

KITUO TRAINS PRISON OFFICERS & INMATE PARALEGALS AT NAIVASHA PRISON, NAKURU COUNTY



Kituo officers and prison officers speaking to the trainees after the training of Prison Officers and inmate Paralegals at the Naivasha Women's Prison

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted a 5-day training of Prison Officers and inmate Paralegals at the Naivasha Women's Prison from 9th-13th September 2019. The training was part of a series of activities conducted in different prisons under the project 'Imarisha Haki' supported by the European Union and aimed at protecting and promoting human rights reforms within the criminal justice system in Kenya. The training which was spearheaded by Kituo officer Ms. Janet Kosgei centered on the Human Rights and the UN Standard - Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners - [Nelson Mandela Rules].

Among the topics that were covered during the prison paralegals training included; Introduction to Prison Paralegalism, Paralegalism and the Criminal Justice System, Appeals and Revision, Introduction to Human Rights and the Basic Principles, Introduction to Criminal Law Procedures and Essentials to Criminal Procedure, Inquests and PII; Special Process (Torture Proceedings and SOA), the Legal Aid Act, 2016, Persons Deprived of Liberty Act and the Prevention of Torture Act, 2017.

All human beings; and this includes prisoners, have certain unalienable rights, which are acknowledged by internationally recognized treaties and agreements chief among them being the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the UN Standard Minimum Rules and with respect for Human Rights traditionally being a problem in most prisons fuelled by a knowledge gap among the prisoners and prison officers; regular training becomes an important tool to bridge this knowledge gap.

Kituo has been conducting such trainings in different prisons throughout the country in order to ensure that prisoners understand their rights as prisoners while the prison officers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitude to perform their duties well and with respect for the rights and dignity of detainees which is in line with Kituo's pursuit of its vision of a society of justice and equity for all through legal empowerment.



The female prison trainees during a training session at the Naivasha Women's Prison



The Naivasha Women's Prison officers receive certificates for the trainees from Advocate John Mwariri after the training

KITUO Holds Validation Meeting on The Malindi Salt Belt Report




A speaker leads a session during the Malindi Salt Belt report validation workshop

On 13th September 2019 Kituo Cha Sheria's Mombasa Regional Office held a meeting in Mombasa that was meant to assess a scientific report that was prepared following complaints registered on violations around Land, Environment and trumped up charges against poor locals meted by the State and salt firms in the area.

This was validated by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) of 2006, dubbed Malindi Salt Belt report, which exposed the inhuman and degrading treatment locals communities were exposed to. KITUO then took the initiative to work with members of the local community in addressing the injustices in the salt belt after the report by KNCHR had brought to the fore numerous cases of human rights violations, mainly cutting across areas of interest for KITUO.

Kituo intends to file a law suit to resolve the land and environmental disputes in the region and with the Petition having been drafted and statements taken already, the scientific assessment is vital in supporting the evidence on record.

MHAKI "Haki Mkononi"



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KITUO Conducts UN Standard Minimum rules for the Treatment of Prisoners Training in Garissa



The trainees, Imarisha Haki project officers and prison officers pose for a group photo after the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners Training at the Garissa Main prison

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted a comprehensive UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners Training at the Garissa Main prison. The training for Kenya Prison Officers at the Garissa Main Prison in Garissa County took place from the 14th to 18th October 2019.

The training was conducted under the Project Imarisha Haki funded by the European Union which seeks to promote and protect Human Rights within the Criminal Justice System in Kenya. The project works within the prison and also within the community at large. Objectives of the training included increased knowledge on the relationships between Human rights and criminal justice, torture laws and guidelines among the prison officers.

The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners Training in Garissa increased the knowledge on human rights, criminal law and criminal justice; raised awareness of Prison Officers on the rights of the prisoners and increased accountability and compliance amongst the Prison

Officers. The Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners Training for Kenya Prison Officer in Garissa was organized by the Kenya Prisons Service and Kituo Cha Sheria and spearheaded by Ms. Jephchirchir Jacquelyn with Anthony Wambua from CEFA also in attendance.

