

7<sup>TH</sup> EDITION JUNE 2026

THE  
**AMPLIFIER**





**NATIONAL YOUTH  
COUNCIL KENYA**

*Amplifying the Youth Voice*

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## CEO's Note

Kenya's youth are shaping the nation with fresh ideas, bold leadership and unstoppable energy. The Amplifier Newsletter was created by the National Youth Council to capture that spirit - a platform where voices are amplified, creativity is celebrated and solutions are shared. Its mission is to inform, inspire and connect young people by highlighting their achievements, addressing issues that matter and opening doors to opportunities that strengthen national development.

This 7th edition shines a spotlight on how young people are driving change in diverse spaces from harnessing the digital economy for innovation and employment, to strengthening student leadership, to advancing environmental conservation through youth-serving organizations.

These stories remind us that Kenya's youth are not just participants in progress, but the architects of its future. The National Youth Council remains committed to empowering young people to lead boldly, engage meaningfully, and shape policies and programs that reflect their aspirations. The Amplifier is one of the ways we bring this mission to life, ensuring youth voices are heard, their solutions celebrated, and their impact amplified.

This edition is a call for every young person to step forward with courage, shape Kenya's future with creativity, and leave a legacy of impact. Together, we can build a nation where youth voices are not only heard but drive meaningful progress.

*Gloria Wawira*

Ag. CEO National Youth Council

## Harnessing Kenya's Digital Economy for Youth Employment and Innovation



Kenya is often celebrated as a youthful nation, with young people making up nearly 75% of the population. This presents both a tremendous opportunity and a significant challenge: creating meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for the millions of young people entering the labour market each year.

Across the country, young people are using technology to create new opportunities for themselves and their communities. Through online freelancing, digital marketing, software development, content creation, e-commerce, and other technology-driven ventures, many youth are finding alternative ways to earn a living and build careers.

The potential of the digital economy is immense. Government programmes aimed at enhancing digital skills have helped equip many young people with the competencies needed to participate in the digital space. However, youth unemployment remains a major concern, highlighting the need for continued investment in digital skills development and job creation initiatives.

Experts emphasize that Kenya can only fully benefit from its youthful population by investing in digital literacy, innovation, and affordable access to technology. As the future of work continues to evolve, young people will need more than technical skills alone. Adaptability, creativity, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship are becoming increasingly important.

To fully harness the benefits of the digital economy, deliberate policy action is required. Expanding access to digital skills training, improving internet connectivity, supporting youth-led startups, and strengthening mentorship programmes are critical steps. Equally important is ensuring that young people are actively involved in shaping policies that affect their future.

The National Youth Council Kenya continues to play a vital role in promoting youth participation and advocating for opportunities that empower young people to thrive. By fostering collaboration among government, the private sector, development partners, and youth, Kenya can build an inclusive digital economy that unlocks the full potential of its young population.

Mwelu Nixie

## 1. Kenya Inter-University Environmental Students Association (KIUESA)

What happens when thousands of students unite for the planet? Real change begins to take root. KIUESA is inspiring youths to lead the charge for environmental conservation. Through student-led initiatives, the association is transforming campuses into spaces where climate action, environmental stewardship and sustainability move beyond theory and into practice.

This year, KIUESA marked World Environment Day and World Desertification and Drought Day through tree-growing activities, environmental awareness campaigns, policy dialogues and community engagement programs that promoted ecosystem restoration, climate resilience and sustainable land management. By working closely with universities, government institutions, civil society organizations and development partners, the association continues to create opportunities for young people to become champions of a greener Kenya.



### Impact at glance

- 300,000+ youth and students engaged
- 30+ universities and tertiary institutions reached
- 100,000+ trees planted and distributed
- 105+ environmental awareness forums conducted
- 100+ community clean-up and restoration activities organized
- 200+ climate action and environmental advocacy campaigns facilitated
- 20+ strategic partner organizations engaged

## 2. Pillars Youth Group Kitale

Pillars Youth Group is showing that environmental conservation and economic empowerment can grow side by side. Through practical training and community-driven initiatives, the organization is equipping young people with the skills to protect the environment while building sustainable livelihoods.

To commemorate the International Day of Forests, the group mobilized youth and community members to plant more than 1,000 trees and distributed avocado seedlings to support riparian restoration.

