

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE PRESIDENCY
Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Youth Affairs
State Department for Gender Affairs

SPEECH BY MRS. SICILY KARIUKI, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, YOUTH AND GENDER AFFAIRS DURING THE PEACE WALK FOR THE VISIBILITY OF GBV HOTLINE 1195, ON FRIDAY 9TH JUNE 2017

Principal Secretary for Gender Affairs, Ms. Mwanamaka Mabruki
Development partners present here today
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be with you here today to flag off this peace walk that is aimed at giving visibility to the sexual and gender based violence (GBV) Hotline 1195 that is working in partnership with my Ministry to help victims of sexual and Gender Based Violence to get rapid assistance to healthcare assistance and referrals.

We are here today to officially launch MOU between The State Department of Gender Affairs and Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) Hotline 1195 for maximum support to women and to say a big NO to sexual and Gender Based Violence in the society. HAK is committed to supporting women survivors of sexual and Gender Based violence through its Rapid Response system which includes the national GBV Toll Free Helpline 1195.

The peace walks whose theme is' ***protect women Against Violence in elections, speak out!*** Serves as a call for peace and protection for women during the electioneering period. All these efforts would not have been possible without the help of our development partners, and I wish to thank all partners who have and still provide support to the running of the Toll-Free line.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This peace walk could not have come at a better time when we need to reach out to members of the community on the need to practice peace especially during this electioneering period where many cases of sexual and gender based violence are reported especially against women and girls. Healthcare Assistance Kenya in partnership with the State Department of Gender Affairs operates the only sexual and Gender Based Violence rapid response system and **Hotline-1195** in the country.

1195 Hotline unique value lies in the fact that it is free to access and that it is linked to local facilities that provide medical treatment and prevention of infections, legal aid and rescue centers. It also offers immediate 24-hour confidential tele-counselling and coordination of rescue missions through the latest technology i.e. SMS system for survivors.

Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) is a national humanitarian non-profit making organization that supports survivors of sexual and gender based violence to access rapid sexual and gender based violence services through referrals. HAK partners with Nairobi women's Hospitals' Gender Based Violence Recovery Centers, Communication Authority of Kenya, Legal Aid and mobile service providers.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Government of Kenya, (GoK) in partnership and collaboration with state and non-state actors, has under taken measures to prevent and respond to GBV. These include development of requisite policies, the enactment of laws and regulations that prevent the vice and starting a toll-free line 1195 which is run by Healthcare Assistance Kenya (HAK) in partnership with State Department of Gender Affairs.

During the 2007/2008 post-election violence, rape and other forms of sexual violence were, to a large extent directed at women and girls principally because of their gender. In a demonstration, HAK has identified the need for a sub system of early warning; early Response framework to track and analyze violence against women in elections as voters, candidates, monitors and election.

We appreciate that HealthCare Assistance Kenya has been able to give unique services to Kenyan women in the area of sexual and Gender Based Violence with special focus on violence against women during elections and in times of conflict.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is regrettable that even though Kenya has robust policies and laws that seek to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and is also a signatory to international and regional human rights framework that aim to prevent and response to GBV, statistics show that GBV remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations in Kenya, both in times of conflict and stability.

The Kenya Demographic Health survey 2014 shows that 45% of women and 44% of men age 15-49 have experienced physical violence since the age 15, and 20% and 12% respectively have experienced physical violence within the month prior to that survey.

As the State Department of Gender Affairs, we appreciate the support given to HAK by UN women, African Unite Kenya chapter, The Gender Violence Recovery Centre of Nairobi Women Hospital, the Kenya Red Cross, Safaricom Ltd, FIDA, CREW, The National police service.

Thank you.