

## KITUO JOINS THE KIBERA COMMUNITY FOR AN SGBV AWARENESS FORUM AND LEGAL AID



Kituo lawyer Janet Kosgei explains a point during the community awareness forum on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) at the Kibera CDF Hall, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria in conjunction with the Kibera Gender Advocacy Group and the County Gender Office joined residents of Kibera, Nairobi County for a 2-day community awareness forum on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). The forum took place on the 26th-27th June 2019 at the Kibera CDF Hall.

The forum had the main aim of increasing community awareness of SGBV, raising the confidence of survivors and reducing incidences of violence in the Kibera informal settlement area. The decision to conduct the forums was based on the fact that a majority of the people living in Kenya's informal settlements do not have access to legal information and representation which is expensive. The most affected groups in these areas are persons living with disabilities, women and children. This is the case for Kibera informal settlements where there is a high prevalence of domestic and community violence. This prevalence has been fueled by a lack of awareness on the law and understanding of human rights and minimal confidence in the way police handle sexual violence cases, fear of the police, and/or the legal process as well as fear of victimization by the victims, among other factors.

The forum also sought to strengthen the capacity of locals and security and law enforcement agencies to systematically document, monitor and act to prevent and mitigate effects of SGBV, as well as to build and strengthen existing community networks and capacities of poor and marginalized communities to be effective champions and monitors of their legal and human rights. The forum participants engaged in an open discussion and analyzed the extent that the constitution and laws related to SGBV are being taken up and the resulting impact while also sensitizing participants

on Human Rights as guaranteed in the Constitution, access to justice for SGBV survivors and response mechanisms.

The event also offered an opportunity for Kituo to provide public awareness on M-Haki which is an SMS platform whereby civilians can send in legal questions and receive answers within 48 hours. On 28th June 2019, Kituo also undertook a FREE legal aid clinic at the Makina Roundabout targeting members of the public from Lindi, Makina and Kibera Wards. Kituo through the Legal Aid and Education Department (LAED) conducted the activity which attracted clients with diverse legal problems ranging from land, labor as well as marital issues.

The activity was the climax of the legal awareness forum on SGBV and was spearheaded by Kituo lawyers Janet Kosgei, Janet Machoka and other volunteer advocates who gave legal assistance free of charge. Those with problems that required follow-up were issued with appointment dates. Kituo conducts regular legal aid clinics in different areas and continues being committed to helping the disadvantaged, poor and marginalized through providing legal empowerment to realize its vision of a society of justice and equity for all.



Participants keenly follow proceedings during the legal awareness forum on SGBV in Kibera, Nairobi

## Kituo Awarded for Community Organisation



Kituo officers Mr. John Mwariri and Ms. Samantha Oswago (center) receiving the award and certificate on behalf of Kituo cha Sheria

Kituo Cha Sheria was recognized and Awarded for supporting Community Organization work in Kenya. The award ceremony took place on 23rd May 2019 at the CHAK Retreat Centre, Nairobi during a Misereor Partners meeting. The award by Community Organization practitioners Association of Kenya and the Community Organization Training Programme recognized the role played by Kituo Cha Sheria over the last 25 Years of community Organization in Kenya. Kituo officers Mr. John Mwariri and Ms. Samantha Oswago gladly received the award on behalf of Kituo cha Sheria. Kituo Cha Sheria's Community Organization work is in line with Kituo's overall objective of assisting the poor and marginalized to access justice as we continue to provide legal empowerment to the poor and marginalized to realize our vision of a society of justice and equity for all.



## MHAKI "Haki Mkononi"



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## Kituo Joins the World to Celebrate the World Refugee Day 2019

### WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Join Kituo cha Sheria, Refugees and the World to celebrate World Refugee Day 2019  
 Theme: #StepWithRefugees  
 Take A Step on World Refugee Day



[www.kituchasheria.or.ke](http://www.kituchasheria.or.ke)

Kituo cha Sheria joined the world in celebrating the World Refugee Day-20th June, 2019. Under the theme: Step With Refugees; Kituo is part of communities, schools, businesses, organizations, faith groups and people from all walks of life who are taking big and small steps in solidarity with refugees. In a world where violence forces thousands of families to flee for their lives each day, Kituo called on the global public to stand with refugees and take a step with them. Kituo through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) reaffirmed its devotion to addressing legal and policy needs of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons residing in urban areas in Kenya with a view to improving their welfare and guaranteeing access to and enjoyment of the institution of asylum.

