Empowering the girl child to overcome child marriage

ENDING child marriage. This was the theme of the 2015 Day of the African Child, and rightly so. Forty per cent of African girls are married off before they reach the age of 18. In fact, the two regions with the highest rates of child marriage are sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

One out of four girls in Kenya will be married before their eighteenth birthday, shattering their childhood and exposing them to a myriad of problems. A child bride is deprived of their rights leading to school drop-outs, early pregnancies, poor health, increased risk of violence, and eventually inter-generational poverty. Her prospects for a bright future are, but a distant dream.

What’s Inside:

- Empowering the girl child to overcome child marriage
- Star footballer launches ‘Barefoot to Boots’ initiative in Kakuma
- UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador announced on World Refugee Day in Kakuma
- IOM Kenya staff joins in commemorating World Refugee Day
- Kenya kicks off first national conference on women in the security sector
- Kenya’s response to polio outbreak bears fruit
- The UN Charter At 70: Towards a safer and sustainable future for ‘We The Peoples’
- Women and development in Africa
- UN-Habitat lends support to Kenyan urban planning schools
- UNESCO’s Gender and Media project in Bungoma and Siaya counties evaluated
- Kenya Association of Women in Police… A first within the security sector

2015 TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

Upcoming Events:

- 9 August  International Day of the World’s Indigenous People
- 12 August  International Youth Day
- 19 August  World Humanitarian Day
- 23 August  International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- 29 August  International Day against Nuclear Tests

This year the Day of the African Child coincided with the second National Children’s Government Congress. This is an annual event bringing together young leaders from primary schools all over Kenya. The children elected to various positions in the 47 counties gather to vote for their National Children’s Government in free and fair elections. This is one of the major achievements of the UNICEF-supported Child Friendly School System. (Please watch video on the 2015 Day of the African Child here.)

Boys and girls campaigned passionately for the ten positions of President, Deputy President, Speaker, Deputy Speaker and six Cabinet Secretaries. Each eloquently delivered their manifestos to their peers, including their role in ending child marriage.

Rukia Abdallah, a 15 year old from Garissa County in north eastern Kenya, captured the attention of those present and was eventually voted President of the National Children’s Government. Growing up in a community where child marriage is rampant, she was lucky to have parents who valued her education. In north eastern Kenya, 56% of girls are married off before they turn 18 years old. “My mom and dad really want girls to go to school, they like to see their girls being educated and really support us. I am proud of them,” says Rukia. “If my parents didn’t take me to school I wouldn’t be standing here.”

Another young girl who also charmed the audience was 12 year old Thelma Nyaboke from St. Mary’s Girls School, with her thought-provoking poem on ending child marriage. Thelma asked for a closer look at the girl child, young as she may be, yet exposed to this cruelty. (Watch Thelma’s poem here).

“Look at me, who do you see?
To carry pregnancy to term, I can’t? To carry a baby on my back. I am a baby myself.
To take care of a home. Of course, I need care myself.
So why, why such cruelty on me.”

Poverty and illiteracy is often the root cause of child marriage. For many communities, a girl is equated to wealth as her marriage brings in dowry for the family. What these families fail to realize is that only by educating the girl child and empowering her to reach her full potential, can the society rise above poverty and thrive. A system that undervalues the contribution of young women limits its possibilities.

As Thelma concludes:
“To our parents, we are not ready yet. To our community, we are still growing.
Give us a chance to prove to you that the wealth you so desire will be achieved through our dreams.
Help us to make our dreams come true.”
Awer Mabil, a former South Sudanese refugee and current star footballer at Australian top league football club, Adelaide United, returned to Kakuma Refugee Camp to launch a powerful initiative called ‘Barefoot to Boots’.

Mabil, who was born in Kakuma 19 years ago, was resettled in Australia in 2006. He grew up playing football with his friends in the dusty river beds of the camp and naturally, his passion for the sport only grew stronger after moving abroad. “I used to play football every time I had a chance,” he says. “That was all my friends and I could do for fun.”

