**TURKANA WOMEN’S DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S MONTH**

We, the Turkana Women from Turkana County in Kenya reaffirm the progress made by devolution since 2013 by recognizing the role of women in leadership. We highlight the contributions made by the County Government of Turkana through appointing women in senior leadership positions ranging from the County Executive Committee Members, the Chief Officers and Directors.

Nevertheless, the Turkana women continue to face challenges ranging from lack of confidence, negativity among others.

There will be need for us as women to uplift one another and also focus on our strengths and successes. Success is an asset and a positive thing.

There will be need to challenge society norms that have caged women on the negative.

As Turkana women we are empowered but we are not fully engaged. Turkana women have never been given an opportunity to serve in senior leadership positions both at the National and County levels.

As Turkana women it is important to ensure that we leave a legacy in everything we do. We need to ensure that in whatever we do we are appreciated and our absence is felt. As Turkana women we need to invest in the Human Resource and ensure we mentor someone..

In view of the above, We the Turkana Women do hereby challenge ourselves that we will work hard to reinforce women actions focused on the following priorities for Turkana Women and Girls.

1. ***Bio Data -*** *(Jane Ebenyo, Phoebe Eturote & other ICT ladies of interest)*
* Putting together a database of the women’s information from names, profession, date, age, place of work etc.
* The Bio Data will enable the women be able to sample which positions the ladies will fit in various established positions within the County & outside.
1. ***Women in power & decision making -*** *(Jennifer Tioko, Esther Lokitoe, Leah Losiru, Margaret Loduk, Ruth Emanikor, & women in leadership)*
* By making use of the already existing structures at the sub-county levels, there is need to actively re-active Sub-County Women Caucuses in all the six (6) Sub-Counties in Turkana County, which include Turkana Central, Turkana South, Turkana North, Turkana East, Loima and Turkana West. MYWK already existing structures at the local level will be a great body to use.
* Bargaining power for a fifty-fifty cut at all the leadership positions within Turkana County.
* In opportunities given at any level there’s need to be vocal on women issues.
* **Virtual meetings** where we can have one Motivational Speaker to speak to all the ladies on leadership among other things for example Linah Jebii Kilimo among other role models and leaders.
1. ***Council of Women Elders/Advisors -*** *(Leah Losuru, Margaret Loduk, Mary Palal, Agnes Ereng, Jennifer Tioko & other elderly ladies)*
* Composed of elderly women leaders who might have been leaders in any sector in one way or another.
* It will be the highest lobbying team for positions at the County & National Level.
* Can give a history of a Turkana woman from time immemorial.
* Mentors to other ladies.
1. ***Empowerment, Women in Business & Marketing strategies -*** *(Elizabeth Lokolio, Sarah Loyanae, Eunice Ateyo & women in business)*
* Women Ownership of Property - from land to other assets and ensuring that your names are in the ownership documents.
* Use of social media like Wassup, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram to promote existing women business.
* On the ‘Wassup pages’ it can be agreed that in a particular day in a week all women will be expected to advertise their businesses to the rest.
* ***One Market day*** in a week in each sub-county to be identified. KNCCI can easily carry out that task.
* Encourage women to be registered as members of KNCCI, Turkana Chapters.
1. ***Education, Mentorship, Career Development, & Health –*** *(Dr. Esther Ekitela, Elizabeth Lokaran, Ruth Emanikor, Esther Lokitoe Jane Ebenyo, Jane Ajele & other interested persons)*
* Mentorship Program in schools across the County;
* Developing proposals for onward transmission for funding with the existing funds at the National or County level and Non-state Actors.
* As women we can challenge ourselves to team up and support the poor girls with school fees and a way of returning back to society.
1. ***Human Rights & SGBV -*** *(Jessicah Lomongin, Ruth Emanikor, Jane Ebenyo, Phoebe Eturote & other Human Rights Advocates)*
* Lobbying up for legislations & policies in favour of women.
* Strongly discourage resolving SGBV matters out of Court.
* Need to lobby for a Gender Ministry with Turkana County Government instead of the Gender Department that is currently toothless and cannot lobby for funds to advocate for programs that are of positive impact on Turkana Women.
1. ***Turkana Women Conventions, Meetings & Cultural Celebrations –*** *(TWL, MYWK & Echami Aito)*
* To carry out Turkana Women Conventions on an annual basis to celebrate the Turkana Culture and the role of women in the society.
* Celebrate the Turkana Cultural dressing code.
* Constant **Virtual meetings** to discuss out issues.
1. ***Publication -*** *(Cecilia Ekuwom, Esther Lokitoe & Others women media personalities)*
* Writing of history of great women in Turkana
* Celebrating our Turkana Heroine women leaders like Ata Nayeche among others. (TWL can do proposals to the existing funds within the County to carry out these exercises).
* Need to publicize the activities of Turkana Women.
* Need to voice the concerns of women.
* Use of local radios to convey our messages touching on women.

**Action Points**

1. Formation of the above recommended groups.
2. Team leaders are expected to sit down with their own team and come up with a strategy on how to implement their issues.