On this year's celebrations, Kituo sought to educate the public on this issue of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address refugees, and to celebrate and reinforce the achievement of humanity - especially in our part of the world. World Refugee Day observed on 20th June is used to raise awareness about the conditions and problems that refugees face in their lives. This day provides an opportunity to show globally that we all are with refugees. Millions of people are forced to move from their homes every year to keep safe from war, persecution or natural disaster. According to the United

Nations, every minute, around 25 people have to leave everything in search for a better and safer life. In urban areas in Kenya, Kituo puts her little effort in service to humanity. In partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Kituo opened the FMP Branch Office to assist the urban refugees in need of legal protection.

The inspiration to start an Urban Refugee Intervention Centre was mooted when Kituo found itself unable to turn away refugees and asylum seekers, who were survivors or witnesses of various human rights abuses in their home countries and their country of asylum (Kenya). Kituo pledged to continue being the people's watchdog over the implementation of the Refugees Act of 2006, and to ensure the refugee's rights under the new law are realized. In addition, FMP advocated for the respect and protection of IDPs rights and freedoms while also pledging to continue offering services which include legal representation, assisting Refugees obtaining of work permits, birth and death certificates, Identity cards etc and also referral service to our other partners and investigations of systematic Human Rights violations against refugees.

Kituo also helps in identifying and litigating on Public Interest issues touching on refugees, monitoring cases of Insecurity and Gender Based Violence, research, and training on Human Rights and Refugee Law.



## Key Upcoming Activities Jul - Aug 2019

1. Kituo Cha Sheria 46th Anniversary Celebration and FREE legal aid clinic- Jul
2. Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) project introductory meeting in Trans- Nzoia- Jul-Aug
3. M-Haki toolkit launch and access to justice and technology regional conference- Jul
4. Kituo cha Sheria Special General Meeting (SGM) 2019- Jul
5. Imarisha Haki project implementation in Naivasha, Siaya and Machakos- Jul-Aug
6. Legal Aid clinics with community justice centers in informal settlements - Jul-Aug
7. Kituo paralegal refresher training, radio talk show, legal aid clinic and documentation of successes-Jul
8. Turkana paralegal refresher training, radio talk show, legal aid clinics and documentation of successes – Jul
9. International Prisoners Rights day celebrations- Aug 10th
10. Mareneni (Kilifi) paralegal refresher training, legal aid clinic and documentation of successes-Jul
11. Court Users' Committee (CUC) meeting for Milimani, Makadara and Kibera Law Courts -Jul
12. Forced Migration Program (FMP) staff team-building activity in Nairobi –Jul
13. Implementation of the Global Data Justice (GDJ) project in Nairobi and Kiambu- Jul
14. Prison sector working group meetings in Nairobi- Jul-Aug
15. Client legal advice and representation and Legal advice to clients through the M-Haki platform- Jul-Aug
16. Legal Aid clinics with the Refugee Community in urban settlements in Nairobi and Mombasa- Jul-Aug

## Kituo engaged in the Global Data Justice Project



Participants of the Global Data Justice project focus group in Kamukunji, Nairobi pose for a group photo

Kituo Cha Sheria is currently engaged in the Global Data Justice-A globally inclusive dialogue about the future of data.

The project - global data justice in the era of big data: toward an inclusive framing of informational rights and freedoms (funded by the European Union European Research Council) Principal investigator: Dr. Linnet Taylor (TILT, Tilburg University, Netherlands) Researcher: Hellen Mukiri-Smith (CIPIIT, Strathmore University, Kenya and TILT, Tilburg University, Netherlands) in partnership with Kituo Cha Sheria. On intermittent dates Kituo has led Focus Group discussions

in Korogocho, Kamukunji and Kibera in Nairobi County and in Githunguri, Kiambu County. The focus group discussions with diverse groups of participants focused on mobile money lending Apps- M-Shwari, Tala, Branch, KCB M-Pesa, Okash, Timiza, Fuliza, etc. and Huduma Namba.

The Global Data Justice project focuses on the diverse debates and processes occurring around data governance in different regions - including Kenya, to draw out overarching principles and needs that can push data technologies' governance in the direction of social justice.



