



Justice Nest February 2026 Monthly Newsletter

 **The Weight We Carry** 

Issue: JN26-02

Dear Friends,

This month I will let **Peris Wambugu** speak on my behalf and this is what she has to say:

**“Asante Sana, Miriam.
Asante Sana, The Justice
Nest. You did not just fight for
a child’s freedom. You
restored her story. And ours.
“Says Peris Wambugu**

"For two weeks, my heart lived in a prison cell. It began with a phone call I was not prepared for. My mother’s voice, heavy with despair, told me that **a young girl, my daughter’s primary school classmate**, a child from a family we have walked alongside for years , had been arrested and placed in remand prison.

She was supposed to be **reporting to Form Three**. Instead, she was behind bars. That night, sleep would not come. I kept seeing her face, kept thinking of her confusion and fear. I felt powerless. Until I remembered someone who has spent her life ensuring others do not remain powerless.

Miriam Wachira: My former schoolmate. A lawyer. And the founder of **Justice Nest** an organisation that stands in the gap for incarcerated mothers and their children, fighting for their freedom, their dignity, and their future. I reached out. Miriam responded immediately.

What followed was not just legal representation. It was a masterclass in what it means to show up fully for another human being. Miriam and her team at The Justice Nest worked without rest, navigating obstacles that would have caused many to retreat. They strategised. They advocated. They held our hands through every uncertain moment.

And yesterday, we received the news: The girl was **granted a free bond**. She slept not in a remand cell, but in her own bed. At home. Surrounded by the silence of freedom and the hope of tomorrow. She will return to school.

Miriam also ensured that the court scheduled hearing dates during school holidays so that her education , already interrupted , would not be further compromised. That single act of foresight speaks volumes about who she is and what Justice Nest stands for.

In those cold, imposing court chambers, Miriam Wachira became the voice of a girl who could have easily been forgotten. She reminded the system that justice is not abstract , it breathes. It belongs to children. It belongs to the vulnerable. And it must be pursued with relentless compassion.

I do not have enough words to thank her. But I hope these ones travel far enough to let the world know that The Justice Nest exists, that it is saving lives, and that Miriam Wachira is one of those rare people who turns her profession into a calling.

Asante Sana, Miriam. Asante Sana, The Justice Nest. You did not just fight for a child's freedom. You restored her story. And ours."

I need not add any more, Peris daughter's friend is among the 46 people that were released from prison through Justice Nest in January and February.

I am delighted that we released our **2025 Annual Report**. Please take a moment to read it and share your reflections
👉 <https://www.justicenest.org/get-newsletter/18>

With gratitude and purpose,

Miriam Wachira
Founder & Executive Director
Justice Nest



From the Mothers Diversion Program



The Weight of a Silent Goodbye: Mary's Story ❤️



At Justice Nest, we often talk about legal rights and case files, but behind every file is a human being the world has forgotten. This is

Mary.

A mother of three young children, Mary has been in custody since August 2025. We finally reached her on February 3rd and learned of a devastating tragedy. While incarcerated, severe hypertension led to an emergency C-section. Her baby, born too soon, fought for just twenty-four hours before passing away on January 31st.

When our team met her days later, she had just returned from the mortuary. With no resources, no family support, and the weight of the justice system upon her, Mary had to make an impossible choice: she signed her newborn over for a communal burial. She walked back to her cell empty-armed, still in physical pain, unable to give her child a final resting place.

Mary is distraught, without grief counseling, and focused only on survival. She wants to go home to her other children. She is not just a case; she is a grieving mother stripped of the right to mourn with dignity.

We are working to fast-track her case and advocate for immediate mental health support. But legal advocacy alone isn't enough. A woman who has undergone emergency surgery, lost a child, and returned to a prison cell needs more than a lawyer—she needs a lifeline.

Read Mary's full story and see how we are fighting for her dignity, health, and future:

<https://www.justicenest.org/stories-details/19>

Author: Diana Gakinya- Justice Nest Advocate



From the Prison Paralegal Program



From Inmate to Paralegal: The Story of Moses

When Moses joined Justice Nest as a paralegal in 2025, he was an inmate searching not only for justice, but for purpose. What followed was a journey that would transform his life.

Through Justice Nest's paralegal training and NITA Trial Advocacy program, Moses gained foundational knowledge in criminal law, trial procedures, and appeals. Armed with these tools, he began helping fellow inmates navigate the justice system, drafting appeals and guiding those who could not afford legal representation.



: **Prison Paralegal Team Following The Training Online**

But as he helped others, something remarkable happened. Using the very knowledge, he was sharing, Moses identified challenges in his own case and drafted an Application for Revision of Sentence. On 18th February 2026, the High Court ruled in his favor, noting that his rehabilitation efforts, including the theological and paralegal trainings, were clear evidence of reform.

That day, Moses walked out not only as a free man, but as proof that access to justice and education can truly change lives.

