

## Kituo joins in celebrating the International Day for the Right to Truth



Members of the public and advocates of the Right to Truth following the day's event during the commemoration of the International Day for the Right to Truth at the KICC, Nairobi County

Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed. It is a commemoration of the victims of human rights violations, acknowledging a fundamental human right to truth and supporting those human rights activists and defenders who commit their lives to fighting for truth and justice.

Kituo Cha Sheria led by the Executive Director, Ms. Gertrude Angote joined survivors, the public and Kituo's partners in commemoration of the day-officially marked 24 March- at the KICC in Nairobi. The Executive Director on behalf of Kituo fraternity shared the experiences Kituo has had especially working with sexual and gender based violence victims. She emphasized the speedy need for transformative reparations for the victims taking the forms of psychological support, education support and rehabilitation.

The call for reparations comes barely four years after the efforts towards administration and disbursement of the restorative justice funds to victims and survivors as stated by the President in 2015 during his State of the Nation address that has not been realized. As such, the state of victims and survivors remain the same or even worse, especially those that suffered serious bodily harm in the hands of the police during the 2007/2008 and 2017 post-election violence. Kituo takes cognizance that the spirit and letter of Article 28 of the Kenyan Constitution, on the right to human dignity, is relevant and an integral call of duty for every duty bearer. Therefore, Truth is universal and fundamental to all and so are the other human rights.

The celebration was also attended by representatives from civil society organizations;

the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), Human Rights Watch, KTJN, PAWA254, UN-OHCHR, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), National Victims and Survivors Network, and Government officials from the office of the Attorney General all committing to promote the right to truth and calling for the end to alarming trends of human rights violations especially during the electioneering period.



Kituo's Executive Director, Ms. Gertrude Angote giving her speech during the Right to Truth Day.



Members of the public keenly following the day's event at the KICC in Nairobi

## Kituo Meets Magarini Salt Belt Community



Kituo programme officer Zedekiah Adika leads a session during the public forum in Magarini

Kituo Cha Sheria in collaboration with the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) held a successful one-day event in Gongoni area, Magarini Sub-County of Kilifi County. The meeting held on 18th April, 2018 was to sensitise the Community living in the Magarini Salt Belt on their land and environmental rights. Over the years, the rights of those living along the salt belt have been infringed upon on so many fronts. These violations are largely attributed to salt mining firms and the Government of Kenya. Kituo in collaboration with the local communities and like-minded partners are working on various strategies to protect, preserve and uphold the rights of the locals. Part of the strategy is Kituo's intention to file a Public Interest Litigation case regarding environmental and land issues in the Magarini salt belt in Court. The activities in Kilifi are spearheaded by Kituo programme officer Zedekiah Adika.

## Kituo conducts Community Sensitization Forum in Kasarani



Engaging urban refugees during the sensitization forum in Kasarani, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) in partnership with UNHCR, DRC, IRC, NCKK, Refugee Point, RCK, RefuSHE, RAS, and the Refugee Appeals Board on 11th April, 2018 conducted a Community sensitization forum in Sunton, Kasarani - Nairobi County.

Kituo's FMP and its partners met the urban refugee community in their localities to offer them various services and engage them through question and answer forums to listen to some of their issues and offer possible solutions.

## KITUO trains pro-bono Advocates in Naivasha



Group photo of Kituo's Forced Migration Programmes officers together with volunteer advocates after the training at the Great Rift Valley Lodge

**K**ituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programmes held two day Pro bono lawyers training in Naivasha.

the procedure in representation of refugees and asylum seekers and the contemporary issues in refugee management in Kenya.

The training that was conducted on 26th and 27th April, 2018 covered various refugee laws and management of asylum seekers in Kenya. The participants were also taken through various topics including: Introduction to forced migration and forced migrants, international, regional and national framework on refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya, the management of refugees in Kenya, the role of the various actors in refugee protection,



Pro bono lawyers taking part during the training in Naivasha

## Key Upcoming Activities May - Jun 2018

1. Labour Day FREE legal aid clinic in Nairobi-May
2. Legal Aid clinics with community justice centers in informal settlements - June
3. Legal aid caucus/conference on Kilimambogo Evictions PIL Case - May
4. FMP International Refugee Congress, Istanbul, Turkey- May
5. Kitui paralegal refresher training, radio talk show, legal aid clinic and documentation of successes-May
6. Turkana paralegal refresher training, radio talk show, legal aid clinics and documentation of successes - May.
7. Meru prison paralegal refresher training, access to justice day celebration and documentation of successes - May.
8. Imarisha Haki project implementation- May- June
9. Conducting of mobile legal aid clinics in 10 counties - Nyahururu, Kitale, Makueni, Kerugoya, Kitui, Isiolo, Narok, Kajiado, Nyeri, Busia - May-June
10. Phase 2 implementation of Alternative Justice Systems Project in Trans Nzoia, Kisumu and Eldoret - May
11. Nyeri prison paralegal refresher training, access to justice day celebration and documentation of successes - May.
12. End-Term Evaluation of the Dutch Promoting Access to Justice project- June
13. Mombasa County Government law enforcement officers' training - May.

