



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR
ON WOMEN RIGHTS

Keynote Address by Hon Harriette Chiggai

Come Together Widows and Orphans Organisation Dinner and Launch of Widow's Sacco

Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

9th February 2024

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is a profound honor to join you today at this significant event hosted by the Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization. As we assemble to celebrate and extend support to widowed persons, I am reminded of the vital mission ahead of us in advocating for their rights and welfare.
2. As we gather here tonight, let us first acknowledge the strength it takes to show up, to come together in a space of shared experiences, and to open your hearts to one another. Each of you has walked a path uniquely our own, marked by love, loss, and the courage it takes to carry on.
3. I commend the Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization for its unwavering dedication and relentless efforts in championing the rights of widowed persons. Your steadfast commitment to developing



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pragmatic solutions underscores the importance of collective action in effecting meaningful change.

4. My office was set up specifically on matters of women's rights. We exist to advise His Excellency the President and advocate women's rights within the government ensuring coordination across government agencies on the same and the implementation of the Women's Charter and the Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).
5. In my capacity as the President's Advisor on Women Rights, I stand before you today to reaffirm our government's unwavering commitment to supporting initiatives that uphold the rights and well-being of widowed persons. We recognize the significance of integrating the UN resolution paper on widowhood into our national framework, and I assure you of our steadfast advocacy in this endeavor.
6. Let us seize this moment to reiterate our collective determination to stand alongside widowed persons, to amplify their voices, and to ensure they receive the dignity, respect, and support they rightfully deserve.
7. I am particularly honored to witness the fruition of the collaboration between the Come Together Widows and Orphans Organization and

the Women Enterprise Fund, which culminated in the successful launch of the Thamini loan product in July 2021. The impact of this initiative, offering interest-free group loans to widows with no administrative costs, is truly commendable. It is evident that such support transcends mere financial assistance; it is about empowering widows to shape their own destinies and secure brighter futures for themselves and their families.

8. Looking ahead, I am excited to learn about the launch of a Widows' SACCO, which will be announced tonight during this Pre-Valentine's dinner. This initiative signifies a commitment to sustainability, ensuring that the benefits of economic empowerment extend far beyond short-term projects. By providing a dedicated financial platform, widows will have access to ongoing support and opportunities for growth, fostering long-term stability and independence.
9. Tonight, as we gather in solidarity with widowed persons, I am reminded of the power of collective action. It fills me with joy to see government officials, civil society organizations, and individuals come together to support and uplift widows in our communities. Let us



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continue to work hand in hand, advocating for their cause and championing policies that prioritize their rights and well-being.

10. In this room, we understand the weight of grief, the ache of loneliness, and the myriad of emotions that come with the journey of widowhood. But amidst it all, let us remember this - it is okay not to be okay. It is okay to feel the depths of sorrow, to wrestle with doubt, and to seek solace in the company of others who understand.
11. Yet, let us also embrace another truth - it's not okay to give up. While the road may seem long and the burdens heavy, within each of us lies a reservoir of strength waiting to be tapped into. It's in the moments of vulnerability that we find our greatest courage, in the depths of despair that we discover our resilience, and in the bonds of community that we uncover our shared humanity.

Hon. Harriette Chiggai

President's Advisor on Women Rights