


Justice Nest November 2025

Monthly Newsletter

 **Why the system should be more humane.**

Issue: JN011



 **Justice Nest Team, the mothers and children in our program at Karura Forest to celebrate Worlds Children's Day**

Dear Friends,

This past month has reminded us why Justice Nest exists, and why we must keep going. At Karura Forest, during our World Children's Day celebration, we watched mothers and little ones rediscover joy through play, healing circles, and community. It was a beautiful reminder of what dignity looks like when protected.

But just days before, we had met the heartbreaking reality of what happens when the system fails. Mary's story, has shaken us to the core. Her loss was preventable. Her suffering was unnecessary. And Princess' earliest days should never have been spent in custody.

As we mark **#GivingTuesday**, we hold Mary and Baby Princess close, remembering that when a mother suffers in custody, a child suffers first and suffers most. Your generosity helps us stand in the gap, reviewing bail terms, providing legal services, protecting infants, and preventing tragedies before they happen.

And as we count down to our **anniversary**, we celebrate not only how far we've come, but the shared responsibility that carries us forward. Justice Nest was born from the belief that justice can be gentler.

Thank you for walking with us. Let's keep restoring dignity, one mother and one child at a time. 🧡

With gratitude and purpose,

Miriam Wachira

Founder & Executive Director
Justice Nest



From the Mothers Diversion Program



A Mother Lost, A Child Left Waiting 🧡



I met Mary by accident, the kind of accident that stays with you.

I was at the Milimani Law Courts attending to another matter for one of our mothers. As I made my way toward the basement cells, something stopped me. A young woman stood behind the iron bars, gently rocking an infant in her arms while speaking to a man who looked exhausted and helpless. Something about the scene, the way she held her child, the urgency in the man's voice made me pause.

I asked what offence she had been charged with. Someone passed me her charge sheet. I took a quick photo, promised I would follow up during my next prison visit, and mentioned that Justice Nest provides pro bono legal support to mothers in conflict with the law. Her husband pleaded with me to assist her. Even in that chaotic corridor, the fear in his voice was unmistakable.

A few days later, we met Mary again at the remand prison and were introduced to her one-year-old daughter, Princess, who had been remanded with her. At that time, Mary's cash bail had been set at Ksh. 100,000, a figure entirely out of reach for her family. We immediately took up the matter and began applications to have it reviewed. After a month, the court reduced it to Ksh. 40,000, but even that was hopelessly beyond their means. For Mary's family, Ksh. 40,000 might as well have been the original 100,000. Nothing had changed.



🕯️: Justice Nest Team Holding a Vigil for Mary: This case touched the whole team and made us reflect. It reminded us why we do what we do to support mothers as no child deserves to be in custody because the primary care giver has been held in custody. No child deserves to wait for a mother who is not returning while still in custody.

By then, Mary's mental health had deteriorated sharply. She was withdrawn, confused, and visibly overwhelmed. We raised this with the court, explaining that the prison environment was unsafe for a child that young and that Mary's declining mental state made it impossible for her to process her case or care for Princess. We pleaded for compassion, for a bail review that considered both mother and child. But the court insisted on a mental assessment report before making any further changes. The bail terms remained as they were.

On 13 November 2025, I attended her mention and renewed our request. By then, Mary had been rushed to Kenyatta National Hospital and admitted to the psychiatric ward. We asked the court to reconsider the bail terms so she could receive proper medical care. We also requested that Princess be released to her father, because the child, barely one year old, had been left alone at the remand facility without her mother.

Five days later, on 18 November 2025, I received the call I never imagined I would get. Mary had passed away on Saturday while receiving treatment.

Nothing prepares you for losing a client, certainly not like this. Not a young mother. Not a woman who should never have been in custody to begin with. Not someone whose National ID had been misused by unknown persons to register multiple mobile numbers that were later used in fraud, leaving her to carry the cross for crimes she did not commit.

Her death was preventable. Her detention was unnecessary.

And her baby, Princess, spent her earliest days behind bars, a reality no child should ever live through. After Mary's passing, Princess was transferred to a children's home here in Nairobi as the family begins

burial arrangements. It is an incredibly heavy moment for them, especially because most of their resources had already been depleted over months of travelling from Masinga to Nairobi to attend court sessions and support Mary. They did all they could with the little they had, and still, the system failed them.

At Justice Nest, we do this work because we believe that when a mother is incarcerated, the children suffer first and suffer most. Mary's story hurts deeply, but it is also a painful reminder of why our work must continue. It calls on all of us courts, advocates, community, and the country to re-examine how we treat the poor, the vulnerable, and the mothers who slip through the cracks of our justice system.

Mary deserved better.

Princess deserved better.

And we owe it to families like theirs to make sure this never happens again.

Author: Wesley Waku- Justice Nest Advocate

NB: Watch the video on Mary's case in court

here: <https://web.facebook.com/reel/1171885761115440>

🎉 **Upcoming Events: Anniversary Celebration!** 🎉



🎉:Justice Nest Launch

Date: 5th December, 2025.

Theme: Celebrating One Year of Impact. 🎉

Wow! What an incredible first year it's been at Justice Nest. 🍷 🍷 In just one year, your support and solidarity have transformed ideas into action and hope into measurable impact.



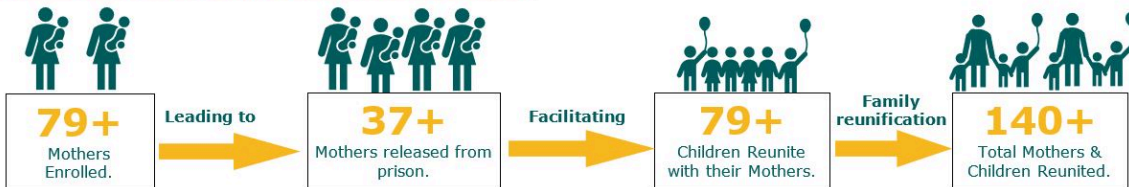
BECAUSE OF YOU, WE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING IMPACT

OUTPUTS- (January – November 2025)

Prison Paralegal Program:



Children & Mothers Diversion & Restorative Justice Program:



As we countdown to our anniversary, we're not just looking back. We're gearing up for an even bolder year, where justice becomes gentler, communities grow stronger, and families get the second chance they deserve.

Stay with us this month as we celebrate, reflect, and share the powerful ways you can continue fueling impact, right where justice restores. 🍷 🌍

#GivingTuesday With Gratitude 🍷

This #GivingTuesday, we're deeply grateful for everyone who helps us stand in the gap. Your support makes it possible to ask for bail reviews, offer legal services, and social welfare to the families in and out of custody, to help prevent tragedies like Mary's.



As we step into a new year, we renew our commitment to gentler justice, stronger communities, and brighter tomorrows. Stay with us

as we continue fueling impact, right where justice restores.

This season of giving, give in memory of Mary, in honour of Princess, and in hope for every mother still fighting to be heard. ♡

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