

# Low Legal Literacy and Gender-Based Violence: Bridging the Knowledge Gap



*DFPA supports access to justice for survivors of SGBV. CUC members engaged in a meeting on prevention and response to GBV in Homabay County.*

One of the key barriers to justice for survivors of SGBV is low legal literacy. Many survivors are unaware of their rights or the legal avenues /frameworks available to them. This lack of knowledge is a hindrance from seeking justice. Furthermore, the complexities of the available legal system can be intimidating and inaccessible to those without proper understanding or resources. Legal literacy empowers individuals with the knowledge needed to navigate the justice system effectively. It involves understanding one's legal rights, the processes for reporting crimes, and the support services available. For survivors of SGBV, this knowledge can be a critical lifeline, offering a path to justice and protection.

KELIN, with support from the DFPA, has taken initiatives towards addressing low legal

literacy on GBV in Homabay County. Through capacity building interventions, duty bearers and community members now have the legal knowledge on prevention and response on SGBV.

Some of the initiatives include:

- **Community sensitization forum:** Conducting community sensitization forums on prevention and response to GBV
- **Litigation Services:** Supporting GBV survivors to access justice.
- **Media engagement:** Through local radio stations, KELIN has engaged and sensitized communities on prevention and response to GBV.

## **Way Forward**

### **Scaling Up from Previous Successes**

KELIN intends to scale up the previous successes in the new phase of implementation. The successes inform the basis of our advocacy and project implementation processes in ensuring that Homabay County attains gender equality.

### **Conclusion**

Low legal literacy perpetuates the cycle of gender-based violence by limiting survivors' ability to seek justice and protection. KELIN Kenya and DFPA's collaborative efforts exemplify how targeted education, advocacy, and community engagement can bridge knowledge gaps and empower individuals. As they continue their vital work, the goal remains clear: a society where legal empowerment ensures justice and safety for all, irrespective of gender or background.