Violation of human rights within the detention facilities is largely perpetuated by the duty bearers who are the prison warders. The prisoners face a health hazard due to poor conditions of the abolition blocks, poor case management, lack of awareness of human rights amongst the prison officers, delayed cases and poor sleeping conditions. By conducting vigorous training of prison officers at the Garissa Main Prison, Kituo Cha Sheria was intervening in alleviating these violations and building capacity for the officers.

30 prison officers; through the training- were imparted with knowledge on human rights concepts, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules (17 modules) and Paralegalism.

KITUO Holds Self-Care Session for Coast Regional Office Staff



Kituo Cha Sheria through the Mental Health and Psychological Support Services (MHPSS) which is under the Forced Migration Programme held a self-care session for Kituo's Coast Regional Office-Mombasa staff on 30th October 2019 at the Flamingo Beach Resort, Mombasa.

The activity allowed KITUO staff to take some time off work in order to focus on their own psychological well-being. The staff participated in an array of activities led by MHPSS officers Ms. Corazon and Mr. Alubala that included a yoga session which is important in providing emotional and physical care.

This is a regular activity conducted by MHPSS which offers support to KITUO staff to ensure that they are psychologically and emotionally healthy to effectively perform their duties owing to the nature of work done by Kituo.

Key Upcoming Activities Nov - Dec 2019

1. Kituo Cha Sheria end year legal aid clinic- December 2019
2. 16 Days of Activism activities - November 25th - 10th Dec 2019
3. Kakamega prison paralegal refresher training, access to justice day celebrations and documentation of successes- Nov-Dec
4. Legal Aid clinics with the Refugee Community in urban settlements Nairobi and Mombasa - Nov-Dec
5. International Human Rights Day; 16 Days of Activism Candle lit Dinner - Dec
6. Kituo Cha Sheria Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Dec
7. Kituo end of year meeting - Dec 2019
8. CSOs Quarterly meeting- Mombasa- Nov 2019
9. Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) project Adjudicators' training in Kisumu & TransNzoia - Nov
10. Legal Aid clinics with CJs in informal settlements - Nov-Dec
11. Client legal advice and representation and Legal advice to clients through the M-Haki platform- Nov-Dec
12. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) group sessions- Nov-Dec
13. UNDP Amkeni- Njia Za Haki Project- Access to Justice Project implementation in Mombasa County- Nov- Dec
14. Global Data Justice project focus groups in Nairobi, Kiambu, Mombasa and Kisumu- Nov-Dec
15. Shimo La Tewa prison paralegal refresher training, access to justice day celebrations and documentation of successes- Nov

KITUO Celebrates 46th Birthday with a Free Legal Aid Clinic at the Head Office



Clients at the registration desk on arrival for the FREE legal aid clinic and awareness forum at the Head Office in Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria successfully conducted a FREE legal aid clinic and awareness forum at its Head Office in Nairobi on the 5th September 2019 in an event that started early in the morning with clients arriving from different parts of the country.

The one-day activity was held in celebration of KITUO's 46th birthday and which Kituo celebrated by offering free legal assistance to the poor and marginalized people struggling to access justice in line with its core mandate.

The event saw over 100 clients who came in with diverse legal problems seeking assistance from KITUO attended to by Kituo advocates assisted

by volunteer advocates and law students from different universities. Clients were offered appropriate legal advice by the advocates with those whose cases needed more time given appointments at a later date. 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.

Kituo continues to provide legal empowerment to the poor and marginalized in pursuit of our vision of a society of justice and equity for all and regular legal aid clinics provides the perfect opportunity for Kituo to reach as many as possible.

KITUO Holds Community Legal Awareness Forum in Kibra, Nairobi County



Kibera Community Justice Centre's Jamia Abdulrahman and a participant engage during the legal awareness forum at the Kibra DC grounds

Kituo Cha Sheria successfully conducted 3-day legal awareness fora which started on Wednesday 18th September 2019 and ended Friday 20th September 2019 at the Kibra DC's grounds in Kibra Constituency. The activities focused mainly on two areas; labour laws and the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) applicable laws.

