaps between women and men and then making their experiences and situations an integral part of programmes, policies, budgets, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation processes; to ensure that the benefits from any processes accrue to both of them equally

Gender sensitive: In public and private spheres, gender sensitivity means acknowledging the differences or gaps between women and men; and their respective needs in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes or policies.

1.0

Understanding UN Resolutions 1325 and 1820

The significance of these Resolutions

A Summary of the Resolution 1325

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted by the UN Security Council on 31st October 2000. The resolution focuses on women, peace, and security. Through the resolution, the international community has acknowledged the impact of conflict on the lives of women and recognized the importance of women's contribution and active participation as agents of peace in conflict prevention, peace-keeping, conflict resolution, and peace-building.

Countries that have ratified the resolution are expected to domesticate it by developing national plans to guide their implementation. Kenya has done so by developing a National Action Plan on the implementation of the Resolutions 1325 and 1820.

While Kenyan women have continued to be vigorously engaged in governance and peace talks, advocacy against sexual and gender-based violence during, and after conflict; the involvement has not been meaningful.

Yet, the country continues to experience increased outbreaks of violent conflict as a result of elections, terrorism, piracy, militia and secessionist groups, climate change, and other issues, posing a challenge to the country's stability.

These conflicts continue to compromise women's security, making them vulnerable to violations. Majority of these women bear the greatest burden of war: gender-based and sexual violence, the loss of livelihoods, and mass displacement.

While covering conflict and peace processes, journalists need to note the following key provisions of the United Nations Resolution 1325, also abbreviated as UNSCR 1325: The resolution;

- Recognizes the centrality of gender in approaches to international peace and security and focuses on impact of armed conflict on women.
- Places the security concerns of women in situations of armed conflict and their roles in peace-building on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council.
- Recognizes the importance of women's contributions to conflict prevention, peace-keeping, conflict resolution, and peace-building.
- Notes that the contributions of women have historically been undervalued and underutilized.
- Stresses the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security discourses and processes.

To underline the importance of this recognition, the UN Security Council said in a press statement on 8 March 2000:

"Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men... and if women are to play an equal part in security and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically, and represented adequately at all levels of decision making, both at the pre-conflict stage and during hostilities, as well as at the point of peacekeeping, peace building, reconciliation, and reconstruction."

Resolution 1325 brings to the world's attention three important concerns:

- The disproportionate number of women and girls affected by armed conflict and the necessity to protect them in conflict and post-conflict settings.
- The under-representation of women in conflict resolution and peace-building activities and the importance of promoting women's participation in all processes related to peace and security.
- The imperative to mainstream a gender perspective in all aspects of peace-keeping operations and in the peace and security architecture of states and the United Nations system.

In helping advocate for the implementation of these important concerns, the media becomes a critical tool for doing so. However, for the media to cover this resolution effectively, journalists need to undertake a number of things. The following are some the tips the media can use to cover UN Resolution 1325:

- Journalists should familiarize themselves with the details of this Resolution to ensure in-depth and informed coverage of gender perspectives of conflict and peace processes.
- Journalists should ensure they cover peace and security issues through a gender lens and within the framework of Resolutions 1325.
- They should seek to know how gender has been mainstreamed in peace structures. For example, how many members of the mediation and/or peace committees are women? How many programmes on reconstruction are gender specific.
- Journalists should carry profiles of women members of peace committees to make them visible and celebrate the role women play in peace and security processes.
- Journalists need to use their skills to come up with news, news features, and analysis focusing on the conflict, its implication on women, and their role in such a process.
- The article/programme on radio and/or TV should highlight voices of local opinion leaders, both male and female, who are respected to give the news credibility, relevance and sense of identity.
- Journalists should study the case and role of Graca Machel, Former South African First Lady, both in Mozambique and in South Africa. Her crucial role in the Kenyan mediation talks between President Mwai Kibaki of PNU and Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, following the 2007/8 post elections violence. Her colleagues were members of the African Union's group of eminent persons, namely former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, and Former Tanzanian President, Benjamin Mkapa.
- Journalists should also study the roles of other prominent Kenyan women who have played key roles in national peacekeeping and reconciliation. They include former Cabinet ministers Martha Karua (Constitutional Affairs) and Dr Sally Kosgei (Agriculture), who members of the team that was involved in the signing of National Accord and Reconciliation Pact between the two sides.
- At the local level in the 47 Counties, many women have also since the PEV stuck out their necks by actively participating in peace committees and forums. They include world renowned athlete Tecla Leroupe, who has been a UN peace and goodwill ambassador in addition to launching an annual peace marathon event in her Rift Valley region to bring the warring Pokots and Turkana communities together and to coexist in peace.

Sample relevant story

As tears dry in uneasy Mpeketoni, residents confront cold reality.

(This story speaks to the issues raised in the UN Resolution 1820)

By SAMWEL BORN MAINA (Monday, August 25, 2014)

John Otuke was having a nice, hearty evening with his wife, Rachel Okello on a warm evening earlier this year when the unthinkable happened.

After a day out and about in Mpeketoni, Lamu County, he had brought home a few corrugated iron sheets for the new family home he was building. The cosmopolitan nature of the area had given them a reason to believe that they could find a better life here, hence the plans for a more permanent, iron-roofed home.

The family was about to retire to bed when three men barged into their small house. Frightened, Otuke stood up to shield his family. The men asked him for his gun, and he told them he had never owned a gun in his life. They told him he must be joking and asked him to step out.

"I heard them ask him whether he knew that we were living here illegally," Rachel remembers, "and that's when I knew things were about to get thick. Suddenly, I was no longer picturing life in a new house anymore, but life in a new land where I felt was welcome to stay."

The men tied her husband's hands behind his back and started pushing him into the dark. He pleaded with them to allow him to stay with his family only one night, promising to pack and leave the next morning. But he was wasting his time...

The night was dark, its eerie calm broken every now and then by the wails and laughs of the nocturnal animals that shared the skies with the Otukes. And it was into that crawly darkness and ghostly calmness of the Mpeketoni night that Otuke disappeared, his pleas having fallen into deaf ears.

As he was led away, he turned back one last time to look at his family. His wife had stepped out of the house, but their eyes could not meet. Behind her, the silhouettes of their five children stooped in a combination of shame and terror; shame that they could do nothing to rescue their father, and terror that this might be the last image they will ever see him.

A short while later, the attackers came back and asked for Otuke's mobile phone. Rachel handed them the gadget, all the while pleading with them to spare her husband's life since she was cooperating with them.

After they left, she called neighbours on her mobile phone to seek help. Every call that was answered shattered her heart with the pain of 1,000 hammer

blows to the chest.