Youth Council's Kijani Tree Programme. Together, these initiatives are nurturing a generation of young people who see climate action not only as a responsibility, but also as an opportunity. The momentum continued with hands-on training in beekeeping, tree nursery establishment and sustainable environmental practices, while participants were also introduced to the National

### Impact at glance

- Over 1,500 trees planted
- 200 youth trained in conservation, climate action and agribusiness
- 500 fruit tree seedlings distributed
- Avocado seedlings provided for riparian restoration



### 3. Tuhifadhi Mchanga Initiative (TMI)

The future grows stronger when we care for the land today. Founded in 2024, the Tuhifadhi Mchanga Initiative (TMI) is championing regenerative agriculture and environmental stewardship by placing healthy soils at the center of sustainable communities.

Bringing together science, community action and youth leadership, the initiative is empowering young people to become active participants in restoring the environment.

During World Environment Day 2026, TMI mobilized more than 200 youth volunteers in Mavoko Sub-County under the theme “Healthy Soil, Clean Water, Fresh Air – Sustainable Communities.”

Beyond community clean-up activities, the initiative established two permanent native ree-growing sites while introducing a citizen-science approach to monitoring soil health. connecting local action with environmental data, TMI is empowering communities to protect natural resources and strengthen long-term climate resilience.



### Impact at glance

- 200+ youth directly engaged
- 200 native trees planted
- Two permanent citizen-science monitoring sites established
- Environmental health and policy information shared with all participants
- Expanding activities across Machakos, Nairobi, Nandi, Kilifi and Tana River

## 4. Alego Young Entrepreneurs (AYE) CBO

In Siaya County, Alego Young Entrepreneurs (AYE) CBO is helping young people and smallholder farmers build greener, more resilient livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture and entrepreneurship. By combining practical training with environmental action, the organization is demonstrating that agriculture can be both a solution to climate change and a pathway to economic empowerment.

Over the past year, AYE CBO has trained hundreds of farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices, supported community tree-growing initiatives and partnered with SHOFSCO to equip young people with skills in tree nursery enterprise and groundnut value chain development. These efforts are strengthening food security, promoting environmental conservation and opening new opportunities for youth-led green enterprises.



### Impact at glance

- 300+ farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture
- 100+ youth trained in tree nursery enterprise and groundnut value chain development
- 5,000+ trees planted in schools and community institutions
- Community climate action initiatives implemented across Siaya County
- Partnerships advancing youth empowerment and climate resilience

### Moi University



Photo By Tuko News

Enock Kwena, Secretary General of Moi University Students Organisation, has urged Education CS Julius Ogamba to increase HELB allocations. He pointed out that current loan amounts haven't kept pace with rising costs of accommodation, food, transport, and learning materials.

Kwena also raised concerns that student leadership is shifting focus toward internal politics rather than student welfare, with less involvement in national conversations on education and youth empowerment.

### University of Nairobi

During the launch of the first phase report of the Jukwaa La Wasomi programme, PS Dr. Raymond Omollo emphasized its role in involving young people in preventing and resolving conflicts within institutions of higher learning. Student leaders explained that the programme promotes dialogue and peaceful solutions to grievances instead of confrontational approaches.

Purity Mutua, Vice President Emeritus of UoN, noted that leaders from universities, TVETs, and teacher training colleges collaborated with county commissioners to address welfare and security concerns through engagement rather than protests.



# USTU AFRICA SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR FIRST-TIME UNDERGRADUATE APPLICANTS

Every year USIU-Africa offers premier learning opportunities for those from an underprivileged background to receive a world-class education offered through state-of-the-art facilities.

USIU-Africa is offering a limited number of competitive scholarships for the **Fall Semester 2026** - opening doors to a world-class education at one of Africa's premier universities.

