

NEC & IFES conduct sensitization training for Gender Taskforce

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), in collaboration with the NEC Gender Section, organized a one day training and presentation workshop for members of the NEC Gender task-force on Tuesday August 1, 2017. The workshop held under the theme: “Including Persons with Disability in the October 2017 Elections” brought together twenty nine (29) participants, drawn from different sections at the NEC. The workshop held at the Commission headquarters intended to present the draft Persons With Disabilities’ (PWD) policy, and as well sensitize the participants on activities of the section that had been carried out, and unveil upcoming plans of the section.



Participants at “Including Persons with Disability in the October 2017 Elections” training at NEC HQ

The NEC Gender Director, Leisel Talery welcomed everyone to the training and called on the participants to give their inputs to the draft disability policy in order to have a final version, and also to clarify any doubts they may have about the draft policy.

The workshop was facilitated by IFES Inclusion Officer Rebecca Aaberg, and the NEC Gender team.

The below listed are topics that were covered:

- Presentation on the Draft Disability Strategy and implementation plan
- Discussion on the strategy and plan
- Discussion on upcoming activities by the gender section for the 2017 elections
- Crafting of some gender specific messages for elections
- Introduction to disability rights and elections
- Rights in practice
- Accessible Voter Education messages

During the section's presentation on upcoming activities for 2017 elections, senior Gender officer Joyce Smith, explained to the participants, the scope of work for the task-force in their assistance to NEC for implementation of key electoral activities. She also informed the participants that the section is presently working with political parties to increase the participation of women in their party leadership as well as pushing the cost for the rights of PWD's.

Madam Joyce Smith also pointed out that the section has found market day outreach activities as one of the most effective means in getting more women involved in the election process. Furthermore, Madam Smith pointed out that the section is planning a lot of outreach activities with women's groups and PWDs to increase their participation in the October polls.

The workshop was participatory and engaging. The participants expressed interest in learning more about the needs of PWD's and how they can provide support for people with special needs on Election Day. As the session went on, group work and presentations were conducted by the participants.

At the close of the workshop Madam Joyce Smith thanked IFES for their efforts, and noted that the section appreciates the knowledge gained from such a training, promising to work along with people with special needs during the electoral process.