His desire to return to Kakuma, which he considers home, kept growing and together with his elder brother Awer Bul, who was among the first group of ‘Lost Boys’ to be resettled in the United States in 2002, raised support for the initiative. “I kept remembering how my friends and I would play barefoot in the hot sun and sometimes get hurt by rocks and thorns,” says Mabil.

Through Ian Smith, a prominent businessman, Rachael West, a former diplomat and Osama Malik, Mabil’s teammate and best friend, the brothers gathered over 300 kilograms worth of football kits and boots. With this substantial consignment, they approached UNHCR for support in facilitating their mission to Kakuma.

Mabil and his team met with sports teams from the refugee and Turkana communities. They held football clinics, distributed the kits and shared stories. It was an emotional time for the brothers who hope to return every year to distribute more football kits and also support other activities that youth engage in. “If possible, we would like to ship kits and boots to Kakuma every six months.”

UNHCR has equally pledged support as expressed by the Officer-in-Charge in Kakuma, Fortunata Ngonyani. She thanked the brothers for their commitment to support refugees through the initiative. “As UNHCR, we will continue to support such initiatives which contribute positively to the lives of refugees and the host community,” Ms. Ngonyani added.

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador announced on World Refugee Day in Kakuma

There was pomp and colour in Kakuma Refugee Camp which was the epicentre of World Refugee Day celebrations on 20 June, 2015. The camp was transformed into a bubbling hive of activity as refugees, local residents, UN and other humanitarian agency staff, Government officials and members of the diplomatic corps converged to mark the Day, whose theme was ‘Get to Know Refugees – People Like You and Me.’

The highlight of the day was the announcement of Ger Duany as UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, by the agency’s Country Representative, Raouf Mazou. Duany, a former South Sudanese refugee and now a successful actor based in the United States, has been one of UNHCR’s high profile supporters. He acknowledged: “Thank you UNHCR for making me a Goodwill Ambassador; it is a role that I am honoured to take on.”

He was further honoured by the Mr. and Miss. Kakuma World Refugee Day 2015 pageant finalists, who adorned him
with traditional Turkana regalia for an Elder.
Acclaimed local hip-hop artist, Octopizzo and illustration artist, Victor Mr. and Miss World Refugee Day 2015 Kakuma finalists and UNHCR Kenya Representative, Raouf Mazou (far right), look on as Ger Duany is about to be made a Turkana Elder, following his announcement as UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. (photo by UNHCR)

Acclaimed local hip-hop artist, Octopizzo and illustration artist, Victor Ndula, were also present, where together they showcased the vast potential that refugee youth have through the ‘Artistes for Refugees’ project – a livelihoods programme that nurtures talent among youth through mentorship and capacity building in art, music, culture and sports. The youths showcased a fusion of cultural and contemporary performances, and fine art exhibits. There were also diverse displays of culture through music, song, dance, dress, and cuisine.

Mr. Mazou thanked the Governor of Turkana and the community for graciously hosting refugees for over two decades. With an integration of over 185,000 people from twenty nationalities that have rich and diverse cultures, the camp’s capacity has been overstretched. UNHCR had been in talks with the Government to seek additional land for a new camp, and after a year of negotiations, the host community gave land which the Governor officially handed over on 19 June, 2015.

The day’s commemoration was a reminder that refugees are simply ordinary people living extraordinary lives and are just like you and me.

IOM Kenya staff joins in commemorating World Refugee Day

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) staff on 18 June 2015 joined resettlement-bound refugees at the Transit Centre in Nairobi, to commemorate the 2015 World Refugee Day that is officially marked on 20 June.

Addressing the audience, IOM’s Head of Kenya Country Office, Michael Pillinger, noted that for decades, IOM Kenya had played its rightful role in the resettlement of thousands of refugees in the region. “Today is a day for all of us to reflect upon and commemorate the strength, courage and resilience of millions of refugees, and indeed, the many millions of internally displaced persons around the world”.

