

## How do I vote Yes?

- **You need to register to vote.** You are eligible to vote if you are a Kenyan citizen of 18 years or above. You need your National Identity Card of your Kenyan Passport to register. Visit your nearest registration Center to vote.
- **Once you have registered, educate yourself on the Constitution!** Read the draft if possible and listen to what experts are saying about the draft to understand what you are voting for.
- **On voting day, go to your polling station and VOTE YES!**

### To Register, YOU NEED:

- To be 18 years of age or older.
- Your Kenyan Identity Card or Kenyan Passport.



SUPPORT  
WOMEN.  
SUPPORT  
CHANGE.



**COAST WOMEN IN  
DEVELOPMENT**

Have questions about the  
Proposed Constitution?  
Contact us!

#### POSTAL ADDRESS

Coast Women in Development  
P.O.Box 12327 - 80117  
Mombasa, Kenya

#### PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Coast Women in Development  
Bella Royal Centre, North Mombasa  
Zakheme Road  
Mishomoroni

Phone: 0202622268

Email: [cwid@coastwomen.org](mailto:cwid@coastwomen.org)

## Proposed Constitution



## Women and Kenya's Proposed Constitution



How the Document Supports  
Women's Rights and Why  
YOU should Vote YES!

*This brochure is created by and  
reflects the views of Coast Women in  
Development.*

## Why should I vote?

- **Kenya's current Constitution was written by Colonials.** If Kenyans want to become truly unified, we need to do so under a document reflecting our own values and culture, including gender equity, not those of Colonials in the 1960s.
- **This Constitution has been democratically created.** More than the 2005 draft, the Proposed Constitution has been created with the input of many different groups in Kenya, including women.
- **You are a part of Kenya!** As Kenya is moving forward towards unity and a new national identity that reflects Kenya's remarkable diversity, you need to claim your right to be involved in your government. Without your vote, the Constitution referendum will not be truly democratic!



proposed Constitution will give more rights to women than the current

Constitution.

- **There is no perfect document.** Some people do not support the Proposed Constitution because it is not in their interest. It is not debatable that the Proposed Constitution will give more rights to women than the current Constitution.

## Kenya's Proposed Constitution is Better for Women than the Current Constitution: Proposed v. Current Constitution

Kenya's current Constitution actively discriminates against the rights of women. The Proposed Constitution should be in place as it has the Bill of Rights, which supports the rights of woman, among other provisions.

- **Customary Law.** The current Constitution supports customary laws that discriminate against women in the areas of gender-based violence, leadership, early marriage, child labor, divorce, property rights, girl child illiteracy, and other matters (Section 82 (4b)). The Proposed Constitution recognizes women's rights above discriminatory customary law. (Section 2 (4)).
- **Land Rights.** Currently, women hold title deeds to less than 1% of the land in Kenya. The Proposed Constitution eliminates discriminatory land ownership practices (Section 1f).
- **Citizenship Rights for Women's Spouses and Children.** The current Constitution only allows women married to Kenyan men to acquire citizenship through marriage (Section 90). Similarly, the current Constitution allows children born outside



of Kenya to retain Kenyan citizenship only if their father is Kenyan (Section 91). The Proposed Constitution allows foreign spouses of Kenyan men or women to obtain dual citizenship and also allows children born outside of the country with Kenyan mothers or fathers to have dual citizenship (Sections 14(1) and 15(1)).

- **Rights of Youth.** The Proposed Constitution recognizes the rights of youth and allocates two members of parliament to represent youth (Sections 55 and 98c).
- **Access to Political Participation.** Under the current Constitution, Kenya currently has only 21 out of 222 parliamentary positions (9.5%). The Proposed Constitution says that one gender should not make up more than 2/3 of any government body or committee (Section 27(8)).
- **Rights of Women with Disabilities.** Women with disabilities face some of the most severe discrimination within Kenya. The Proposed Constitution ensures that women with disabilities have equitable access to education and political participation (Section 52).
- **Other rights.** The Proposed Constitution secures gender equality in many other areas, including fundamental freedoms, health, and education (see Proposed Constitution).