

1. **The Power of Justice in Action:**



Pic: Miriam Wachira: Founder/Executive Director

"That summer, I understood for the first time the awesome power of the law to heal or to hurt real people... in a sense, law was life for our clients." — Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, *The Lovely One*.

This past month, we witnessed the law’s power to **heal, restore, and transform** in the most profound way. At **Shimo La Tewa Prison**, 33 remarkable individuals—15 inmates and 18 officers—graduated as **paralegals**, stepping into their newfound roles as **champions of justice**.

Their journey was nothing short of extraordinary. Over two weeks, they immersed themselves in legal knowledge, unlocking the ability to **advocate for themselves and others**. And the impact was immediate—**twenty-eight(28) prisoners have already secured their freedom**, including one of our graduates!

The energy at the graduation was electric—smiles, cheers, and even tears of joy. One graduate summed it up perfectly: "*I came into this training feeling hopeless like my life was over. But today, I feel like I have a purpose.*"

But the celebrations didn’t stop there. On **World Day of Social Justice**, we took our mission further, visiting **Lang’ata Women’s Prison** to stand in solidarity with incarcerated mothers. We listened to their stories, offered legal support, and reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that no one is forgotten in the pursuit of justice. These women—many of whom are held for minor offences, some unable to afford bail as low as Ksh 3,000—remind us why we must continue advocating for a system that is **fair, family-centric, and accessible to all**.

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This is the essence of our work at **Justice Nest**—ensuring that **justice is not a privilege, but a right**. As we celebrate this milestone, we also look ahead with determination, knowing that **there are many more lives to uplift and many more voices to empower**.

Join us in celebrating this incredible achievement. The ripple effect of change has begun—**and together, we will keep it going!**

With gratitude,

Miriam Wachira

Founder & Executive Director, Justice Nest

2. 33 Champions of Justice: A New Dawn for Access to Justice

This month, the Justice Nest team had the privilege of witnessing something truly extraordinary—the graduation of 15 inmates and 18 officers at Shimo La Tewa Prison in Mombasa as paralegals. Over two transformative weeks, we worked side by side with these remarkable individuals, sharing knowledge, laughter, and even a few tears. But the highlight of it all? The graduation ceremony, where hope and determination took centre stage. And the best part? Since the training, **twenty-eight (28) prisoners have been released**, with one of our graduates among them.

The journey began with an ambitious goal: to empower inmates with the legal knowledge and skills they need to advocate for themselves and others. For many of the participants, this was their first opportunity to engage in such a program. The training covered everything from understanding legal rights to navigating court processes, and the enthusiasm in the room was palpable. Each day brought new lessons, new connections, and a growing sense of purpose among the trainees.

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Pic: Members of the Paralegal Team posing with our Founder & Executive Director Miriam Wachira and the Justice Nest Team

But it wasn't all serious—we made sure to infuse the training with moments of joy. Interactive games and team-building activities broke the ice and brought smiles to faces that had seen too much hardship. And then there was the food. Justice Nest arranged for hearty, delicious meals throughout the training, a rare treat for many of the participants. One inmate shared, *"This is the first proper meal I've had in over 10 years. I can't remember the last time I tasted something so good."* It was a small gesture, but one that meant the world to them.



Pic: Cake Cutting and Mealtime

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As the days passed, we saw incredible growth in the participants. They began to ask insightful questions, share their own experiences, and even help each other understand complex legal concepts. One trainee, a mother of three, told us, *"I've been here for years, and I've felt invisible. But now, I know my rights, and I know how to fight for them. This training has given me hope for my future and my children's future."*

The graduation ceremony was the culmination of this incredible journey. The room was filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment as each participant received their certificate, marking their official graduation as paralegals. For many, it was the first time they had been recognized for their achievements in years. The smiles on their faces, the tears in their eyes, and the applause from their peers made it clear just how much this moment meant.



Pic: Paralegal Trainees Receiving their Certificates

One graduate stood up to speak, his voice trembling with emotion. *"I came into this training feeling hopeless like my life was over. But today, I feel like I have a purpose. I can help others who are lost in the system, just like I was. Thank you for seeing us, for believing in us."*

At Justice Nest, we believe that knowledge is power, and this graduation was a testament to that belief. These new graduate paralegals are now equipped to advocate

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for themselves and their fellow inmates, creating a ripple effect of change within the prison walls. They are proof that even in the darkest places, hope can shine through.

And the impact didn't stop at graduation. Since the training, **twenty-eight(28) prisoners have been released**, thanks to the legal knowledge and advocacy skills they gained. One of our graduates was among them, a moment that brought tears of joy to our team. *"I never thought this day would come,"* he said. *"This training gave me the tools to fight for my freedom, and now I can start rebuilding my life."*



Pic: A free man!!!!

But our work doesn't stop here. Out of 135 prisons in Kenya, only about 25 prisons have an active paralegal program, the need is still so great and we look forward to expanding this program to other prisons. We will have a monthly education day to ensure that the paralegal team has the best knowledge and skills to offer quality service. The paralegals will work alongside our advocate who will offer continuous training, support and mentorship.

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None of this would be possible without the support of our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your contributions fund these life-changing programs and bring hope to those who need it most. Together, we can create a world where everyone has access to justice, dignity, and a second chance.

After graduation, we carried with us the stories of resilience, hope, and transformation we had witnessed. These graduates are not just paralegals—they are beacons of change, reminding us that justice is not a privilege but a right.

Join us in celebrating their achievements and supporting our mission. Together, we can make justice a reality for all.

