

CALL FOR RESEARCHER: STUDY ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION AND THE TWO-THIRDS GENDER PRINCIPLE IN KENYA

Background

Fifteen years after the promulgation of Kenya's 2010 Constitution, the vital two-thirds gender principle remains unmet. Despite legal guarantees limiting any elective or appointive body to no more than two-thirds of the same gender, women's political representation has yet to reach this constitutional threshold. As Kenya approaches the 2027 General Elections, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive, evidence-based study to analyze the current landscape and propose actionable strategies to advance gender parity in politics.

About the Study

AMWIK through its Gender and Governance thematic area, in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) aims to conduct research to assess the status of women's political representation relative to the constitutional requirement, identify persistent structural, institutional, and socio-cultural barriers, and compare Kenya's progress with regional neighbors. It will inform advocacy efforts, policy reforms, and political party engagement aimed at realizing gender-inclusive governance.

This initiative builds on AMWIK's experience training journalists on gender-sensitive reporting, mentoring women leaders, and conducting dialogues on inclusivity, as well as its 2024 study on Technologically Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV).

Objectives

- Assess women's political representation in Kenya relative to the two-thirds gender rule.
- Identify key barriers limiting women's access to elective and appointive leadership roles.
- Propose practical strategies and policy recommendations to enhance women's political participation ahead of 2027.
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue and advocacy to sustain momentum on the two-thirds gender principle.

Qualifications for Researcher

- Demonstrated expertise in gender-inclusive politics, governance, or political science.
- Strong understanding of Kenya's constitutional, legislative, and electoral frameworks.
- Proven skills in both qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Experience conducting field interviews, policy analysis, and data collection.
- Ability to draw actionable policy recommendations from research findings.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills for reporting and advocacy.
- Prior experience with regional or comparative studies of political representation (especially in East Africa—Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda) is an added advantage.
- Academic qualifications: Degree in Political Science, Gender Studies, Public Policy, or a related field preferred.
- Familiarity with issues affecting women's political participation, including structural, socio-cultural, and technological barriers.

- Experience working with civil society organizations, advocacy programs, or multi-stakeholder initiatives is desirable.

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit their CV, a brief research proposal outline, and references by **18th November 2025** to info@amwik.org.

About the Association of Media Women in Kenya

The Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) is a National Media Association established in 1982 and registered under the Societies Act as a non-profit membership organization for women journalists from the print, electronic media, and other areas of communication. AMWIK's vision is a just society in which the media embraces and promotes equitable development and human rights. AMWIK's mission is to use the media to promote an informed and gender-responsive society through professional and transformative media.