“For many refugees, life has improved but there are many more still suffering from hardship and difficulty, and need assistance. Kenya has for decades hosted over half-a-million refugees from Somalia, Eritrea, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan,” he added.

“It’s a sweet but bitter experience as I leave behind my parent, as well as siblings at Kakuma Refugee Camp. I aspire to be a medical doctor in future and in the end assist my family,” said Yurus Abdi Hassan, who will be resettled in the United States.

Meanwhile, life at the Transit Centre

IOM’s Head of Kenya Country Office, Michael Pillinger, displays his drumming grooves as he joins Burundian traditional dancers during the event to mark the World Refugee Day 2015. (photo by IOM)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
turned carnival, as Burundian refugee dancers kept the audience enchanted. They displayed their dancing prowess together with their drumming grooves.

Kenya serves as the resettlement hub from Africa and for decades, IOM Kenya, amongst other partners, including the Government, has been assisting in the resettlement of thousands of refugees.

The refugee resettlement programme seeks to provide safe and orderly movement assistance to refugees accepted for third country resettlement. The transportation of migrants and the related processing activities are central to IOM’s operational functions. IOM’s Migration Health Assessment Centre in Nairobi holds ISO 9001-2008 certification, given in recognition of its robust quality management systems.

In 2014 alone, IOM resettled over 10,000 migrants from the region and conducted 19,588 health assessments in Kenya. IOM facilitates resettlement from Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and South Sudan to a number of countries including the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and over ten European countries under government sponsored resettlement projects.

Kenya kicks off first national conference on women in the security sector

I


The conference brought over 200 participants from all security agencies in Kenya and was attended by High Commissioners and Ambassadors, personalities from academic institutions and security sector practitioners from Kenya and Uganda, among others.

The objective of the conference was to share experiences on advancing gender equality and women empowerment, as well as highlight women’s roles and contributions in the security sector.

Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Defense, who was the Chief Guest, spoke passionately about the importance of promoting gender equality and elevating the profile of women in the sector. She reiterated that women are the “threads that hold our community together” and encouraged the women in the security sector not to be disheartened, because soon, gender balance would be realized.

“Despite the efforts made on implementing UNSCR 1325 in Kenya, more needs to be done to give full effect to its provisions,” highlighted UN Women Country Director, Zebib Kavuma. She expressed her wish that:

“the recommendations emanating from this conference will help inform the discussion around the role of women in peace and security, and policy and legislative frameworks that conform to the constitution and international normative contexts”.

During the two-day conference, participants discussed the progress which the Ministry of Defence, police and other security institutions had achieved in implementing UNSCR 1325 and gender equality principles. The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ms. Grace Kaindi, the first woman in Kenya to hold this position, shared the long journey women in the police service have made to reach their current position.

Ambassador Monica Juma, the Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Interior, presented the key note address on ‘Women’s role in the security sector’. She provided recommendations on how to increase the number of women in the sector, which included changing perception and a culture that portray women as weak. She also encouraged men in the sector to push their daughters to aspire to join the security institutions.

Ambassador Juma noted that the testimonials shared by the first woman
Kenya’s response to polio outbreak bears fruit

KENYA’s aggressive response to the polio outbreak in the last two years has registered impressive results, given that no polio virus case has been detected since July 2013.

A recent Horn of Africa final outbreak assessment showed that Kenya had successfully interrupted polio transmission and gotten the country out of the threat it faced in May 2013.

The outbreak response led by the Ministry of Health involved a multi-sectoral team of health partners, including UN agencies – WHO and UNICEF, CDC, USAID, Hemnet, the national health group coalition, NGOs, counties and communities across the country. Vaccination campaigns were done house-to-house by health personnel and community volunteers, along with consultants and technical staff from supportive organizations.

The outbreak which led to fourteen wild polio virus cases in Garissa had been linked to migration and refugee movements across Kenya’s north-eastern borders. The last case in Kenya was identified in Dadaab, Garissa on 14 July, 2013.

