



THE JUDICIARY



We the Juvenile Justice Actors Promise:

Police: As we maintain Law and order, we promise to protect the rights of children in all our endeavors

Prosecution: As we institute and undertake prosecution of criminal matters, we promise that we shall protect the rights of child victims and promise to prosecute children cases only as a last result.

Judiciary: As we deliver justice, we promise to fulfil Article 53 of the Constitution as we uphold the best interest of the child in determining all cases.

Probation: As we supervise, resettle and rehabilitate offenders serving various sentences in the community, we promise to uphold the best interest of the child and to ensure full rehabilitation of young offenders.

Department Of Children Services: As it is our mandate we promise to continue safeguarding and protecting the rights and welfare of children in Kenya.

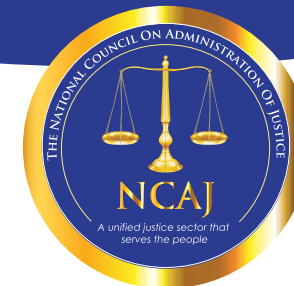
We all commit to working together to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of children in all our work.



THE NATIONAL SERVICE MONTH ON



Children MATTERS



**For more information contact;
The Secretariat,
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Children should be in Class, not in the Justice System

The NCAJ Taskforce on Children Matters

The NCAJ Special Taskforce on Children Matters was appointed by the Hon. Chief Justice vide Gazette Notice No. 369 of January 29, 2016 with a mandate to address gaps in the administration of justice with regard to children.

Mandate

To review and report on the status of children in the Administration of Justice.

- 1) Examine the operative policy and legal regimes as well as the emerging case law to identify the challenges and make appropriate recommendations.
- 2) Assess, review, report and recommend on the service standards of each of the justice sector institutions with respect to children matters.
- 3) Prepare draft rules of procedure for enforcement of fundamental rights of children.
- 4) Conduct a situation analysis of the existing infrastructure and equipment in the criminal justice system in regard to children matters and develop guidelines for the monitoring, supervision and inspections for holding facilities.
- 5) Develop guidelines for Child Protection Units and propose mechanisms for the establishment of Child Police Unit in the National Police Service.
- 6) Develop the Court Practice Directions on children cases.
- 7) Develop the Diversion Regulations.
- 8) Develop a Policy on Mandatory Continuous Professional Development program on child rights for Justice and examine, review the training curricula on children.
- 9) Develop policies on re-integration of children accompanying imprisoned matters.
- 10) Develop policies on separated cells for children.
- 11) Development of the guidelines for children with special needs.
- 12) Develop guidelines for inclusion of children with special needs in the Juvenile Justice Actors procedure to be included in the practice guidelines.
- 13) Develop a coordinated sensitization and awareness strategy.
- 14) Develop a form for presenting the P&C cases in court.
- 15) Improve co-ordination of the Juvenile Justice Actors at the National and County level.

Membership

The Taskforce draws its membership from the following institutions;

1. The Judiciary
2. Office of the Director of Public Prosecution
3. Department of Probation and Aftercare Services
4. Kenya Law Reform Commission
5. Legal Resources Foundation Trust
6. Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya
7. Witness Protection Agency
8. Directorate of Criminal Investigation
9. Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
10. Kenya Law Society of Kenya
11. Prisons Department
12. Cradle



The Structure

The Leadership of the Taskforce includes;

A Chairlady - Honourable Lady Justice Martha Koome,
Judge of the Court of Appeal

A Vice Chair - Grace Ndirangu,
Office of Inspector General

A Secretary - Noah Sanganyi,
Director of the Department of Children Services

The NCAJ Special Taskforce on Children Matters collapsed the 16 core mandates into three thematic areas which are;

- 1) Legislative, policy, procedural and practice directions reforms,
- 2) Survey and data compilation on all matters of children and training, and
- 3) Infrastructure and co-ordination of all the actors.

THE JUDICIARY SERVICE MONTH FOR CHILDREN MATTERS

November is a special month for child rights movement, as it is on this month that the UN General Assembly adopted the UNCRC on November 20, 1989.

In line with the Constitution, the Children Act and in sustaining the Judiciary transformation framework, the Judiciary declares that from this year **NOVEMBER** shall be the month of the Child.

The Judiciary dubs NOVEMBER as the **JUDICIARY SERVICE MONTH FOR CHILDREN MATTERS** which shall be observed and celebrated nationally in court stations.

The courts shall be expected to carry out the following activities:

1. Plan their service week for clearing backlog of children matters.
2. Ensure that cases that have taken 6 months or more are dispensed with as quickly as possible in accordance with the Children Act.
3. Ensure that the children have legal representation during the trial processes.
4. Organize a forum where the children shall interact with the Judiciary processes.
5. Create awareness on the rights of the child through various forums, including hosting a mini launch of the service week.
6. Highlight the number of children cases pending
7. Host a Court User Committee and or Area Advisory Committee meeting, which the agenda will be access to justice for children.
8. Send a detailed report of their service week to the office of the NCAJ at the end of November.