Introducing the New AMWIK Board

Dr. Jane Thuo  
Chairperson

Rachel Ombaka  
Vice-Chairperson

Venter Nkatha  
Board Treasurer

Jane Godia  
Board Member

Cylia Kathambi  
Board Member

Lilian Anyango  
Board Member

We are pleased to announce the election of new Board Members to serve for a two-year term from 2021-2023.

Dr. Jane Thuo will head the six-member Board deputized by Rachel Ombaka with Venter Nkatha as the new Board Treasurer. Jane Godia, Lilian Anyango and Cylia Kathambi will serve as Board Members.

The election results were announced by the AMWIK Elections Committee Chairperson, Jane Gitau following the conclusion of online polling on 20th November 2021. It was the first time for the Association to adopt online voting.

The incoming Chairperson, Dr. Jane Thuo thanked the members for their votes and called on those who lost to rally behind her to steer the Association to even greater heights. At the same time, the outgoing Chairperson, Dr. Dorothy Njoroge congratulated the incoming team and highlighted the gains made by the outgoing Board Members.

Throwing her weight behind the new team, AMWIK Executive Director, Judie Kaberia lauded all the aspirants and urged all stakeholders to join efforts and forge ahead to prosperity.
QUOTES:

“We are adapting to trends, mostly propelled by the pandemic. The turnout was outstanding and we are grateful to the members for their support in taking part in the process to decide on their future.” -Jane Gitau.

“I am personally delighted to be part of such a strong group of new Board Members. I look forward to serving with them in the coming years and raising the profile of the AMWIK brand.” -Dr. Jane Thuo.

“We have been able to turn around the fortunes of the Association, improve efficiency in the Secretariat and laid the foundation for the incoming team to lead us to the next chapter.” -Dr. Dorothy Njoroge.

“We look to the future with optimism and set our sights on working with the new Board Members while harnessing new ideas and expertise.” -Judie Kaberia.

AMWIK MEETS THE EUROPEAN UNION

AMWIK Executive Director Judie Kaberia paid a courtesy call to the European Union Ambassador to Kenya, Henriette Geiger. Their discussions focused on women’s participation in social, political and economic spheres and the media as a tool in highlighting critical issues in society.

Judie thanked the European Union for its support, notably the Strengthening Networks for Greater Impact (STITCH) program which aims to engage media stakeholders in addressing sexual harassment in Kenyan media houses.

On her part, Ambassador Geiger applauded AMWIK for amplifying women’s voices in the media while highlighting diverse issues of societal importance. She pledged to work hand in hand with AMWIK on numerous projects.
POLICY TO ADDRESS SEXUAL HARASSMENT NOW IN SIGHT

AMWIK in partnership with Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) and other key partners conducted a validation process in the modelling of a policy to address sexual harassment.

Members of the committee representing various entities presented their signed commitment documents towards adopting the policy and also saw the formation of an ad-hoc committee to oversee the formal unveiling of the policy in December.

Earlier in the year, the World Association of News Publishers (Wan-Ifra) Women in News’ released a report that covered eight African countries which showed that 56% of women suffered both verbal and physical sexual harassment while 24% of men faced verbal sexual harassment and 15% of them were harassed physically.

SENIOR DW AKADEMIE REPRESENTATIVES PAY COURTESY CALL TO AMWIK

DW Akademie Country Manager and Project Manager paid a courtesy call on the Executive Director at the AMWIK offices.

Judie cordially welcomed them and highlighted the longstanding relationship between the two organizations and why it was necessary to continue advancing partnerships in every possible area of cooperation.

“In line with what we have achieved together so far, we look forward to engaging more in the current and upcoming projects”, she stated.

Jutta Vom Hofe lauded AMWIK for its high impact work and pointed out the numerous areas of synergy between the two entities now and in the future.
AMWIK AND RADIO AFRICA IN PARTNERSHIP TALKS

The AMWIK team led by Judie Kaberia held talks with the Star newspaper to discuss areas of collaboration in amplifying women’s voices on their mass media platforms.

Specifically, the talks centred around exploring ways of increasing the voice of unsung heroes who are making great leaps of positive impact in society. Others include women in politics and leadership.

The Star Editor Paul Illado commended AMWIK for its crucial work in pushing for more representation of women in leadership and media. “My team is ready and willing to assist AMWIK in amplifying women’s voices because women media professionals are better placed to reflect other women’s needs and perspectives.” He affirmed.

AMWIK JOINS MEDIA FRATERNITY IN CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END IMPUNITY AGAINST JOURNALISTS

AMWIK joined stakeholders including the Media Council of Kenya, Kenya Editors Guild, Kenya Union of Journalists, UNESCO, Transparency International and others to commemorate the 2021 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists.

The event provided a platform for dialogue among prosecutors and journalists on prevention and protection measures. It also highlighted the instrumental role of prosecutorial services in investigating and prosecuting killings and varied forms of threats of violence against journalists.

According to UNESCO, in nine out of ten cases where journalists are killed, the killers often go unpunished. Between 2006 and 2020, over 1,200 journalists have been killed in the line of duty.

AMWIK, TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNEWS TRAIN JOURNALISTS ON DIGITAL SECURITY

Under the Action for Transparent Project, AMWIK and its partners organized a three-day training for journalists on countering sexual harassment in the media and enhancing their digital skills. The training offered participants a unique platform to share their experiences and map a way forward in tackling the vice.

The training comprised of exploring the different types of online harassment tactics, how to prevent them and how to report perpetrators. In addition, the training explored the different provisions in the constitution that advocate for online safety.
AMWIK UNDERTAKES A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

In commemoration of the 16 days of activism international campaign, AMWIK has been and is currently involved in numerous initiatives to curb gender-based violence.

In efforts to sensitize women on how to end online gender violence and create safer online spaces, AMWIK has been working together with other Women@Web project partners in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Apart from raising awareness, the Women@Web project also aims to influence policies legislation and how they are implemented to ensure that women are navigating online spaces in more competent and secure ways.

To tackle the legal perspective, AMWIK in partnership with DW Akademie hosted an online forum for journalists dubbed, "Impact, Legal Gaps, Policy Lobbying and Action Points in Tackling Online Harassment”

In partnership with FEMNET under the STITCH project, AMWIK also hosted an impactful Twitter chat that focused on leveraging upon media to raise awareness about the increased cases of GBV. The event also sought to advocate for the full implementation of existing laws on gender-based violence.