The forums had the main aim of increasing community awareness on labour and SGBV related laws. The first two days activities focused mainly on labour laws where those in attendance were taken through the basic law provisions with regards to labour issues. Friday's activity focused on Sexual and Gender Based Violence where participants were educated on the legal processes when such

incidences occur and also on reducing incidences of violence in the Kibera informal settlement area.

Participants engaged with the Kituo advocates present led by Ms. Martha Ogutu while presenting real life experiences and exchanging opinions and ideas. The activity which was supported by the Dutch Embassy in Kenya also provided an opportunity for Kituo to create awareness on the free SMS platform for legal advice 'M-Haki-Haki Mkononi'.

Regular legal awareness fora are usually conducted by Kituo to ensure that citizens are empowered on different matters regarding law and in order to realize the organization's vision of a society of justice and equity for all.

KITUO hosts Ms Selina Orsi-Coutts of Misereor at the Kituo Head Office



Kituo cha Sheria team pose with Ms Selina Orsi-Coutts of Misereor at the Head office in Nairobi after the meeting

KITUO was privileged to host Ms Selina Orsi-Coutts of Misereor on 6th November 2019. We had fruitful discussions on the implementation of the ongoing project. The KITUO team provided an update on its programmatic work ranging from; legal aid & education, public interest litigation, alternative dispute resolution, advocacy and community activities. Ms. Orsi-

Coutts also met with some of the clients whose matters KITUO is handling including representatives of the Kilimambogo Settlement Scheme, Juliet Mwangeli and the Garissa University Victims PIL cases. We take this opportunity to thank Misereor for their continued support to KITUO towards ensuring a society of justice and equity for all.

SUCCESS STORY OF JOHN MUKOMA



Mr. John Mukoma receives his judgement from Advocate John Mwariri at the Head office, Nairobi joined by other members of staff

Mr. John Mukoma had decided to be generous enough to donate 2 acres of his land to his brothers as part of the inheritance share his late father was to divide among his sons. Mr. Mukoma, who had already acquired another piece of land decided to donate his share to his brothers. His generosity was however to be abused by his brothers who decided to turn against him and demand for more from their brother after the death of their father.

Things got worse when his brothers turned to violence against Mr. Mukoma and got beaten to near death prompting him to seek legal redress to solve the issue. Mr. Mukoma looked for a city lawyer to help him file a criminal suit in 1998 however the lawyer would later on drop the matter.

Mr. Mukoma would later hear of Kituo Cha Sheria on radio in 2001 and sought the organization's help. After visiting Kituo and having his case taken up by Kituo, the plaintiff sought orders from the court barring his brothers Michael Kabit, Josiah Mburu and Patrick Njuba as 1st, 2nd and 3rd defendants from laying claim to the parcel of land and stop the encroachment. He was able to prove to the court that he was the rightful owner of the suit parcel of land No. Gatamaiyu/Kamburu/714. The defendants claimed that Mr. John Mukoma was only holding the land in their trust, a claim that was challenged by the plaintiff.

After a long court case characterized with notable no-shows from the defendants, John Mukoma would later breathe a sigh of relief after the court granted his wishes on 7th April 2003 declaring that the plaintiff had proven that he

owns the land and does not hold the suit property in trust. The magistrate also questioned why the defendants would wait for the death of their father to claim. However, the defendants would later file an appeal seeking to set aside the judgment of April 2003. The application was canvassed before Justice Nambuye J (as she was then) and a ruling was delivered on 24th April 2008 where the initial judgment of 2003 was set aside and the defendants were granted an opportunity to appear in court and present their evidence. However, the matter came up severally in court and the defendants together with their advocates were always absent even after being served with court papers. In view of this, the plaintiff's evidence was not challenged and the court asked for further supporting documents.

The case was therefore heard in the absence of the defendants and the court upheld that Mr. Mukoma was the rightful owner of the parcel of land while also finding the defendants guilty of trespass and awarded the plaintiff KSH. 500,000 in damages. The judgment was delivered at the Environment and Land Court at Thika by Judge L. Gacheru on 24th May 2019.