The inter-agency assessment team of experts however recommended that Kenya needed to improve the sensitivity of its surveillance system and increase...
population immunity. This would enable the country to sustain its status and detect the lowest level of transmission given that porous neighbouring borders pose a threat for new outbreaks.

Similar assessments were conducted in Ethiopia and Somalia. Ethiopia was commended for the interruption of the virus, while Somalia has yet to do so, due to the various challenges it faces, such as security, accessibility to certain areas and transition of leadership.

The team noted: “There has been significant improvement in population immunity in all the three countries. However, gaps in population immunity still persist in the Somali region of Ethiopia, South Central Somalia and North eastern Kenya. Somalia also needs to develop an outbreak response plan.”

The recommendation for Kenya to remain free of the virus calls for strengthening the disease surveillance system, increasing monitoring of active case searches for suspected polio instances, regular sensitizing for clinicians and health workers, advocating for funding support from county policy makers and increasing the frequency of national review meetings. It also called for an updated communication response plan and prioritization of routine immunization improvement plans in areas with population immunity gaps. Routine immunization will also be improved by active surveillance visits in frequency and quality, higher vaccination coverage, particularly in high risk areas, up-to-date data and capacity building for health personnel.

Kenya has planned polio campaigns this August and September for thirty two priority counties to address identified challenges in previous campaigns. This includes reaching with vaccines to nomadic and mobile populations. During vaccination campaigns, getting to remote and hard to reach groups, those living in informal settlements in urban dwellings, the ‘elitist’ groups in urban settlements who require to consult their paediatricians, and those in gated communities.
The UN Charter at 70: Towards a safer and sustainable future for “We the Peoples”

By Ban Ki-Moon

Long before I became Secretary-General, the United Nations occupied a special place in my life. I was six years old when the Korean War broke out. I have memories of my village in flames as my family sought refuge in nearby mountains. But another sight is even more lasting: the UN flag. We were saved from hunger by UN food relief operations; we received textbooks from UNESCO; and when we wondered whether the outside world cared about our suffering, the troops of many nations sacrificed their lives to restore security and peace.

I know from my childhood, and now from decades of public service, the immense difference the United Nations can make. As we mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Organization’s founding Charter on June 26th, 1945 in San Francisco, my hope is that the human family will come together with greater determination to work for a safer and more sustainable future for “we, the peoples”, in whose name the Charter was drafted.

The United Nations at 70 can look back on a proud record of working with many partners to dismantle colonialism, triumph over apartheid, keep the peace in troubled places and articulate a body of treaties and law to safeguard human rights. Every day, the United Nations feeds the hungry, shelters refugees and vaccinates children against polio and other deadly diseases. Our relief workers brave remote and dangerous environments to deliver humanitarian assistance, and our mediators strive to find common ground between warring parties and peaceful solutions to grievances and disputes. The United Nations was founded to prevent another world war, and it has succeeded in that corer mission; despite grave setbacks, the past seven decades would surely have been even bloodier without the United Nations.

Yet we are keenly aware that today’s landscape is scarred by conflict, exploitation and despair. At least 59.5 million people have fled their homes – more refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers than at any time since the end of the Second World War. Violence against women blights all societies. At a time of pressing human needs, huge amounts of money continue to be squandered on nuclear weapons and other destabilizing military arsenals. The consequences of climate change are ever more apparent—and have only just begun. And although the world said “never again” after the Holocaust, and again after genocides in Rwanda and Srebrenica, we continue to witness atrocious crimes by violent extremists and others.

New powers have emerged since the representatives of 50 nations gathered to draft the Charter, and membership in the Organization has grown to 193. Globalization, urbanization, migration, demographic shifts, technological advances and other seismic developments continue to remake our societies and transform international relations. Yet the Charter’s vision of a world of peace, and the values enshrined in the text – dignity, equal rights, tolerance and freedom – remain touchstones for people everywhere.

