

## Kituo establishes Turkana Community Justice Center



Group photo of Kituo staff and participants outside the newly established Justice Center

Kituo Cha Sheria still continues to ensure the poor and marginalized persons effectively access Justice. This year, Kituo has inaugurated various Justice Centers that seeks to ensure legal services are brought closer to the people in every interior part of the country. As a wrap-up of this year's 2015 Kituo's landmark achievements, Kituo Cha Sheria trained paralegals from various sub counties of Turkana County leading up to establishment of a new Community Justice Center.

Led by the Executive Director, Ms Gertrude N. Angote, Kituo joined the Turkana Community and their local leaders on Friday, 18th December, 2015 at the Kenya Assemblies of God Hall in Lokichar Sub-county in Turkana County.

The opening of the Justice Center was preceded by graduation of 27 Kituo trained Community paralegals encompassing representatives from across the Sub Counties of the entire Turkana County.

The Community paralegals underwent an intensive two weeks training which focused on Introduction to law and the Bill of Rights, land and labour laws as well as Alternative Dispute Resolution among other topics. The training was spearheaded by Kituo's AGCP staff Ashioya Biko, Waithaka Mecellino and Ezekiel Njenga, Coordinator Kamukunji Community Justice Center. This was geared towards bringing legal services closer to the community with support from local leaders and key players in the justice sector to promote access to Justice for the poor and marginalized persons.

The colorful event, kicked off at around 10.00am by a presentation of traditional tunes of Ekisil Akide Dancers and was graced by Joseph Elimlim,

Executive officer Lodwar Law Court, Fr. John of Lodwar Diocese, Hon. Raphael Loperito, Lokichar MCA, Lillyrose Akori, MCA and Lawrence Lotomoni the chairperson of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee -Turkana County Assembly among other dignitaries.



A participant received a Certificate from the Executive Director, Ms Angote after the training



Jubilant participants singing outside the Center during the occasion

## Kituo Cha Sheria holds her Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2015



Kituo Cha Sheria (Kituo) held her 2015 Annual general Meeting (AGM) on 8th December, 2015, at the Panafric Hotel, Nairobi. The annual event brought together Members of the Kituo AGM including the Board of Directors, Program heads and representative of staff to receive program and financial reports and the financial audit of the previous year.

Led by the Board of Directors chair, Mr. Anthony Mulekyo, the Members were taken through programmatic as well as financial reports. The financial Audit of the previous year was also presented to the members. They lauded the effort put in by Kituo members of staff and the Board of Directors throughout the year in pursuit of access to justice for the poor and marginalized people in society.

During the event Ms. Sylvia Owuor, the coordinator Finance and Administration, was awarded by the Board, the "Staff of the Year Service Award 2015" for her hard work, dedication and commitment to KITUO, this 2015.

In her acceptance and gratitude remarks, Ms Owuor, thanked Kituo staff members and especially members of her Finance department for making it possible and promised to work even harder in the coming year for the benefit of the less privileged in society. The meeting ended at around 2.10pm with each member carrying home a gift voucher as a way of thanking them for their dedication in service.



Sylvia Owuor receiving her award from AGM member Justice Patrick Otieno during the meeting

## Kituo Conducts end of Year 2015 Free Legal Aid Clinic



*Kituo Lawyer Glenn Onguti attends to one of the Client during the Clinic*

Kituo Cha Sheria held a one day free legal aid clinic at the head office, on Wednesday, November, 18 2015. The legal aid clinic focused on land, housing, labour, succession and forced migration, issues mapped out by Kituo as the core thematic areas in which our mandate extends. The noble endeavor marked the end of the year 2015 service to the poor and marginalized persons and further presented an opportunity to interact with the community we serve.

The much awaited exercise attracted clients from all over Kenya who thronged Kituo's head office as early as 6.30 am. Hundreds of clients were given legal assistance free of charge with people coming from as far as Siaya, Kericho, Laikipia and Nyandarua.

The event is normally dedicated to giving a chance to the large number of clients that Kituo may not be able to accommodate in our daily busy schedule.

During such events Kituo welcomes volunteer advocates and various practicing lawyers as well as the Students Association for Legal Aid and Research (SALAR) from the University of Nairobi to convene so as to offer Legal Aid services to various clients who otherwise find it very expensive to engage a lawyer in their quest for justice. The lawyers interview the clients and offer appropriate advice. If need be a follow up process is initiated through appointments.

