



MINISTRY OF GENDER, CULTURE AND CHILDREN SERVICES

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

MONDAY 16th February, 2026

NAIROBI-KENYA

PRESS STATEMENT

STATEMENT BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR GENDER, CULTURE AND CHILDREN SERVICES ON THE ALLEGED ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF KENYAN WOMEN INVOLVING A RUSSIAN NATIONAL

The Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services strongly condemns the disturbing incident in which a foreign national is alleged to have secretly recorded and circulated intimate images of Kenyan women without their consent. This act is not only a violation of personal dignity and privacy as protected under Articles 28 and 31 of the Constitution of Kenya, but also an affront to our national values, cultural integrity, and the safety of women and girls.

This matter represents a serious form of technology-facilitated gender-based violence and exploitation. As a Government, we view such violations not merely as criminal acts but as threats to the social fabric of our society, which is founded on respect, human dignity, and protection of vulnerable persons.

The Government of Kenya is coordinating a whole-of-government response. Relevant security, investigative and prosecutorial agencies have been directed to pursue the matter with urgency, including collaboration with international authorities given the cross-border nature of the case. Any individual found culpable will face the full force of Kenyan law under the Penal Code, the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, and all relevant statutes protecting women and children.

Beyond enforcement, this Ministry will strengthen policy measures on online safety, protection from digital exploitation, and safeguarding of women and children in both physical and virtual spaces. We will also engage stakeholders in culture, tourism, hospitality, and digital platforms to enhance prevention, awareness and accountability mechanisms.

We stand in solidarity with all affected women and survivors of gender-based violence. Survivors are encouraged to confidentially seek support through the **National Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Toll-Free Helpline 1195** for counselling, legal referral, psychosocial care and protection services.

We further call upon members of the public to refrain from sharing or circulating harmful content, as doing so perpetuates abuse, undermines cultural values of respect, and may attract criminal liability.

As a Ministry charged with safeguarding gender equality, cultural dignity and the protection of children, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening national policy frameworks that prevent exploitation, promote responsible digital conduct, and protect the rights and wellbeing of every Kenyan.

Kenya remains firm in defending the dignity of its men, women, boys and girls children offline and online.

Yours *Sincerely*,



HANNA WENDOT CHEPTUMO
CABINET SECRETARY