



# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE NO1 OF 2026



### OUR VISION

A just society where women and girls realize, embrace and enjoy their full rights and dignity.

### OUR MISSION

Actualize and advance women's and girls' social economic, legal and civil rights

### OUR MOTTO

We educate women because it is smart. We empower women because it changes the world.

Produced by the Communications  
Department

2026

# Message from the Executive Director

## Our Thematic Pillars

- Women Peace and Security
- Women Participation in Leadership and Governance
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence Against Women and Girls
- Institutional Strengthening and Growth

As we usher in a new year, I extend my warmest greetings to our partners, stakeholders, community members, and allies who continue to walk with the Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) in advancing justice, peace, and dignity for women, girls, and marginalized communities.

The year begins with significant milestones in our collective journey. MWARP was honoured to participate in the National Task Force on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), contributing to the recently launched GBV Report. Through robust public participation forums and the submission of memoranda, we amplified community voices and helped identify persistent challenges and actionable pathways toward strengthening GBV prevention, response, and accountability mechanisms. This process reaffirmed our belief that sustainable solutions must be community-informed and survivor-cantered.

At the county level, our commitment to policy advocacy remains unwavering. Recently, MWARP convened a Leaders Dialogue Forum on GBV in Malindi, creating a critical platform for stakeholders to reflect, engage, and co-create solutions to end GBV. In Lamu County, we continued our advocacy efforts by contributing to discussions around the draft Lamu County SGBV Bill 2026, underscoring the need for a strong, inclusive, and context-responsive legal framework that protects the most vulnerable.

Youth engagement remains at the heart of our peacebuilding work. Through the Kujenga Amani Project, we witnessed the transformative power of youth-led action during the Peace Caravan, where young people emerged not only as ambassadors of peace but also as policy influencers. This journey culminated in the development of Youth Policy Briefs for Kwale and Mombasa Counties, ensuring that youth voices and lived experiences meaningfully inform peace and governance processes.

As this first issue of the year goes to print, we reflect with gratitude and step forward with renewed purpose. The progress we celebrate today is a testament to the strength of partnerships, community resilience, and shared commitment to justice and peace. In the year ahead, MWARP remains dedicated to deepening impact, strengthening advocacy, and nurturing inclusive spaces where women, youth, and communities can thrive.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we continue to build a more just, peaceful, and equitable society.

**Rahma Gulamu, Shujaa 2025**

Executive Director

**Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection**





## THEMATIC PILLAR 1: WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY

### Cross-Border Security Cooperation: From Protocol to Practice

MWARP conducted a workshop in Kiunga, Lamu County, where we facilitated the operationalization of the Kiunga Ras Kiamboni Cross-Border Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Protocol.

It was particularly encouraging to see uniformed officers from multiple Kenyan and Somalia agencies fully embrace this community-centered security model, actively participating in simulations alongside civilian leaders. Beyond theoretical discussions, we established functional communication infrastructure, tested procedures through realistic scenarios, and developed concrete implementation plans.



### Lungalunga Sub County HRBA Training

MWARP conducted 2 days Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) Training under the Kujenga Amani Project, supported by CEFA - Kenya & Somalia, in Lungalunga Sub County. The training brought together officers from the National Police Service and the Kwale County Inspectorate for a shared mission: strengthening peace through human rights.

Through interactive sessions and practical discussions, facilitators challenged participants to connect human rights, law, and real-life #conflict resolution in their daily work.



### Faith, Unity and Peace in Action

On 27th January 2025, under the Amani Mpakani Project, MWARP brought together Religious Leaders, local administrators, and security actors for a powerful Religious Leaders' Conversation Forum.

Leaders from Faza, Kizingitini, Mnyabogi, Tchundwa, and Mbwajumali engaged in bold conversations on peacebuilding, social cohesion, reducing religious profiling, and strengthening trust between communities and security actors. The forum also opened dialogue on the Religious Organizations Bill (2024), with leaders committing to develop a joint memorandum to Parliament.





# THEMATIC PILLAR 2: WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



## **Waves of Change: Faza Community Sets the Budget Agenda**

On 27th January 2026, building on a vibrant community budget engagement forum convened by MWARP on 26th January 2026, community champions from Faza officially submitted the 2026/2027 County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) Memorandum at Siyu Social Hall.