Read his full story and discover how Justice Nest is transforming lives beyond the courtroom:

<https://www.justicenest.org/stories-details/21>

Author: Asha Saidi- Justice Nest Advocate

Social Welfare Program

A Fight for Healing After Incarceration



On February 19th, 2026, Justice Nest's Social Support Workers, visited Murigo, one of our clients who was recently released from prison. They found her in a crisis with **only 250g of maize flour** left for the evening. The team provided essential supplies, which Mary received with deep gratitude.

Murigo had recently secured informal work vending tea. But without funds to refill her hypertension medication, her health deteriorated. Her feet swelled, she could no longer work, and her treatment was now out of reach. She also requires medicine for her **mental well-being**, a need made more urgent by the **trauma of incarceration** and **separation from her son**.

Yet amid the struggle, Murigo's resilience shines. A friend has offered her a sufuria (cooking pot) to **restart her tea business**, and she has an established customer base ready. She also spoke warmly of a longtime supporter, Mama Lewis, who has stood by her family for years.

Murigo credits Justice Nest's counselling visits with **restoring her hope** during her darkest moments in custody. She is eager to continue **therapy** and **rebuild her life**.

Murigo's case is ongoing Justice Nest remains committed to walking alongside her, toward health, dignity, and lasting freedom.

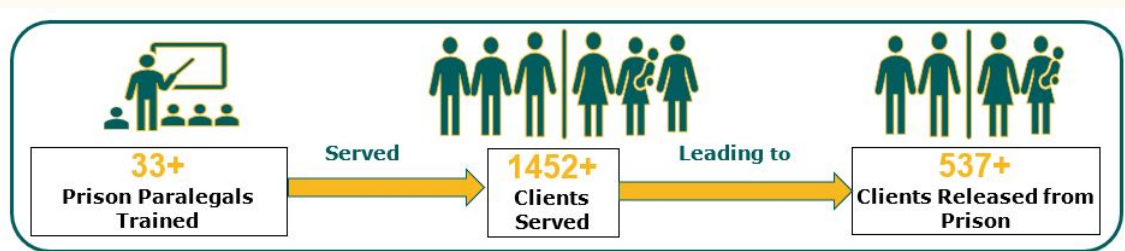
Authors: Michelle & Janett- Justice Nest Social Workers

Impact Numbers: Building on a Phenomenal Year

A Snapshot of Our Reach:

Across our core programs, the need for justice remains urgent, and the impact is tangible.

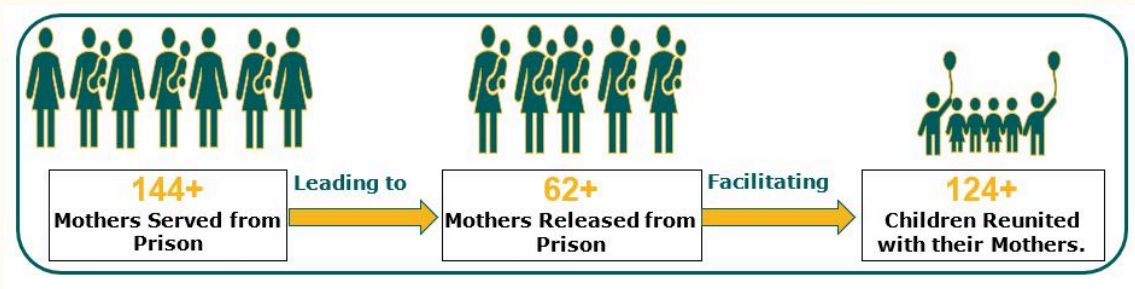
Prison Paralegal Program



Prison Paralegal Program: These figures represent more than just data points; they tell a story of **scale and specificity**. Serving over **1,452 clients** in the paralegal program demonstrates the immense demand for legal representation inside prisons. But the release of **537 individuals**, nearly **40% of our current caseload**, shows that

intervention works. It proves that with diligent mediation, legal advocacy, and persistence, freedom is possible.

