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FAIR ELECTORAL REFORMS, ZERO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND YOUTH.

Our Collective Call for Credible, Peaceful and Inclusive Elections in 2027.

OUR COLLECTIVE CONCERN

We, the members of the **Democracy Trust Fund (DTF), Women Peace Actors** and **Women Leaders and Aspirants** from across Kenya, together with the **Democracy Trust Fund (DTF) and Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF),** express serious concern over three critical developments affecting Kenya's preparations for the 2027 General Elections:

1. **Proposed Electoral Amendments-**The implications of the proposed amendments for electoral transparency, institutional accountability, access to electoral justice and inclusive political participation.
2. **Electoral Violence Against Women-**The rising incidents of violence, intimidation and harassment targeting women leaders and aspirants, threatening their safety, political rights and meaningful participation in democratic processes.
3. **Campaign Financing Regulations and Proposed Expenditure Limits-**The need to clarify the status of the Campaign Financing Regulations and proposed campaign expenditure limits ahead of the 2027 General Elections, ensuring transparency, accountability and equitable opportunities for women, young people and other underrepresented candidates.

We are particularly concerned by the **Elections (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2024**, which raises important questions about **political party primaries, electoral dispute resolution, provision of voter register to the public, by election registration process, recall of Members of Parliament, and livestreaming of Election results.** As the senate considers the proposed changes, electoral reforms must strengthen, rather than weaken, safeguards for fair political competition and equal participation.

At the same time, we are concerned by reported incidents of violence, harassment and inflammatory political rhetoric in **Kisii, Baringo, Kisumu, Meru, Nairobi and Homa Bay counties**. These incidents, occurring well ahead of the formal election period, raise questions about the safety of women seeking political leadership and the preparedness of institutions to prevent electoral violence.

We are further concerned about the **high cost of political campaigns in Kenya**, which creates significant financial barriers for women, young people and other underrepresented aspirants. The uncertainty surrounding the implementation of **the Election Campaign Financing Regulations, 2026**, and proposed expenditure limits further raises concerns about equitable political competition.

This statement is therefore a call to ensure that the ongoing electoral reforms protect the constitutional rights of all Kenyans, particularly women, young people and persons with disabilities as well as an immediate action to prevent electoral violence against women.

As women leaders, aspirants and peace actors from across Kenya, we present the **three priority** concerns requiring urgent national attention and coordinated institutional action;

1. A CALL FOR ELECTORAL AMENDMENTS THAT SAFEGUARD TRANSPARENCY AND INCLUSION.

We acknowledge the ongoing legislative process concerning the **Elections (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2024,** which was passed by the National Assembly with proposed amendments on 22 October 2026 and subsequently referred back to the Senate for further consideration in accordance with Article 110(4) of the Constitution. The bill presented to the Assembly had serious, proposed amendments in relation to the manner in which IEBC is expected to conduct the next General Elections.

As the legislative process continues, we emphasize the need to safeguard electoral transparency, institutional accountability, fair political party nominations and inclusive political participation ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

The proposed changes present an opportunity to strengthen Kenya's electoral framework. However, the following issues require particular attention:

1. **Political Party Nominations**- The proposed removal of the IEBC's role in conducting and supervising party primaries upon request places greater responsibility on political parties to ensure credible nominations. **We call upon the Parliament and Senate to safeguard effective nomination oversight and require political parties to uphold transparent, fair and inclusive processes**, with accessible complaints mechanisms and protection against discrimination and intimidation.

2. **Electoral Justice and Accountability**- The proposed amendments to electoral dispute resolution procedures raise important questions about institutional mandates and access to justice. **We call for a final legal framework that clearly define the respective dispute resolution mandates of the IEBC and the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal.** Electoral institutions, including the ORPP, should ensure accessible complaint procedures, timely and impartial resolution of disputes, and effective remedies for women aspirants and other underrepresented groups.

3. **Protect Voter Registration, Transparency and Inclusive Participation**- The proposed changes to voter registration, including registration during by-elections, have implications for voter access and electoral administration. The National Assembly has also retained the existing provisions under Section 39 of the Elections Act concerning livestreaming of election results. **We call for accessible voter registration, public scrutiny of the voters' register, transparent election results management and inclusive electoral procedures** that safeguard the rights of women, young people and persons with disabilities.

4. **Live streaming of Results**- While not legally required, this will enhance confidence among the electorate. In a country with a significant trust deficit, legislatures should strengthen, not weaken, **TRUST,** especially in the electoral process.

5. **Gender Representation and Institutional Accountability**- We call upon the IEBC and the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) to **clarify and fully implement** their respective mandates in the preparation, submission, verification and approval of political party nomination lists to eliminate ambiguity, strengthen accountability and ensure compliance with constitutional gender representation requirements.

We as the women of Kenya emphasize that electoral reforms cannot be considered effective if they improve administrative procedures while leaving unresolved the barriers that prevent women and young people from participating safely and fairly.

The final electoral framework must strengthen institutional accountability, safeguard political rights and provide practical remedies for electoral violations.

2. A CALL TO END ELECTORAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

We, as women leaders and peace actors of this country, firmly reject the **normalization of political violence, intimidation and gender-based harassment as part of electoral competition**. Physical attacks, threats, sexual harassment, discriminatory rhetoric, hate speech and technology-facilitated abuse undermine women's constitutional rights, political participation and democratic representation.

