



**Global
Call to Action
Against Poverty**

People Rising to End Inequalities



**Polycom
Development
Project**



COMMUNIQUE ON VACCINE JUSTICE:

**A collective call to action from CSOs,
Government Agencies and Marginalized
Communities in Kenya**

TITLE: COMMUNIQUE ON VACCINE JUSTICE:

A collective call to action from CSOs, Government Agencies and Marginalized Communities in Kenya

We, the collective voices of women living in Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya, unite to demand equitable access to vaccines. Our shared belief is that comprehensive information about vaccines, their expiration dates, side effects, advantages, disadvantages, and allergenic reactions must be readily available to all. We emphasize the importance of using activism to educate the public, dispelling myths and conspiracy theories that hinder vaccination progress.

Comprehensive Information: Our Right to Knowledge

With unyielding resolve, we demand the right to comprehensive information about vaccines. From the expiry dates that threaten our safety to the side effects that we must navigate, we assert our entitlement to knowledge. The advantages, disadvantages, and allergenic reactions – these are our rights, not mere privileges. Our vulnerability lies in the gaps in information, and we demand that these gaps be sealed.

Activism and Media: Our Weapons against Misinformation

We harness the power of activism to illuminate the darkness of vaccine myths and conspiracy theories. Through our creative expressions, we ignite hope and extinguish the flames of misinformation. We hope that the Media will be our ally in this relentless battle. We urge you to join our cause, for your influence can either stoke the fires of doubt or illuminate the path towards truth.

Politicians are opinion leaders and their input is necessary

In our community, leaders are the beating heart of influence. We ask our community leaders, to shoulder the mantle of responsibility. Be our advocates, our allies, as we march together towards a future where vaccines are our shared shield against disease. Show goodwill by being on the frontline to educate the public and ask the hard questions that enable the alienation of unprivileged communities.

Vaccination as a Birthright

To us, vaccination is not a privilege to reserve for the high social class; it is our birthright, because we are humans with a right to quality healthcare. We declare with unwavering conviction that everyone, irrespective of their situation in life, must have access to vaccines. We reject the notion of disparity and demand equitable distribution.

Community Health Volunteers

Community health volunteers, play an instrumental role in promoting health in our communities as well as vaccine accessibility. We salute their tireless efforts and implore them to continue bridging the chasm between information and action. Our vulnerability lies in the uncertainty of where to access vaccines, and they hold the key to clarity. We demand the empowerment of our community health volunteers to cater to us in our communities because they understand our struggle and are better placed to find solutions tailored to our needs and societal structures.

Commercialization of Vaccines

We unite against the commercialization of vaccines, a practice that exploits our vulnerability. We demand an end to this injustice, for all vaccines should be made accessible. We will not stand idly by as profit margins dictate our health. We speak strongly against the private entities that privatize vaccines, rendering access expensive and unaffordable to us, increasing our vulnerabilities.

Expired Vaccines and Mandatory Vaccination

Reports of expired vaccines and mandatory vaccination practices incite our collective indignation. We demand transparency and accountability. Our vulnerability is not a license to trample upon our autonomy. Respect our choices, and ensure our safety. We refuse the forceful imposed vaccines to us in our community healthcare centers on the basis that vaccines are about to expire.

Religious Beliefs and the Elderly

We approach the intricacies of religious beliefs and the lack of information among the elderly with respectful understanding. We advocate for tailored education and inclusive information campaigns. Our strength lies in our unity, and our respect for one another is our foundation.



Persons with Disabilities: Our Inclusivity Imperative

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) have needs and they matter. We declare with fervor that inclusivity is our imperative. Sign language interpreters at vaccination points are not a luxury but a necessity, ensuring that no one is left behind. Additionally, we demand that information about vaccines is disseminated in various vernacular languages to ensure that our community have comprehensive information about the vaccines.

No Age Discrimination and Fertility Concerns: Our Rightful Demands

Age discrimination has no place in our quest for equity. Vaccines must be accessible to all age groups, and detailed information about fertility concerns is our rightful demand. Our strength comes from unity, and our demands are resolute. We hope that in future, we shall not be discriminated based on age, especially where misinformation due to lack of public participation has brewed.

Taking Vaccines to the People: Our Accessibility Imperative

We advocate for central vaccination points in our underserved areas. Bring vaccines to the people, for our daily struggles cannot be sacrificed for the pursuit of health. Meet Us at our points of work, because we risk losing our jobs due to long queues while seeking vaccination services at underserved healthcare centers.

Public Participation and Service Charters: Our Transparent Demands

Our voices are instrumental in shaping vaccine policy. Public participation is our birthright, and we demand a seat at the table. Service charters for vaccination facilities are not optional; they are a testament to our insistence on transparency and accountability.

Retraining Healthcare Professionals and Local Language Information: Our Educational Right

We insist on the retraining of healthcare professionals to improve vaccine administration. Most importantly, include community health volunteers in these trainings to empower them to serve our communities to save up on time and save lives.

Our Collective Recommendations

1. We collectively demand the establishment of a comprehensive vaccine education program targeting women in urban informal settlements.
2. We insist on the development of a regulatory framework to prevent the commercialization of vaccines.
3. We call for strengthened monitoring and accountability mechanisms to prevent expired vaccine distribution.
4. We urge the promotion of community-led vaccination campaigns with a focus on activism and media engagement.
5. We demand inclusivity by providing accessibility services such as sign language interpreters at vaccination points.
6. We request addressing the digital divide through alternative registration methods for smartphone-less populations.
7. We assert the importance of prioritizing vaccine access for all age groups and providing detailed information on fertility concerns.
8. We collectively advocate for the creation of central vaccination points in underserved areas for easy access.
9. We call for public engagement in vaccine policy decisions and the implementation of service charters for vaccination facilities.
10. We emphasize the need to invest in the retraining of healthcare professionals and provide information in local languages to improve vaccine administration and understanding.

In conclusion, our unwavering voices unite in a relentless pursuit of vaccine equity for women in Kibera and similar communities. Together, we embody both strength and vulnerability, and we declare that every individual, regardless of socio-economic status, deserves the right to vaccination and the protection it provides. We are the relentless force of change, and we will not be denied our rightful place in a healthier, more equitable future.





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