

OUR HOME, OUR FUTURE

KARIBU NYUMBANI

The theme of our annual report, **Our Home, Our Future**, is inspired by the Groundbreaking Ceremony of our forever home in 2024.

Dear Friends and Supporters of INEND,

I am filled with immense pride that what was once a dream is now within reach. When INEND was established in 2015, the idea of owning an office was just that—an idea.

Today, in a global context where funding streams for the LGBTIQ+ movement are diminishing, supporters are dwindling, and the anti-rights movement is gaining traction, having a safe space that we own is transformative.

It allows us to organise securely, push back against rising hate, and embed ourselves into the community we serve, carving out a **space for the future**. This achievement is monumental, and my hope is that it sets a precedent for other queer organisations in Kenya to prioritise the sustainability of our movement.

2024 marked a new chapter for INEND as we began implementing our **NAWIRI Strategic Plan 2024–2030**.

This journey has not been without obstacles — many doubted norm shifting and attitude change were deserving of attention. Yet, through the years, we have collectively demonstrated the undeniable impact of INEND's work.

The **NAWIRI Strategic Plan** provides us with a clearer vision for the future, enabling us to plan with cohesion and purpose. Grounded in the current needs of our community, it serves as both our anchor and compass, keeping us steadfast in **our mission**.

In line with our values, we have remained committed to engaging with state and non-state actors, recognising that change must happen at every level.



In 2024, we deepened our engagement with Judicial Officers and expanded sensitisation efforts with boda boda and matatu operators.

We also intensified our efforts to **counter anti-LGBTIQ+ propaganda**, producing fact-checking online campaigns and conducting an investigative series into the funding of the anti-rights movement in Kenya. At the heart of our work is the belief that LGBTIQ+ individuals should rightfully engage as citizens of Kenya.

Our struggles are intertwined with those of other Kenyans. In 2024, we joined anti-femicide protests to raise alarm over the worrying trend and the lack of attention from government and political leaders.

Following the protests, we convened a **post-protest Feminist Care Circle** to debrief and ground ourselves in collective healing.

Across the region, there seems to be a race to pass hate laws that dehumanise and further criminalise LGBTIQ+ individuals. We continue to stand in solidarity with our siblings across the continent, affirming that we are united in this struggle. Even in this hostile environment, there are glimmers of hope—countries like Namibia are making progress by overturning colonial-era laws.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am excited for the launch and implementation of **Queering the Ballot II**. I firmly believe that the future of our country will change when every person can fully participate in electoral and governance processes.

I am deeply grateful to the partners who continue to walk this journey with us.

None of these achievements would be possible without your unwavering support. Thank you for fueling and sustaining the work we do.

As we continue to dream big and fight back, unrestricted and sustained funding is more critical than ever. I invite our supporters to continue investing in our vision as we work toward an inclusive society and **dignified lives for all**.



Essy Adhiambo
Executive Director, INEND

WHAT GUIDES US

Our Vision

An inclusive society and dignified lives for ALL.

Our Mission

We exist to influence policies and practices amongst institutions, leaders and individuals for more proactive protection of the rights of sexual and gender minorities.

Our Values

Commitment: We are committed and determined to realise our goals as an organisation to the highest attainable standards.

Respect: We strive to create and/or influence spaces that are respectful of life, dignity and the rights of all people, particularly our partners, stakeholders and those with whom we engage.

Non-Discrimination: We believe that all human beings are equal and deserving of dignity without exception.

Accountability and Integrity: As we embrace our values and apply them appropriately, honestly and consistently, we hold ourselves and others accountable for violations and missteps.

In 2024, we laid the foundation for INEND's future both strategically, and physically.

We began the implementation of our NAWIRI Strategic Plan 2024-2030, a comprehensive roadmap for steering our work for the next seven years. In May, we celebrated a momentous occasion: the groundbreaking of what is to be our forever home.

These two achievements foreground an impactful year for INEND. Dive in and see what else we accomplished.



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NAWIRI STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2030

2024 marked a new and transformative chapter in our organisation's journey. It was the first year of implementing our NAWIRI Strategic Plan 2024-2030.

Grounded on a deep commitment to the protection of rights of sexual and gender minorities and a vision of an inclusive society, the NAWIRI Strategic Plan 2024-2030 was created after rigorous analysis, extensive stakeholder engagement and community involvement.

For the next seven years, this will be our true north, guiding the work we do and ensuring that our organisation stays true to its values, drives change, remains impactful and navigates an ever-evolving human rights landscape.



IMPLEMENTING NAWIRI

Violence Prevention and Rights Protection

Integrated approaches that identify, enable and push back against systems and structures to address oppression and violence for progressive and inclusive policies amongst institutions, leaders, and individuals focused on addressing violence targeting Sexual and Gender Minorities.



Collective Action Towards Rights Protection

Foster and accelerate sustainable change through co-creation, catalysing critical partnerships and contributing spaces and resources that grow agency for protecting rights and fundamental freedoms through increased social capital and ownership.