The attackers were rounding off all the men at Block 270, the disputed piece of land where hundreds had squatted for years, and herding them into a nearby forest. Some villagers had called the police, but it was not clear whether help, any sort of help, would arrive in time.

The women and their children, knowing all too well that the gunmen would knock on their doors again, scampered into the forest. A few minutes later, a police officer called one of them and promised them that a squad was being mobilised to rescue their husbands.

"That was such great news," remembers Rachel. "Help was coming, my husband would be back in my arms in a matter of minutes."

But that help never came. At midnight, two hours after the gunmen first struck, the ominous sound of gunfire cracked the air; the execution had begun.

They were going to kill all the men they had frog-marched into the forest, and they were going to do it the most brutal way. With their hands still tied to their back, the men had been ordered to stand shoulder to shoulder, like soldiers at ease, before the gunmen started shooting them. One by one. On the head. At close range.

No one will ever know what was going through the minds of those helpless men, herded into the thickest part of the forest by their captors, their wives and children praying for them, and then, like targets on a shooting range, being felled one by one.

"I don't even want to think about it," says Peter Kabita, probably the luckiest man alive in Mpeketoni today. Kabita, like the tens of men executed here, had been ordered into the forest, his hands tied with a rope at his back.

As they weaved their way into the slaughtering field, a mosquito bit him on his back. Now, if you have been to Mpeketoni, you know how irritating the mosquitoes of this coastal region can be. They are slightly bigger than those on the highlands, their bites more itchy. And one had just bitten a man on his way to his death.

Kabita instinctively reached out to scratch his back; and at that moment discovered that the knot at the back was not as tight as his captors thought. He could release himself if he tried, and he had but a few minutes to steal that chance. He timed the moment well, waiting until the men holding automatic rifles behind him lost concentration and then bolting into the night.

"One of the gunmen followed me but I melted into the dense forest," he says. "I had keenly listened to them as they conversed in a mixture of Kisomali and Kiswahili to know what they had in mind about us, and I knew they were going to kill us. They knew us by our names, and when you have a captor who knows you that well, it is never a good sign."

From his hiding point, Kabita watched as the gunmen ordered their captives to stop, consulted among themselves, lined them up and started shooting.

He could have been among those men facing the barrel of a gun, but his feet had saved him. But was it worth it? He wondered to himself. How would life be after all this?

Could Mpeketoni, the once peaceful area known more for its fertile soils and cosmopolitan streak, offer him the peace of mind he had known since he settled here?

The place had changed. Gunmen were having a party here and the police seemed clueless about how to ward them off. Every night women and their children would leave the warmth of their homes and head to the forests, and every morning they would make the long journey back, jumping over the bodies of men they had called husbands, fathers and brothers along the way.

In Nairobi, the government announced the deployment of additional police officers to the area. More boots on the ground gave Kabita and Rachel a sliver of hope, but the killings continued.

The nation, tired of the gory images coming from

Mpeketoni, demanded an end to the madness, described by the government as politically motivated. But the bodies kept piling up. Forty-eight in one night. And then tens here, and tens there.

Then, as suddenly as it had all started, all went quiet. The hundreds of families displaced from their homes emerged from their hideouts and headed back home to find nothing. Their houses had been razed and their farms plundered.

Last week we found these fractured families trying to rebuild their lives. They still do not know what hit them, and the government has not been helpful in the search for answers.

There is anger in Mpeketoni. The village paths are deserted, the energy sapped from the spring of the people. The green of the trees, however, still survives; but it is soiled by the red of blood. It will be a long, long time before this land forgets the killing orgies of June 2014, and Kabita hopes to be alive to see that great day.

Rachel, on the other hand, just buried her husband. The tears have dried from her eyes, but the last image of her love being frog - marched to his death still haunts her. She finds comfort in their children, but the dreams of moving into a new house are now gone.

There are more pressing issues to deal with now, stuff like where to get the next meal, or who will help her repair the leak on her roof before the rains come.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/lifestyle/DN2/The-scars-of-Mpeketoni-/-/957860/2430546/-/104yxyhz/-/index.html>

Story analysis:

This is a very well researched and written story about the ordeal some of the victims, both men, women and children of the Mpeketoni terrorist attack. It has strong gender perspectives. The writer highlights the peaceful environment before the raiders stormed in and caused mayhem by targeting only men and frog matching them away from their wives, mothers and sisters and daughters. It makes a reader come face to face with the ugly head of insecurity and terrorists in particular. Thank God that the women and girls were not raped and/or defiled, but the mental torture they underwent seeing their male relatives whisked away into the dark forest to be massacred was bad enough. But this article also shows how women are left windows and children orphans when their sole breadwinner is killed. It also shows how war destroys the economic empowerment of women. One of the women interviewees says she called the police but there was no action to save her life. All her life time savings and property in her house was either looted and /or gutted by the raiders reducing her to a beggar. These are the problems UN Resolution 1820 addresses. The writer of this article has gone out of his way to do justice to the security, development and gender issues. But he would have an even better narration if he referenced to this UN Resolution.



Journalists listen keenly during workshop on peace and security in Isiolo County

UN Resolution 1820

This resolution was adopted by the UN Security Council on 19 June 2008. Through this resolution, the Security Council reaffirmed its commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1325 of 2000.

Resolution 1820 focuses on offering security, ending impunity, and ensuring the protection of civilians, in particular women and girls, during and after armed conflicts, in accordance with the obligations States have undertaken under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Journalists need to note the resolution's key commitments made earlier:

- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as those contained in the outcome document of the 23rd Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled: "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century", in particular, those concerning sexual violence and women in situations of armed conflict;
- The obligations of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The UN continues to urge all states to consider ratifying or acceding to these resolutions and statements in recognition that civilians are the worst affected by armed conflict and that women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence, including as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instill fear in, disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group.

The two resolutions aim to do the following:

- **Strengthen women's participation in decision making – UNSCR 1325:** It calls for strengthening women's agency as peace-makers and peace-builders, including their participation in conflict-prevention and peace processes, early recovery, governance, and peace operations.
- **Ending sexual violence and impunity – UNSCR 1820:** It calls for an end to widespread conflict-related sexual violence and for accountability in order to end impunity.

Tips for journalists on how to cover UN Resolution 1820:

- Study and use Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as background information.
- Focus stories on gender, equality, development and peace.
- Highlight stories on sexual violence and women in situations of armed conflict. Military operations in Kenya and neighbouring Somalia can be cited as examples of best and/or worst practices.
- Local examples of military operations in Kapedo in Baringo County, in Mpeketoni in Lamu County, and in Mandera County can be compared with the controversial Mt Elgon operation to flush out SDF rebels and in Nairobi's Eastleigh residential to flush out suspected Al Shabaab members and supporters.
- Use Constitution as reference to promote The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and the rights of the child.

