It was a moment of celebration as AMWIK and its partner, Journalists for Human Rights (JHR), Voice for Women and Girls’ Rights-Kenya launched the model Sexual Harassment Policy and an ad hoc Committee at the sidelines of the inaugural Annual Human Rights Conference.

While the climax of the event was the launch of the Anti-Sexual Harassment policy and the committee, various stakeholders appended their signature of commitment to adopt the anti-sexual harassment policy and support efforts aimed at fighting the vice.

Speaking during the event, AMWIK Executive Director Judie Kaberia said the launch was an outcome of cross-sector efforts in addressing the eyesore of sexual harassment in the media. The ad hoc committee and policy, she stated, were a big milestone to addressing some of the challenges female journalists face in their work citing that sexual harassment was one of the main reasons that push women journalists out of the media prematurely.

Chief Administrative Secretary in the Ministry of Public Service and Gender Affairs, Hon. Beatrice Elachi in her endorsement of the Sexual Harassment Committee and policy lauded AMWIK for taking the lead to support women in the media. She said having more women in the newsroom would ensure increased coverage of women and issues that affect them.
AMWIK conducts advanced digital skills training for content creators

As technology becomes more widely available, more awareness training is needed to repress the prevalence of online harassment. To achieve this, AMWIK partnered with DW Akademie for a two-day advanced digital training for content creators.

Research shows that online abuse against public figures and content creators is often misunderstood as inevitable and generally an occupational hazard. Over the past several years, women who are highly visible in the media appear to be disproportionately targeted by online abuse and disinformation attacks along racial, ethnic, religious and physical and marital lines.

The content creators were challenged to provide reliable and credible information as a response to the upsurge of misinformation and disinformation, especially in an election year.

“AMWIK in partnership with DW Akademie on 23rd December launched a digital rights and safety handbook to guide women on how they can leverage the opportunities available online and remain safe.

AMWIK has been advocating for safer online spaces for women through training and sensitization campaigns targeting university students, journalists, content creators and producers. The handbook came right in time as Kenya looks into the 2022 General Election which so far shows that for the first time in history there is a high number of women vying for political seats, traditionally regarded as ‘for men’.

“'We relish the support from DW Akademie in this timely campaign because despite digital media making life easier to access information and opportunities, especially during a pandemic, we are seeing more women facing online harassment.'

AMWIK Board Chairperson, Dr. Jane Thuo.

Despite this progress, unfortunately, research shows that threats against women political aspirants have escalated with the online space presenting yet another challenge of accessible and inexpensive platforms for attacks.

L-R: AMWIK Chairperson, Dr. Jane Thuo, Joy Chelegat and Josphine Karani make their remarks during the virtual training.
Despite the existence of laws and policies against GBV, many cases still go unreported. For those that are reported, survivors encounter numerous challenges in getting justice. This is what AMWIK focused on in a webinar in partnership with Urgent Action Fund -Africa in the commemoration of the 16 days of activism on GBV. The chilling accounts by a survivor set the tone for the event which was also graced by Nairobi County Women Representative, Hon. Esther Passaris, who gave her commitment to supporting AMWIK in its efforts to curb the vice.

AMWIK and Urgent Action Fund-Africa appeared on a live discussion on a prime time show on KTN to discuss access to justice for victims and survivors of GBV.

It was in the same spirit that we further engaged other women at web campaign partners in East Africa for diverse online sensitization campaigns to tackle online harassment under the hashtags #SafeSpacesEA and #SafeSpacesKE.

OTHER EFFORTS BY AMWIK TO MARK THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

As the world shifted to focus to the 16 days of activism on Gender-Based Violence, so did we. In December, we hosted three Tweeter Chats whose goal was to create high-impact communication to give maximum visibility to GBV in various forms such as Female Genital Mutilation and unpaid care. Through the initiatives, we received extensive coverage and even trended on Twitter.
In order to recognize, appreciate and amplify the voice of Kenyan women, AMWIK was part of the organizers of the Kenya Women Series gala awards in partnership with the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) and Safaricom PLC.

So far 52 exceptional women, among them AMWIK members drawn from various industries have been profiled because of their outstanding impact in the country.

We celebrate all those who worked behind the scenes to source, highlight and amplify these amazing stories, especially Patience Nyange- our member and the brains behind the project.

We look forward to making the Kenya Women Series even bigger and better in 2022.

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**CELEBRATING OUR OUTSTANDING MEMBERS**

Our membership is the engine that keeps AMWIK going. We, therefore, take great pride in the following members feted for their outstanding and impactful work.

- **Jamila Mohamed**
  - Awarded with a Head of State Commendation (H.S.C).

- **Moraa Obiria**
  - Winner in the print category at the inaugural Journalist for Human Rights -Human Rights Awards.

- **Roselyne Obala**
  - Awarded with a Head of State Commendation (H.S.C).

- **Serfine Achieng**
  - Winner in the TV category at the inaugural Journalist for Human Rights -Human Rights Awards.
NEW YEAR WISHES:

Dear Members,

It is a moment of great significance as we usher in a new year. For us, it signifies the new dawn in the continuation of the work we have already been doing. Setting sights on the big task ahead, we count on your support in our work as we strive to elevate the AMWIK brand even higher while delivering much value to you.
I wish that the year 2022 is endowed with savours of success and happiness to you and your loved ones.

Dr. Jane Thuo - Board Chairperson, AMWIK

Greetings Members,

I wish to thank you all for being a strong source of strength and encouragement to us. It is my goal to ensure that every member enjoys the benefits of this powerful and visionary association. I hence feel honoured and acknowledge that it has been through your support that we have been able to make such significant strides in 2021. For the four months, I have served as the ED. I am thrilled by the commitment and support of our members.
As we usher in the New Year, we hope to see even more promising results and more growth as we take AMWIK to new, greater heights.
Delightful wishes to you and your families.

Judie Kaberia - Executive Director, AMWIK

Thank you for your patronage! Happy New Year!

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