Knowledge Management and Leadership Development

Feminist approaches to knowledge management, empowerment and experiential learning for documentation, awareness, effective accountable organising and meaningful engagement towards fostering a community of practice exchanging knowledge, learnings and innovation, towards violence prevention and rights protection of Sexual and Gender Minorities.



Organisational Sustainability

Organisational health and sustainability for effectiveness and ability to achieve our mission and goals through ensuring consistent, coherent and value-based functionality that prioritises the well-being of #TeamINEND and the longevity and impact of our work.





HAPA NI NYUMBANI

Dreams can and do come true!

On May 17, 2024, we embarked on the journey to the realisation of a long-held dream: the building of a permanent office and accessible community hub.

We celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony in the company of partners, community members and stakeholders, who underscored the significance of this milestone.



“INEND is the neighbour that always welcomes everyone. The work INEND does continues to bring together communal leadership, communal ownership and family. Ensuring that every voice is heard and that every community is represented. It is through the partnerships that INEND has formed, that INEND has transformed challenges into opportunities and obstacles into milestones and queer joy.”

Masafu Okwara, NGLHRC.

As one of the speakers at the ceremony said, INEND's story has been one of hope and resilience. Motivated by our strategic priorities of Organisational Sustainability and Collective Action, we envision the forever home as a central and vibrant resource centre, providing comprehensive support, resources and a sense of belonging for community members.

Our Forever Home is a physical manifestation of our ongoing commitment to fight for a more inclusive and equitable society. Beyond walls and a roof, the Forever Home symbolises stability, longevity and a refuge in the face of anti-LGBTIQ+ repression. In this home, we will expand our reach and impact.

In this home we will continue to dream up new possibilities for LGBTIQ+ people. Welcome home.





IT TAKES A VILLAGE

The saying, “**It takes a Village**”, is at the heart of our work at INEND. This is reflected in our strategic priority of Collective Action - born from the recognition that sustainable change comes from working together to co-create and catalyse critical partnerships.

From engaging village elders, boda boda operators, to political and opinion leaders, we work with individuals, groups and organisations that share our vision for an equal and inclusive society.



QUEERING THE BALLOT II

Following the success of the Queering the Ballot Project, we joined forces once again with the **National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC)** and **galck+** to explore the creation of a national strategy that would inform the project.

To this end, we engaged in data collection and information gathering from **187 participants from Focus Group Discussions and 10 Key Informants** from community leaders, civil society organisations representatives, human rights defenders, paralegals, lawyers, journalists, government representatives and police service officials

We broadened the reach of this endeavor by reaching out to new regions and counties such as **Meru, Bungoma, Kitale, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kiambu, Machakos and Kisii.**

The wealth of information and recommendations garnered will help us uphold the pillars of the **Queering The Ballot** project, namely:

- ① increasing LGBTIQ+ participation in the electoral process, ensuring the safety and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ people in elections,
- ① and influencing political parties to implement inclusive legal, policy and administrative frameworks for LGBTIQ+ people.



“Political parties either spread homophobia and transphobia or choose not to focus on LGBTIQ+ issues in Kenyan Society.”

Survey Respondent

“Commentary about Queer existence is usually hostile and incites discrimination and seclusion of the minority from mainstream society. Political leaders who dare speak about Queer matters and existence usually practice hate speech while their counterparts silence their voices in the occurrence of injustice.”

Survey Respondent



“Honestly, a queer voter is a valid voter by merit of being Kenyan - it's high time we reiterate that whether queer or not, by basis of being Kenyan, we have the right to enjoy protection and the laws provided our constitution.”

Survey Respondent

“As we reflect on the stories and the milestones of Queering The Ballot, one truth stands clear: our liberation is deeply political. Across Africa, queer folks resist erasure daily, yet policies and governance structures continue to deny our full humanity. Civic engagement is not optional — it is an act of survival, reclaiming space, and demanding justice. Queering the Ballot is not just about identity; it is about power. Through strategic political participation, we shape the policies that govern our lives, ensuring that queer voices are not only heard but centered.”

Diana Gichengo, Board Chair, INEND



BODA BODA AND MATATU OPERATORS TRAINING

Since 2016, INEND has worked with Boda Boda and Matatu operators, training them on equality and inclusion with an aim to reduce harm meted out on LGBTIQ+ people.

In 2024 we:

Conducted two sensitisation forums that involved **60 Boda Boda and Matatu operators from Mombasa and Kilifi**. Following this, we witnessed a commendable shift in attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ people.

Carried out an evaluation of the Boda Boda and Matatu Operators as **Unusual Allies Project**. While the project has been successful, we took some time to evaluate its performance sampling **244 respondents from the operators we have sensitised since 2016** and develop recommendations that will help us magnify and deepen the impact of the project moving forward.

We also made notes of learnings that could inform the planning and design of other projects.

“ I have been fueling stigma because of what I hear from other people because that is what I was made to believe, that the queer community is cursed and they don't have a right to live and associate with us, yet they are human beings like us.”

Boda Boda Operator, Kilifi



“ I was able to learn many things I didn't know before about LGBTQ+. In the past, we used to gossip about LGBTQ+ people, and if one of them asked me for a ride, I would struggle to carry them. I would look for a reason to avoid them.

