

Oral Statement at 60th Human Rights Council Session
Item 6: UPR adoption Kenya

26/09/2025

Mr. President

We deliver this intervention on behalf of the Stakeholders Coalition on the Universal Periodic Review, UPR Kenya. We welcome Kenya's engagement in its 4th UPR cycle and note progress on climate action, business and human rights, and social protection. However, serious human rights concerns remain.

Despite legal reforms, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and excessive use of force by security agents persists. Implementation of the Prevention of Torture Act and the National Coroners Service Act remains slow, with weak accountability.

Femicide, sexual and gender-based violence, and harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation remain widespread. Technology-facilitated Gender Based Violence is increasing and demands stronger legal protections, enforcement, and survivor support.

Freedom of expression, assembly, and association are undermined by restrictive laws, harassment of human rights defenders and journalists, and excessive policing of protests, with the proposed Assemblies and Demonstrations Bill threatening constitutional guarantees.

Barriers to safe abortion, sexuality education, and services for marginalized groups - including LGBTQ+ persons persist and contravene international standards.

Kenya has yet to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearance, the Second Optional Protocol on the death penalty, and the Convention on Migrant Workers.

We urge the Government to fully implement UPR recommendations, ensure robust follow-up with civil society, and adopt legislative, policy, and budgetary measures that protect all Kenyans without discrimination.