## Kituo trains members of Stretchers Youth Group in Mombasa



Members of the Stretchers Youth Organization and guests at the graduation ceremony

**K**ituo Cha Sheria through the Coast regional office took members of Stretchers Youth Group through a paralegal training in Mombasa.

The seven day activity was carried out in Changamwe, Mombasa County and was intended to equip the Stretchers Youth Group members with basic knowledge of the law to help in sustainable access to justice in Mombasa County, more specifically, Changamwe Sub-County; where the group is based.

Kituo to reach vulnerable communities to ensure sustainable access to justice in these peripheral zones. The training culminated with a graduation ceremony that saw the graduands issued with certificates of merit.

This activity was spearheaded by Kituo's legal/programme officer Zedekiah Adika in collaboration with partners based in Mombasa, namely: MUHURI, Clear Kenya, FIDA-Kenya and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

Stretchers Youth Group is a core group that has been working together with Kituo Cha Sheria in matters of community partnership and governance. The group has been instrumental in assisting



A paralegal receives his certificate during the graduation in Changamwe, Mombasa

## Kituo holds Community Forum in Kawangware, Nairobi County



Members of the public in Kawangware follow proceedings during the sensitization forum

**K**ituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme on 25th April 2018 conducted a Multi-agency community forum in Kawangware, at St. John's Catholic Church.

Kituo and its Partners sensitized refugees and Asylum seekers on the services offered by the various partners. Also present were representatives of the Local Administration.

## Kituo's ED attends the Bernstein Institute for Human Right's Annual Conference



Kituo Cha Sheria's Executive Director Ms. Gertrude Angote (center) speaks at the Bernstein Institute for Human Rights Annual Conference

Kituo Cha Sheria's Executive Director Ms. Gertrude Angote was an invited speaker at the Bernstein Institute for Human Rights Annual Conference 2018.

The Human Rights Annual Conference convenes an interdisciplinary panel of experts to discuss some of the most pressing human rights issues of our time. Previous topics included legal strategies and tactics to resist the global crackdown on civil society and the human rights implications of predictive analytics. This year's Conference took place at the Vanderbilt Hall, New York University, School of Law under the theme of Reimagining Justice: Realizing Human Rights through Legal Empowerment from 26th-27th April 2018.

More than 4 billion people are understood to be living outside the protection of the law. Adding to this unjust and ongoing status quo are profound levels of income inequality and rising authoritarianism across the globe. The result is an urgent need to re-imagine legal systems that work for everyone. This was the guideline for the conference which recognized legal empowerment, as a growing field of human rights practice, scholarship, and education that strives to reverse the tide of injustice and strengthen the capacity of marginalized individuals to use the law to find solutions to their justice problems.

The Conference brought together leading activists, lawyers, and academics from around the world to assess the state of the legal empowerment field, identify key research and methodological opportunities, and build a stronger global movement for grassroots

justice. Ms. Angote spoke during the first day's panel on legal empowerment- advancing human rights by transforming access to justice. The opening panel at the Conference provided an introductory, analytical framework of the key concepts underpinning legal empowerment, illuminating how empowerment can transform access to justice and make real human rights. The Executive Director said that empowerment works to help people actually achieve political rights and further explained that through legal empowerment efforts; Kituo has supported prisoners in Kenya to successfully demand the right to vote in elections.

"The relationship in terms of human rights and legal empowerment has largely been demonstrated and strengthened by the process of the poor and marginalized knowing, using, and shaping the law", said Ms. Angote.

Other topics covered during the two-day Conference included refugee, health, and prisoners' rights-diversity of issues and interventions; legal empowerment research; using technology as a tool to empower communities; building power in post-conflict, repressive, and absent States; tackling corporate abuse through community action and the emerging models of legal empowerment in the United States.



Participants follow proceedings at the Annual Human Rights Conference in New York, NY

## Kituo Conducts a Legal Aid Clinic in Kitengela, Kajiado County



Kituo's legal officer Joan Nyongesa (in red top) during the community legal awareness forum in Kitengela, Kajiado County

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) held a one day legal aid clinic and legal awareness forum in Kitengela, Kajiado County. The activity took place on 19th April, 2018. FMP holds regular legal aid clinics aimed at reaching a larger number of refugee populations who due to one reason or the other cannot access the FMP offices.

The awareness forums are also conducted due to lack of awareness of the office existence for new arrivals, financial constraint and security issues or fear of harassment and unlawful detention from both the law enforcement agencies such as the police and the public.

The objectives of the clinic conducted in Kitengela was to inform participants on the role of Kituo Cha Sheria's Forced Migration Programme (FMP), educate urban refugees on the county's by-laws, educate refugees on work permits and how to obtain them, sensitize refugees on the upcoming refugee elections and screening of clients and listen to individual legal problem at the end of the session.