After the training, I am now able to interact with them freely. I can treat them like any other human being. I can carry them as a regular passenger, and we can even have conversations. I would like to tell my fellow boda boda riders not to judge someone if you don't know them. Let's not overreact.

We should have more civic education, and those of us who have undergone this training should educate others. If I hear people talking negatively about an LGBTQ+ person, I can interrupt and say, 'Here, you are in the wrong because this person is a human being just like us.’”

Boda Boda Operator, Changamwe



[Learn more about The Unusual Allies Project](#)

WAZEE WA MTAA (VILLAGE ELDERS) ENGAGEMENTS

Wazee wa Mtaa (Village Elders) play an integral role in the communities we live in. As leaders the community relies on them for guidance. From this understanding, we engaged 14 Wazees in dialogue on how to foster a community that promotes inclusion, protection and reduction of violence against LGBTIQ+ people living in their localities.

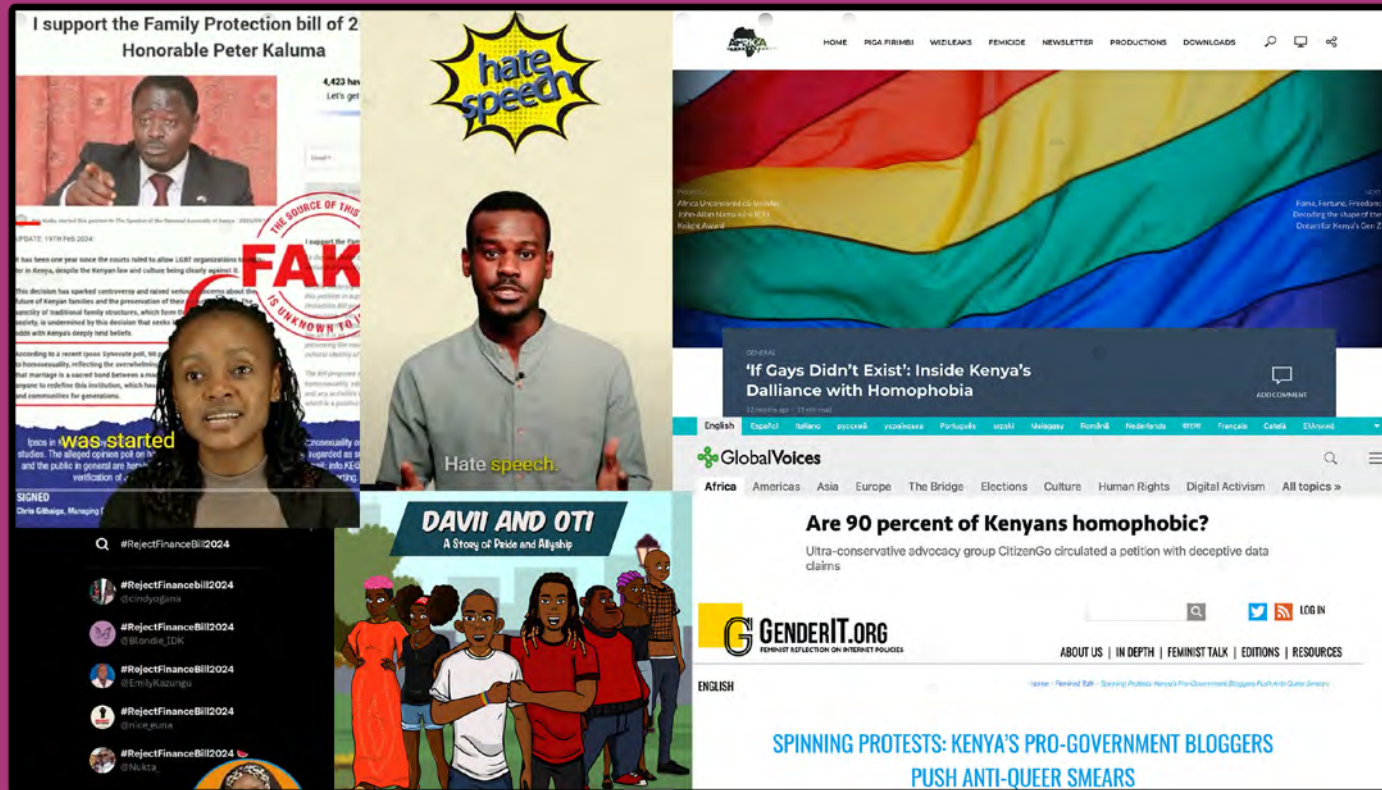
The leaders acknowledged the usefulness of the conversation and promised to disseminate the information during their community barazas (forums).

WOMEN POLITICAL LEADERS TRAINING ON DIGITAL RIGHTS

In collaboration with Access Now, we conducted Training on Digital Rights for women political leaders in Busia, Mombasa and Kilifi. This training addressed digital identity, hate speech and incitement to violence, crucial concerns for marginalised women, and in particular LBQT women, who often face technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

We used the training to also share valuable resources, including our [Swahili Feminist Principles of the Internet](#), [Online Gender Based Violence Findings Report](#) and the [Internet Shutdown and Elections Handbook](#).