Sample story

Man loses two sisters in Mandera bus massacre (UN Resolution 1820)

By Cyrus Ombati (November 24th 2014)

For Kinoti Mutenja, losing two sisters at one go pierced his heart like an arrow. His sisters, Fridah Kathambi, 30, and Winfred Karimi, 28, were among the 28 people massacred by terrorists in Mandera County on Saturday morning. The victims were felled by bullets to the head fired from behind. The two sisters were both teachers in Mandera and had worked there for two years. Each had a child aged six and four respectively, the family said. Mr Kinoti said Winfred was the first one to go to Mandera before she called Fridah to join her. "There were five of us and now we have only one sister left after the two were killed. I can't believe they are dead," said Kinoti as he queued at the mortuary to identify the bodies. He said Winfred called him on Friday to say they would arrive in Nairobi on Saturday depending on the road. When he heard through the media that gunmen had ambushed a bus and killed 28 people, the first thing he did was to try to call the two "I tried in vain. I called their friends who confirmed they were no more because they had been killed by the criminals," he said. It is said before Mandera residents travel to Nairobi, they inform their loved ones because of the dangers they might encounter. Among the dead were 22 teachers, one clinical officer, two police officers, a carpenter and a pharmacist, police and medical officials at the mortuary said. Most were aged between 23 and 30. They were heading home for the December holidays after schools closed.

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000142359/man-loses-two-sisters-in-bus-massacre>

Story analysis:

The above news story has been covered well using a gender lens and brings out various aspects of UN Resolution 1325. The writer has identified two of the 28 victims of the Mandera County terrorists attack as female school teachers who were travelling to Nairobi to join their families for the Christmas holiday when their lives were cut short by terrorists. The writer sheds more light to the story by telling readers about the marital status and the number of children they each woman had and how their death is likely to impact on the children. We are also told about the struggles women go through to eke a living and why they need protection when doing so. The story confirms to us that women are now being targeted in conflict areas and by terrorists. Nowhere is safe. But on the other hand the story fails to put the attack in its proper perspective by not giving us voices of peace-keepers, especially if there are any women, to give us a deeper understanding of the security challenges in the North Eastern regional of the country. What is also missing in the story is the broader implication of the war and terror on women, especially in regard to issues of sexual violence.

2.0

Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP):

The Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) was developed to operationalize UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. The process of developing the plan started in 2009 through a consultative process between an inter-ministerial secretariat in partnership with civil society groups. In November 2014, history was made when President Uhuru Kenya appended his signature to the KNAP.

KNAP is a milestone in Kenya's growing security architecture and in the journey towards realizing the two UN Resolutions.

Kenya has continued to benefit from lessons learned by other states in the implementation process of the action plan. In this regard, it has had a 'twinning' process with the Republic of Finland on the Kenya National Action Plan's (KNAP) development and implementation.

In addressing the content of the two resolutions, the KNAP starts by classifying sources of conflict in Kenya into four broad categories:

- Conflicts within pastoral communities
- Conflicts between pastoral and agricultural communities
- Conflicts linked to the presence of refugees (both linked to humanitarian and natural disasters)
- Ethnic/Political clashes or violence

The design and development of the KNAP was a result of efforts by various actors especially the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Development, as well as the various commissions, civil society organizations', and others who have seen this process through.

Others were the National Gender and Equality Commission, who are playing a key role in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820.

KNAP's Key Pillars:

The KNAP is anchored on four pillars that define how the resolutions 1325 and 1820 are to be implemented. These are:

- 1) Pillar 1: Participation and Promotion
- 2) Pillar 2: Prevention
- 3) Pillar 3: Protection
- 4) Pillar 4: Relief and Recovery

Pillar 1: Participation and Promotion

Impact Objective: Active and increased participation of women at all decision-making levels and in all institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.

Below is example what the pillar is addressing. For details please refer to the KNAP.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Laws, policies, and practices that empower women, strengthen and promote gender equality, and eliminate barriers to women's access to justice,	Development and enactment of legislation to implement gender equality and quota provisions in the Constitution of Kenya	Parliament, CIC, KLRC IEBC,NGEC, Judiciary National Land Commission etc
equality, and peace	Providing human, financial, technical, and logistical resources to facilitate women's effective participation in leadership at county and national levels	CSOs Political parties TJRC Donor agencies, development partners KNCHR
IEBC,NGEC, Judiciary	Research on the impact of conflict on Kenya's women and their roles, practices, and involvement in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace-building, and security mechanisms and processes	Academic and research institutions CSOs NGEC

Pillar 2: Prevention

Impact Objective: The prevention of violations against women and girls, in particular the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, discriminatory practices, abuse, and exploitation during all phases of conflict and the incorporation of gender-sensitive approaches to conflict prevention strategies in all processes of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace-building

Below is example what the pillar is addressing. For details please refer to the KNAP.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Improved gender-responsive early warning systems and conflict prevention mechanisms and strategies	Auditing existing early warning and early response mechanisms to determine gender- responsiveness	NGEC, CSOs and other relevant agencies
	Designing and implementing measures and actions that address the specific concerns of women and girls in early warning systems and conflict prevention. Developing the capacity of women to engage in decision-making roles in early warning and prevention mechanisms and processes	CEWARN – IGAD Relevant Government agencies and departments CSOs, NGEC etc
	Research, documentation, and use of existing indigenous and traditional knowledge and women's roles in early warning	Traditional leaders Community women Opinion leaders Researchers and academic Institutions, among others

Pillar 3: Protection

Impact Objective: Protection of women and girls against violence, which negates their safety, personal dignity, and empowerment.

Below is example what the pillar is addressing. For details please refer to the KNAP.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Laws and policies that protect women's and girls' human rights in fragile, conflict, and post-conflict situations	Promulgation, ratification, and implementation of national, regional, and international laws and policies that promote gender equality and women's human rights	Parliament, Judiciary, County governments, Traditional dispute settlement mechanisms KNCHR, NGEC etc
Strengthening efforts to protect all citizens – in particular women and girls and survivors of, and those at risk of, sexual and gender-based violence – in fragile, conflict, and post-conflict situations	Raising awareness among all stakeholders on the constitution and existing laws that protect women and girls	Relevant Government Agencies, CSOs and Private sector
	Establishing and providing operational gender desks in all counties, staffed by personnel with gender expertise pertaining to sexual and gender-based violence	Relevant govt agencies; e.g NPS, CAJ, KMA KMWA, etc
	Deploying adequate and suitably qualified police doctors/medical practitioners to each county	CSOs, Private sector FBOs, CBOs
	Establishing and supporting rapid response mechanisms for sexual and gender-based violence survivors at county and national levels	

Sample relevant story**50 armed bandits raze 30 houses, steal goats in Baringo North**

Monday, December 15, 2014

BY NANCY AGUTU AND JOSEPH KANGONGO

Fifty armed bandits suspected to be from the Pokot community raided four villages in Baringo North sub county burning thirty houses on Sunday night. The bandits reportedly raided Barsuswo, Kakir, Ngaratuko and Natan villages and stole 500 goats.