Evidence from the 2022 electoral period underscores the scale of the challenge. FIDA Kenya documented **1,746 cases of election-related sexual and gender-based violence across Kenya's 47 counties**, with verbal abuse and hate speech accounting for 54% of reported cases and cyberbullying for 23%.Recent reported incidents across the country highlight continuing risks to women leaders and aspirants:

i. **Kisii County-Dr. July Nyamao** reportedly faced heckling, public humiliation and physical attacks during a political engagement.
ii. **Kisumu County-**Woman Representative aspirant **Linda Ogweno** reportedly faced an attack during a funeral gathering in Nyamasaria on 20 October 2026.
iii. **Baringo County-**Reports of derogatory remarks in local dialects, heckling and gender-based intimidation during political engagements.
iv. **Meru County-**Reported violent confrontations involving former **Governor Hon. Kawira Mwangaza** and her associates, including injuries and property damage.
v. **Nairobi County-**Reports of disrupted political gatherings, online harassment and gender-based threats against women.
vi. **Homa Bay County-**Political violence reported in August 2026 involving deaths, injuries and property damage, alongside an alleged attack involving parliamentary aspirant **Agneta Mwangale.**

While these incidents require verification and investigation, they highlight recurring patterns of violence, intimidation and discriminatory political conduct that demand urgent prevention, protection and accountability.

Articles 27, 28, 29, 37 and 38 of the Constitution of Kenya guarantee equality, dignity, security of the person, peaceful assembly and political rights. These protections must be upheld throughout the electoral cycle.

Violence against women and youth in politics undermines democratic representation, restricts political competition and denies citizens meaningful leadership choices. We call for zero tolerance of electoral violence against women and youth and decisive institutional action to safeguard their safety, dignity and equal participation ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

We call upon all actors including, electoral management bodies, security and justice institutions, political parties and peacebuilding actors to prioritize the following actions to;

1. **Prevent and Respond to Electoral Violence-** The NPS, IEBC and County Security Committees should identify electoral hotspots, strengthen gender-responsive security measures and ensure timely protection and response to threats and attacks against women leaders and aspirants.

2. **Strengthen Investigations and Accountability** -The NPS, DCI, ODPP and relevant justice institutions should ensure prompt, impartial investigations, access to justice, survivor support and appropriate updates on reported cases of electoral violence.

3. **Safeguard Fair and Inclusive Electoral Reforms-** Parliament should ensure that proposed electoral amendments protect transparent party nominations, accessible electoral justice and effective safeguards against discrimination, intimidation and exclusion.

4. **Enforce Responsible Political Conduct-**The ORPP, IEBC, NCIC and political parties should enforce applicable codes of conduct, address hate speech and gender-based intimidation, and promote peaceful, issue-based political competition.

5. **Strengthen Early Warning and Response Mechanisms-**The NCIC, County Peace Committees, Women Peace Actors, security agencies and civil society should strengthen community-based early warning, accessible reporting systems and coordinated interventions to prevent electoral violence.

6. **Strengthen Monitoring and Evidence-Based Action-**The NGEC, KNCHR, IEBC, NPS and civil society should document and monitor electoral violence against women, including online harassment, and use disaggregated evidence to inform prevention, accountability and electoral preparedness.

We further call upon all political leaders, aspirants and supporters to reject violence, intimidation and discrimination, and uphold the constitutional rights of every Kenyan to participate freely and safely in democratic processes.

3. A CALL TO STREAMLINE CAMPAIGN FINANCING REGULATIONS AND HIGH CAMPAIGN COSTS.

We are concerned about the **high cost of political campaigns** and the continued **uncertainty surrounding the implementation of the Election Campaign Financing Regulations, 2026**, and the **prescribed expenditure limits**. Although the **IEBC gazette the regulations and spending limits on 7 August 2026,** their implementation and enforcement **remain restrained by High Court Conservatory orders.** The matter was discussed before the **National Assembly Committee on Delegated Legislation on 22 October 2026,** but substantive consideration was halted in light of the court orders.

We call upon the **IEBC, Parliament and relevant institutions to facilitate the timely resolution of outstanding legal and regulatory issues, clarify the applicable campaign financing framework**, and ensure transparent, reasonable and enforceable expenditure limits that promote fair political competition and reduce financial barriers facing women, young people and other underrepresented aspirants ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

OUR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT.

As women leaders, **DTF Members and Women Peace Actors, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing women's political leadership, civic and electoral education, mentorship, peacebuilding and policy engagement**. We will continue to engage relevant institutions and stakeholders to strengthen electoral accountability, safeguard political rights and support peaceful participation.

We also stand in **solidarity with all women affected by political violence, irrespective of political affiliation.** Political competition must be defined by **ideas, service and democratic choice, not threats or physical confrontation.**

Safeguarding women in politics is a shared national responsibility and a fundamental requirement for peaceful, credible and inclusive elections in 2027.

ISSUED JOINTLY BY;

Democracy Trust Fund Members, Women Peace Actors and Women Leaders from across Kenya.

Together with DEMOCRACY TRUST FUND (DTF) AND ECHO NETWORK AFRICA FOUNDATION (ENAF)