Read articles by [clicking on the links](#)



CHANGING THE STORY

Coming from a year that saw a record number of anti-LGBTIQ+ protests (12), and a time when Kenyan politicians were using homophobia to gain a political foothold, it was necessary and urgent for us to counter the harmful rhetoric and narratives.

To this end, we created and curated the following public awareness interventions:



INVESTIGATIVE SERIES ON THE ROOTS OF HOMOPHOBIA IN KENYA

We produced a two-part investigative series on individuals, organisations, and networks funding homophobia in Kenya. We looked at a proposed Family Protection Bill (2023) and other efforts to codify homophobia, drawing links to the broader introduction of anti-LGBTIQ+ legislation in East Africa and beyond. The series was published on [Owaahh Media](#), [Africa Uncensored](#) and [The Elephant](#).

FACT-CHECKING MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION AGAINST LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN KENYA

Following two realisations – that politicians and influential leaders were driving falsified claims around Kenyans' perception of LGBTIQ+ people and that a lot of misinformation and disinformation was spreading about the legality of same-sex marriages in Kenya – we carried out a fact-checking intervention.

The digital campaign verified written reports and statements, dispelling myths, questioning inaccuracies and providing factual information. This effort served to correct harmful beliefs held by Kenyans, as well as to discourage influential people from spreading false or misleading claims.

It was launched together with various partners such as [Fumbua](#), Baraza Media Lab, [Minority Africa](#), [GenderIT](#), [GlobalVoices](#) and [The Elephant](#).

Read articles by [clicking on the links](#)

#WEAREFAMILY CAMPAIGN

Social stigma, familial rejection, acceptance, inclusion, targeted violence, friendships, love and dating, and the disproportionate prevalence of mental health struggles; are some of the things that make up the lived realities of LGBTIQ+ Kenyans.

These experiences often go unnoticed by other Kenyans, who often discriminate against or completely ignore LGBTIQ+ people.

In a bid to change that, we came up with the **#WeAreFamily Campaign**, a comic series that told the story of Davii and Oti, and what it means to exist as a queer Kenyan.

We worked with social media influencers who shared their lived experiences that mirrored each chapter and called for allyship and inclusion.

This campaign broke through the echo chamber, reaching audiences beyond the queer community.



A COLLECTIVE ROADMAP FOR MESSAGING

Messaging is crucial in advocacy work, especially in our environment, where a majority of society holds a negative view towards LGBTIQ+ people. Together with 17 queer organisers from organisations in urban, peri-urban and rural areas, we formulated a roadmap for transforming messaging and storytelling about LGBTIQ+ people.

This was a proactive effort to create a framework for communication narratives we could use in the work of opening the hearts and minds of our audiences for a shift in attitudes.

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queer organisers formulated a
roadmap for transforming messaging
and storytelling about LGBTIQ+ people



CREATING AWARENESS ON THE DANGERS OF “LINDA JAMII”

As a reflection on the IDAHOBIT 2024 theme of No One Left Behind: Equality, Freedom and Justice For All, we published an opinion piece on **Nation Africa** that highlighted the threat posed by the proposed constitutional amendment bill, known then as ‘Linda Jamii Bill/Hifadhi Jamii’ Bill.

The article allowed us to reach new audiences, spreading awareness on the unconstitutionality of the bill, detailing how it disregarded international law, the respect of sexual and reproductive health rights, freedom of conscience, religion, belief, and opinion; the freedom of association; and the freedom of expression.

EQUALITY, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Why the Linda Jamii bill is a looming threat to Kenya's constitutional order

Perhaps the most pernicious aspect of the bill is its attempt to enshrine religious provisions and interpretations in what is intrinsically a secular law

BY ESSY ADHIAMBO



where this medical procedure is necessary, as well as the freedom of conscience, religion, belief, and opinion; the freedom of association; and the freedom of expression. According to its drafters – an association of Christian professionals – the bill seeks to reverse recent court decisions which have found that our supreme law safeguards key rights around abortion and the human rights of LGBTQ+ persons. The bill's drafters consider these decisions as profoundly undermining religious institutions and families' role in instilling "moral obligation" in society. They therefore propose what they describe as "minimal" amendments to the constitution to protect the family unit in Kenya.

To many Kenyans, the provisions contained in the Linda Jamii referendum bill would, at first glance, seem agreeable. However, the devil, as always, is in the details.

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bisexual, transgender, intersex people, and all of those with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics. May 17 also marks a major milestone in the advancement of human rights for LGBTQ+ as it is on this day in 1990 when the World Health Organization (WHO) decided to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

As we reflect upon this year's theme of 'No One Left Behind: Equality, Freedom and Justice For All', we are deeply concerned about the recent efforts to erode constitutional provisions that pose a threat to Kenya's constitutional framework of checks and balances, respect for international law, and commitment to human rights.