A total of 106 participants made up mainly of Congolese and Burundian urban refugees attended the day's event spearheaded by officers Joan Nyongesa and Sedrick Agaba

## Kituo conducts Workshops/Trainings in Eastleigh and Riruta in Nairobi



Kituo legal officer Maureen Elavisa guides a session at the community workshop in Eastleigh, Nairobi

On 23rd April 2018, Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Program (FMP), in partnership with CARITAS Kenya held a one day training/workshop in Eastleigh at KCITI College. The objective of the training was to educate urban refugees on their rights, responsibilities and duties as well as on conflict management and peace building. The workshop also provided an avenue to

answer various legal questions ranging from documentation, conflict between culture and law and court representation. A total of 39 participants were present, majorly made up of Ethiopians, Eritreans and Somali urban refugees. The workshop was led by legal officer Maureen Elavisa who undertook a similar workshop on 26th April, 2018 in Riruta, Nairobi.

## Kituo conducts a Paralegal Refresher Training at the Kamiti Maximum Prison Justice Centre



Kamiti Maximum Prison paralegals and guests in a group photo after the graduation ceremony

“Use the knowledge you have acquired for the benefit of others”, Ms. Annette Mbogoh.

On Friday, 20th April, 2018 Kituo cha Sheria commemorated the Access to Justice Day at the Kamiti Maximum Prison in Nairobi. The day also saw 30 prison paralegals that had undergone an intense week-long paralegal training graduate. The Kamiti Prison Justice Centre was launched in the year 2012 with an initial training of 30 paralegals including inmates and prison wardens out of which only seven (7) remained in the justice centre before this refresher training. The day was celebrated to acknowledge the contributions of the prison paralegals as they play a big role in educating inmates about their legal rights to appeal for justice.

There were many activities organized by the prison inmates to celebrate the achievements of Kituo’s paralegals at the prison justice centre. The day started-off with a tree planting ceremony followed by a colorful cultural program of song and dance with performance by the Kamiti Maximum Prison Band. There was an enjoyable moot court skit presented by the prisoners which showcased their learning and understanding of bail and bond, community service order, legal representation and other judicial procedures, as tutored by the prison paralegals.

Kituo’s Coast Regional office Coordinator, Ms. Annette Mbogoh represented the Executive Director at the event and said that the Prison

Justice Centers which are managed and run by trained paralegals have been a hugely successful model for Kituo.

The Kamiti Prison Justice Centre can so far account for 1,150 appeals filed in various High Courts and Court of Appeal stations countrywide. The prison paralegals have already prepared 260 petitions based on Petition No. 15 of 2015 in which the Supreme Court of Kenya declared mandatory death sentence as no longer lawful in Kenya. Francis Karioko Muruatetu one of the Kamiti prison paralegals was a petitioner.

Kituo Cha Sheria remains a constant friend of the poor and the marginalized helping them to access free legal aid to ultimately achieve justice.



An inmate receives his certificate during the graduation ceremony



Kituo’s Annette Mbogoh awards a certificate to one of the wardens

## Kituo attends PASUNE Meeting



The PASUNE Steering Committee meeting in progress in Nairobi

On 18th April, 2018 Kituo Cha Sheria attended a Paralegal Support Network (PASUNE) meeting at the Swiss Lenana Mount Hotel, Nairobi. PASUNE is a network of leading human rights organizations involved in paralegal training that has been working towards standardizing the content and methods of training paralegals in Kenya. The meeting of the PASUNE Steering Committee was chaired by Legal Resources Foundation’s Executive Director Ms. Janet Munywoki and was meant to update members of the Network

on the developments in the sector and pursue areas of interest for the network. The committee also reviewed a report on the criminal justice system in Kenya and made legal, policy, institutional, operational, and administrative recommendations necessary for better functioning of the criminal justice sub-sector. Kituo was represented at the meeting by programme officer Ephraim Kayere. Also present was representation from the Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya).

## Kituo’s HAKI Blog nominated for BAKE Awards 2018

Kituo cha Sheria’s Haki Blog -https://kituochasheria.wordpress.com/ has been nominated for the Best Social Issues and Active Citizenship Blog in the 7th BAKE Awards 2018 Competition.

The Haki Blog is an interactive and creative blog on access to justice and other human rights issues that receives contributions from staff and members of the public as a platform for them to articulate their needs, views and concerns with respect to their human rights.

Kituo has repeatedly been acknowledged for our immense contribution

towards realization of human and people’s rights by the poor and marginalized people in society through nominations and winning various awards in the past. Kituo continues to define leadership in the NGO sector and were awarded the NGO Leadership Award 2016 at the 6th Africa NGO Leadership Awards in Mauritius and finished 2nd in the BAKE Awards Human Rights Category blog in 2017.

Haki Blog is nominated in the Best Social Issues and Active Citizenship Blog category 22(b). Voting closed on 7th May, 2018 culminating in the awarding of winners at a gala event in Nairobi on 19th May, 2018.