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COI QUERY RESPONSE

KENYA – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A paper issued by *BMC Women's Health* in February 2025 comments on: "...the persistent and significant nature of sexual violence in Kenya..."¹

In January 2025 *Agence France Presse* states that: "The issue of gender-based violence is endemic in the east African country."²

A report issued in January 2024 by *Human Rights Watch* reviewing events of the preceding year notes that: "Violence against women and girls, including high femicide rates, remain prevalent in Kenya."³

In December 2024 the *Associated Press* comments on the: "...silent epidemic of gender-based violence..."⁴

A report issued in December 2024 by the *New York Times* states that: "...in Kenya...femicide has long been endemic."⁵

Al Jazeera states that: "Patriarchal views and insufficient legal protections are major factors behind Kenya's high levels of gender-based Violence..."⁶

United Nations Women in December 2024 states that: "A root cause of the development challenge affecting women and girls in Kenya is the deep-rooted rigid social and gender norms that position men and boys as superior to women and girls. This socialisation process, learned early in life from the male-dominated social institutions, seems to be overlooked as a critical factor in explaining the

¹ BMC Women's Health (19 February 2025) Prevalence and factors influencing intimate partner sexual violence against women aged 15–49 in Kenya: findings from the 2022 Kenya demographic and health survey, p.5

² Agence France Presse (27 January 2025) 2024 'deadliest year on record' for Kenyan women

³ Human Rights Watch (16 January 2025) World Report 2025: Kenya, p.4

⁴ Associated Press (19 December 2024) Kenya announces plan to combat rising gender-based violence as 100 women are killed in four months

⁵ New York Times (11 December 2024) Rage Grows in Kenya Over a Spate of Murders of Women, p.1

⁶ Al Jazeera (10 December 2024) Police fire tear gas at Kenya protesters rallying against femicide

persistently high levels of gender-based discrimination. These social norms are used to justify violence, including sexual violence against women and girls. Gender biases and stereotypes in the family and community increase women's and girls' vulnerability to multiple forms of discrimination and violence in their lives.”⁷

Also included and attached below is a compilation of COI sources issued by the *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* in October 2024⁸

References

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⁷ United Nations Women (10 December 2024) *Sexual and gender based violence and harmful practices in Kenya*, p.3

⁸ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (10 October 2024) *Kenya: Gender-based violence (GBV), particularly domestic violence, including treatment of survivors by society and authorities*

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Reliefweb
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