The pre-public participation brought together community members, women leaders, youth, sector representatives, and civil society actors to deepen understanding of county budgeting and strengthen meaningful public participation.



## **Your Voice. Your Budget. Your Future.**

On 26th January 2026, MWARP convened a vibrant Budget Engagement bringing together community members, women leaders, youth, sector stakeholders, and civil society actors.

The forum strengthened understanding of the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) and empowered participants to engage meaningfully in county budgeting, because public participation matters

## **Tax Smart. Biz Ready. Community Empowered**

On 22nd January 2026, MWARP, under the Equanomics Project funded by UNDP in Kenya through Amkeni Wakenya, held a Tax Education Outreach at Nyumba Mbovu Social Hall, Kinondo Ward – Lungalunga Sub County.

Women and PWDs from Kinondo Ward were empowered on tax rules and compliance, #KRA PINs, E-TIMS, penalties, and access to funds including Biashara, Youth Fund Kenya, WEF, Uwezo, Nyota, Kazi Majuu, Talanta and Sports Funds.

## **Taxes Made Simple, Opportunities Unlocked**

On 21st January 2026, MWARP, under the Equanomics Project funded by UNDP in Kenya through Amkeni Wakenya, conducted a Tax Education Outreach at the Ward Administrator's Office – Mwalewa, Vanga Ward, Lungalunga Sub County.

The session engaged women and PWDs, building their knowledge on tax compliance, KRA PIN registration, E-TIMS, group and business registration, tax exemptions for PWDs, and access to Biashara, Youth, Uwezo and WEF funds.



## **ARE NORTHERN YOUTH WOKE OR WORKED?**

MWARP organized a live x space on the role of Northern Youth in shaping the political agenda as we head closer to the 2027 electioneering period.







## THEMATIC PILLAR 3: SEXUAL & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

### **Stronger Together for Safer Communities**

On 21st and 22nd January 2026, MWARP, under the Amani Mpakani Initiative, supported the Lamu West and Central Gender Sector Technical Working Groups Meetings.

The forums brought together state and non-state actors to strengthen a survivor-centered response to SGBV. Stakeholders reviewed reported cases (14 reported and taken to court), unpacked key challenges like stigma, economic dependency, gaps in survivor support, and the lack of a functional safe house, and agreed on priority actions to improve referrals, coordination, and sustained survivor care.

The meeting also reaffirmed commitment to the Lamu County SGBV SOPs, multi-sectoral collaboration, and advancing SDG 5, the Constitution of Kenya (2010), Vision 2030, and the SGBV Control and Management Act, 2024.



### **Policy Dialogue Meeting with Members Of the County Assembly of Lamu and other County Leaders to Address Interconnected Challenges of Insecurity and GBV Response in the Borderlands**

MWARP, through the Amani Mpakani Initiative funded by the UK in Kenya through Deris Wanaag, successfully conducted a two-day Policy Dialogue Meeting in Malindi with Lamu MCAs and key National Government duty bearers, including Ministry of Interior and National Administration, Children's Department, State Department for Gender, Probation Department, among others.

The dialogue aimed at strengthening leadership capacity to address Insecurity and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Lamu County through evidence-based, GESI-responsive governance, legislation, and budgeting.



# THEMATIC AREA 4: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND GROWTH



## **Kickstarting 2026 with Synergy and Purpose**

The Kujenga Amani Project consortium partners, MWARP and CEFA - Kenya & Somalia, convened at our Mombasa head office for a strategic planning meeting. Following a high-impact 2025 characterized by a significant volume of successful interventions, this meeting served as both a reflection on our achievements and a roadmap for the year ahead.

As we enter the third and final year of implementation, our focus remains on deepening the synergies we have built with both state and non-state actors. We are moving into 2026 with renewed optimism, confident that we are on track to realize our core objective: placing Young People in the Swahili Coast of Kenya at the heart of the peacebuilding discourse, from the grassroots up.