The 70th anniversary falls in a year of potentially momentous decisions on our common future. Members are shaping what we hope will be an inspiring new sustainable development agenda and moving towards a meaningful agreement on climate change. Our goal is transformation: we are the first generation that can erase poverty from the earth – and the last that can act to avoid the worst impacts of a warming world.

As the distinctions between the national and the international continue to fall away, challenges faced by one become challenges faced by all, sometimes gradually but often suddenly. With our fates ever more entwined, our future must be one of ever deeper cooperation – nations united by a spirit of global citizenship that lives up to the promise of the Organization’s name.

Ban Ki-moon is the UN Secretary-General
IN June 2015, the African Union-Diaspora African–Forum recognized and honoured Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas as a “Woman of Excellence” for her outstanding contribution to women in Africa. Ms. Bekele-Thomas is the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Kenya.

Following her award, Ms. Bekele-Thomas was interviewed by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)’s National Information Officer, Irene Mwakesi.

Irene: What is this Award about and what does it mean to you?

Nardos: It is a very significant and very important award, through which the AU and the Diaspora of the African Forum wanted to celebrate women in Africa and also recognize their contributions in the socio-economic and political development of the continent. So it is one of the most prestigious awards of which I am very much humbled to be one of the recipients.

Irene: Congratulations! How do you feel about the award and who were the other recipients?

Nardos: Well like I said, I feel very much humbled and honoured and I am so happy that it happened to the UN because this is not recognition for Nardos Bekele, but for the entire women leaders. So I feel honoured to receive this award on behalf of all the women in Africa. I received this award together with two presidents, one former President of Malawi, Ms. Joyce Banda, and the current President of Liberia, Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. But, in addition, others who also received the Award include the magnificent and extraordinary women who have contributed to Africa, such as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Graca Marcel, former First Ladies, Mama Ngina Kenyatta of Kenya and Nana Rowlings of Ghana, among others. It was just so wonderful. I feel so humbled and certainly this is a recognition for all the women in the UN who have relentlessly and selflessly worked for humanity in this world.

Irene: As a role model of women in the UN, please elaborate a bit on the role of women in the development of Africa?

Nardos: I will just tell you a story. In 1975, I was just 17 years old and I participated in the Ethiopia National Literacy Campaign. I was located in Moyale, which is the Southern part of Ethiopia. Here we were, as very young people trying to be the change agents and transform women, children and men, to be literate in a 98% illiterate area. I found a lady who was not attending the training. Every time we conducted the training she would not be there - morning, afternoon and evening. So one day I went to her and asked why she wasn’t participating. She told me: “I am a mother of three, I have got a husband who is a drunkard, does not contribute anything to the family and I do not have the time to do any training. I am the one who does the cattle-herding, I am the one who does the milking and sells the milk, and I am the one who takes care of the children. I really do not have the time to do any training.” But then, I saw a smile on her face and I asked her why she was so happy. She turned and looked at me directly in the eyes and said “Listen, look at my pain, my aches, my sweat, everything is for my children. I see my children like a seed that I plant and water. I water and nourish it because I see it in the future bearing fruit and making this whole highland large and fertile - that is what keeps me smiling and happy!”

And this is what every woman in Africa does. Every woman in this continent, in whatever capacity, be it as a leader, a president, a UN employee, a family housewife, or a market woman - a woman does everything for her family. A woman is selfless. And for Africa, women being over 50% of the population, they do everything to keep Africa in the development process where it finds itself now. But can you imagine if women are given the right places in the political arena, in the economic arena, in the social strata, our continent will be transformed. And we have seen progress - progress where women leadership is making tangible and concrete differences. My appeal to all our African leaders, husbands, brothers and sisters is really to give space, that space that women need to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Africa, our continent.

Irene: So indeed the saying that “you educate a woman, you educate the whole family or the whole nation” is true?