Bartabwa Ward MCA Reuben Chepsongoi said the attackers looted 33 houses in Barsuswo and Ngaratuko but that no one was injured since more than 3,000 residents fled the area last week. "With over 100 families seeking refuge in Sibilo, Koroto and Kipsaraman camps, leaflets were issued to them notifying them of a retaliatory action that was going to take place to avenge the cold blooded killing of their own sharp shooter, Peter Kokoon and his son," Chepsongoi said.

He was speaking at Koloa Trading Centre in Tiaty Sub County on Sunday. Chepsongoi said the bandits threatened to cut off the head of a politician from the Tugen community for a healing sacrifice, noting however that government intervention would prevent any more killings and restore calm. Leaders urged the Pokot community not to seek revenge for the killing of the ex soldier and his son, pursuing reconciliation instead. The two were shot dead on Sunday last week as they drove to their farmhouse in Mochongoi. The attackers later burned their car with their bodies inside.

Kokoon is said to have represented Kenya in Commonwealth games before he was murdered.

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Story analysis

This story captures the issues raised in the Kenya National Action Plan very well. The affected area, Kapedo, is in Baringo County and borders Pokot County, whose residents are pastoralists, like their Baringo neighbours. Cattle-rustling is the order of the day in this area and it is common to hear of violent attacks between the communities which leave a number of victims killed, maimed and/or displaced from their villages. The raiders seem to fear no one not even the police! This is the same area where armed raiders killed 24 armed police officers mid this year and fled with hundreds of head of cattle two years after massacring another 40 armed police officers who were pursuing them to recover stolen cattle. During the exercise, area leaders and residents complained that the Kenya Defence Forces had used excessive force, harassed women and children forcing some families to move out of the area. But the story left some gaps that are relevant: these are voices from the local populace saying what they have been doing in the peace committees and whether traditional conflict resolutions methods have been tried to resolve the perennial clashes between the Pokot, Turkana and Ilchamus among others. The story was gender blind as no women was identified and/or quoted, yet there are women Members of County Assembly in the area.

Pillar 4: Relief and Recovery

Impact Objective: Effective, substantive, and timely participation of women in the design and implementation of relief and recovery programmes, including, where relevant, disarmament and demobilization programmes that meet the specific needs and concerns of women and girls

Below is example what the pillar is addressing. For details please refer to the KNAP.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
Promoting a gender perspective and ensuring the inclusion and participation of women in humanitarian, early recovery, relief, and peace-building programmes, with a particular focus on refugee and internally displaced women and girls	Implementation of policies that incorporate women's perspectives into relief, recovery, reintegration, reparation, and reconciliation efforts	Relevant Govt Ministries and agencies, UN agencies, AU, ICRC KLRC, NCIC CEWARN – IGAD

Note: Journalists should refer to the Kenya National Action Plan for full details.

Tips to journalists on how to cover Kenya National Action Plan:

- Look out for perennial conflicts within pastoral communities where cattle-rustling is the norm rather than the exception.
- Another area of conflict is between agriculturalists and pastoralists over pasture and watering holes.
- Other areas to focus on are the land, ethnic and political clashes that mostly gravitate around the General elections every five years. Peace committees are best to use to monitor the political temperature in an area.
- Look out for proactive measures put in place in order to prevent violence which leaves women and children most affected physically and psychologically in addition to being displaced.
- Study the emerging security related issues such as terrorism and radicalization of the youths. The cases of new policies and legislation to deal with the sophisticated security threats should be focused on.



Journalists listen keenly during workshop on peace and security in Isiolo County

3.0

Local Processes and Instruments that support UN Resolutions 1325 & 1820:

For implementation, the KNAP primarily relies on national mechanisms, institutions and the active engagement and collaboration of civil society organizations and the private sector to deliver on the promises of UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

These instruments include:

- The Constitution of Kenya (2010).
- Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development-revised in 2011. Is a comprehensive framework for guiding gender mainstreaming within the various sectors and line ministries.
- The National Gender and Equality Act (2011) established the National Gender and Equality Commission, pursuant to Article 59 of the Constitution.
- The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Act (2011) operationalizes the Kenya National Human Rights and Equality Commission, established under Section 59 of the Constitution.
- The Sexual Offences Act (2006) broadens the protection of women and girls from sexual abuse and harassment. This legislation introduces 14 new offences, including gang rape, child prostitution, and trafficking for sexual exploitation.
- Vision 2030 (2008–2030) is Kenya's long-term national planning strategy. Developed through an inclusive consultative process, Vision 2030 aims to transform Kenya into an Industrialized Middle Income country by the year 2030.
- The National Accord and Reconciliation Act (2008) was enacted following the PEV in 2007/2008 and was concluded under the auspices of the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation framework mediated by Kofi Annan and other eminent African personalities.
- The Rome Statute (1998): Kenya acceded to this in March 2005 and has enacted implementing legislation, specifically the International Crimes Act (2008). The Rome Statute and Kenya's implementing legislation represent a significant step towards overcoming the discriminatory and inadequate treatment of gender-based and sexual violence crimes under international law. The Rome Statute includes gender-based crimes as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

3.1 Strategies of the Kenya National Action Plan:

The goal of the KNAP is to mainstream UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 into national development, diplomacy, gender, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace, security, and reconciliation strategies and to ensure the implementation of existing commitments by Government. To address the cycle of violent conflicts, the KNAP is also designed to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, participation, and leadership in public affairs at all levels. In this regard, KNAP responses are supposed to include the promotion of the following:

- Women's empowerment in all spheres of public life;
- Measures to combat corruption in the public sector, restore governance and rule of law, and reform security sector institutions;
- Measures to promote the proper management and utilization of natural and national resources;
- Measures to address gender, economic, and social inequalities and the marginalization of certain citizen groups and geographical regions;
- Measures to address institutional and structural failures.