Mr. Mukoma expressed his gratitude to Kituo and particularly to Mr. Kivungi, Advocate Mwariri and Boniface Muinde for walking with him throughout the court case period. Indeed, justice is the tolerable accommodation of the conflicting interests of society, and I don't believe there is any royal road to attain such accommodation concretely-Judge Learned Hand.

KITUO Assists Community Members in Taita Taveta



Jubilant community members in Taita Taveta and their advocate outside the Wundanyi Law Courts after the victory

24th October 2019 marked a victorious end to an eight-month-long legal battle between community members in Taita Taveta through the Taita Taveta Human Rights Watch, and the Kenya Wildlife Service. In February this year, four community members (three women and one man) in Wundanyi were arrested and charged with incitement to violence and destruction of the property of Kenya Wildlife Services.

The arrests came after the community members protested the fencing off of their ancestral land where they have been living and farming on by the Kenya Wildlife Service. The four poor Kenyans could not afford the bail of KES 200,000 set by the court and they remained in remand for four days but their fellow community members came to their rescue. Members of the community in Wundanyi volunteered their title deeds for valuation so as to bail out their comrades.

The community working with human rights activists from the Taita Taveta Human Rights Watch reached out to Kituo Cha Sheria-Legal Advice Centre's Mombasa

office. Kituo Advocates Allan Nyange and Zedekiah Adika immediately took up the matter and argued an application for bail which was reduced from KES 200,000 to KES 20,000 each. With the titles volunteered by other community members, the four were released on bond pending the court hearings. After over eight long months, justice was served yesterday as the Court dismissed the case against the four community members!

Meanwhile, the community has filed a matter at the Environment and Land Court (ELC) Mombasa to get their land back. Kituo Cha Sheria (Kituo) is a human rights non-governmental organization committed to helping the disadvantaged, poor and marginalized people in Kenya access justice.

We will continue to empower the poor and the marginalized communities on their human rights and to create avenues for these individuals to effectively access and enjoy these fundamental entitlements; at the Coast and across Kenya.

KITUO Conducts Paralegal Training in Turkana County



A trainer takes participants through a session during the refresher training for paralegals at the Turkana Community Justice Center in Lokichar, Turkana County

Kituo conducted a 5-day refresher training for paralegals at the Turkana Community Justice Center in Lokichar, Turkana County. The activity which started on Monday, 16th September 2019 closed on Friday, 20th September 2019 and

was led by Kituo advocates Ms. Valerie Angawa and Ms. Yunia Atieno. The aim of the activity was to ensure that the community paralegals have been adequately empowered and equipped with the necessary knowledge to serve the community members effectively.

KITUO Takes Part in the LSK Legal Awareness Week 2019



Kituo Cha Sheria's team consults during the LSK legal awareness week 2019 at the Milimani Law Courts

Kituo Cha Sheria took part in the LSK legal awareness week 2019 at the Milimani Law Courts from the 28th October 2019 till Friday, the 1st November 2019. Kituo cha Sheria- KITUO had been invited by the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) to participate in the annual LSK Legal awareness week. The event took place from the 28th October 2019 to 1st November 2019. The theme of the said Legal awareness week being "Eradicating Gender Based Violence- A focus on Mental Health". The week's events started off with speeches on Monday, 28th October 2019 with speakers speaking on this year's theme- "Eradicating Gender Based Violence- A focus on Mental Health". KITUO thereafter set up tent strategically ready to receive clients who presented various legal issues to the legal officers present. Legal officers, legal interns, legal assistants, RCKM personnel, Forced Migration Program and volunteer advocates attended the legal awareness week. Throughout the five (5) days KITUO was able to showcase its innovative SMS technology known as M-Haki, that allows where members of the public to text legal question at no fee. The questions are responded to by volunteer advocates and Kituo lawyers. Kituo also recruited Volunteer Advocates into the VA scheme- 50 new advocates joined KITUO's scheme with majority of the advocates based in Nairobi County but we also registered advocates from other towns like Nanyuki, Machakos, Kajiado, Ngong, Kiambu and Kilungu. 30 clients were served