The free legal aid clinic saw over 200 clients from different diversity served.



*Clients being registered as they arrived for the Clinic*

## Key Upcoming Activities JAN - FEB 2016

1. M-haki staff training - January.
2. Langata Women Prison paralegal training - February
3. Meru G.K paralegal training – February
4. Dhobi Women training 25th-27th January.
5. Outreach and networking sessions with Dhobi women in Kilimani area - February.
6. Trauma and self care workshop for survivors- February and March
7. Alternative Justice Systems Mapping Missions in Kisumu, Eldoret and Trans Nzoia.
8. Monitoring Missions on Domestic Accountability Project on Justice and Reparations in Eldoret, Kisumu, Mombasa
9. VA recruitment and Legal Aid clinic in Embu & Meru; 1st – 8th February.
10. Kitui paralegal training; 8th – 12th February.
11. Highlights on the Kitui Business Community case.
12. Volunteer Advocates recruitment and Legal Aid clinic in Bungoma; 22nd-26th February.

## Kituo Advocate, Marie Kitoo, scoops Economic Social and Cultural Rights Lawyer of the Year Awards



*Mary Kitoo after receiving her award*

During the 3rd Economic Social and Cultural Rights Lawyer of the Year Awards -2015, Kituo Cha Sheria's Marie Kitoo scooped the 2nd runners up award! She received a certificate of recognition and trophy at a colorful event on December, 7, 2015 held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi. Marie Kitoo is celebrated and her sacrifice recognized as an outstanding Pro Bono Lawyer who has tremendously excelled in litigation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The award is also as a great recognition for contribution made towards enhancing the jurisprudence, litigation and legal education on economic and social rights.

**Viva Kituo!**



*Mary Kitoo congratulated by a staff member Jodan Mwebi*

## Kituo in conjunction with Kimbilio Trust marks 16 days of Activism in Mogotio, Baringo County



L-R Jackline Nganga, Ong'uti Mang'are and Penina Kibos leading the participants during the solidarity walk at Kipkitur

### A solidarity walk in Kipkitur

Kituo Cha Sheria in collaboration with Kimbilio Trust held a solidarity door to door campaign against Gender Based Violence in Kipkitur village, Mogotio Sub County; Baringo County. The solidarity walk was geared towards enlightening the community to eradicate any form of violence against women and girls. The residents were enlightened on various laws protecting the girl-child against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), any form of gender based violence and any human rights violation.

The sensitization forum attracted about 200 residents encompassing the local leaders. In solidarity, the populace unanimously agreed to shun; FGM, early girl-child marriages, child neglects and any form of Gender Based Violence that would ensure women and girls are safe for healthier and prosperous community.

### FREE Legal Aid clinic at Mogotio Sub County Headquarters

Kituo Cha Sheria in conjunction with Kimbilio Trust offered a ONE day legal clinic to a group of residents of Mogotio Sub County in Baringo

County. The pro bono exercise took place at the Mogotio Sub County Headquarters and was officially opened by Mr. Philip M.Nzungo, Deputy County Commissioner, Baringo County.

The residents had an opportunity to ask legal questions which were addressed by Kituo Legal officer, Ong'uti Mang'are and Jackline Ng'ang'a of Kimbilio Trust. It was evident that domestic violence is still a menace as most of the residents raised issues of domestic violence as a factor that affects them.

The free legal aid service attracted over 150 participants.



Kituo lawyer Glenn Onguti attends to one of the clients in Mogotio during the clinic

## Kituo enlightens Vihiga residents through Forum Theatre



One of the groups taking part in the "Forum Theatre"

Kituo Cha Sheria and Vihiga Peace Makers Forum organized and conducted training at Mago Polytechnic in Vihiga County on November, 9-11, 2015. The training was dubbed "the Vihiga Forum Theatre". Forum Theatre is a participatory approach seeking to change the mind-set of oppression to one geared toward liberation efforts. Through drama, this methodology evokes outcomes and possible solutions to those who perceive themselves as being oppressed by taking up roles (mid-scenes) and modifying situations perceived as oppressing to favorable ones.