Nardos: Certainly true. And the story of Mama Ngea is very telling. Here comes a lady from a family, not educated, her brothers were sent to school and not her, but look at what she has done to her country – the contribution she has made to Kenya, the importance and the significant place that she has in the hearts of Kenyans in this country. So I think certainly investing in women is the right thing to do.

Irene: The AU has designated 2015 the year of women empowerment. In your opinion, what does this entail?

Nardos: First of all I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
congratulate the AU for designating 2015 as the year of women empowerment. I think this has helped flag all the areas where we need to enforce and improve to make sure that there is gender equality, gender parity and also give the space that is required for women to exercise their potential. So I think the year 2015 could be a year of significant importance, if each one of us in this continent - women at all levels- makes it happen and it can happen. Once an opportunity is given, we need to grab it and really create that solidarity that we need, and make our position to be significant and impactful, not only to us, but also to the people that we serve.

Irene: We are already in June of 2015, are you seeing any political will from the Government of Kenya to really empower women towards this development? Is there any political will?

Nardos: Yes, I think so. I am seeing it in a different way. Today I was with the women deputy governors. In Kenya there’s no woman who is a governor. All the 47 governors are men and I am asking myself, ‘what are those 47 men sitting together discussing?’ They are discussing about 50% of the population - women- and the youth who are cared for by women. What do they really talk about? And then we go down to deputy governors from 47 counties, just to have nine women as deputy governors, is pathetic! But on the other hand looking at what Kenya was like 10 years ago, we have a very progressive constitution. We have a government that really means well, because over 30% of the government posts are occupied by women. Important positions like Devolution and Planning, Defence, Foreign Affairs and also Environment dockets are being led by women. So we have to congratulate the Government but also recognize that we are still deficient. I think within the remaining six months of the year, we can make a difference if we want to, by making the two thirds gender principle discussion to be realistic, feasible and go for a very concrete and impactful law regulatory framework that could make sure that women also participate effectively in the political arena. So I think there is hope that certainly we are coming from the past where things were worse. Today is better but we can do much better in the coming years.

Irene: What is your message to the women in Africa?

Nardos: Women in Africa have proven to be the source of energy, the source of inspiration and the source of development. Women in Africa are really now being recognized and I think what we need is solidarity – build solidarity- have peer pressure and support- have that support that we need from each other and pull each other up- that is what we need. We don’t need to be instruments of others to pull each other down. We have to keep that solidarity and know that we have the same objective and zeal that we share. There are many things that unite us than divide us and I think, if women have to make a difference for a country, like for example Kenya, women have to throw out their political and ethnic affiliations, and just get that unity around the main objective – development- which affects their lives, families and communities. That agenda should be a woman’s agenda and that is good enough to unite us. So women of Africa let us be united and struggle together as one.

UN-Habitat lends support to Kenyan urban planning schools

UN-Habitat is exploring ways to improve the capacity of Kenyan urban planning schools to enable them offer better quality education. Towards that end, the agency organized this month a consultative meeting for nine planning schools drawn from the country’s public universities. The one-day Consultative Forum aimed at identifying a roadmap through which the schools in Kenya would partner with UN-Habitat to improve urban planning education in the country. The schools include the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Technical University of Kenya, Technical University of Mombasa, Eldoret University, Maseno University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and
UNESCO’s Gender and Media project in Bungoma and Siaya counties evaluated

UNESCO organized a four-day mission to evaluate its Gender and Media Project entitled: ‘Empowering Women Entrepreneurs through community Telecentres and Radios’. The mission was from 2 to 6 June 2015 in Chwele and Ugunja, which are in Bungoma and Siaya Counties respectively. The evaluation was carried out to analyze the implementation impact, ascertain if the overall objectives of the project were met and identify important lessons learnt, as well as make recommendations for future implementation of related projects.

The implementation of the Gender and Media project commenced in 2013 and ended in June 2015. Its objective was to empower women entrepreneurs through capacity building initiatives in digital literacy, and on financial planning, resource mobilization and management. The training was aimed at deepening knowledge and skills of the women entrepreneurs through provision of relevant information on their various economic activities through SMS via mobile telephony with a view to growing their businesses. It also aimed at harnessing the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to enable women entrepreneurs to develop their livelihoods in entrepreneurship and agriculture in Siaya and Bungoma Counties in Kenya.

