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Justice Nest July 2026 Monthly Newsletter

Going Beyond Legal

Dear Friends,

As a lawyer, I have spent years helping women navigate the justice system. But I also saw what happened outside the courtroom. When a mother is incarcerated, it is not only her life that changes. Her children often become the forgotten victims. They lose their primary caregiver, they lose their home, they leave school, and they become vulnerable to neglect, exploitation, and abuse.

That is why Justice Nest was built differently. We exist to support the whole family because every decision affecting a mother also affects her children.

One of the questions we hear most often during our prison intake visits is not, "Can you help me with my case?" Instead, mothers ask us, **"Before you offer me legal services, can you please find my children?"**

Those words have never left me.



 Miriam Wachira with two of our client's children.

There have been days when our social work team have walked through informal settlements, knocking on doors and searching for children whose mothers have no idea where they are. Sometimes we find them alone in

the house. Sometimes a kind neighbour has stepped in to care for them. Other times, the situation is far more heartbreaking.

These experiences have shaped who we are as an organization. They remind us that justice is not only about winning cases. It is about restoring families, protecting children, and ensuring that incarceration does not become a life sentence for an innocent child.

Since our launch, Justice Nest has served **255 mothers. 134 mothers have been released from prison**, reuniting **285 children** with their mothers. Behind every number is a family that has been given another chance, a child who no longer has to wonder where their mother is, and a future that has been rewritten through compassion, partnership, and access to justice.

Our vision is to help transform the justice system into one where every stakeholder asks a simple but powerful question: What happens to the children left behind?

I am encouraged that we are beginning to see this shift. Courts are increasingly recognizing the value of our work and referring mothers to Justice Nest. We are also working hand in hand with government agencies, community organizations, faith leaders, and other partners because no single organization can meet every need a family faces. It truly takes a community to restore hope.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you will see more than stories of hardship. I hope you will see stories of resilience, restoration, and the extraordinary impact that becomes possible when compassionate people choose to stand alongside vulnerable families.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for walking this journey with us. Together, we are building a justice system that not only upholds the law but also protects families and gives every child the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude and purpose,

Miriam Wachira

Founder & Executive Director

Justice Nest



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Walking Alongside Mothers and Families: Inside the Work of Justice Nest's Social Department.

Behind every prison sentence is often a family trying to find its footing again. A child waiting for their mother to come home. A woman wondering whether anyone will still believe in her after release. At Justice

Nest, the Social Department exists to ensure that incarceration does not become the end of someone's story.

Their work begins long before a client walks out of prison and continues long after they return to the community. We believe that true justice is not only about legal representation it is also about restoring dignity, strengthening families, protecting children, and giving women an opportunity to rebuild their lives.



📷: During a visit at Njeri Kabati who fosters two children of one of our mothers

What We Do

The Social Department works closely with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated mothers, their children, families, government agencies, and community partners to provide holistic support throughout the reintegration journey.

Our work includes:

- Conducting psychosocial assessments and identifying individual client needs.
- Providing emotional support and counselling during incarceration and after release.
- Carrying out routine home visits to assess living conditions, family relationships, and reintegration progress.
- Identifying and responding to safeguarding concerns affecting mothers and children.
- Linking clients to healthcare, psychosocial support, legal services, education, GBV services, shelter, and economic empowerment opportunities.
- Supporting children of incarcerated mothers by ensuring they are safe, in school, and connected to appropriate care.
- Building partnerships with organizations that complement Justice Nest's work and strengthen referral pathways.

- Monitoring progress until clients are stable enough for successful case closure.

Every case is unique, this means every intervention is tailored to the client's circumstances.

Read the full article on our Social Department:

<https://www.justicenest.org/blog-details/23>



FEATURE STORY: The Lunch a Mother Never Ate



Emma at work

Do you remember Emma from a previous newsletter (<https://www.justicenest.org/stories-details/23>). She is the mother who sacrificed her only ration for the day from prison while attending court to be delivered to her children at home. She is now out of prison.

Since her release, Emma has been rebuilding, one deliberate step at a time. On the same day our Social Welfare team visited her at home, delivering a welfare package during a week she had no income and no certainty about her family's next meal, they also walked her to a hairdressing and beauty school for skills training, something she had long hoped to pursue. Not long after, Emma joined the Justice Nest team directly, taking on a role that now gives her family stable, dependable income for the first time in years.

"I am grateful for the legal support and for everything Justice Nest has done for me," Emma shared, reflecting especially on the advocate who represented her case. Her children remain settled with family in their home county, continuing their education, three of them preparing for national exams this year, while Emma and her husband rebuild their footing in Nairobi.



 **The boys during a visit by the social department**

On one of the social visits at prison, SI requested for a social check on her children who were under the care of a friendly neighbour. When the team arrived at a modest home in Nairobi, they found two children in need of support, a twelve-year-old boy who had become the parent to his brother. The team was right on time, the neighbour had secured a job out of Nairobi and was just about to relocate, the children would have been left without care.

The team quickly engaged on efforts to find a home for the children. They worked closely with the administrative authority (chief) in the area and the children department. The team was able to visit a children home which accepted to take the children in. In collaboration with the children department the children were committed to the home.

During the visit the social workers discovered that the elder boy had not attended school since the beginning of 2026 due to lack of fees. Yet he was spending his days reading borrowed books and helping care for his younger brother. He washes their clothes, ensures his sibling gets to school, and sometimes prepares tea for him after school. Despite everything, he speaks of his mother with hope, longing for the day they will reunite.

On a recent visit at the children home, the boys asked to know when their mother will be back. The team informed them that we were still working on her case and hopefully she will be home soon.

