



Press Release

'For Immediate Release'

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WOMEN ASPIRANTS CONDEMN GROWING CASES OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

Over 300 women aspirants from Nairobi County have today strongly condemned the recent cases of electoral violence in the country. Speaking at a march organised by stakeholders from the human rights and development sector, women leaders decried that electoral and other forms of violence may escalate and deter women and youth from participating in the upcoming political parties nominations slated for later this month.

"We are seeing a dangerous wave of electoral and other forms of violence. This, if not addressed, could jeopardise women and youth participation in the electoral processes. This is a critical year in our democracy. We must uphold peace and condemn all forms of violence, said Kagwiria Mbogori, the Chairperson of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

"Electoral violence against women remains one of the biggest challenges faced by women aspirants and their supporters. Cases of violence will hinder women from fully competing and participating in the forthcoming party primaries and indeed elections," said Waithera Chege, an aspirant for the Member of County Assembly, Nairobi South Ward.

"Exclusion of women and youth in electoral processes engineered through violence and intimidation must stop. Participation in electoral processes is a right not a privilege. Women aspirants and leaders will not condone any form of violence especially during this campaign season," said Susan Mwangera, the CEO of Youth Agenda.

During the event, women aspirants welcomed a dedicated team of campaigners that have embarked on a 1,500km gruelling never-tried before walk from Kwale to Moyale to campaign against violence under an initiative dubbed '**Zero Violence 254.**' The initiative is driven by Ripples International, a nonprofit organisation and supported by FIDA, OXFAM, Youth Agenda, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC).

According to Ripples International CEO Mercy Chidi-Baidoo, the walkers led by the lead walker John Burke are covering 40 kilometres per day and stretching themselves to feel the pain that victims of violence endure.

The women aspirants on the other hand are organised through the leadership of Youth Agenda, Oxfam-Kenya, FIDA-Kenya under an initiative dubbed #VoteADada .

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For more information, please visit www.zeroviolence254.org @zeroviolence254 and @voteDada on Twitter.

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