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HORN OF AFRICA YOUTH NETWORK STANDS FEMICIDE IN KENYA, URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION AND JUSTICE

Nairobi Kenya, 18/01/2024— The Horn of Africa Youth Network (HOAYN) vehemently condemns the recent surge in femicide cases targeting young women in Kenya. These senseless and brutal acts have shaken our communities and underscore the urgent need for collective action to address this grave issue.

Femicide is a violation of the most basic human rights, and the increasing frequency of such heinous crimes demands an immediate and united response from all stakeholders. HOAYN calls upon governmental bodies, law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and the entire community to come together to put an end to the violence and ensure justice for the victims and their families.

The Horn of Africa Youth Network calls for the following actions:

We urge the law enforcement agencies to conduct thorough and transparent investigations into these femicide cases. Timely and comprehensive inquiries are essential to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.

We further call on the line ministries and national assembly to strengthen to review and strengthen existing legal frameworks related to gender-based violence. It is crucial to enact and enforce laws that provide a strong deterrent against such crimes and guarantee the protection of women's rights.

We call upon the government to conduct comprehensive awareness campaigns to educate communities about the consequences of femicide, promoting gender equality, and encouraging the reporting of any suspicious activities. Education is a powerful tool in preventing such atrocities.

HOAYN urges the government through the department of gender and county governments to establish support systems for victims and survivors, including counselling services and safe spaces. It is essential to create an environment where survivors feel empowered to come forward without fear of stigma or reprisal.

We further call for Collaboration Among Stakeholders such as governmental bodies and NGOs, community leaders, and youth organizations to develop and implement holistic strategies to address the root causes of femicide and promote a culture of respect and equality.

Lastly, we call upon the media agencies to support the governmental bodies, NGOs and the community by using their media channels to raise awareness as well as **sensitively report cases of femicide without suggesting blame on the victims and survivors.**

The Horn of Africa Youth Network stands in solidarity with the people of Kenya, especially the families affected by femicide. We believe that by working together, we can put an end to this disturbing trend and build a safer and more just society for young women and for all.

For media inquiries, please contact: **Diana Ouma - Communications and Advocacy Lead, Horn of Africa Youth Network** diana@hornofafricayouthnetwork.org

For more information about HoAYN, visit: www.hornofafricayouthnetwork.org

Vision: An integrated community that guarantees socio-economic development and human rights for children and youth.

Mission: To provide an inclusive platform for Civil Society Organizations to promote inclusive policies and democratic governance for the well-being of children and youth.