4.0

The Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 global development agenda

During the United Nations Millennium Development Summit in 2000, 189 countries made a number of commitments which were expected to be achieved by 2015. The UN adopted the MDGs as a global strategy for achieving rapid development to address a number of key issues facing countries and mankind. These commitments were set down in the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These were:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
7. Develop a global partnership for development
8. Ensure environmental sustainability

Progress has been made in achieving the MDGs, but not in all areas. Some progress has been made with some goals than with others. Gender inequality and violence against women continue to be one of the areas where major gaps remain.

4.1 Post-2015 global development agenda

With the coming to an end of the MDGs at the end of 2015, the UN initiated a new global development agenda with clear, compelling and measurable goals for every country – for example, total eradication of extreme poverty by 2030. This is one of the recommendations in 'A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development', the report issued by the High Level Panel on the Post-2013 Development Agenda.

International negotiations on the future agenda are under way and by September 2015, every UN member-state is expected to approve the new development agenda that has come to be known as the Sustainable Development Goals. This agenda will have 4 dimensions:

- Inclusive social development;
- Inclusive economic development;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Peace and security.

4.2 The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

These are expected to inherit the Millennium Development Goals. The proposed framework is to run up to 2030. The UN Secretary-General has synthesized a report for discussions and negotiations. The above is to be adopted at the UN Summit to be held in September 2015. One of these goals is speaking to the issue of peace and security and the gender equality and empowerment of women.

Post 2015 SDGs and link to peace and security:

The Post 2015 SDGs are linked to peace and security across the globe. The goals focus on some of the key drivers of conflict in many parts of the world. They do acknowledge that efforts to address them will contribute to peace and security in a significant way.

In the case of Kenya, while all the SDGs are broadly applicable, there are a number that will have very direct impact in mitigating conflicts and violence.

Some of these include Goal 4; which focus on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all; Goal 5, which emphasizes gender equality and empower all women and girls and Goal 16, which seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

Goal 16 is particularly significant for a conflict-prone country like Kenya as it calls for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; to provide access to justice for all; and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Kenya's challenges that breed conflict and violence are anchored on the highlighted goals.

The SDGs also focus on the following, which are relevant and important to Kenya:

- The promotion of the rule of law at the national level, and equal access to justice for all;
- Reduction of illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime
- Substantial reduction of corruption and bribery in all its forms
- Developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- Ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels



Jane Godia makes her presentation during journalists workshop on peace and security in Nakuru

5.0

The role of Devolution in achieving peace and security:

The implementation of the KNAP is critical for all levels of governments, both national and County governments. Devolved governments are particularly critical to the achievement of peace and security as they are in a position to address some of the key drivers of conflicts and therefore contribute to peace and security.

The rationale for the creation of devolved governments was that they would contribute to greater citizens' participation in decision-making and in governance. The units are supposed to be economic development drivers, using the devolved resources to reduce poverty, reduce economic and social inequalities and securing the fair and inclusive representation of all communities, including the marginalized and minorities groups. The latter have who over the years held serious complaints against the national government due to unfair allocation of resources, exclusion from government and decision-making and in recruitment and promotion in key positions in the public sector.

The County Governments, through their various structures, can make progressive and inclusive legislation, decisions and implement programs that address the concerns of communities and therefore reduce the opportunities for conflict. But most these concerns remain muted since the affected communities do not have a strong voice to make them known.

That is why media attention on the activities and processes at the County level can elevate the voices of communities that have previously been marginalized. This can help them make demands and claims on their County governments, help citizens exercise oversight on their leaders and in the process help in the realization of the UN Resolutions and the KNAP.

The Members of the County Assembly can prove particularly useful in articulating the issues and concerns contained in the resolutions including the issue of women representation in governance and their inclusion in peace building structures and security processes.

Your role as a journalist:

- Offer increased media attention on the Counties on what their roles are in relation to the KNAP and specifically the role of women in addressing peace and security;
- Interrogate key issues at the community level and help focus leaders' attention on the overall goal of attainment of peace and security as contained in the two UN resolutions and outlined in KNAP.
- Write crusading stories based on the two resolutions and the KNAP, basing them on the demands of the Constitution of Kenya 2010;
- Focus on previous and emerging legislations, policies and protocols that should be used to achieve the implementation of the two resolutions;
- Highlight projects and initiatives by the County governments that are aligned to the achievements of the implementation of the two resolutions and the KNAP.

6.0

Local Mechanisms and process for handling key Conflicts and historical injustices:

The two UN Resolutions and the KNAP seek to deal with peace and security, in the process, minimizing the opportunities for conflict. Various forms of conflicts in Kenya have been mapped and are well known. Other emerging or periodic conflicts draw from what are already known conflict fissures, some of which have festered for decades.

There are various mechanisms and processes for dealing with peace, security and related conflicts in Kenya.

These include, but are not limited to the following:

- The Judicial processes: This is through the court system, which is expensive, tedious and adversarial, leaving much bitterness among losing litigants;
- Commissions: National Land Commission (NLC), Commission on the Administrative Justice (The Ombudsman Commission) (CAJ), National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), the Kenya National Human Rights and Equality Commission (KNHREC), the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), among other such structures at the national level.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms. These include Traditional elders' committees, Religious Committees, Ad hoc tribunals and chief's barazas (meetings)
- Administrative structures/Committees: Peace and Security Committees at the County, District, ward, and other lower levels.

These structures have achieved different levels of success in dealing with their mandates and many of them continue to face various challenges which include capacity, resources, political interference and influence, sectarian considerations- ethnic, clan, religious and in some cases, corruption. The issue of gender mainstreaming is still a challenge in many of the structures given Kenya's patriarchal nature. Most of them have not met the affirmative action requirement of ensuring at least 30 percent of their membership are female. But there are few doing very well, having achieved the threshold as well as going to ensure the chair and vice-chair of the committees alternate between the two female and male genders.

Your role as a journalist:

In reporting on peace, security and conflict situations, you should:

- Adopt a more sensitive approach to the issues and the players;
- Seek to understand and probe the situations to report within the appropriate contexts;
- Package the stories by providing space, opportunities, and perspectives to all sides and parties involved to avoid undermining peace and security
- Focus on the mechanisms for conflict resolution and use their reports and documents as sources of information;
- Audit the gender composition of the conflict resolution structures to establish the representation of women and the levels of decision making given to them; and
- Seek to project women voices and celebrate their achievements and the positive roles they play.

The structures and laws related to peace and security are important sources of information and the leadership of these structures provides diversity of voices for journalists when doing stories.

7.0

GBV, Peace and Security:

The media has carried and continues to carry many stories on cases of gender based violence. This has inspired women leaders to step forward and launch vigorous campaigns to stop this vice. Government and other agencies have also stepped up campaigns against this crime.