Twenty (20) participants drawn from: Fikira Theater Pro, Visuru, Taa, Kisumu, Talented African Actors, Central Maragoli, Isava North Disabled Group, Senende, Tambua, Joost Brainstorm Theater, Sabatia, Sachava, Peace Makers Forum, Ikumba Sub-Location, Masinde Muliro University, Moi University and the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University built their capacities and put into practice Forum Theatre as a methodology.

The facilitation for the 3-day activities was led by Peace consultant Otieno Ombok aided by Kituo Cha Sheria officers Mwebi Jodom and Waithaka Thuku.



Participants during the forum

## Kituo's 2015 close of year ceremony



Paul Nandia receives a gift from the Executive Director during the ceremony

Kituo Cha Sheria staff both from head office and Jogoo Road office on Monday December, 21, 2015 convened at the Kituo gardens to mark the end of the year 2015. Led by the Executive Director every staff had moments to reflect upon the happenings throughout the year 2015 as we came to the closure of the year. The Forced Migration Programme (FMP), Legal Aid and Education programme (LAEP), Advocacy, Governance and Community Partnership (AGCP), the Finance and Administration Department (FAD) and Research, Communication and Knowledge Management (RCKM)

Coordinators presented the 2016 work plans. These were subjected to scrutiny by staff, comments and suggestions made to improve them.

Every department depicted positive improvement in pursuing their main goal that builds up to Kituo's quest for a society of Justice and Equity for All. Aimee Ongeso of AGCP, Waithaka Merzellino of AGCP and Paul Nandia of RCKM were applauded and awarded with gifts as the best performing and dedicated staff after Sylvia Owuor who was awarded as the staff of the year by the Board of Directors.

## KITUO participates in 16 Days of Activism campaign



*The Executive Director, Members of parliament and other guests hold a lit candle as a sign of new beginning*

Kituo took an active role in the 16 days of activism campaign running from the 25th of November to 10th of December.

This year's theme announcement for the 16 days of activism is: "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!" with the focus on sexual violence with impunity school children and young people, and sexual assault in academic or other educational settings.

16 days of activism against gender based violence started twenty four years ago in 1991 from the first women's global leadership institute by the center for women's global leadership in 1991 at Rutgers University.

Today the campaign has seen over 5,478 organizations, governments, UN agencies and countless individuals from over 180 countries worldwide. The campaign have brought attention to issues of sexism, racism, cultures of violence, homophobia and calling upon the implementation of the world human rights obligations.

The 16 days of activism campaign is driven by groups and individuals around the world who's fighting for the elimination of ALL forms of violence against women and girls through creation of awareness at the local, national, regional and international level.

The campaign journey commences on November, 25 which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to December, 10 which is Human Rights Day. These days were chosen to emphasize the links between ending gender-based violence and human rights values and highlight that gender-based violence is an international human rights violation.

Kituo joined 16 days of activism with an ambition to create awareness on the rights of victims of sexual gender based violence (SGBV), engaging the public in appreciating, acknowledging and accepting victims/survivors of SGBV. Massive awareness was raised in this period through our very own Haki Blog featuring informative articles about sexual gender based violence, radio talk shows and ultimately the launch of 'I Take a Stand' documentary.

### Celebration of International Day of Person with Disabilities

3rd December 2015 Kituo celebrated the international day of persons with disabilities in Mkuru Kwa Njenga. Kituo converged together with person living with disabilities on the in Mkuru KwaNjenga, an informal



*Participants take part in activities during the International Human Rights day in Mathare*

settlement in Nairobi to celebrate the international day for person with disabilities. The theme for the day was inclusion matters; access and empowerment for people of all abilities.

### Kituo celebrates International Human Rights Day

Kituo started the celebration of this year's International Human Rights day at Whynot Academy in Mathare, Nairobi County. Kituo had a moment of great fun and rejuvenation for the kids whose parents are survivors of rape from the post-election violence in 2007/2008. The kids and mothers have faced and continue to suffer challenges and many obstacles in their everyday lives. Kituo specifically gave these lovely people a day of laughter, dance, fun games and messages of hope and inclusiveness. The jovial encounter brought together about 200 kids of about 7years old and their parents.

### The PEV Survivors dinner

Kituo hosted a dinner for survivors of the 2007/2008 post-election violence the evening after the games, celebrations and fun activities in Mathare at the Best Western Hotel, Nairobi.