with the legal issues presented including Family/Maintenance; Succession; Labour; Human rights; Divorce/Family; Land; Civil; Business Disputes; General Legal Inquiries; Medical Negligence and Criminal matters. The week-long activity was successful as clients were received, screened and advised on the spot while some of the new clients were referred to Volunteer advocates. The annual LSK legal Awareness week comprises of various activities geared towards promoting access to justice, advocating pro bono legal services and legal aid. The Legal Expo saw Kituo join other organizations in showcasing their work and role played in the advancement of legal literacy and advocacy. For the entire week Kituo lawyers were stationed at the event where they were offering pro bono services to clients. Kituo's Mombasa Office also took part in this annual activity in Mombasa at the Mombasa Law Courts.



Members of the public at the Kituo cha Sheria tent at the Milimani Law Courts during the annual legal Awareness week



Kituo Staff members with publications at the Milimani Law Courts during the annual legal Awareness week

KITUO Conducts a Legal aid Clinic and Volunteer Advocates (VA) Recruitment Drive in Kisii County



Volunteer Advocates and Kituo cha Sheria Staff pose for a group photo after the recruitment drive and training workshop for advocates in Kisii Town, Kisii County

Kituo Cha Sheria on Monday, 30th September 2019 conducted a Volunteer Advocates Drive and Training in Kisii County. The recruitment drive and training workshop for advocates preceded a FREE legal aid clinic in Kisii Town, Kisii County held on Tuesday, 1st October 2019.

Kituo's Legal Aid and Education Department (LAED) officers together with the newest members of our Volunteer Advocates' Scheme from Kisii County held the day-long forum at the Magharibi Garden Hotel in Kisii Town. One of the ways KITUO seeks to ensure access to justice is by encouraging advocates to adopt its value of volunteerism. Kituo in this regard has a robust Volunteer Advocates scheme that draws advocates from across the country. With the growing number of clients travelling to Kituo's Nairobi office from Kisii County and its environs seeking legal assistance, it was imperative that the VAs pool is refreshed.

20 advocates based in Kisii County joined KITUO's VA scheme and were at the same time trained on the Legal Aid Act, 2016. Discussions during the training

workshop centred on section 56(f) of the Act and the legal aid service. The successful recruitment exercise will make referrals of clients to the advocates easy and save the clients the cost of travelling from Kisii County which is costly.

On Tuesday, 1st October, 2019 the Kisii Advocates and the Kituo cha Sheria team (John Mwariri and Nathan Kivungi) attended to a total of forty three (43) clients who sought legal assistance on land, labour and housing matters. The legal aid clinic held at the Kisii Law Courts Parking Yard came a day after a training workshop with the volunteer advocates in Kisii. Diverse legal matters were presented to the team with grievances about land, succession and inheritance being the most prevalent among those who attended. For citizens, limited access to information, complex laws and procedures regulating land ownership, and insufficient access to justice are some of the driving forces behind land-related issues in Kisii County. Kituo continues to engage and recruit volunteer advocates in almost all the 47 counties in Kenya to assist the organization reach its clientele from these far-flung areas.

KITUO Conducts Sensitization Meeting on Alternative Justice Systems (AJS)



Kituo Cha Sheria conducted a one-week sensitization meeting on Alternative Justice Systems with the Matumbei Community Elders (Wazee wa Mtaa) and the Wakasa Matumbei

(AJS) from Endeless region in Trans Nzoia County. The activity which comprised of sensitization forums and hearings sessions took place from 1st-3rd October 2019 and was led by Kituo advocates Ms. Martha Ogutu and Mr. Roy Kiarie with the help of Ms. Jolly Kathambi who is an AJS expert and Ms. Samantha Ruppall, a PHD student attached to GIZ-CPS. The activities went on throughout the month of October.