They have made a three-pronged approach: legal, political and activism to deal with the problem.

In 2006, through Parliament, Njoki Ndun'gu, (then, a nominated MP and now a judge of the Supreme Court) lobbied her male and female colleagues to marshal support for enactment of the Sexual Offences Act.

Since then, many women politicians had also used various opportunities and platforms to highlight the impact of sexual offences on the survivors, their families, the society and the justice system.

The Sexual Offences Act has, since its passage and enactment into law in 2006, led to the prosecution of some cases, but the situation has not significantly improved. Recently, there has been a rise in cases of gender based violence targeting women in the streets where some were stripped naked by public service vehicle operators and touts for allegedly dressing indecently in mini-skirts.

A key objective of the Act is to define offences and stipulate sentences with the aim of protecting persons from sexual offences. The Act criminalizes sexual relations amongst persons within certain parameters of affinity and thus protects children from sexual relations within the immediate family context.

Another important development is the existence of the Nairobi Women's Hospital which has made a name as the face of GBV Recovery Centre in the country. Located in Hurlingham and Adams Arcade area, the centre has been the refuge for hundreds of women, girls and boys who have been victims of GBV.

Other GBV Recovery Centres have since been opened in several private and public hospitals around the country led by Kenyatta Referral Hospital and Mbagathi District Hospital in Nairobi to cater for ordinary members of the society who cannot afford the high medical costs in private hospitals.

Apart from the sexual violence, political violence, especially affecting women, has been a major issue raised during elections. This has had a major impact, resulting in a small number of women vying for elective posts in the party nominations and in the general elections.

Cases of female aspirants being harassed, humiliated and physically attacked have been exposed by the media in the past, but the authorities have not been very effective in dealing with the problem.

The late Prof Wangari Maathai, the founder of the Greenbelt Movement was assaulted by hired goons when she protested against the grabbing of Karura forest land in Nairobi. The matter was reported to the police but no decisive action was taken against the culprits.

This was before 2010. But after the promulgation of the new Constitution, with the Bill of Rights and affirmative action principle clearly spelt out has emboldened more women to vie for political posts as was witnessed in the 2013 General Elections. Among them was former Constitutional Affairs Minister, Martha Karua, who vied for the post of the President, and scores of others who vied for the Senator, Governor, Member of Parliament, and County Assembly seats. These women, have had to content with various forms of gender based and political violence to reach where they are now.

That is why the two UN Resolutions (2013 AND 1812) and the Kenya National Action Plan are critical in as far as giving women protection and an opportunity to join the decision-making positions in matter related to peace building and security processes at the National and County levels.

7.1. Journalists' role in Reporting GBV related stories:

Media reporting on Gender-Based Violence is crucial to mobilizing public outrage, support, action, and influencing Government policy and legislation against the vice. The various arms of the government have often acted quickly to intervene to address incidents of GBV based on media reports. Civil society organizations and international agencies have also acted quickly in this regard based on media reports.

Yet the same media has either fell short of covering these issues from a deeper and broader dimension. The two UN resolutions and the KNAP therefore provide the media with rich information on covering conflict, peace and security issues in detailed and compelling manner.

Your role as a journalist:

The following are key premises upon which you can peg your stories and when sourcing for information:

- Assessing the commitment of the National Government and its relevant agencies in tackling GBV based on the two UN resolutions and the KNAP;
- Assessing the application of the various policies and laws that have been put in place to tackle GBV and their relevance to the two UN resolutions;
- Tracking and critically reviewing emerging laws and policies from the County governments and their relevance to the two UN resolutions and the KNAP and their effectiveness in addressing GBV.
- Creating sustainable linkages with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) involved in addressing or advocating against GBV.
- Seeking out victims/survivors of GBV and writing about their experiences and interviewing authorities about their interventions, including instances where perpetrators of GBV have successfully been prosecuted and the GBV victims treated or rehabilitated.
- Exposing the effect of GBV on family and societal harmony, in effect, linking this to peace and security.
- Focusing on the effects of conflicts and the use and effect of GBV on communities, and especially women and children, and assessing if the combatants are using GBV as a weapon against sections of the populations or their opponents.



Journalists discuss peace and security issues during journalists workshop

8.0

Role of Kenyan Women in Peace and Security Process

"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it" - Eleanor Roosevelt, former United State First Lady.

Kenyan women have been instrumental in peace and security processes from pre and post-independence period more than 51 years ago. In the traditional set up, women had a key role to play in promoting peace and maintaining security in their own unique way using their strategic positions as mothers, care-givers, sisters, in-laws and grand-mothers.

They were the first ones to know whenever their husbands, fathers and brothers were about to declare war against their neighbours or their adversaries. But they were under an obligation to remain quiet about plans by the war-mongers and war-lords to strike and cause mayhem.

Whenever there was conflict and war broke out, women were the first to sense danger, sound an alarm by wailing and then gather the children, the elderly and sick and hide with them in a safe refuge. In some communities in Kenya, they used, and continue to do now, engage in traditional rituals that ensure their men are not killed or captured when they into battle or even to steal cattle of other communities.

However, women were never in the forefront carrying arms and threatening others at the top of their voices like their male counterparts, but operated from the background using their unique roles in the society.

They were the voice of reason and could be relied upon to give a human face to the crisis. Cases of powerful women have been told. In Kenya, there is the case in the Kikuyu folklore, of the legendary Wangu wa Makeri, who ruled and lorded over men during her reign.

During the liberation struggle in Kenya in the 1950's, women worked hard behind the scenes, feeding the combatants with food and intelligence about the armed struggle. Since independence, several Kenyan women have made a name by leading in the second and third liberation which led to the new Constitution passed in a referendum and promulgated in 2010.

The late Nobel Peace Laureate, Prof Maathai, used peaceful means to promote the environment and human rights. She made history as the first African woman to receive the coveted award.

"It's the little things citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees," Maathai said of her efforts.

Another heroine who stuck her head out and had a passion for peace initiatives was the late Mrs Dekha Ibrahim Abdi, in North Eastern region.

She was a trustee of Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA) and of NOMADIC, a pastoralist organization based in Wajir County, near the Kenya-Somalia border, and was also a founding member of the Wajir Peace and Development Committee, the Coalition for Peace in Africa, ACTION (Action for Conflict Transformation), and the Peace and Regeneration Oasis (PRO).

Dekha worked as a consultant trainer on peace-building and pastoralists' development with many local and international agencies in various countries. In 2007, she was honored with the Right Livelihood Award and the Hessian Peace Prize of Germany in 2009, "for showing in diverse ethnic and cultural situations how religious and other differences can be reconciled, even after violent conflict, and knitted together through a cooperative process that leads to peace and development."