Children & Mothers Diversion & Restorative Justice Program



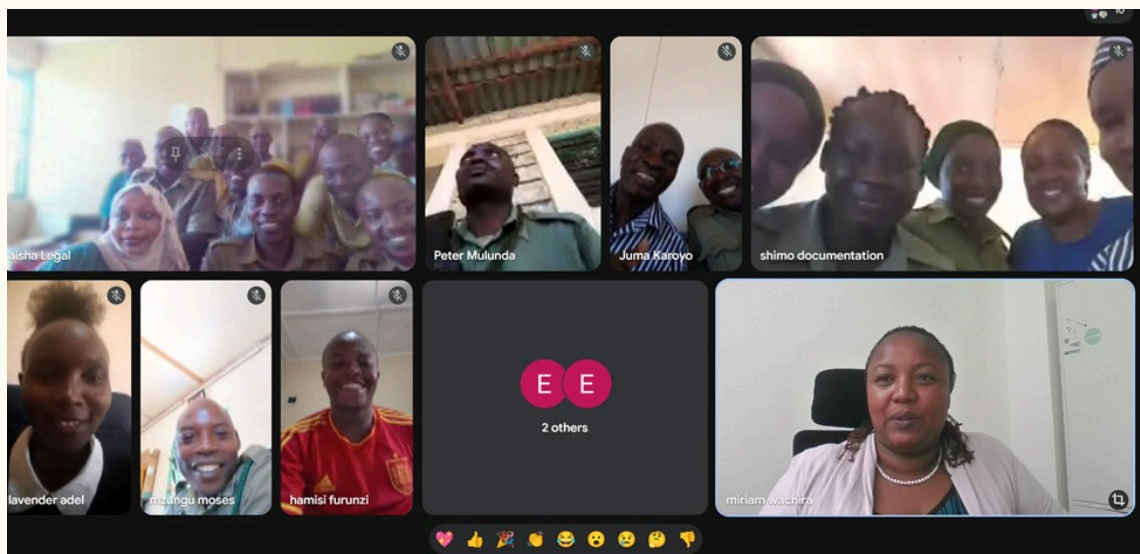
Children & Mothers Program: The family unit remains at the heart of our work. We have served **144 mothers**, and so far, **62 have been released** and reunited with their families. Most heartwarming, **124 children** have been directly reunited with their mothers.

Noteworthy, is that among the **17 mothers** released this month, 9 were through mediation (Alternative Dispute Resolution- ADR).

🏠 Sharpening Skills, Strengthening Minds 🛠️

📖 Our 2026 Paralegal Refresher Training ⚖️

February was a month of preparation and action at Justice Nest. We began the year by investing in our greatest asset: our people. From February 9th to 13th, 2026, Justice Nest brought together our paralegals and staff for a powerful dual-training.



👥: Prison Paralegal Team Following The Training Online

The **Prison Paralegal Refresher Course** sharpened legal expertise through sessions on Plea Bargain and Alternate Justice Systems, Expert Evidence, Appellate Advocacy, and Emerging Jurisprudence in Criminal Litigation. This refresher was a deepening of our capacity to serve.



📍: Justice Nest Team during the QRmental Health Awareness Training

Alongside this, the **Mental Health Awareness Training**, facilitated by the **WHO Academy** in partnership with **Basic Needs, Basic Rights Kenya**, explored Human Rights and Disability, Legal Capacity, Ending Coercion and Abuse, Quality Services, and Mental Health Recovery.

The week culminated in a **hybrid graduation ceremony**, celebrating our paralegals' completion of both programs. They emerged with sharper legal minds and the resilience to champion the rights and dignity of every person they serve.

We are equipping our team to create a more accessible and compassionate justice system.

🧱 Laying Bricks: A Month of Justice 🏛️



📍: Langata Womens Prison Management Receiving a Donation From Justice Nest Team During World Social Justice Day

We then took that energy to **Langata Prisons** to celebrate **World Social Justice Day** on **20th February**. Our team donated **20 bags**

of cement to support the construction of a new hall and held a **legal awareness session** in the remand section, ensuring that those waiting for trial understand their rights.

Whether through mental health or infrastructure, we are committed to building justice from the ground up.

DONATE



Save the Dates: A Season of Celebrating Women and Reuniting Families



As we move through a busy first half of the year, Justice Nest is excited to look ahead to a season of honoring, celebrating, and reuniting. Mark your calendars for these important dates and events.



International Women's Day (March 8)

We will be celebrating the resilience and strength of the women in our network, from our dedicated staff and paralegals to the mothers and daughters navigating the justice system. Join us online as we share stories of the incredible women at the heart of Justice Nest's work.

This May, Justice Nest is bringing together two important celebrations into one unforgettable day.

On **May 10th**, we will **honor**  **Mother's Day** by celebrating mothers everywhere and highlighting the importance of maternal bonds, even for those incarcerated. On **May 15th** we shall mark  **the International Day of Families**. The two days will be celebrated as a joint event. To mark this joint occasion, Justice Nest is organizing a very special Visiting Day at Langata Remand. We are facilitating a day of fun and reunification, bringing the children of incarcerated mothers into the facility to visit them.

This event is more than just a visit. It is a chance to restore precious bonds, provide joy, and remind both mothers and their children that love truly transcends walls.

How You Can Participate:

We invite you to be part of this special day. Your participation can help us cover transport for the children, provide meals, organize activities, and purchase small gifts for the mothers and children to exchange.

- **Individuals:** If you would like to show your love and support, **financially or in-kind**, please reach out to us. Every contribution brings a smile and strengthens a family bond.

- **Organizations:** We also warmly welcome **organizations to partner with us** on this event. Whether through sponsorship, volunteer engagement, or in-kind donations, your partnership will help us create a lasting impact.

Contact us today to learn how you or your organization can participate on this reunification day!

[Read more on our website for our success and sad stories](#) →



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