

## Justice Nest April 2026 Monthly Newsletter

### The Power of Restorative Justice

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Dear Justice Champions,

The good book says, **"Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge and the judge hands you to the officer and thou be cast into prison"** Matthew 5:25.



This photo is so refreshing, these are two neighbors who got into conflict. Our Advocate Diana, mediated between them and they reconciled. Look at those smiles! It reminds us that when justice is rooted in compassion, restoration becomes possible.

This month, we reflect on **the power of restorative justice** and the **quiet miracles** that happen when people choose **reconciliation over conflict**. Too often, justice is imagined only in courtrooms, judgments, and punishment. But justice can also look like healing. It can sound like a phone call between hurting family members. It can feel like a mother being welcomed home. It can mean neighbors choosing peace after years of silence. This is the work we are seeing every day through our prison mediation initiative.

To make mediation more accessible, Justice Nest equipped our prison legal offices with a **dedicated phone line** through which **incarcerated mothers** can engage in **guided mediations** with their families, neighbors, and communities. The results have been deeply encouraging. Of the **16 mothers released** in April from Shimo la Tewa Women Prison, **11 secured their freedom through mediation**. Behind each number is a restored relationship, a second chance, and a child reunited with their mother.

We are witnessing the same transformation among the mothers we serve at Lang'ata Women's Prison. Broken ties are being repaired. Families once divided are speaking again. Friends are

finding forgiveness. Communities are opening their doors to women returning home with dignity.

At Justice Nest, we believe that prisons do not resolve conflicts in the community. Through mediation, we are helping our clients rebuild trust, restore belonging, and re-enter society with support rather than stigma.

As we continue this work, we are reminded that sustainable justice is about **resolving cases** and **restoring lives**.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

With gratitude and purpose,

**Miriam Wachira**

Founder & Executive Director  
Justice Nest



## **From the Prison Paralegal Program**



### **Mediation Phone Initiative: Over 70% Releases were from ADR**

Since its launch in February 2026 at Shimo la Tewa Prison, Justice Nest's mediation phone initiative has strengthened access to justice by enabling direct, supervised dialogue between complainants and accused persons.

Through a paralegal-led process, both parties engage in structured conversations aimed at resolving disputes through reconciliation, case withdrawals, or mutual agreements. This approach not only ensures compliance with prison protocols but also promotes transparency through detailed record-keeping.



**📍: Justice Nest Legal Advocate Aisha, with one of the clients after a successful mediation during her release and their relative**

Between **February and April 2026**, the initiative facilitated **25 successful releases (70%)**, contributing to reduced case backlogs and supporting prison decongestion.

**Read his full story and discover how when dialogue replaces detention: How the mediation phone is transforming**

Author: Asha Saidi- Justice Nest Advocate

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## **From the Children & Mothers Program**

### **A Restored Family**

Emmaculate spent over six months in remand following a family dispute that escalated into a criminal case. Through Justice Nest's intervention, combining legal support and restorative dialogue, her case was withdrawn after reconciliation with her mother, despite significant procedural delays.



 **Justice Nest Social Workers Michelle and Janett with Emmaculate (ctr)**

Today, she is employed, sober, and rebuilding her life, a powerful reminder that justice is not just about resolving cases it can restore lives, reunite families, and give hope.

Her journey highlights the importance of looking beyond the offense to understand the underlying circumstances, trauma, poverty, and broken relationships. When these are addressed through restorative justice, the outcome is not only resolution, but healing for individuals and families alike.

**At Justice Nest, we believe in the power of restorative justice.**

**👉 Support more journeys like Emmaculate's. Read the full story here: <https://www.justicenest.org/stories-details/31>**

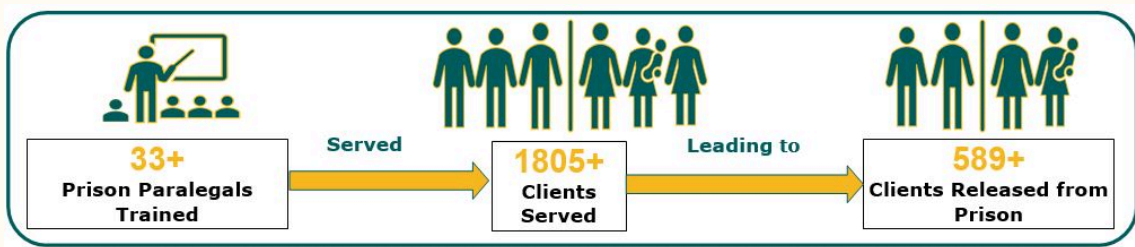
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## **Impact Numbers:**

### **A Snapshot of Our Reach**

Across our core programs, the need for justice remains urgent, and the impact is tangible.