Women politicians including Phoebe Asiyo, Julia Ojiambo, Nyiva Mwendwa and Charity Ngilu, among others, used the floor of Parliament to effectively calm their male counterparts in situations of conflict.

Female academicians have also played a role in national debates and shaped dialogue on national issues which have a bearing on peace and security. The list included Prof Maria Nzomo, Wanjiku Kabiru and Eddah Gachukia, among others.

Whenever the politicians and academicians need legal support, they have often turned to their lawyer comrades like Martha Karua, Njoki Ndungu, Nancy Baraza and Abida Ali Aroni, among others.

In 2007, at the height of the worst political violence since independence, women leaders from all walks of life played important roles in bringing the warring parties and communities together to discuss peace and restore sanity.

Karua (former Constitution Affairs minister) and Dr Sally Kosgei (former Agriculture Minister) were part of the eight-member negotiation team led by the Kofi Annan, from the PNU and ODM side of the political divide. Their male counterparts were Moses Wetangula, Prof Sam Ogeri, Musalia Mudavadi, William Ruto and James Orengo.

They played an important role in the peace process that led to the National Accord that formed the Grand Coalition Government which was led by the former President Mwai Kibaki and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga. Women also played important roles in the camps that housed internally displaced populations and outside the camps; they were at the forefront of feeding the sick, the injured and the returnees from the conflict zones. They set up committees through CSOs and other structures which were useful in reducing tension in many communities.

Tecla Lorupe, an acclaimed athlete, has set up a Foundation which spearheads peace and conflict resolution in the North Rift among the pastoralist communities of Elgeyo Marakwet and Pokot, who have had a long history of conflicts. Since then, many women have been co-opted and/or elected to sit in and chair the peace committees around the country in line with the national accord signed by former Kibaki and Odinga. The initiative has also been captured in the new Constitution under the affirmative action principle in the Bill of Rights.

In 2013, over 2.3 million women took part in peace-building and reconciliation events, especially in the worst affected parts of the country like Rift Valley and Nairobi's Kibera and Mathare informal settlements. Women built bridges across ethnic lines; acted as mediators to foster compromise; and helped other women cope with trauma. Overall, their contribution was critical to a peaceful 2013 election season.

Today, Kenya is in a transition to a new system of governance - Devolution, which has created opportunities for women in leadership at the county and other levels. A number of women have been appointed and are serving in the district and other lower level peace committees across the country, which is a testimony to the increasing recognition about women's role in peace building and conflict resolution.

The downside of this is that this rich contribution of women to peace and security processes rarely receives publicity and media coverage. Journalists rarely analyze peace and security process from a gender dimension.

Your role as a journalist:

Women's voices and role as peace agents needs to be amplified. As a journalist, you need to identify the increasing role of the women and begin to highlight this through the various media platforms.

You need to profile women regularly and the peace activities they undertake. All peace and security initiatives across the country can be looked at through gender lenses with the journalists consciously identifying and amplifying the voices of women.

Journalists can use the following opportunities and structures in assessing and identifying women's role in managing peace and security situations:

- The village, locational, district and county peace structures
- The women groups, CSOs, religious groups

- The County Assemblies
- Parliament: (National Assembly and Senate)
- National Commissions; - National Cohesion and Integration Commission, National Gender and Equality Commission among others.
- Ad hoc Committees set up at various levels –especially in response to emerging and ongoing conflicts – Turkana, Pokot, Baringo, Mandera, Marsabit, Lamu, etc.

In every conflict situation, journalists need to actively seek out the voices of the women leaders and those involved at different levels in peace processes. As a journalist, you need to project these moderating voices and celebrate their roles in the provision of essential services in conflict times and the critical role they play in post-conflict scenarios.



Journalists discuss peace and security issues during journalists workshop in Nakuru County

9.0

Journalists role in sourcing information on peace and security:

Issues of ethics, conflict and safety of journalists in their day to day work

Sourcing for news:

A journalists covering topics on peace and security has many challenges he or she has to face. Journalist must always have the nose for news, but ensure they also consider issues of their own safety.

Many journalists have been harmed, psychologically traumatized and/or lost their lives while covering conflict and or security issues. The case of award-winning photo journalists Mohammed Amin and Hos Maina, come to mind.

Print and broadcast journalists have also had their equipment either damaged and/or confiscated by different feuding parties or the authorities who included the law enforcement officers. News reporters have not been spared either, as some have been detained, sacked, harassed and even physically assaulted in the course of their news gathering duties.

One of the victims was Emman Omari, a veteran journalist who worked for a long time with the Nation Media Group as a political editor. He was captured on live TV being whipped by hired political goons, during the clamour for a return to multi-party politics in the 1990s, a period of heightened political conflicts. History is replete with many other cases where journalists have been subjected to violence or lost their lives while covering conflict.

The tips for journalists covering conflict, peace, and security processes:

- Do proper research about the subject and the parties involved in the issue/conflict before you leave the news-room;
- Always look out or plan properly on bringing out the gender dimensions of the conflict, peace and security stories you are about to undertake.
- Use credible sources to give you information at all times and always counter check their tips to avoid libel and or inflammatory statements; or making statements that fuel the conflict
- Always ensure you are fully briefed by your news editor and given the contacts of the parties to be interviewed and the adversary, if possible;
- Have the contacts of the area chief and or police boss for purpose of your security together with your driver and or colleague;
- Always arm yourself with a tape-recorder, camera and /or TV camera to record the interview for authenticity and for record purposes;
- Avoid being aggressive in your interview or in the type of questions asked. Remain polite/civil even if the source is not very coo-operative;
- Use social media, where applicable, to update your colleagues and friends and family about your whereabouts while on assignment;
- Be impartial when interviewing and when filing your stories; avoid being drawn into the conflict or taking an active position on any security and peace related issues as the sources may turn hostile if they realize you are not on their side;
- Map out the exit routes and landmarks where you are: roads, paths, taxi cab/boda-boda parking, tall buildings, hospitals, humanitarian agencies such as the Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance etc to help in the

event of emergency evacuation and location of where you are.

- Put your mobile phone on rapid dialing and have numbers –e.g of your editor, police, close friend or colleagues, family members and human rights organizations on speed-dialing or in your memory when covering conflict and security issues;
- When going to the field, avoid using phones whose battery life is short as this may fail you in the event of emergency. Often, the cheap phones have longer life batteries and are easier to work with.
- Do not go for interviews or pursue “exclusives” in secluded places. Always chose accessible/open places with easier escape routes of where the possibility of kidnap is minimal as other people may see what happens to you and respond. Alert a colleague or friend to watch over you
- Wear appropriate clothing to the occasion, either to avoid offending the sources or for easy movement
- Always carry your media identification cards/documents

10.0

Media Ethics.