## Community Voices Shaping National GBV Action

The Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) played a key role in the National Task Force on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) process by submitting memoranda informed by community perspectives, contributing to the development of the national GBV Report, launched recently.

Through structured community engagements and public participation forums, MWARP gathered opinions, lived experiences, and recommendations from women, youth, and local leaders on GBV prevention, response, and accountability. These insights were carefully synthesized and presented through formal memoranda, ensuring that grassroots realities directly informed national deliberations.

The memoranda highlighted critical challenges faced at the community level, including barriers to reporting GBV cases, limited access to survivor-centered services, and gaps in coordination among duty bearers. They also proposed practical, community-driven solutions to strengthen prevention mechanisms and improve survivor support.

By submitting community-informed memoranda, MWARP helped bridge the gap between local realities and national policy-making, reaffirming its commitment to survivor-centered and inclusive approaches.

## Advancing Inclusive GBV Legislation Through County-Level Dialogue

MWARP remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening policy advocacy at the county level, recognizing legislation as a critical tool in ending Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Through intentional stakeholder engagement, MWARP is contributing to the development of legal frameworks that are responsive, inclusive, and grounded in lived realities.

As part of the consultative process for the draft Lamu County SGBV Bill 2026, MWARP convened a GBV Dialogue Forum in Malindi, creating a vital platform for reflection, engagement, and co-creation of solutions.

The forum brought together government representatives, civil society actors, community leaders, and GBV frontline responders to critically examine gaps within existing response mechanisms and propose actionable inputs to strengthen the draft Bill. Stakeholders shared insights drawn from community experiences, ensuring that the proposed legislation reflects on-the-ground realities and prioritizes survivor-centered approaches.

Further advancing this advocacy in Lamu County, MWARP actively participated in broader discussions around the Draft Lamu County SGBV Bill 2026, emphasizing the need for a strong, inclusive, and context-responsive legal framework. Key advocacy priorities included protections for the most vulnerable populations, clarity on institutional roles, and the integration of prevention, response, and accountability mechanisms within the Bill.

Through these strategic engagements, MWARP has contributed to a more participatory and informed legislative process. This success underscores the power of dialogue-driven advocacy in shaping county policies that are not only legally sound but also transformative in protecting the rights and dignity of women and girls.

## From Voices to Policy: Youth Leading Peace through the Kujenga Amani Project

Youth engagement remains at the heart of MWARP's peacebuilding approach, anchored in the belief that sustainable peace is impossible without the meaningful participation of young people. Through the Kujenga Amani Project, this belief was brought to life as youth transformed from passive beneficiaries into active architects of peace and policy.

A defining milestone of the project was the Peace Caravan, a youth-led initiative that traversed communities in Kwale and Mombasa Counties. The caravan created safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue, allowing young people to engage peers, community leaders, and duty bearers on issues of peace, social cohesion, and governance. Through art, conversations, and community outreach, the youth emerged as ambassadors of peace, challenging harmful narratives and promoting unity across diverse groups.

Beyond mobilization, the Peace Caravan sparked a deeper journey of civic engagement and policy influence. Youth participants documented lived experiences, community concerns, and locally grounded solutions to conflict and exclusion. With structured mentorship and technical support, these insights were consolidated into Youth Policy Briefs for Kwale and Mombasa Counties—a critical step in bridging grassroots realities with formal decision-making processes.

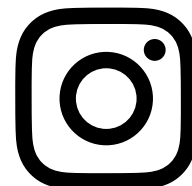
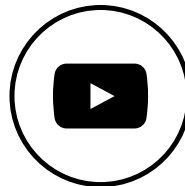
The policy briefs amplified youth voices in spaces where they are often underrepresented, offering practical recommendations to inform county-level peace and governance frameworks. For many participants, this marked their first direct engagement with policy development, building their confidence, leadership skills, and understanding of public participation mechanisms.

The Kujenga Amani Project demonstrated that when young people are trusted, equipped, and meaningfully engaged, they do more than advocate for peace—they help shape the policies that sustain it. By translating youth experiences into actionable policy proposals, the project ensured that peacebuilding efforts in Kwale and Mombasa are not only inclusive but also responsive to the realities of the communities they serve.



# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 1



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