Under this project, the following activities we carried out: Conduct a baseline survey to establish information needs of women entrepreneurs in Chwele, and Ugunja; Create a database with contact details of women groups in Bungoma and Siaya Counties; Develop SMS content in English, Dholuo, and Swahili for use by women entrepreneurs to market their products; Equip 40 women entrepreneurs (20 from Bungoma and 20 from Siaya) with basic Digital Literacy Skills; and, Equip the 40 women entrepreneurs with knowledge and skills on Financial Planning, Management and Resource Mobilization.

During the evaluation exercise, Ms, Helida Ojwang from Ugunja telecentre noted: “the training on Digital Literacy was...”
The Kenya Association of Women in Police (KAWP) was officially launched on 17 June, 2015 in a colorful ceremony held in Nairobi, presided over by high level dignitaries and officials. These included Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Ambassador Monica Juma, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Police Deputy Inspector General, Ms. Grace Kaindi and UN Women Country Director, Ms. Zebib Kavuma. The Chief Guest at the launch was Inspector General Joseph Boinnet, of the National Police Service (NPS).

The Association was established in 2013 through UN Women support, as a platform that seeks to champion the rights of women and promote gender equality and professional development of women within the police service.

Since 2010, UN Women Kenya has been working very closely with the National Police Service to promote women’s leadership within the service, increasing the number of women in police and other security organs, and support NPS bodies to develop policies, action plans and initiatives focused at responding to the security needs of women and girls. This led to the establishment of KAWP.

“For UN Women, the Association creates an even larger platform for efforts placed by the Government and other institutions in the promotion of women in leadership positions with the National Police Service. It also fights against Gender-based Violence, and Sexual and Gender-based Violence, and generally protects women and children’s rights,” explained Ms. Kavuma.

Deputy Inspector General Kaindi, the Patron of KAWP, emphasized that the establishment of the Association was a major milestone and a new chapter for the women within the National Police Service. Ms. Kaindi, who was the first female Provincial Officer in Kenya, acknowledged the potential of women to be effective leaders if given a chance.

“We will try to reclaim our voice through this Association. As women we have remained
invisible in this profession, so let's claim our space,” she concluded.

The National Police Service currently has 42,593 officers out of which only 4,724 are women, constituting only 18% of the service.

Inspector General Boinnet committed to promoting gender equality and women empowerment within the NPS and promised to work closely with KAWP to ensure that the well-being of women in the service are addressed. He encouraged more women to join the service.

Inspector General Boinnet signed up as the newest member of KAWP and also to UN Women’s global solidarity movement, declaring “I am a HeforShe”.

Inspector General Boinnet displays his certificate as a HeforShe Champion during the KAWP launch. (Photo by UNWOMEN)
Have you taken a tour yet?

Book one now!

Educational • Informative • Fun

Contact the Visitors’ Service:
Telephone: 020 762 2034
Email: un.tours@unon.org
United Nations Visitors’ Service, Nairobi
@unvisitorsnbi

Mondays to Thursdays
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Fridays
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
EVERY DAY

the United Nations works to
tackle global challenges

and:

1. Provides food to 90 million people in 73 countries
2. Vaccinates 58 per cent of the world’s children, saving 2.5 million lives a year
3. Assists over 36 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution
4. Combats climate change; heads a campaign to end leaded fuel use in over 100 nations
5. Keeps peace with 120,000 peacekeepers in 16 operations on 4 continents
6. Fights poverty, helping 370 million rural poor achieve better lives in the last 30 years
7. Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations
8. Mobilizes US$12.4 billion in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies
9. Advances democracy, assisting some 30 countries a year with their elections
10. Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of 30 million women a year

For more information please visit: www.un.org