One such proposal is the Linda Jamii (Constitution of Kenya) Amendment Bill proposed almost a year ago, aiming to restrict abortion even in cases

of proposals to limit the power of the judiciary when it comes to the adjudication of human rights claims, potentially affecting recent progressive jurisprudence by our courts. For instance, the bill proposes to amend Article 36 on the freedom of association, to allow the government to refuse to register organisations that "promote or support (illegal conduct)". Should this provision be enacted, the NGO Coordination Board would have grounds to refuse to register the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC), in contravention of a landmark Supreme Court decision which found that the NGO Board's refusal in this regard contravened constitutional provisions that prohibit discrimination and the freedom of association. The rights of the drafters of this bill are also recent court decisions that have affirmed the constitutionality of procuring an abortion under limited circumstances. Here, the drafters adopt a systematic approach to gutting the constitution's first by proposing the insertion of "family values" and "the sanctity of human life" as national values and principles of governance under Article 10 of the Constitution. Additionally, the drafters of the Linda Jamii referendum bill propose changes to how abortion is defined, place further restrictions on when an abortion can be procured, and which medical professional can perform the abortion procedure. The placing of vague limits and conditions on abortion care is a favored tactic of anti-abortion activists, with the effect being that otherwise permissible abortions such as in cases where the fetus is not viable, are rendered illegal to perform.

The proposed redefinitions of keywords contained in the constitution are not limited only to abortion-related terms. The bill proposes new definitions of "sex" and "gender" in an attempt to freeze their meaning in time, obstructing the court from considering scientific and social developments that are constantly challenging our fixed views on sexual and gender diversity.

The bill also proposes an outright prohibition of same-sex marriage, a gratuitous insertion since heterosexuals already have a union of opposite-sex couples. To many Kenyans, the provisions contained in the Linda Jamii referendum bill would, at first glance, seem agreeable. However, the devil, as always, is in the details. The Linda Jamii referendum bill operates as an understanding of the rule of constitutionalism plays in our society. As the drafters of the bill admit, many of the amendments they propose were rejected a decade and a half ago during the constitution drafting process. Limits on the freedom of expression and the right to association were specifically rejected due to the risk of abuse by those with power, particularly the state.



Queer rights demonstrators during a rally in Nairobi in 2022. PHOTO COURTESY

visions and interpretations in what is intrinsically a secular law. Despite the full-throated complaints by the drafters of the bill that recent progressive jurisprudence threatens the role of religious institutions in our society, no legal basis for this role exists in our constitution or the laws in place to implement the supreme law.

Kenya's secular constitution separates the church and the state precisely because the religious and ideological diversity of our country makes it impossible to have a fair and equitable governance system that is modelled on religious teachings. In place of religious or family values, Article 10 of the constitution provides a set of values and principles that, if implemented, would create a far more robust set of mores that would apply to all Kenyans, including those who do not draw their moral ethos from religious teachings. The constitution proposed in this bill, far from being minimal, specifically creates opportunities for the reversal of hard-fought constitutional gains. It seems some have forgotten why Kenyans clamoured for a constitution in the first place.

During the reform movements of the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s, Kenyans were aware of the dangers of living in a country where human rights, democracy, and the rule of law were weakened. When the time came for the drafting of a new constitution, special attention was given to these principles, leading to the creation of a government of three coequal branches, with a strong emphasis on individual rights and freedoms, and a forward-looking constitution.

It is imperative for Kenyans to remain vigilant in protecting the essence of our constitution and resist any amendments that would compromise the hard-fought principles embedded in our foundational law. Equality, Freedom, and Justice should be for All.

Essy Adhiambo is a human rights activist and the Executive Director of Initiative for Equality and Non-Discrimination, a non-profit organisation fighting for inclusion, rights, protection, and justice for LGBTQ+.

Thirteen years since the constitution was inaugurated, there have been seismic changes in Kenyan society, many of these attributable to the forward-looking constitutional provisions that the drafters of the Linda Jamii referendum bill propose. Limits on the application of international law if such laws are inconsistent with Kenyan law. The bill also has plenty

TRANSFORMING PERCEPTIONS

Our commitment to impactful programming is strengthened by a robust data collection and analysis framework.

Throughout the year, we diligently gather valuable quantitative and qualitative data, including participant surveys, focus group discussions, and program performance metrics, to inform our strategic decision-making.

This evidence-based approach reinforces the continuous need for rigorous evaluation and agile programming, allowing us to identify areas of success, understand evolving needs, and adapt our interventions for maximum effectiveness.

By consistently measuring the impact of our work, including tracking changes in knowledge, attitudes, and practices, we ensure our strategies remain responsive and contribute meaningfully to the communities we serve.

This iterative process of data collection, analysis, and adaptation is fundamental to our commitment to achieving sustainable and innovative strategies for positive change.

Following a partnership with **Data for Change**, we launched **#TransformingPerceptions**, an online campaign informed by data we had collected in 2022.

For the partnership, we conducted pre-training and post-training surveys of judicial officers, cleaned up the data, and analysed and visualised it to create material for our campaign.

The results were assuring: there was a significant shift in the judicial officers' perspectives regarding the LGBTIQ+ community.

Specifically, over **70% of respondents acknowledged the detrimental impact of discriminatory laws** on societal attitudes, and nearly 80% expressed increased comfort or indifference towards LGBTIQ+ neighbours.





FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHTS

In the face of the rolling back of human rights globally, the judicial system remains one of the few avenues left to fight for justice and equality.

We continue to engage the judiciary and legislative arms of government to ensure that laws, policies and processes uphold the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, and protect us from discrimination and oppression.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

For the past 3 years, as part of our access to justice initiative, we have partnered with the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association (KMJA) to sensitise judicial officers on Sexual and Gender Minorities' experiences when seeking legal redress through the judicial system.

In 2024, we furthered this work by sensitising judicial officers from even more regions. **We engaged 45 judicial officers from Kilifi, South Nyanza in Kisumu and North Rift (Eldoret).**

Over the years, the impact of this initiative has been apparent, resulting in the judicial officers acknowledging their role in ensuring a person's dignity and privacy are upheld during court proceedings and in detention.

One judicial officer was grateful for our engagement, noting that back in 1991, while studying at the University of Nairobi, the Human Rights Program was an optional course that many didn't have a chance to take. Our sensitisation initiative provided a learning opportunity for her to engage with gender, sexuality and human rights issues.

“The desire of every human being is to live a happy and fulfilling life. Every human being has an inherent and inalienable right to life and to enjoy that life in a safe environment. Despite most countries having ratified several international human rights instruments, they continue to lag behind in the implementation of the same.”

Judicial Magistrate N.C

“INEND could not have come at a better time to fight for equality and non-discrimination of the Sexual and Marginalised groups amongst the citizenry.

The training I have received has sharpened my knowledge of sexual and gender minorities and how to handle them whenever I interact with them in the course of my duties. The lived experiences sections of training have had the greatest impact because I got to learn that Sexual and Marginalised groups go through untold suffering in the hands of duty bearers.

I am more aware of these challenges and shall always stand to defend the rights of every human being, including Sexual and Marginalised Groups, when called upon to.”

Judicial Magistrate N.C



ADVOCACY AGAINST THE LEGALISATION OF HOMOPHOBIA


As part of our ongoing efforts to prevent the implementation of regressive and discriminatory laws that threaten the well-being of the LGBTIQ+ community in Kenya, we concentrated our advocacy efforts on engaging directly with legislators.

In partnership with **Amnesty International Kenya**, the **National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission**, **galck+**, and **Pride In Action**, we conducted a consultative convening and disseminated compelling messaging, emphasising the devastating impact of hateful legislation.

Our primary objective was to foster constructive dialogue within the legislators' mandates, empowering them to actively protect the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the LGBTIQ+ community and stand against anti-rights laws.



Dialogue



with legislators' empowering them
to actively protect the fundamental
human rights and freedoms of the
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against anti-rights laws



WORKING TOGETHER

We recognise that dismantling oppressive systems cannot be achieved in silos. In pursuit of our shared vision, INEND actively cultivated strategic partnerships through strengthening alliances with diverse organisations, individuals and movements to forge lasting change.

This collaborative praxis underscores our belief that collective power is fundamental to achieving transformative change.



PROBATION OFFICERS

As part of our continued engagement with the judicial system, INEND supported mental health awareness for probation officers. This partnership was initiated through the Court Users Committee as a platform for dialogue and advocating for the protection of Sexual And Gender Minorities towards policy change. By supporting part of a mental health session for the officers, we showed our commitment to a collaborative approach to rights protection and exemplified our investment in the community.

OUR VOICES COUNT CONSORTIUM

As part of the LBQGNC persons consortium that comprises of seven LBQ-GNC-focused organisations in different regions of Kenya, we conducted a research study on Sexual, Reproductive and Mental Health Rights within our community.

Our collective goal was to establish existing gaps in access to sexual, reproductive and mental health services so as to advocate for tailored policies, support capacity strengthening, foster empowerment through knowledge dissemination, and encourage community-driven solutions.

As part of the recommendations from this study, INEND, through the support of the Consortium, facilitated training for 21 Healthcare providers from Mombasa County, addressing these gaps and the needs of our community to raise awareness.



FEMICIDE

Kenya is facing a grave crisis of femicide, a systemic issue where women are killed because of their gender. This violence, often perpetrated by intimate partners or family members, is deeply rooted in patriarchal structures and harmful cultural norms, with recent years having seen a disturbing increase in reported cases, highlighting the urgent need for action.

A two-year study of news and court records identified over 930 femicide cases from 2016 to 2024. The escalation of these brutal crimes led us to join **#EndFemicideKE Movement** protests for a national outcry, demanding justice and systemic change, and to push for greater recognition of femicide as a distinct crime.

We mobilised resources for the protest both digitally and offline, taking to the streets to call for an end to the national crisis on January 27th. We observed **#DarkValentine** and thereafter observed International Women's Day through facilitating conversations on our local radio station, **Sauti Ya Pwani**.

Later in the year, as part of our **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** campaign, four of our Boda Boda stakeholders joined us in the protests. Their attendance demonstrated their commitment to ending violence and promoting a safer, more inclusive society. Their presence fostered allyship and encouraged individuals within the Transport sector to also become active advocates for human rights.





“Choose action over despair, resistance over resignation. The power of collective action can ignite the flames of change. The demand for accountability and justice for the victims of FEMICIDE challenges the silence and demands systemic change. Our message is clear: We will not be silenced!”

