



The **Digital Health and Rights Project** urge the Kenyan government¹ to accept the recommendations put forward in Kenya's recent Universal Period Review

Introduction

The Digital Health and Rights Project (DHRP) consortium brings together international social scientists, human rights lawyers, health advocates, and networks of people living with HIV, to conduct research and advocate for rights-based digital governance in Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Vietnam, and globally. We are writing to encourage the Kenyan government to accept the recommendations included in the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/60/10) as well as to take the necessary steps following the adoption of the report by the UN Human Rights Council to implement the measures required.

In 2025, the DHRP published 'Paying the Costs of Connection: Human rights of young adults in Colombia, Kenya, Ghana

We are writing to encourage the Kenyan government to accept the recommendations included in the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/60/10) as well as to take the necessary steps following the adoption of the report by the UN Human Rights Council to implement the measures required.

¹DHRP directs this statement to relevant officers of the Ministry of Health; Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy (MICDE); and Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services.

and Vietnam².¹ The study examined how digital transformations affects the health and human rights of young adults based in both urban and rural areas, that self-identified across diverse gender identities. Using a transnational participatory action research (PAR) approach, the project engaged 344 participants, with data collection through 33 focus group discussions and 14 in-depth interviews, including young people aged 18–30 from key populations and 41 expert stakeholders such as government officials, UN representatives, and community leaders. Community Advisory Teams (CATs) were established in each country to guide the process. The DHRP consortium member Kenya Legal & Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS (KELIN) was the national lead research organisation for the Kenyan study which conducted 16 focus group discussions (four in Nairobi, four in Migori, four in Kitui and four in Mombasa).

Based on the findings and consultation with study participants, the report shares recommendations on the following issues: digital inclusion; technology-Facilitated abuse (TFA); privacy in the digital age; and given current cuts to aid, the continued investment in the resilience and leadership of young adults. We welcome the fact that several of these issues were raised throughout Kenya's UPR process. Below we outline the most relevant recommendations put forward by states during UPR review.

Kenya's UPR interactive dialogue

Firstly, we note the Kenyan government has acknowledged some of these issues and have outlined some steps taken to address these issues during the interactive dialogue. Including introducing the Data Protection Act; the Jitume Programme and extending fibre-optic connectivity to remote areas and increasing public Wi-Fi hotspots. We welcome acknowledgment of the potential funding

reductions for HIV/AIDS programmes and the need to explore new international partnerships to sustain these programmes. As well as acknowledging that the emergence of digital platforms has led to risks of online harassment, cyberstalking, and digital exploitation, particularly for women and girls. Additionally, that Kenya has been advocating for stronger accountability from social media platforms, for them to implement safeguards against harassment and exploitation.

We also welcome some recommendations examined and noted by Kenya already, including recommendation 56.79 which recommends Kenya "Modify punitive laws and remove barriers that obstruct access to justice and access to the rights of people with HIV and vulnerable populations". As well as several recommendations regarding asserting the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons, including from violence and discrimination and to combat stigmatization, harassment, discrimination and violence against individuals because of their sexual orientation (56.94-56.96). We encourage the Kenyan government to adopt these and strongly encourage that Kenyan government accept more recommendations put forward by states in the UPR process.

Healthcare

Several recommendations were put forward regarding access to inclusive and quality healthcare, including sexual and reproductive healthcare and the HIV/AIDs response (paragraphs 54.115-54.134). DHRP would encourage the Kenyan government adopt recommendations that ensure universal access to quality health services, with a focus on affordability, accessibility, and data privacy protections (54.128) including access to reproductive healthcare (54.122), and removing barriers for marginalised groups (54.126). The Kenyan government should also adopt recommendations that commit the Kenyan

²Digital Health and Rights Project Consortium. (2025). Paying the costs of connection: Human rights of young adults in the digital age in Colombia, Ghana, Kenya and Vietnam. Research report. Coventry, UK: Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies, University of Warwick. See: <https://digitalhealthandrights.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/DHRP-UOW-report-April-2025-digital-final.pdf>

government to continue strengthening its HIV response to end AIDS by 2030 to align with Kenya's AIDS Strategic Framework (54.116) and promote equitable access to safe and quality prevention, treatment, and care services (54.115).

Technology-facilitated abuse

We also strongly encourage the Kenyan government to accept recommendations put forward by states to address gender-based violence including tech-facilitated abuse outlined in paragraphs 54.167-54.205. In particular that Kenya address gender-based violence and discrimination (54.170); implement legal and policy frameworks to include technology-facilitated gender-based violence (54.173) and; strengthen capacity building programmes, including human rights education and training, for law enforcement and judicial officers to enhance their capacity to investigate and prosecute gender-based violence cases including for TFA (54.194), and ensuring access to justice (54.197) including providing access to legal, financial and health services for victims and survivors (54.205).

Digital Inclusion

Given the findings of DHRP's research on needing to ensure digital inclusion in Kenya we also recommend Kenya accept the following recommendations:

- 54.65 Enact safeguards to ensure open and secure internet access;

- 54.78 Continue efforts in aligning all acts related to data protection, cyber security and artificial intelligence with international human rights standards;
- 54.104 Continue to pursue technical cooperation opportunities to advance the digitization of government services and the development of AI systems in the public sector ;
- 54.161 Further strengthen efforts to ensure affordable and equitable access to digital technology for women and girls, particularly in rural areas.

Conclusion

Ahead of the 60th ordinary session of the Human Rights Council we urge the Kenyan government to accept the above recommendations, and to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to implement measures at the national level to address these issues and fulfil human rights. We also encourage the Kenyan government to set up an inclusive consultation process with relevant stakeholders (including civil society organisations) at national level to plan the implementation of these recommendations.

DHRP and KELIN also remain available to discuss these issues further, as well as the wider findings of our research.

Many thanks,
Digital Health and Rights Project

Scan to read:

a) UPR Report



b) Paying the costs of connection report