**Prison Paralegal Program**



**Prison Paralegal Program:** It equips **inmates and prison officers with legal education** to improve **access to justice**. By training paralegals within prisons, we enable incarcerated individuals to **advocate for themselves and assist fellow inmates with legal matters**, ensuring fairer trials and reducing prison congestion.

So far, we have served over **1,805 clients** in the **Prison Paralegal Program** with the release of **589 individuals**, nearly **35% of our current caseload**. The inmates and officers in the program are in constant demand.

### Children & Mothers Diversion & Restorative Justice Program



**Children and Mothers Diversion and Restorative Justice Program (*Mending the Nest*):** We work to **prevent the imprisonment of mothers and children** by addressing **poverty, trauma, and social inequalities**. By providing **pro bono legal services, counseling, life skills training, and economic empowerment**, we keep families together and ensure that children are protected from the long-term consequences of parental incarceration. The family unit remains at the heart of our work.

We have served **203 mothers**, and so far, **91 have been released (~45% of our caseload)** and reunited with their families. Most heartwarming, **160 children** have been directly reunited with their mothers.

**Noteworthy:** The program is now running at both Lang'ata women's remand prisons and Shimo La Tewa Women's prison.

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## **Upcoming Events**

At Justice Nest, the coming months present meaningful opportunities to strengthen families, advance access to justice, and build capacity within the justice system.

# 🌸 Marking the International Day of Families at Lang'ata Womens' Prison on 15th May 2026 🧑👧

This initiative will bring children together with their incarcerated mothers for a day of **connection, care, and dignity**. We will be transforming Lang'ata Women's Prison into a **playground of reunion** because to a child a mother is still a mom (**#SheIsStillMyMom**). Give dignity, connection, and hope.



Children will reunite with their mothers, **sharing meals, laughter, and memorable moments** to remind both that **love exists, family bonds remain strong**, within and beyond the prison walls. This is not possible without your support. We are mobilizing **care packages** for both mothers and children, including:

🛒📚 **Food supplies (maize flour, rice, wheat flour, cooking oil, salt, green grams) and Stationery for children.**

🧼 **Hygiene packages for mothers.**

🎉 We are grateful for the support from the following partners:



**#SHEISSTILLMOM**

"WALLS SHOULDN'T STAND IN THE WAY OF A CHILDS LOVE"

On 15 May 2026, International Day of Families, Justice Nest is transforming Langata Women's Prison into a playground of hope because to a child, a mother is not an inmate, she is simply mom.



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We invite you to partner with us. Because to a child, she is not an inmate, **she is still mom.**

👉 **Support. Share.**

**For more info:**

☎ +254 768 295 206,

✉ community@justicenest.org

To support this day: **Click here:**

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## **Trial Advocate Training**

In June, Justice Nest will partner with the **National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA)** and **Jones Day** to host a **Trial Advocacy Training at Shimo la Tewa Prison**. This training will focus on strengthening legal representation and enhancing practical courtroom skills, contributing to more effective and fair justice processes.



📷: During the 2025 Trial Advocacy Training at Shimo La Tewa in Mombasa

## **International Day of the African Child**


Later in June, we will also commemorate the **International Day of the African Child**, reflecting on the rights, welfare, and protection of children, particularly those affected by incarceration. This moment will serve as a platform to amplify the voices and needs of children separated from their parents within the justice system.

 **Partnerships & Community Engagements** 

Justice Nest continues to strengthen strategic partnerships to expand impact and deepen community engagement.




: Mr. Wambugu Jinnarius with Justice Nest Team when he visited our offices

 We held an introductory meeting with Mr. Wambugu Jinnarius, Board Member of Kamae Borstal Institute, to explore potential collaboration, particularly around reintegration support systems and joint initiatives with other partners.




: Justice Nest social welfare team with Voice of Dagoretti team when our team visited their offices


 The team also participated in a follow-up meeting with Voice of Dagoretti, where it was agreed that Justice Nest will draft and share a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize the partnership.




: Justice Nest social worker at the Children's office(Githurai 45 Ward).

 In Roysambu Sub-County, discussions with the **Children's Office (Githurai 45 Ward)** led to Justice Nest being considered for inclusion in the **Advisory Board**, providing an opportunity to engage more closely with key stakeholders in the region.



: Justice Nest social welfare team with Voice of Dagoretti team when our team visited their offices

 We were also honored to host **HON. HENRY WANYOIKE OGW,HSC, OGH (Visually impaired)**, founder of the **Henry Wanyoike Foundation**, alongside **Mr. Jinnarius Wambugu** and **Sheldon**, at our offices to explore opportunities for collaboration, particularly in supporting children of incarcerated mothers. The discussions were both insightful and promising.

❤️🤝 Show Your Love and Support ✨

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