



Kenya's history as an independent nation is mired in major human rights abuses, severe corruption, and widespread illegal expropriation of public lands. Corrupt governmental infrastructure created by previous leaders continues to be in place, leaving the country vulnerable to a repeated history of high-ranking criminal patterns.

In Kenya's struggle with the AIDS epidemic, children orphaned by AIDS as well as those living with or affected by the disease must deal with increased human rights abuses. The stigma associated with the virus often prevents people from seeking proper testing and care and those who have contracted the virus are often treated harshly. Poor education about the disease frequently leads to the rape of young children in hopes of curing the virus. One of the many adverse effects of the epidemic is the difficulty children have in getting an education when all the pressures of running a household, making a living and sometimes raising young brothers and sisters are put upon them.

Human rights work, such as educational and empowerment trainings, counseling, provision of legal assistance (particularly to women), and awareness campaigns are some of the methods used by FSD to support its partner organizations. In both Mombasa and Kakamega, communities need to be aware of their basic human rights, legal resources, and education in order to improve their livelihoods. Interns and volunteers can provide assistance by researching various programs and solutions, offering professional expertise, conducting outreach initiatives, and/or counseling those in need. These efforts serve to shift oppressive cultural and governmental forces that limit development and community well-being.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in human rights in Kenya include:

- Support an organization's mission to raise social, political, and environmental awareness and fight injustice within marginalized coastal communities. Provide legal support to defend and extend citizens' rights, produce informative publications, and/or conduct awareness campaigns on issues such as fair trade, political rights, environmental exploitation and the implementation of alternative social mechanisms to benefit the poor.
- Provide counseling, tutoring, and recreational activities to primary school children who've been orphaned, generally due to HIV/AIDS, and are at severe risk of falling behind their peers.
- Give psychological treatment and/or social work services to individuals and families devastated by HIV/AIDS.
- Provide counseling, nursing, and/or activities (such as craft and art-making) at a hospice for elderly and infirmed nuns who've dedicated their lives to serving the local community and have no resources or family to support themselves.

For more opportunities in human rights in Kenya, visit our website or contact us directly.