## Kituo conducts Police Training on Refugee Law



Officers during a session of the refugee law training at the Pride Inn Hotel-Westlands, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria's Forced Migration Programme (FMP) on 17th May 2019 conducted training on Refugee Law at the Pride Inn Hotel-Westlands, Nairobi. The 2-day training saw 20 police officers drawn from various stations in Nairobi, immigration officers and prisons officers trained on relevant aspects of refugees' rights which include ensuring security for refugees, emergency response and how to attend to persons with specific needs among others as stipulated in the Refugees Act of 2006. This training was meant to ensure that refugees in camps and in urban centres are secure and refugee rights are protected in line with principles of national

and international refugee laws. The training which was undertaken by Kituo officers Yunia Atieno, Caroline Kamau and Fardosa Ahmed together with colleagues from the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) and UNHCR-Kenya allowed the participants to constructively exchange ideas and views which can hopefully address relevant issues especially with regards to refugees' rights. It aimed at strengthening their knowledge and awareness further on the fundamentals of refugee protection, documentation issued to asylum-seekers/refugees detention and others which impact the lives of refugees who are temporarily present in the country.

## Kituo conducts free Legal Aid Clinic in Nairobi



Members of the public receive legal services from Kituo and Volunteer Advocates during the free legal aid clinic on 9th May, 2019 at the Kituo Head Office

Kituo Cha Sheria held a free legal aid clinic on 9th May, 2019 at the Kituo Head Office. The clinic which is usually conducted to correspond with May Day (Labour Day) celebrations every year offers a helping hand to the poor and marginalized struggling to access justice.

The activity attracted clients from all over Kenya with diverse legal problems who were given legal assistance free of charge. Those who had issues that required a follow up were issued with appointment dates. The event is normally dedicated to giving a chance to the large number of

clients that Kituo may not be able to accommodate in its daily busy schedule where only a limited number of clients are seen. The legal clinic was carried out by Kituo Cha Sheria's Legal Aid and Education Department lawyers, volunteer advocates and Law students from the University of Nairobi's Students Association for Legal Aid and Research (SALAR). Kituo continues to provide legal empowerment to the poor and marginalized to realize our vision of a society of Justice and equity for all and regular aid clinics provides the perfect opportunity for Kituo to reach as many as possible.

## Kituo hold a Legal Awareness forum and Legal Aid Clinic in Kawangware, Nairobi County



Kituo's Ojuni Ochalla (in striped coat) attends to a refugee client during the legal awareness forum at Kivuli Centre in Kawangware, Nairobi County

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) held a one day Legal Awareness Forum on 13th June 2019 at Kivuli Centre in Kawangware, Nairobi County. The activity targeted refugees/asylum seekers or Persons of concern to the government of Kenya and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

The forum's objective was to introduce work done by Kituo through the Forced Migration Program, UNHCR and other partners in addressing general concerns from protection, legal, registration, livelihood, education, repatriation, health, psychosocial and others issues. A total of 106 refugees from different countries who made it to the event got the opportunity to interact with Kituo and UNHCR officers where they got their questions on different issues important to them addressed. Among the issues raised included; delays in registration by the government, challenges in accessing education, health services access issues, harassment by government officers as well as challenges in accessing government offices that deal with refugees. FMP holds regular legal aid clinics

and community forums aimed at reaching a larger number of refugee population who due to one reason or the other cannot access the Forced Migration Programme offices.

The awareness forums are also regularly conducted due to the lack of awareness of the office existence for new arrivals, financial constraints and security issues or fear of harassment and unlawful detention from both the law enforcement agencies and the public. The event also offered an opportunity for refugees with specific legal challenges attended to and appropriate legal advice offered. Appointments were also initiated on need basis for follow up.

The forum was spearheaded by Kituo officers Charity Wangui and Ojuni Ochalla who informed participants on the role of Kituo's Forced Migration Programme.



Participants are taken through a session at the legal awareness forum



46 YEARS

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## KITUO Trains Persons Living with Disabilities (PLwD)



Participants of the paralegals for disabilities training workshop pose for a group photo with their certificates at Pompeo Place in Embakasi, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria trained a group of 24 persons living with disabilities (PLwDs) in Nairobi. The paralegals for disabilities training workshop in partnership with the Kenya Union of the Blind (KUB) took place from the 3rd to 7th June, 2019 at Pompeo Place in Embakasi, Nairobi.