While carrying out one's journalist duties, particularly when covering conflict, peace and security issues, a journalist must always be guided by the professional ethics and code of conduct as spelt out clearly in the Media Council of Kenya Act 2007 and the amended version 2013.

The role of the media in promoting peace and security cannot be under estimated, especially at this time of rising crime, intolerance and terrorism in and out o the country, and tribal conflicts in various parts of the country.

Competition has become very stiff in the media industry following the liberalization and freeing of the airwaves by the Government by licensing of the over 20 TV and more than 300 FM, community and private radio stations broadcasting in different languages the past decade. The print media has also grown from three national daily newspapers to five, namely Nation, The Standard, Taifa Leo, The People and The Star.

Social media has become a major force in the media landscape and it is making major inroads by promoting citizen journalism and round the clock breaking news. This is where the blogs, Whatsup, Twitter and Facebook, among others come in to the scene.

In this new media context, journalistic ethics has become even more important in guiding how media practitioners cover issues such as conflict, peace and security. The following are some of the ethical standards that should guide you as a journalist as you cover conflict, peace and security issues.

1. Accuracy and Fairness

(a) The fundamental objective of a journalist is to write a fair, accurate and an unbiased story on matters of public interest. All sides of the story shall be reported, wherever possible. Comments should be obtained from anyone who is mentioned in an unfavorable context.

2. Covering Ethnic, Religious and Sectarian Conflict

(a) News, views or comments on ethnic, religious or sectarian dispute should be published or broadcast after proper verification of facts and presented with due caution and restraint in a manner which is conducive to the creation of an atmosphere congenial to national harmony, amity and peace.

3. Protection of Children

Children should not be identified in cases concerning sexual offences, whether as victims, witnesses or defendants.

4. Victims of Sexual Offences

The media should not identify victims of sexual assault or publish material likely to contribute to such identification.

Such publications do not serve any legitimate journalistic or public need and may bring social opprobrium to the victims and social embarrassment to their relations, family, friends, community, and religious order and to the institutions to which they belong.

5. Use of Pictures and Names

As a general rule, the media should apply caution in the use of pictures and names and should avoid publication when there is a possibility of harming the persons concerned.

Manipulation of pictures in a manner that distorts reality should be avoided. Pictures of grief, disaster and those that embarrass and promote sexism should be discouraged.

6. Acts of Violence

The media should avoid presenting acts of violence, armed robberies, banditry and terrorist activities in a manner that glorifies such anti-social conduct. Also, newspapers should not allow their columns to be used for writings which tend to encourage or glorify social evils, warlike activities, ethnic, racial or religious hostilities.

7. Editor's Responsibilities

The editor shall assume the responsibility for all content, including advertisements, published in a newspaper. If responsibility is disclaimed, this shall be explicitly stated beforehand.

8. Hate Speech

Quoting persons making derogatory remarks based on ethnicity, race, creed, colour and sex shall be avoided. Racist or negative ethnic terms should be avoided. Careful account should be taken of the possible effect upon the ethnic or racial group concerned, and on the population as a whole, and of the changes in public attitudes as to what is and what is not acceptable when using such terms.

9. Independence

Journalists should defend the independence of all journalists from those seeking influence or control over news content. They should —

(a) Gather and report news without fear or favour, and vigorously resist undue influence from any outside forces, including advertisers, sources, story, subjects, powerful individuals and special interest groups

10. Integrity

Journalists should present news with integrity and decency, avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest, and respect the dignity and intelligence of the audience as well as the subjects of news. They should—

(a) Identify sources whenever possible. Confidential sources should be used only when it is clearly in public interest to gather or convey important information or when a person providing information might be harmed;

(b) Clearly label opinion and commentary;

11. Accountability

Journalists and all media practitioners should recognize that they are accountable for their actions to the public, the profession and themselves.

12. Right/Opportunity to Reply

A fair opportunity to reply to inaccuracies should be given to individuals or organizations when reasonably called for.

13. Unnamed Sources

Unnamed sources should not be used unless the pursuit of the truth will best be served by not naming the source which should be known by the editor and reporter. When material is used in a report from sources other than the reporter's, these sources should be indicated in the story.

14. Confidentiality

In general, journalists have a professional obligation to protect confidential sources of information.

15. Misrepresentation

Journalists should generally identify themselves and not obtain or seek to obtain information or pictures through misrepresentation or subterfuge. Subterfuge can be justified only in the public interest and only when material cannot be obtained by any other means.

16. Obscenity, Taste and Tone in Reporting

(a) In general, journalists should avoid publishing obscene, vulgar or offensive material unless such material contains a news value which is necessary in the public interest.

(b) In the same vein, publication of photographs showing mutilated bodies, bloody incidents and abhorrent scenes should be avoided unless the publication or broadcast of such photographs will serve the public interest.

17. Paying for News and Articles

When money is paid for information, serious questions can be raised about the credibility of that information and the motives of the buyer and the seller. Therefore, in principle, journalists should not receive any money as an incentive to publish any information.

18. Recording Interview's and Telephone Conversations

(a) Except in justifiable cases, journalists should not tape or record anyone without the person's knowledge. An exception may be made only if the recording is necessary to protect the journalist in a legal action or for some other compelling reason. In this context these standards also apply to electronic media.

19. Privacy

(a) The public's right to know should be weighed against the privacy rights of people in the news.

(b) Journalists should stick to the issues.

20. Intrusion into Grief and Shock

(a) In cases involving personal grief or shock, inquiries should be made with sensitivity and discretion.

(b) In hospitals, journalists should identify themselves and obtain permission from a responsible executive officer before entering non-public areas of hospitals or similar institutions to pursue enquiries.

21. Sex Discrimination

Women and men should be treated equally as news subjects and news sources.

22. Letters to the Editor

An editor who decides to open a column on a controversial subject is not obliged to publish all the letters received in regard to that subject. Sometimes decision on what is published can either fuel or forestall conflict or advance peace.

References/Resources

The following are useful references and Resources for journalists:

1. United Nations, (2000). United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. New York, USA
2. United Nations, (2008). United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820. New York, USA
3. UN Women, (2012). The Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP) for United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820. Nairobi, Kenya
4. Republic of Kenya, (2010). The Constitution of Kenya 2010. Nairobi, Kenya
5. Government of Kenya, (2011). Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development of 2000 (revised in 2011)
6. Government of Kenya, (2011). The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights Act (2011)

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