KITUO Joins the Civil Peace Service-Kenya to Celebrate 10th Anniversary



GIZ-CPS Kenya's Carolin Herzig at the Kituo Cha Sheria stand during the 10th Anniversary celebration at the Desmond Tutu conference centre, Nairobi

On Friday, 20th September 2019, Kituo Cha Sheria and GIZ-CPS Kenya celebrated a 10-year partnership in promoting access to justice for the most vulnerable people in Kenya. The colourful evening event took place at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre, Nairobi. The Civil Peace Service (CPS) has been supporting civil society partner organizations in Kenya since 2009 – and in recent years increasingly also governmental partner organizations. KITUO is a long-term partner of GIZ-CPS Kenya; we are honoured to be among the initial partners GIZ-CPS Kenya engaged with in 2009. Together, Kituo has implemented 3 projects- the Peace Justice and Reconciliation Project (PJR); the Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) Project and the Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) Project with great successes.

Kituo Cha Sheria's partnership with GIZ began in 2010 with the Peace Justice and Reconciliation Project which was informed by the need to review the structures of governance as they relate to security, human rights, the rule of law and democracy after the 2007/2008 Kenyan post-election crisis. The project was to ensure many Kenyans, participate in the Transitional Justice Mechanisms, by facilitating effective community representation and participation. KITUO and GIZ-CPS have since collaborated in the implementation of Alternative Justice Systems which are mechanisms of solving disputes or/and conflicts between parties

without recourse to the courts. The methods used in the AJS processes include mediation, negotiation and where ever possible reconciliation. Through AJS, the conflicting parties are brought together to dialogue and agree on a voluntary basis in order to forge a way forward. Kituo Cha Sheria and GIZ have worked together since 2017 in providing mental health and psychosocial support to refugees in urban areas through the Mental Health and Psycho-Social support Services (MHPSS) which is under the Forced Migration Program. Speaking at the 10th Anniversary celebration; Mr. Justus Maithya Munyithya, Advocate and the Chairman of Kituo's Board of Directors lauded CPS-Kenya for their support and the focus on peace journalism, alternative dispute settlement and on establishing dialogue structures that encourage people to resolve conflicts without violence. Kituo was also represented at the evening event which started with a market expo by officers Tobias Mwadime, Martha Ogutu, Jane Corazon, Charity Wangui, Roy Kiarie and Shem Alubala.



Mr. Justus Maithya Munyithya, Advocate and the Chairman of Kituo's Board of Directors speaking at the 10th Anniversary celebration; he lauded CPS-Kenya for their support

KITUO Trains Government Officials on Refugee Laws and Protection in Kajiado County



Participants pose for a group photo after the two-day training of government officials in Kajiado on Refugee Laws and Protection at the Enchula Resort, Kajiado

Kituo Cha Sheria with the support of partner organizations UNHCR, International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) conducted a two-day training of government officials in Kajiado on Refugee Laws and Protection. The activity was held on the 11th and 12th September, 2019 at Enchula Resort, Kajiado.

Participants at the training included police officers from Kitengela, Isinya, Kajiado, Mashuru and Namanga police stations as well as officials from the Kajiado Law Court comprising the registry, probation, prosecution and children's departments, and prison warders from the Kitengela G.K. Prison. The training aimed mainly at enlightening the law enforcement and judicial officers on refugee protection and refugee laws in Kenya.

The training not only sought to build the capacity of the participants on refugees, asylum seekers rights and the legislative framework protecting them at national, regional and international level but also to sensitize the participants on matters refugees and asylum seekers, rights and obligations to the host country and how to handle matters relating to the special group of persons commonly referred to as persons of concern "POCs."

Participants were taken through several aspects touching on refugees and asylum seekers which included processes of the Refugee Affairs Secretariat, different documents held by asylum seekers and refugees and also understanding the process of refugee status determination. Ms. Charity Wangui, a Legal Officer at Kituo Cha Sheria took the participants through the national framework on refugee law focusing mainly on the Refugee Act, 2006 and the Kenya Citizenship and

Immigration Act, 2011. She also led discussions on the rights of refugees, with special attention being paid to special groups such as women, children, the disabled and the elderly. The civic duties of refugees were discussed as well as a brief discussion on the offences that can be committed solely by refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya and the penalties stipulated in the law.