Participants at the training workshop covered; introduction to basic disability rights and fundamental freedoms (Chapter 4-CoK 2010); introduction to legal instruments on disability (International, National and County Based); legal implications of violations of disability rights; abuse of rights: definition, causes, manifestation and prevention; responding to cases of abuse of rights and case management.

Kituo officers also took participants through introduction to paralegalism and guiding principles for paralegals; community-based response systems of rights abuse

and facilitating access to justice; information on related critical agencies that monitor and report on violations of disability rights which include KNCHR, NGE, ICJ, and LSK. Kituo undertook the 5-days training together with the Kenya Union of the Blind (KUB) which is the national organization of the blind and partially sighted established in 1960 under the Societies' Ordinance Act of 1952 of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya.

KUB works to promote the social inclusion of persons with visual impairments through uniting and empowering them as well as advocating for their rights; with a vision of creating a barrier-free society in which persons with visual impairments enjoy full and equal opportunities. Kituo committed to pursue further partnerships aimed at empowering persons living with disabilities in Kenya in pursuit of access to justice and equity for all.

## KITUO Celebrates the UN International Day in support of Victims of Torture

**26 JUNE**

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE



Kituo Cha Sheria on 26th June 2019 joined the world to commemorate this year's International Day in support of Victims of Torture. This year's global campaign sought to facilitate actions by local groups and organizations across the world who work every day to support victims of torture and ill-treatment and Kituo has made tremendous efforts to ensure that human rights for all are respected. Many torture survivors and their families across the world are forced to leave their homelands to avoid further torture, ill-treatment and discrimination. The journey often brings with it additional trauma and uncertainty, but arrival at an intended or unintended destination eventually occurs – most often in a country close-by or maybe at a previously unimaginable distance. The new location is away from a familiar way of doing things, a support network, and a means of supporting one's family. Torture trauma can make the already challenging task of making a

## KITUO holds a Post-Judgment Strategy Meeting



Kituo's John Mwariri (Advocate) listens to a client during the post-judgment strategy meeting on the Kilimambogo Public Interest Litigation (PIL) case in Thika

Kituo cha Sheria held a post-judgment strategy meeting on the Kilimambogo Public Interest Litigation (PIL) case on 24th June, 2019 at the Cross Tavern Hotel in Thika. The meeting was convened by Legal Aid and Education Department (LAED) coordinator, John Mwariri and brought together the Kilimambogo Squatters Committee members. The committee members expressed their unhappiness and disgust in regards to the meeting being arranged with their adversaries ('interested parties'). The committee intimated that together with the local authorities in the area they will go the extra mile of reaching out to each other to get a lasting solution of peace, tranquility and compensation. The committee members were comfortable with that arrangement of meeting the area Chief, D.C, D.O. and NLC representative to see if the lasting solution proposed would be met in the form

of negotiations by weighing all options. The committee was proposed to that they give the names and list of the proprietors on their land. They stated that they would do so and hand over to their Chairman to forward to Kituo. There were concerns that the acreage of the land they had been previously allocated was not equal in measure as to what they sit on now. John Mwariri was advised by the committee to look into that and he proposed to involve a surveyor to that effect. The Kilimambogo Settlement Scheme title issuance case is a petition based on alleged denial, infringement of and threat to rights and fundamental freedoms under various articles of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. The Kilimambogo PIL Case brings together about 1,343 households comprising of occupants and settlers of the parcels of land in the Settlement Scheme.

life anew completely overwhelming – even years later. Equally, many migrants and their families across the world face the threat of torture and ill-treatment in the country in which they settle or pass through – simply by virtue of being a migrant. So often in contemporary society the finger of blame is pointed at the migrant, without it being recognized that they are frequently the victims of torture, rape, enslavement, trafficking and murder. Since time immemorial, human beings have been migrating in search of better opportunities, pasture and a better life for their families. Each one of us, in one way or the other is as a result of migration. In these modern times people are still migrating in pursuit of a better life however of concern are the cases of forceful displacement due to issues of persecution, conflict, generalized violence or human rights violations. Kituo expressed its solidarity with hundreds of thousands of victims of torture throughout the world and their family members who endure such suffering and called on governments around the world to put in place measures to ensure that such victims and survivors are given all the required support as per the Human Rights Laws and Agreements.