Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment

IFAGE IN MOTION

Faith. Justice. Transformation.



Month That Asked Us to Move

Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends, Partners and Members of the IFAGE Family,

Happy September, everyone!

There is something special about September. It often feels like a moment to pause, take stock of where we have been, and look with fresh eyes at where we are going.

For us at IFAGE, this month has been one of movement, reflection and renewed purpose.

From communities in Siaya and Homa Bay to conversations reaching far beyond Kenya, we have continued to see what becomes possible when people come together around a shared belief in justice, dignity and human flourishing.
This month, we officially launched our **2026–2031 Strategic Plan**, strengthened our work with faith leaders and communities through the SHIELD and CUAV initiatives, continued investing in young people through the Youth Running Club, and opened new spaces for conversations around safeguarding, wellbeing and gender justice. We also celebrated an important moment for IFAGE as our work found a place within a global conversation through my appointment to the **Gender Working Group of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the United Nations**.

But behind every milestone are people.
People who show up.
People who ask difficult questions.
People who choose to learn.
People who believe that change is possible—and decide to become part of it.

As you read this month's edition, I invite you not simply to see a list of things IFAGE has done, but to meet some of the people and moments that are shaping the journey.

Thank you for walking with us.
With gratitude,

Rev. Domnic Misolo
Executive Director, IFAGE

THE MOMENT
A New Chapter, Officially Begun
Launch of 2026–2031 Strategic Plan



What would it take to build change that lasts?
On **11 September**, in Bondo, that question moved from conversation to commitment.
At a breakfast roundtable at Loch Hotel, IFAGE officially launched its **2026–2031 Strategic Plan**, a new roadmap for the organisation's next chapter.

The strategy is built around three interconnected ambitions:

1. **CHANGE NORMS**
   Challenging the beliefs, behaviours and structures that keep inequality in place.
2. **EMPOWER COMMUNITIES**
   Strengthening knowledge, agency and collective action.
3. **BUILD RESILIENT SYSTEMS**
   Creating structures that can sustain progress beyond individual projects.
   Running through all three is something deeply rooted in IFAGE's identity:
4. **FAITH & DIALOGUE**
   The launch was more than the unveiling of a document.

It was a public statement about the organisation IFAGE is becoming and the kind of change it intends to help build over the next five years.
A new chapter has begun. Click HERE to get your copy of the strategic plan.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE CHANGE
When the Conversation Changes, Possibilities Change



Inside IFAGE's Restoring Balance journey
Gender justice conversations do not always begin where we expect them to. Sometimes they begin with a faith leader.

Sometimes with a chief, a teacher, a father, a young person—or a group of men willing to examine the norms they have inherited.

Through **Restoring Balance: Men Leading for Gender Justice**, IFAGE is creating precisely these spaces. The SHIELD Project, implemented in partnership with **Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD)** and **Anglican Development Services Kenya (ADS Kenya)**, has been engaging faith leaders, chiefs, teachers, youth representatives, women's groups and other community actors across **Siaya and Homa Bay**.

In Homa Bay, one important sign of local ownership emerged when **Kenya Anglican Men (KAMA)** was nominated as the project's first Community Gender Champion.

The significance is bigger than one meeting or one appointment.
It is about creating a growing community of people who see themselves not simply as participants, but as part of the solution.

61 - stakeholders engaged across two counties
2 counties — Siaya & Homa Bay
1 Community Gender Champion emerging through local ownership

"Change becomes possible when the people who hold influence become part of the conversation."

THE GLOBAL TABLE
From Community Conversations to the United Nations



The work IFAGE does in communities is increasingly finding its way into conversations far beyond.

This month, IFAGE Executive Director **Rev. Domnic Misolo** was invited to join the **Gender Working Group of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the United Nations**.

The appointment brings IFAGE's community grounded, faith-rooted perspective into global conversations on gender equality and social justice.

For IFAGE, the significance is not simply the appointment itself. It is another bridge between the realities communities experience every day and the global conversations that influence policy, practice and priorities.

From the community to the global table, the work remains connected.

THE NEXT GENERATION
The Next Generation Is Already Running



52 coaches. 21 schools. ***A second year of possibility.***

There is something powerful about watching a young person discover that their voice matters.
For two years, the **Youth Running Club (YRC)** has been creating spaces where young people can have conversations about gender equality, healthy relationships, SGBV prevention, sexual and reproductive health and mental wellbeing.
Today, the programme is entering its third year with: **52 coaches** across **21 schools**
The next chapter will see **10 additional coaches trained for five new schools / churches**, alongside continued case follow-up and a graduation ceremony for **800**

learners completing the programme.

Two years in, YRC is no longer simply a programme being implemented.

It is becoming a community of coaches, learners and mentors carrying conversations about equality, health and wellbeing into schools every week.

And the next lap is already beginning.

THE CONVERSATION
Planting Seeds for Hope



What happens when faith leaders become part of the solution?

What if a faith leader knew what to do when someone disclosed violence?
What if a church became a place where survivors could find information, safety and referral?
What if conversations about gender equality were understood not as something imposed from outside, but as part of building healthier and safer communities?

These were among the questions at the heart of IFAGE's **Community United Against Violence (CUAV)** training in September.