**To apply, visit:**

[www.usiu.ac.ke/financial-aid/](http://www.usiu.ac.ke/financial-aid/)

**Deadline:** Wednesday, July 15, 2026

**Contact**

**Financial Aid Office**

☎ 0730 116 776/745    ✉ [finaid@usiu.ac.ke](mailto:finaid@usiu.ac.ke)

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**For more details on the scholarships, and how to apply, visit: [www.usiu.ac.ke/financial-aid/](http://www.usiu.ac.ke/financial-aid/)  
Application Deadline: Wednesday, July 15, 2026**

# UNODC Art Competition is here!

UNODC's Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section, under the "Gamechangers" initiative, is launching a Global Youth Art Campaign on Crime Prevention. Young people aged 18–29 who have experienced or been impacted by youth violence and crime are invited to share their

stories and ideas through drawings, photography, video, poetry, stories, music, or mixed media. Selected works will feature in a digital youth zine, a youth art exhibition at UNTOC (Vienna, October 2026), and a global UNODC advocacy campaign.



The poster features the UNODC logo and 'GAMECHANGERS' branding at the top. The main title 'ART COMPETITION' is prominently displayed with a paintbrush icon. Below it, the subtitle 'Creating Pathways to Resilience and Opportunity' is shown. The central text invites participants to share their stories through various art forms. A yellow box highlights the age group and submission deadline. The background includes silhouettes of three people and a vibrant, colorful wave at the bottom.

**UNODC** | **GAMECHANGERS**  
Strengthening youth crime prevention

# ART COMPETITION

## Creating Pathways to Resilience and Opportunity

Share your story, art or perspective on effective responses to youth violence and crime through **art, poetry, drawings, photography, video, music and more.**

**Age group: 18-29 years**  
**Deadline for submissions: 31 July 2026**

Generated by AI

**Deadline: 31 July 2026**



# YOUR STORY CAN CHANGE PART PATH CHANGE CHANGE

## Call for Creative Contributions from Young People (18 to 29 years old)

Youth violence and crime affect communities across the world. These challenges take many forms, including delinquency, gang involvement, and recruitment by organized criminal groups. Law enforcement alone cannot address the problem. Lasting prevention requires understanding the root causes of violence, strengthening protective factors, and supporting rehabilitation and reintegration. Your voice and lived experience are essential to shaping meaningful solutions.

### About the Campaign

Under the theme “Understanding Violence and Crime Through the Lens of Youth”, this initiative invites young people to share their perspectives, experiences, and ideas through creative expression. Your story can help challenge stereotypes, promote understanding, and inspire more effective prevention.

### Who Can Participate?

Children and young people **18 to 29 years old** from all regions of the world are encouraged to contribute.

This campaign **especially welcomes** submissions from:




- Young persons **who are, or have been, in conflict with the law or affected by involvement in violence or crime** and wish to share their experiences, insights, or pathways to change;
- Young people who **observe, experience, or are impacted by youth violence and crime** in their communities. They are invited to share their experiences and perspectives to help inform effective prevention responses

### What You Can Submit

All forms of creative expression are welcome, including **poetry, short stories, illustration, drawing, writings, photographs, videos, or mixed media**. Your perspective, it

### How Your Story Will Be Shared

Your submission will inform and contribute to:

-  A digital youth zine to showcase creative youth art pieces from around the world on youth violence and crime experiences.
-  A youth art exhibition on youth violence and crime at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), from 19 to 23 October 2026 in Vienna.
-  A UNODC advocacy campaign to call for more and better youth-centred prevention approaches.

# Ask NYC

## REGISTRATION

Did you know registering with NYC connects you to networks, opportunities, and a stronger youth sector?

Youth registration lets you join like-minded peers and organizations in your sector, access government opportunities, participate in elections, and contribute to national development. It's your gateway to being part of coordinated youth initiatives.

Don't miss out. Register today at [nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke/youth-registration/](http://nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke/youth-registration/) and build your network!

## PROGRAMMES

Did you know NYC runs programmes to boost your leadership, patriotism and participation in governance?

Initiatives focus on meaningful youth involvement in leadership and democratic processes, plus intergenerational dialogues (like Sawazisha Gumzo) that bridge gaps and tackle topical issues. NYC also promotes national values and protects youth from manipulation.

**Be featured in the Amplifier;**

**Email; [registration@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke](mailto:registration@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke) / Whatsapp 0700692692**

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# Amplifier

To maximize these benefits, please ensure your organization's profile is complete and up-to-date on the NYC portal.

For assistance or inquiries, feel free to contact us at [registration@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke](mailto:registration@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke).

For more information, visit the NYC website or contact:

Email: [info@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke](mailto:info@nationalyouthcouncil.go.ke)

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