Melody Njuki, Communications and Partnerships Officer, INEND

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Is the toll-free National Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Helpline

PLEA(SURE)ABLE: PLEASURE AND HEALING IN THE FACE OF FEMICIDE

In the wake of the Femicide protests, we sought collective healing by prioritising pleasure as a radical act of reclamation. Together with **Holaa Africa**, we curated a space where **20 LBQ people** from Kilifi could experience and reimagine healing-focused pleasure and pleasure-focused healing.

In a world where our bodies are battlegrounds marked by violence, control, and erasure, and in an environment of adversity, we discovered that collective healing and pleasure are interconnected.

For comfort, safety, and pleasure in our bodies amidst threats, we asserted that our bodies are not passive sites of violence but active landscapes of resistance, memory, and reclamation and that our bodies are not only carriers of fear and scars of survival but also imprints of joy and desire.

We reminded ourselves to find comfort in our skin, safety in our communities, and pleasure as our birthright.





OUR GATHERINGS

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

Guided by our strategic priority of knowledge management and leadership development, we gathered **20 LBQ GNC leaders** to discuss and demystify the Public Benefits Organisations Act that came into effect on May 14, 2024.

Our goal was to empower the community-based organisations' leaders to navigate the new regulatory environment effectively and understand compliance requirements to continue advancing human rights work in Kenya.

COUNTERING ANTI-GENDER RHETORICS, KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

The rising anti-LGBTIQ+ sentiment from all corners of the country, the resulting notable increase in violence, regressive legal measures, and hostile public demonstrations created a critical need for the LGBTIQ+ Coastal Region community leadership to convene. The primary goal of the meeting was to strengthen protective strategies.

This was achieved by developing effective counter-rhetoric and monitoring systems and by establishing safe spaces for activists – crucial actions to safeguard LGBTIQ+ human rights in the face of a growing and aggressive anti-gender movement.



POST-PROTEST FEMINIST CARE CIRCLE

Following the #EndFemicideKe movement protests, and galvanised by our commitment to collective healing, we facilitated a four-hour collective post-protest care session for **20 LBQ women and gender non-conforming (GNC) individuals/protesters**.

As Feminists, we acknowledge that protesting can affect the physical and mental health of activists as Protestors may experience exhaustion, residual adrenaline, anxiety, pain, euphoria, and other emotions after a protest.

We used our Protest Guide to provide a safe space for participants to share their experiences, emotions, and reflections. These debriefings served as an important acknowledgement of the principles of feminist care in organizing and fostering connection, collaboration, and mutual support within our community.

“In the face of the global trend of shrinking civic space, we are committed to creating and defending spaces for our community to build resilience and empower our movement to navigate the evolving adverse environment in Kenya.”

Nelima Esther, Advocacy Officer-Community Engagement, INEND

ADVOCACY DATA BOOTCAMP

Knowledge management and leadership development is a pillar of our NAWIRI Strategic Plan, which explores feminist approaches to knowledge management, empowerment, and experiential learning.

In partnership with **Data for Change**, we held a boot camp for **10 organisers** from various LBQ- and feminist-led organisations across the country.

During a three-week period, we supported them to create data-driven advocacy materials, and to extract key insights from the research and data they already had access to.

At the end of the boot camp, they were awarded a certificate on Data Basics by Data for Change



3 WEEK

boot camp for 10 organisers from various
LBQ- and feminist-led organisations
on data-driven advocacy



WE WERE HERE

In 2024, we participated in a variety of conferences, dialogues, and summits. From conversations on decriminalization, to discussions of countering fascism, each of these engagements afforded us a chance to deepen our expertise, share knowledge, and expand our network.



Davos 2024

15-19 January 2024 - Davos, Switzerland

We participated in a roundtable on LGBTQ+ Decriminalisation at the invitation of **GLAAD**. One of the objectives of the conversation was to hear directly from leaders advocating for decriminalisation and security in countries with criminalisation laws, so as to inform action steps to support their efforts.



CSW68

11- 22 March 2024, New York, USA

We were present at the 68th Annual **Commission on the Status of Women** (CSW68), the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment.



United Nations Civil Society Conference

9-10 May 2024 - Nairobi, Kenya

We delivered a statement laying out what the zero draft of the **Pact for the Future** failed to address and calling for hard-nosed commitment to address slavery, colonialism, racism, and sexism so that their historic legacies do not haunt us into the future.

International Visitor Leadership Program June 2024

Our Executive Director participated in the **International Visitor Leadership Program** by United States Department Bureau Of Educational And Cultural Affairs. The programme allows leaders from all over the world to experience America firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts through professional meetings.

8 November 2024

On invitation by the **Embassy of Venezuela**, we took part in dialogues around the strategic countering of fascism. We discussed how fascism and patriarchy are reconfigured as tools of domination, calling for an urgent need to strengthen our organising and the antifascist agenda from a feminist and emancipatory perspective to counter the global fascist rhetoric.

Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations

We were a part of the Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations for the **US * Kenya Trade Agreement** with Ambassador Katherine Tai, the 19th U.S. Trade Representative 2021- 2025.