There was also an open forum where the provisions of the Refugee Bill 2016 were discussed with a keen focus on the right of refugees to work, permanent citizenship of refugees through marriage, naturalization and right to own property among refugees.

Mr. Mark Nzano from the UNHCR took the participants through the various international and regional conventions relating to refugee rights and protection including provisions of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Convention Relating to Status of Refugees and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and 2006 Refugee Act in Kenya.

Kituo further used the event to develop and enhance rapport by creating a good relationship with court official, children's officers, police and prison warders for future interventions and also created contacts with the participants for ease of intervention.

Participants thanked Kituo and partner organizations for the training and requested for follow up training on the same noting that it had led to an increased appreciation of the plight of refugees in the country as well as a better understanding of the law concerning refugees in Kenya.

KITUO Joins the World to Mark World Mental Health Day



Participants share ideas during breakout sessions at the World Mental Health Day event at the Agape Light Church in Umoja III, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria through its Mental Health and Psychological Support program on Thursday, 9th October 2019 joined the world and partner organizations dealing with refugees in marking this year's World Mental Health Day with suicide prevention being the main focus of this year's event to highlight the role of the community in identifying and preventing suicide. The event took place at the Agape Light Church in Umoja III, Nairobi. The day which was set aside by the World Federation for Mental Health was first celebrated in 1992 and aims to educate and raise awareness of mental health issues.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), close to 800,000 people die due to suicide every year; this translates to one person every 40 seconds. WHO also notes that although suicide occurs throughout the lifespan and is the second leading cause of death among 15-29 year olds globally, suicides are preventable with timely, evidence-based and often low-cost interventions. These statistics prove that suicide is a global public health problem that requires the attention of all in the society.

Present at the day's activity included representatives of several organizations including the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), HIAS Kenya, RefuSHE, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya; among others. Participants who were mainly refugees and asylum seekers living in Nairobi engaged with mental health experts through open group

discussions where an array of issues were discussed including the causes leading to suicide and how to prevent the same. Studies have shown that Asylum seekers and refugees are more likely to experience poor mental health than the local population including higher rates of depression which could lead to higher suicide incidences. The increased vulnerability to mental health problems that refugees and asylum seekers face is linked to pre-migration experiences such as war trauma and post-migration conditions such as separation from family, difficulties with asylum procedures and poor housing. For this reason, Kituo and partner organizations found it important to target refugees and asylum seekers in this year's activity to create awareness.

With mental health issues being so widespread in the population, it is extremely important to raise awareness, support those around you that are suffering from a mental health problem, and to seek help if you feel you are suffering from any form of mental illness or mental health problem. Kituo believes that a greater awareness goes a long way in contributing to identifying and helping those in need, and breaking down the social stigmas and barriers to support.



A speaker at the World Mental Health Day event focusing on suicide prevention and the role of the community in identifying and preventing suicide

KITUO holds a Housing Forum with Stakeholders and Community Representatives in Mombasa County



The coast regional office coordinator, Advocate Allan Nyange leads a session at the rights to housing training and awareness forum in Likoni, Mombasa

Kituo Cha Sheria's Mombasa Regional office held a one day Housing forum with stakeholders and community representatives in Mombasa on 24th October 2019. The regional office coordinator Allan Nyange led the rights to housing training and awareness forum. During the training Mr. Nyange emphasized that the existing domestic legislations should protect and promote rights to adequate housing. The activity was part of the Mombasa County Land and Housing Forum sessions regularly organized by Kituo Cha Sheria and the Coast Land Non-State Actors (CLNSA). Coast Land Non State Actors (CLNSA) is a network of over 20 CSOs in the Coast and Kituo is an instrumental player in ensuring land justice and reforms are achieved and work for the poor and lowly. The forums usually have representation from community members, the County Government, local political leadership, civil society groups and the National Land Commission and deliberate on resettlement and resettlement programs and

historical land injustices focusing on the Coast Region.

