



PRESS STATEMENT
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Africa's Women's Day 2025: DTM Calls for Social and Economic Justice for African Women through Reparations

On this Africa Women's Day, commemorated annually on July 31st, Development Through Media (DTM) joins the African continent and global diaspora in honouring the resilience, leadership, and sacrifices of African women throughout history. This year's theme — “Advancing Social and Economic Justice for African Women: Reparations” — underscores the urgent need to redress historical and systemic injustices that continue to disenfranchise women, particularly in Kenya and across Africa.

Africa's Women's Day was instituted in 1962 with the founding of the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO) — the continent's first collective women's movement — which mobilized women in the fight for liberation from colonialism and apartheid. Today, that same spirit of solidarity inspires continued advocacy for gender equality, equity, and justice.

At DTM, our vision is a just and inclusive society where marginalized voices — especially women and girls — are heard, respected, and empowered. Guided by our mission to leverage media and dialogue for social transformation, gender equity remains a core pillar of our work. From grassroots community forums to national media campaigns, we create platforms that amplify women's voices, document their struggles, and champion policy reforms that support their rights and development.

In Kenya, women continue to make commendable strides in education, political participation, and entrepreneurship. Yet the structural legacies of colonial dispossession, landlessness, gender-based violence, and socio-economic exclusion remain stark — particularly for rural women, women with disabilities, and young women from informal settlements.

Women bear the brunt of economic inequality — with disproportionate representation in the informal sector, limited access to credit and land, and underrepresentation in leadership positions. The 2025 Africa Women's Day theme aligns with the African Union's broader reparative justice agenda, which demands redress for centuries of oppression, marginalization, and violence experienced by African women and their communities.

On this Africa Women's Day, DTM calls on:

- The Government of Kenya to actualize commitments made under the Maputo Protocol and Kenya's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) policy;
- Development partners and the private sector to centre women and girls in their programming and resource allocations, especially in health, education, and climate resilience;

- Civil society and media actors to continue holding space for public discourse on reparative justice and meaningful inclusion;
- Communities to dismantle the patriarchal norms and practices that hinder women's advancement.

As we reflect on the legacies of colonialism, slavery, and apartheid that have devalued African women's lives, Africa Women's Day 2025 is a rallying call to "repair the present, reclaim the future." Reparations must encompass economic justice, mental health healing, land rights, and equal access to opportunity — all of which are essential to true empowerment.

Signed:

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#AfricaWomensDay2025 | #ReparationsForJustice | #DTMForGenderEquity | #EmpowerHerKE