ILGA World

11-15 November 2024 - Cape Town, South Africa

INEND joined other LGBTIQ+ rights defenders at the conference that is the largest global gathering of changemakers.

8th Strengthening Civil Society Dialogue

28 November 2024

During this one-day summit convened by the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, INEND Communications officer facilitated a session on 'Strengthening LGBTIQ+ movements response and resilience towards anti-rights opposition'.

Upinde Awards

14 December 2024

A Soft Queer Era by National Gay Lesbian And Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC), an event for appreciating Human Right Defenders and activists in Kenya.





BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

OUR WELLBEING

Our Nawiri Strategic Plan 2024-2030 ensures our organisational sustainability, effectiveness, efficiency and institutional health through consistent, coherent and value-based functionality that prioritises the well-being of #TeamINEND and the longevity and impact of our work.

To realise this, we looked at our wellbeing and internal systems that define the implementation of our work, and our governance structures. We focused on refining and strengthening our Human Resources and related policies, and our Finance and Procurement policies to match the growth of INEND and the dynamic environment we operate in.

As the year began, we also took some time to assess the successes and challenges of the previous year, while dreaming up possibilities for the new year at our Annual Staff and Board Retreat. It was a chance to bond, and reaffirm our commitment to our work as a team.

JOY & REST AS RESISTANCE

As an organisation grounded in feminist principles, we claim rest as resistance. We continued the tradition of #SilentWeek, pausing our operations for a week to rejuvenate, reflect and rest. This allowed us to return to work full of energy and enthusiasm.





HER VOICE ECHOES

GEORGINA'S TRIBUTE

A dear friend and a Beloved Activist, Georgina Adhiambo aka Gee's laughter echo in our spaces, her wisdom grounds us and her unwavering belief in justice fuels our collective spirit.

To know Georgina was to know unwavering loyalty, a heart that overflowed with empathy, and a mind that never stopped strategising for the liberation of a world where LBQ women could truly thrive.

She embodied everyone's struggles as if her own, her identity was not just political but oh profoundly human! She was full of love, respect and a huge sense of humour!

Gee was the friend who showed up and not just in times of celebration but also in the quiet moments of despair, when you needed someone to simply listen. She understood the power of presence and the importance of creating safe spaces where we could be our authentic selves.

Her warmth wasn't just a personality trait; it was a radical act of love in a world that often tried to diminish us. She saw the beauty and strength in our resilience, and she reflected it on us, empowering us to claim our rightful place in the world.

Georgina's passing left a void that can never be filled. But her spirit, her unwavering belief in justice, and her fierce love continue ...

We will cherish the memory of your friendship Gee, a gift that will forever illuminate our path.

Rest In Power Gee







JIUNGE NASI

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD

At INEND, we believe that sustainability is the backbone of lasting change. Our journey has been one of remarkable resilience, inspiring growth, and bold investment in our future.

The establishment of Our Forever Home is more than just securing an office — it is a declaration of permanence, a space where our movements, learning, and organising can thrive without fear of displacement. We now embark on the construction processes, marking a significant milestone of land ownership where most marginalised groups, including youth and women, have struggled.

Experiential learning and education remain at the core of our work. We are deepening our commitment to knowledge-sharing, ensuring that every engagement strengthens the skills and agency of our communities.

By investing in long-term infrastructure and innovative programs, we are not just responding to the present; we are building a future where INEND stands as a model of sustainable activism in Africa.

The road ahead involves strategic expansion, deliberate growth, and unwavering commitment to our vision. With our NAWIRI Strategic Plan 2024-2030 as our anchor, we move forward with the confidence that our organising efforts will endure, empowering generations to come.

The lessons from our journey affirm that when we organise, mobilise, and vote, we shift oppressive systems and force institutions to recognise our existence. From decriminalisation efforts to constitutional protections, our fight must be intersectional and Pan-African, rooted in feminist agency and collective liberation principles.

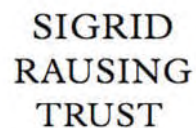
It is time to move beyond visibility to wielding power. Our futures depend on it.



Diana Gichengo
Board Chair, INEND

GRATITUDE STATEMENT

Asante. We express Gratitude to all our partners for the support, as none of what we have achieved would be possible without you. Thank you to our Funders for your commitment, resources and belief in our work, which have made achieving our mission possible.



JIUNGE NASI

As the saying goes, umoja ni nguvu. We need your help to build an inclusive society and ensure dignified lives for all. Changing narratives and shifting norms can start with you, right in your circle.

Speak up when you witness discrimination, amplify the voices of those fighting for equality, or even share our resources and social media posts to widen the reach of our messaging.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Follow us on social media for timely updates on our work
- Donate to fuel and sustain the work we do.



Facebook
[/INEND.org](https://www.facebook.com/INEND.org)



Instagram
[@inend.ke](https://www.instagram.com/inend.ke)



X
[/INENDorg](https://twitter.com/INENDorg)



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Initiative for Equality and Non Discrimination
P O Box 10315-8010, Mombasa, Kenya
Email: info@inend.org
www.inend.org