The splendid ceremonial dinner was graced by KITUO staff led by Executive Director, Ms. Gertrude N Angote and legislators Hon Joy Gwendu, Hon Millie Odhiambo, Hon Ken Okoth, Hon Augustino Neto among other dignitaries. The banquet was themed "Still Standing" to celebrate survivors of sexual violence of the 07/08 PEV who have been through a lot of challenges yet they remain 'Still Standing!'

The dinner that marked the end of the 16 days of activism was attended by SGBV survivors, community representatives, representatives from various civil societies among other leaders.

Kituo also premiered the documentary "Take a Stand" and an animation "Let's set the record straight" both of which aim to spread awareness on sexual gender based violence beyond the 16 days of activism.



*Guests follow the Premier of Animation and "Take a Stand" documentary*



*Kituo Program officer Faith Ochieng cutting a cake during the celebrations in Mathare*

## Kituo observes the Sixth session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UNCAC



Anastasia Nabukenya represents Kituo at the conference at St. Peterburge Russia

“Article 13 – Each State Party shall take appropriate measures to promote the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector, such as civil society, non-governmental organizations and community based organizations in the prevention and fight against corruption.....”

– UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC).

The above stated article of the UNCAC explicitly recognizes the need for greater participation of civil society in the fight against corruption. Kituo cha Sheria is committed to promoting the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the UNCAC as it mirrors the core values, mandate, mission and vision of Kituo which are all anchored on transparency and accountability.

It is on the backdrop of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) – which is the only legally binding global instrument in the fight against corruption, that Kituo cha Sheria through our Mombasa Regional office staff – Ms. Anastasia Nabukenya is participating as an observer in the Sixth session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The convention is being held at the Len Expo Complex; St Petersburg, Russian Federation and began yesterday 2 November 2015, and will run until the 6th of November 2015.

The convention opening remarks by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Executive Director heavily focused on linking the fight against corruption to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Corruption was cited as the single greatest obstacle to

sustainable development. Notable was the specific reference to Goal sixteen which recognizes the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all and building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels are essential to attaining sustainable development outcomes. SDG 16 is at the heart of Kituo cha Sheria's daily quest and greater vision of a society of equity and justice for all. It was a great delight to further note the emphasis on the fundamental nature of the scope of SDG 16 on the fight against corruption.

The next four days promises to further strengthen the efforts on the global fight against corruption. The draft resolutions are said to be laying emphasis on asset recovery, preventive measures, the need for partnership between the public and private sectors in preventing and fighting corruption; enhancing the use of civil and administrative proceedings; the use of information technology; and addressing the specific needs of small island developing states. There are also high level side events taking place that are focused on combating corruption to stop wildlife and forest crime, as well as the illicit trafficking and sale of stolen cultural property; engaging the business sector and young people in the fight against corruption; countering corruption and bribery in support of Agenda 2030; advancing stolen asset recovery and the development of effective anti-corruption strategies; protecting whistle-blowers; and fighting corruption through open data and through education, along with a host of other important topics.

## Court Users Committee learning and Capacity building Forum eastern Kenya - Nyeri



Participants during the CUC training in Nyeri

Kituo Cha Sheria has undertaken various chronologies of Court Users Committee (CUC) trainings at various regions in Kenya. On November, 6 and 7, 2015, Kituo carried out the last Court Users Committee learning and Capacity building Forum for the Eastern Kenya region at the Outspan Hotel in Nyeri.

The forum brought together a total of 25 participants who underwent an intensive training and plenary discussions on sexual gender based violence, refugee law and asylum seekers rights.

The participants included the Chief Magistrate, Magistrates, Judges, officers from the office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Children Officers, Advocates and officers from the Immigration Department.

The training was facilitated by SGBV expert Ms. Lydiah Muthiani, resource persons from International Rescue Committee (IRC), The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) and Kituo Cha Sheria-Legal Advice Centre.

The training was geared towards increasing awareness of Court Users Committee members on Sexual Gender Based Violence, Refugee Law and Asylum seekers Rights, providing a learning platform for Court Users Committees to exchange their best practices in promoting access to justice and even to bestow a potential role and strategic engagement with the aim of realizing access to justice for the poor and marginalized.



Facilitator, Ms Lydiah Muthiani training participants during the forum in Nyeri