

Raise Your Voice CBO
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PRESS STATEMENT

YOUTH TAKE TO THE STREETS TO CHALLENGE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS OVER RECENT DEATHS OF KENYANS

For Immediate Release

Nairobi, Kenya, 27 March 2026 – As concerned youth and residents of Nairobi and its environs, we have gathered here today to speak out against the persistent disregard for the lives of Kenyans by those in power — especially those claiming religious authority in our country. Following recent news headlines of floods that have killed 88 Kenyans and displaced thousands more, we are appalled that some religious groups have instead chosen to restrict their concern for life to women’s pregnancies.

Today, we take a deliberate and unapologetic stand to affirm the purpose and spirit of the *March for All Lives*, a collective act of remembrance, solidarity, and moral clarity: **every life matters**. This includes the lives of the 32 bodies of children that were killed and buried in a mass grave in Kericho County.

In recent years, public discourse around the “right to life” has been increasingly shaped by selective narratives from religious extremist groups whose advocacy has centered almost exclusively on **abortion** and, more recently, **surrogacy**. While these are important and often contested issues, we reject the narrowing of the right to life into a single-issue agenda to serve political interests.

Today, we are marching to expand that conversation.

We are marching to honor **all lives lost** not selectively, not politically, and not conditionally.

We mourn:

Women who have been killed through **femicide**, whose deaths rarely receive sustained national outrage.

The Kenyans who lost their lives to floods

Queer Kenyans murdered because of who they are, often in silence and without justice.

Sex workers whose lives are deemed disposable and whose deaths go unacknowledged.

Individuals who have died due to **police brutality** and in police custody.

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People denied life-saving healthcare including those unable to access essential treatment due to systemic barriers.

Victims of violence, neglect, and structural inequality whose stories are never amplified.

Our message is not anti-religion, anti-culture, or against any group. Our message is fully pro-life and pro-Kenyans. It is a call for **consistency, honesty, and humanity** in how we understand and defend the right to life. The value of a life should not depend on identity, belief, profession, or circumstance. It should not be conditional.

We have observed that some public demonstrations and narratives focus narrowly on specific issues, while remaining silent on the suffering of marginalized communities. This march is a response to that silence.

We challenge similar actors:

If you claim to defend the “right to life,” then that right must extend beyond the unborn. It must include:

- The woman killed by her partner because, for once in her life she chose to express her opinion and individuality..
- The queer person targeted in a hate crime just because the way they dressed or walked did not conform to social norms.
- The sex worker denied protection under the law just because she opted for a different way of generating income.
- The young person failed by a healthcare system marred by wanton corruption and a health insurance scheme that never works..

The right to life cannot be selective.

We refuse a hierarchy of human worth where some deaths are politicized and amplified, while others are ignored.

This march is not about division.

It is about **recognition**.

It is about naming those who are never named.

It is about honoring those who are never honored.

We believe:

- That the life of a woman lost to violence carries equal weight as any other.
- That the life of a queer person is worthy of protection, dignity, and remembrance.

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- That the life of a marginalized or stigmatized individual is no less valuable.
- That no one's humanity should be up for debate.

Through this march, we aim to **restore balance to the narrative** to remind our society that empathy must be expansive, not selective.

We march not in opposition, but in affirmation:
That **every life is sacred. Every life is worthy. Every life matters.**

We are saying, clearly and collectively:
Every life carries equal dignity. Every loss deserves equal mourning.

We march not just against injustice, but against silence.

We March for All Lives.

For more information contact us at raiseyourvoicecbo@gmail.com

The statement is endorsed by:

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Raise Your Voice CBO

Lydia Mukiri - Human rights defenders

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