




# Statement on the 20th Anniversary of the Maputo Protocol:

## Ensuring Reproductive Justice for Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Kenya.

On the auspicious occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Maputo Protocol, the Mothers and Daughters Care Initiative (MADACI) would like to acknowledge this milestone and reflect on the current state of this regional policy within the Kenyan context. We believe that this anniversary is not only a cause for celebration but also a crucial moment to assess the progress made in promoting reproductive justice for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kenya. As a community-based organization operating in the informal settlements of Nairobi, MADACI is committed to providing accurate sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information, service referrals, and life skills training to empower AGYW and young mothers while strategically positioning them to make safe and informed decisions for their lives and future.

**[Importance of the Maputo Protocol]** The Maputo Protocol, adopted by the African Union in 2003, represents a significant milestone in advancing the rights of women and girls across the continent. It is a comprehensive framework that recognizes the importance of reproductive health, gender equality, and the elimination of discrimination against women. By endorsing this protocol, Kenya has made a commitment to uphold the principles enshrined in it, ensuring that reproductive justice is accessible to all women, including AGYW.

**[Kenya's Constitutional Obligations]** The Constitution of Kenya, adopted in 2010, serves as a vital document that provides the legal framework for ensuring reproductive justice and safe abortion rights for women. Article 2(5) of the Kenyan Constitution explicitly states that any treaty or convention ratified by Kenya becomes part of Kenyan law. Therefore, Kenya is obliged to adhere to the Maputo Protocol, which explicitly addresses reproductive health rights and the elimination of harmful practices.



**[Challenges Faced by AGYW in Informal Settlements]** AGYW living in the informal settlements of Nairobi face unique challenges that hinder their access to reproductive justice. These challenges include limited access to accurate SRHR information, high rates of teenage pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and prevalent gender-based violence. These issues have far-reaching consequences, affecting the health, education, and socio-economic outcomes of AGYW and impeding their ability to shape successful futures.

**[MADACI's Commitment]** MADACI recognizes the urgency of addressing these challenges and is deeply committed to empowering AGYW in Nairobi's informal settlements. Through our comprehensive approach, we provide accurate SRHR information, confidential service referrals, and life skills training that equips young women with the knowledge, confidence, and resources they need to make informed decisions about their reproductive health.

**[Impact and Achievements]** Over the years, MADACI has witnessed the transformative impact of our work in the lives of AGYW. Through our community dialogues and life skills training, we have seen young women become agents of change, advocating for their own rights and those of their peers. We have witnessed a decrease in teenage pregnancies, increased awareness of safe abortion rights, and a reduction in gender-based violence cases within the communities we serve.

**[Call to Action]** On this momentous anniversary, MADACI urges the Kenyan government, civil society organizations, and all stakeholders to renew their commitment to the Maputo Protocol and prioritize the implementation of policies and programs that safeguard the reproductive rights of AGYW in Kenya's informal settlements. We call for increased investment in comprehensive SRHR education, access to youth-friendly services, and the strengthening of mechanisms for reporting and addressing gender-based violence.

## As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Maputo Protocol

MADACI stands firm in its mission to ensure that every AGYW in Nairobi's informal settlements has the opportunity to access accurate SRHR information, make informed choices, and lead fulfilling lives. We believe that by upholding the principles of reproductive justice, we can empower AGYW and young mothers to overcome the challenges they face and build a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

Thank you



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