



21st CENTURY WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP, LEADERSHIP, POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY & MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT (EDITION 7)

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The fight against sexual and gender based violence is what I sing every day when I wake up in the morning because it is rampant in my community. I sing it by empowering women and girls economically day by day. Women Empowerment is a burning issue globally. It refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for the benefit of the entire society. Girls are sexually abused for exchange of sanitary towels; women are sexually exploited for food for their children. In fight against gender-based violence, LEC Organization is empowering women over the years, which has created positive impact to the society. Empowering women is increasing and improving social, economic and legal strength of the women, LEC has made strides in ensuring equal rights to women and gaining their confidence to claim their rights such as; having equal social status in the society, determine financial and economic choices, get equal opportunity for education and have the right to get their voices heard. Women constitutes 50% around in my community and they suffer a lot whereby they experience gender-based violence due to retrogressive cultural practices, and the high level of poverty in the community among others. Women empowerment is the right path to create conducive environment to all and end sexual exploitation. Empower a woman and the whole community is empowered.

Biography

My name is Leah Nyalobo from Kenya. I am the Founder and Executive Director of LEC Community Organization. I have a background in community development, Social work. I studied Women Studies and Women in Leadership at Aga Khan Holding a Degree in Gender and Development Studies from the University of Nairobi (Kenya). I believe in society where women and children are empowered for access to equal opportunities in the society. As a result, LEC COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION focuses on projects that enhances women's and girls spaces in the community. Through my leadership at LEC as the Executive Director, we have implemented several projects in ending Gender Based Violence. Among them; 1. Women economic empowerment project that

SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN KENYA

Leah Nyalobo

Founder, Executive Director, LEC Community, Kenya

target equal vulnerable women from the slum of Mathare and rural area of Busia with life skills including business skills that enhances their economic capacities to be able to meet their needs and those of their children. 2. Elimination of sexual Exploitation of children project, which focuses on preventing children from sexual abuse by empowering them with preventive messages and awareness raising. The project also responds to victims of sexual exploitation, provision of psychosocial support such as counseling, legal aid and supporting them go back to school to continue with education, 3. Education sponsorship programs for girls that has enhanced vulnerable girls from the slums of Mathare and the rural area of Busia with educational opportunities to enable them achieve their career dreams.