



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: APRIL 22, 2025**

**To:**  
**Office of Women's Rights Advisor to the President,**  
**Hon. Harriette Chiggai.**

**We Reject the Appointment of Hannah Cheptumo as Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Arts.**

We the undersigned 15 organizations are deeply angered, saddened, and heartbroken by the recent remarks made by Ms. Hannah Cheptumo during her vetting for the position of Cabinet Secretary for Gender. In her statement, she suggested that women in Kenya are being killed because they are "looking for money." This comment is not only misleading but also insensitive, dangerous, and harmful statement that shifts the blame onto victims rather than holding perpetrators accountable. Femicide is never JUSTIFIED. No woman deserves to lose her life for any reason, and to imply otherwise is to fail in standing up for the dignity, safety, and human rights of women and girls in Kenya.

Over the past year, Kenya has witnessed an alarming increase in femicide cases. According to recent reports, at least 129 women were brutally murdered in 2025 alone. These killings are not isolated incidents; they are part of a heartbreaking and growing pattern of violence against women and girls. Perpetrators continue to walk free while justice remains out of reach for the victims and their families.

Article 10(2)(b) outlines the national values and principles of governance in Kenya, which include human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination, and the protection of marginalized groups. Additionally, Article 10(2)(c) emphasizes the importance of accountability for state officers and state organs. The government of Kenya has a responsibility to protect girls and women and to be accountable to them across the country.

The remarks made by Hannah do not align with our national values and Article 29 of the Constitution, which seeks to protect individuals from all forms of violence. This includes protecting women from femicide and other forms of gender-based violence.



It is even more heartbreaking that the National Assembly chose to approve Hannah Cheptumo for swearing-in despite her deeply harmful and insensitive remarks and that the President went ahead and officially swore her in. This decision reflects a wider system that continues to normalize, excuse, tolerate, and perpetuate violence against women and girls, a system that fails to hold people accountable, even when they publicly perpetuate victim-blaming narratives.

### **This cycle must end.**

We reaffirm our commitment to advocating for the safety, dignity, and rights of women and girls. Kenya deserves leaders who understand the seriousness of femicide and who commit to confronting it, not those who excuse it.

### **We therefore make the following demands:**

1. We call on His Excellency, Dr. William Ruto, to revoke the appointment of Ms. Hannah Cheptumo as the Cabinet Secretary for Gender. Her statements show a lack of understanding of the root causes of femicide and the realities that women and girls face.
2. We urge the Office of the Women's Rights Advisor to the President to prioritize the safety and protection of women and girls by fully implementing existing laws, investing in prevention strategies, and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable.
3. Kenya must fast-track the work of the Presidential Working Group on Femicide, established in December 2024, and turn its recommendations into action. Words alone are not enough; women's lives depend on bold and immediate action.
4. We call for leaders, policymakers, institutions, and Kenyans to commit to addressing harmful cultural norms and narratives, challenge patriarchy, and end inequalities that seek to promote violence against girls and women.

The lives lost to femicide are not numbers. Behind each number is a human being. We stand in solidarity with all those affected and will continue to push for action, accountability, and justice. We must stand together to stop this heartbreaking cycle of violence.



## SIGNED BY:

1. Coalition for Grassroots Human Rights Defenders- Kenya
2. Feminist For Peace Rights and Justice Centre
3. Hope For Future
4. Make Way Alliance
5. Mathare North Youth Organization
6. Mothers and Daughters Care Initiative
7. Raise Your Voice
8. Rebirth Of A Queen
9. Reproductive Health Youth Champions Organization
10. Sauti ya Jamii Programme
11. Sitiri Dada
12. SRHR Alliance Kenya
13. Wounded Healers Foundation
14. Youth Changers Kenya
15. Zamara Foundation