This is social work, the boots on the ground. Walking with a resilient child who refuses to give up on himself, and making sure the system doesn't give up on him either.

OUR PAST EVENTS

Psychosocial and Economic Empowerment

10 of our mothers (clients) who have recently left prison walked into a workshop ready to learn, something rarely handed to the formerly incarcerated: a real shot at economic independence. Before a single yoghurt culture hit the milk, our team sat down to listen, taking in feedback of how we serve, praises for the team and what we can do better.

The mothers told of the blunt reality of life after release: housing that disappears the moment a parent is arrested, children quietly struggling to adjust, and a stigma that outlives the sentence itself. Then the mood shifted. Over brunch, and into a hands-on yoghurt-making and entrepreneurship training, survival talk turned into strategy. 10 mothers left with more than a jar of yoghurt, they left with a business plan, a peer network.

The mothers asked for psychosocial support for their children who are still going through stigma and are being bullied at school. Real job placements was also in the bucket list. This is the core of our Social Welfare Department's mandate: showing up long after the courtroom empties, listening even when feedback is uncomfortable, and building the next intervention around what clients actually say they need.



: During the Psychosocial and Empowerment Workshop at Voice of Dagoretti



Even Fathers and Sons are Going Back Home

This month also brought powerful reminders from our paralegal teams at Shimo La Tewa Medium Prison in Mombasa, where legal knowledge is quietly changing outcomes, and giving families their fathers and sons back.

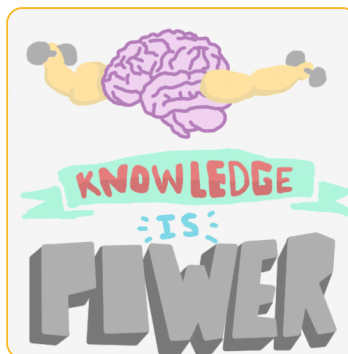


📷: One of our Paralegals After Release with Aisha - Justice Nest Legal Advocate



AHJ's Story: A Second Chance Through Probation

AHJ, a father of three from Mombasa County, was arrested after an attempt to travel abroad for work went wrong over an expired travel document. Facing a custodial sentence, he turned to our paralegal, Clinton, who identified probation as a suitable alternative. In July, the High Court



YKL's Story: Justice Through Legal Empowerment

YKL, 27, is the eldest son supporting his mother and three younger brothers. With just a week to prepare for a critical court appearance, our paralegal, Hudson, coached him through his legal options and courtroom procedure. Armed with that knowledge, YKL represented himself with



JMM's Story: From Custody to Freedom

After a moment of desperation left him facing a three-year sentence, JMM found his way to our Justice Nest office, and to a paralegal team willing to fight for a second look at his case. In July, the court agreed to replace his sentence with probation. **"I am now free."** he said, through tears,

agreed, granting AHJa non-custodial sentence and the chance to return home to his family.

confidence, and was acquitted of all charges.

as he prepared to return to his wife and two children.

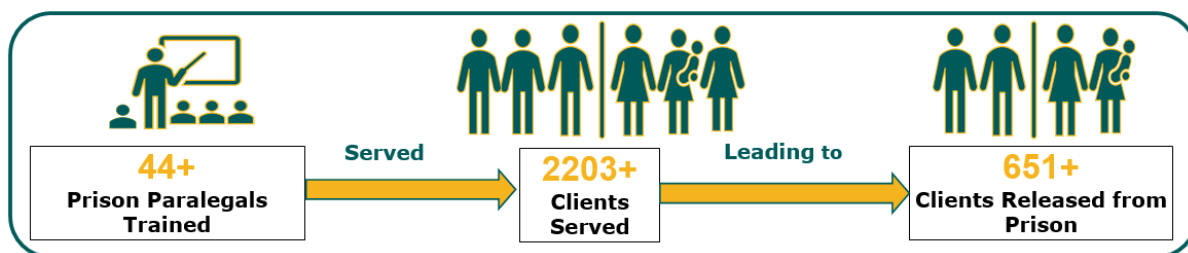
Author: Asha Saidi- Justice Nest Advocate



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Prison Paralegal Program; Bridging the Justice Gap

Justice Nest's **Prison Paralegal Training Programme** is turning correctional facilities into hubs of hope and legal empowerment. By equipping **incarcerated individuals** and **prison correctional officers** with practical legal knowledge and advocacy tools, the initiative is reshaping how justice unfolds behind bars. To date, over **44+** trained prison paralegals have become trusted peers, offering vital legal guidance to more than **2,200+** fellow inmates, helping them understand their rights and navigate complex legal processes. The result? Over **651+** individuals have secured release, proving that educationthis is a catalyst for decongesting prisons, easing court backlogs, and restoring dignity.



Children & Mothers Diversion and Restorative Justice Program; Mending The Nest.

Equally impactful is the **Mending the Nest Programme**, which takes a holistic, family-first approach to justice. Focused on mothers and children caught in the system, it combines legal aid, diversion, restorative practices, and reintegration support to break cycles of separation and harm. So far, the programme has stood with over **255+ mothers**, secured the **release of 134+ from custody**, and reunited **285+ children with their families**. By tackling the deeper roots of offending and championing rehabilitation over punishment, Mending the Nest is not only changing individual lives, it's rebuilding communities and redefining what justice can look like, one family at a time.



♥ JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Help Us Turn Knowledge Into Justice

Your support helps us:

- 📖 **Deliver legal education**
- 👩 **Train paralegals**
- 👩 **Support vulnerable mothers**
- 👨 **Strengthen families**
- ⚖️ **Expand access to justice**

Together, we can build a justice system that is fair, accessible, and empowering for all.

Share. Support: www.justicenest.org/donate

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