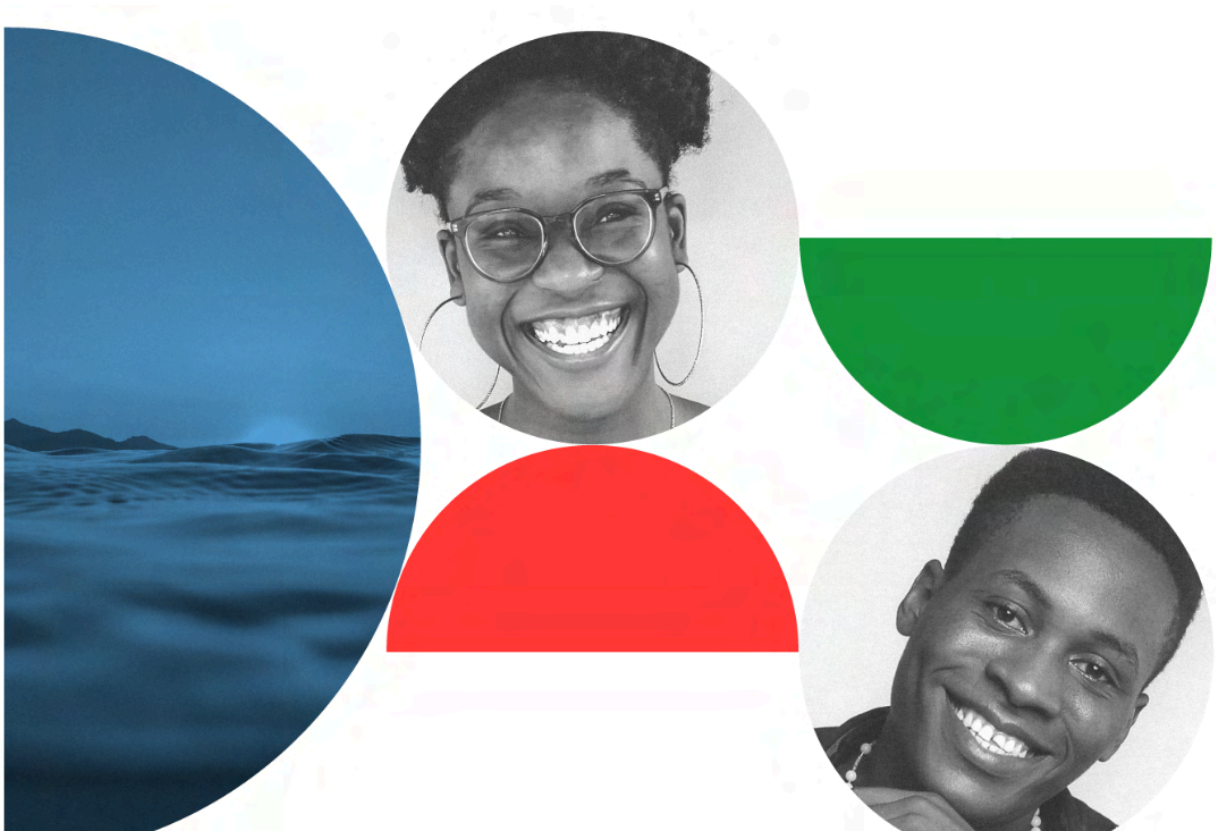
In partnership with **ADS Kenya** with support from **Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD)**, **IFAGE** began a two-cohort cascade training for faith leaders using the FAMA Tools methodology.

The first cohort brought together **50 faith leaders from 7–11 September**, exploring SGBV, survivor-centred response, referral pathways and the theological foundations for gender equality.

The second cohort is scheduled for October.

The goal is not simply to transfer knowledge. It is to plant seeds that can travel—from training rooms into churches, families and communities.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
Creating Safer Spaces for Young People



Some of the most important conversations about gender, safety and wellbeing are happening in places where young people learn, train and prepare for their futures.

In September, IFAGE was invited to facilitate sessions at the **Kenya Blue Economy Skills Training Programme (KBEST) Capacity Building Workshop**, held in Siaya.

The conversations moved across Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and safeguarding, technology-facilitated gender-based violence, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Harassment (PSEA), whistleblowing, bystander intervention, mental health, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and wellbeing. But perhaps more importantly, the engagement asked tertiary institutions to look inward.

IFAGE adapted a **Gender Transformative Approaches Self-Assessment Tool** for
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, giving institutions a practical way to examine their own performance across five outcome areas.

Because safer institutions do not happen by accident.

They are built intentionally.

A SMALL MOMENT. A BIGGER JOURNEY.

Sometimes transformation looks like a strategy launch.
Sometimes it looks like a difficult conversation.
Sometimes it looks like a faith leader learning how to respond differently.
Sometimes it looks like a young person finding their voice.
And sometimes, it is simply people deciding to keep showing up.
That is how change takes root.



THE 6TH PAN-AFRICAN FAITH & GENDER JUSTICE CONFERENCE
26–29 July 2027 | Makerere University, Kampala



A gathering of faith leaders, gender justice advocates, researchers and community actors from across Africa and the diaspora.

200+ delegates | 20+ countries

Committees are forming.
Speakers are being confirmed.
Sponsorship opportunities are open.

Interested in being part of it?
Click here to find more

Until Next Month

Thank you to every partner, donor, faith leader, community champion, coach, young person and friend who continues to walk alongside IFAGE.

We are building something that asks us to think beyond projects and toward possibility.

Together, we can promote gender justice, healthy families and resilient communities.

The journey continues.

IFAGE INTERNATIONAL

Driven by faith. Committed to justice. Transforming communities.

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"Advancing Gender Knowledge . Empowering Communities"

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