The Accelerator Labs are UNDP's new way of working in development. Together with our core partners, the State of Qatar and the Federal Republic of Germany, 60 labs serving 78 countries will work together with national and global partners to find radically new approaches that fit the complexity of current development challenges.

The labs will transform our collective approach by introducing new services, backed by evidence and practice, and by accelerating the testing and dissemination of solutions within and across countries. Sense-making, collective intelligence, solutions mapping and experimentation will be part of the new offer from UNDP to governments.

Together with partners, the Labs will analyze challenges within local contexts to identify connections and patterns in search of new avenues of work to act effectively in addressing wicked development challenges.

KITUO attends stakeholder consultation on the UNDP SDG Accelerator Lab



Kituo cha Sheria was invited and attended the UN Development Programme in Kenya High-Level Stakeholders' Consultative Forum co-hosted by the SDG Accelerator Lab for Kenya. The High-Level Consultative Forum was held on Thursday, 31st of October 2019, at

the Radisson Blu, near Nairobi Arboretum, Nairobi. UNDP is conducting a stakeholder consultation on the new accelerator lab that has been established at the Country office. The lab offers opportunities for innovation and mapping of policy solutions to the challenges CSOs face particularly in ongoing human rights and access to justice work. Kituo is implementing the Njia Za Haki project supported by UNDP Amkeni in Mombasa county promoting human rights and access to justice work.

SUCCESS STORY OF EVERLYNE AGUTU NYAGWA



Everlyne Agutu joined by her former employer and Kituo staff at the Head office after the mediation agreement signing in Nairobi

The story of Everlyne Agutu reads like that of any other middle-aged domestic work woman living in Nairobi's informal settlements. She contributes to the country's economy performing menial jobs to fend for her family of five; doing laundry, landscaping and other household jobs in city estates neighbouring her Kawangware home. This was the routine for the five years Ms. Agutu lived and worked in Nairobi until January 2008 when she entered into an oral contract of service with a gentleman to work in his Lavington residence. Based on the oral contract; the house help salary of Ksh. 4,000 was a major milestone for Ms. Agutu. She was comfortable with the certainty of monthly income and diligently performed all tasks expected of her with utmost loyalty. Testament to the dedication of most Nairobi domestic workers; working conditions not withstanding; Ms. Agutu went about her work without fuss and her monthly salary was progressively revised upwards, first to Ksh. 7,000 and up to Ksh. 13,000 in 2013. This source of income was regular, predictable and good enough to sustain Ms. Agutu and her family for all these years. The domestic work sector in the Kenyan economy is not properly regulated yet it plays a key role in economic growth and development, and is a major source of employment in urban and peri-urban areas. Domestic workers perform a range of services and tasks including cooking, cleaning, laundry, child care, elderly care and others as assigned.

But despite performing these essential services for the well-being of families and the smooth functioning of the national economy, they have long been ignored in labour legislation and social policy. Kituo Cha Sheria is dedicated to the welfare of persons like Ms. Agutu and we recognize that the law on domestic staff is clear, and simple! Yet the breaches of it are abundant. After working for over 11 years in one household, Ms. Agutu was unlawfully terminated on 16th June 2019. Sadly, in Kenya this is the fate of a majority of domestic workers especially in Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa- employers quote all manner of reasons for unfair termination- including poor performance, misconduct, petty theft, etc. Luckily Ms. Agutu was aware of an organization that exists to take care for justice for the poor and marginalized people in society- she approached Kituo Cha Sheria for legal advice and possible instructions in August 2019. Our legal officer Odero Ramdhan took up the matter and computed terminal dues for Ms. Agutu for the 11 years and 7 months she had worked; the employer was served with the demand for the same. On 7th November, 2019 Everlyne Agutu and her former employer entered into an agreement on the mode of payment of her full terminal dues in monthly installments. Kituo remains committed to helping the disadvantaged, poor and marginalized people in Kenya access justice.