3. Impact Spotlight: Standing with Incarcerated Mothers on World Day of Social Justice



Pic: Team of 5 Justice Nest at Lang'ata Women's Prison

This February, in honour of **World Day of Social Justice**, the Justice Nest team visited Lang'ata Women's Prison to mark the day under the theme *Justice for All*. Our mission was clear: to provide legal services, listen to the stories of women in remand, and advocate for their rights.

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For many of the women we met, the reality of their situation is heartbreaking. They are mothers, separated from their children, and trapped in a system that often feels unjust. Some have bail set as low as Ksh 3,000 (~\$20), yet they remain in remand for months, unable to pay. Others shared stories of unfair legal processes, with some not even knowing where their children are. These stories remind us why our work is so critical.

During our visit, the Justice Nest team conducted one-on-one sessions with over 100 potential clients, offering legal advice and interviewing women to understand their cases better. We educated them on the trial process, their rights, and the importance of legal representation. For many, this was the first time they felt heard and understood.

At Justice Nest, we believe in **diversion**, especially for mothers, as a way to restore dignity and hope. Our team is committed to ensuring that these women receive fair representation and that their voices are heard in the pursuit of justice.

This visit was a powerful reminder of the systemic barriers that many face and the urgent need for accessible legal services. It also reinforced our commitment to advocating for restorative justice and equitable access to legal representation for all.

What's Next?

The stories we heard at Lang'ata Women's Prison will guide our work in the coming months. We are committed to:

- Providing legal representation to the mothers we interviewed.
- Advocating for policy changes that address systemic injustices.
- Continuing our efforts to ensure that no one is denied justice due to socioeconomic barriers.

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4. Meet Aisha, Our Newest Team Member: Aisha's Journey: Finding Purpose at Justice Nest



Pic: Aisha Saidi During her Admission to the Bar

At Justice Nest, we celebrate the individuals who drive our mission forward. This month, we highlight **Asha Saidi**, an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a passionate advocate for justice, fairness, and accessible legal representation.

Asha's journey began with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and a Postgraduate Diploma from the Kenya School of Law. Admitted to the bar in 2023, she is inspired by a desire to advocate for the overlooked and wrongly accused, making a tangible difference through her work.

A client-centred advocate, Asha combines legal expertise with empathy, ensuring clear communication and trust with her clients. Her most notable achievement includes securing the release of twenty-eight (28) prisoners in February 2025, reinforcing her belief in justice's transformative power.

Asha champions restorative justice and equitable access to legal services, actively participating in pro bono work and legal services initiatives. She simplifies complex legal concepts, empowering clients with knowledge about their rights.

Outside the courtroom, Asha enjoys cooking and creating TikTok content, balancing her demanding career with personal interests through effective time management.

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In the next five years, Asha aims to make significant strides in criminal litigation, advocating for initiatives that make legal services more accessible and affordable.

Asha's Advice to Aspiring Lawyers: "Criminal law is both challenging and rewarding. It requires a deep commitment to justice and the ability to think critically under pressure. Every case is an opportunity to learn and grow."

Join us in celebrating Asha Saidi, a beacon of hope in the legal profession, tirelessly working to ensure justice is accessible to all.

5. Upcoming Events: Celebrating International Women's Day with Justice



As we step into March, we're excited to celebrate **International Women's Day (IWD)** on **March 8th**—a global day dedicated to honouring the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, while also raising awareness about the challenges they continue to face. This year's theme, "**Inspire Inclusion,**" reminds us of the importance of creating a world where women are not only represented but also empowered to thrive in all aspects of life.

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At Justice Nest, International Women’s Day holds special significance. Many of the women we serve—incarcerated mothers, survivors of gender-based violence, and those trapped in unjust legal systems—face immense barriers to justice and equality. This day is an opportunity to amplify their voices, advocate for their rights, and work toward a future where every woman has access to justice, dignity, and opportunity.

This International Women’s Day, we’re shining a spotlight on the women we serve—women who are often overlooked and underserved. Through our programs, we:

- Provide **Legal Services and Representation** to incarcerated women, many of whom are mothers separated from their children.
- Advocate for **Restorative Justice** and diversion programs that prioritize rehabilitation over punishment.
- Raise awareness about the systemic barriers women face in accessing justice and work to dismantle them.

How You Can Inspire Inclusion:

This International Women’s Day, you can make a difference in the lives of women who need it most. Here’s how:

1. **Donate:** Your contributions help us provide legal services, support paralegal training programs, and advocate for systemic change. Even a small donation can have a big impact, Haba na haba hujaza kibaba (Many a little makes a mickle).
2. **Spread the Word:** Share our mission with your friends, family, and social networks. Use the hashtag **#JusticeForWomen** to raise awareness about the challenges women face in accessing justice.
3. **Volunteer:** Join our team of advocates and make a direct impact on the lives of women. Whether you’re a legal professional or simply passionate about justice, your skills can make a difference.

This International Women’s Day, let’s come together to create a world where every woman has access to justice, dignity, and opportunity. At Justice Nest, we believe that justice is not a privilege—it’s a right. And with your support, we can make that right a reality for women everywhere.

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6. Thank You Our Supporters for this impact we have made:

Thanks to your unwavering generosity, Justice Nest continues to make a profound impact in the lives of those we serve. Below is a snapshot of our achievements in February, showcasing how your support is transforming lives every day.

February 2025 Impact Overview

Program	Clients Served	Releases	Number
Prison Paralegal Program	149	20	-
Mothers Diversion Program	19	2	
Children Reunited With Their Mothers From The Diversion Program			7
Paralegal Training Program- Trainees	-	-	33

Your generosity is the driving force behind these transformative outcomes. Together, we are building a more just and compassionate world.

7. Join the Movement

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Thank you for standing with us as we fight for justice, dignity, and hope.

Visit www.justicenest.org/donate to contribute.

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