

Foreword

Gender-based violence is not exclusively a woman's concern. It is both a cause and consequence of gender perceptions. The use of the term 'gender-based violence' provides a new context in which to examine and understand the phenomenon of violence against women. It shifts the focus from women as victims to gender and the unequal power relationships between women and men created and maintained by gender stereotypes as the basic underlying cause of violence against women.

The Declaration's basic assertion is that violence against women arises from historic inequality between men and women that results in the domination of men over women and causes gender discrimination. It emphasizes that violence is one of the crucial social mechanisms "...by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men." The Principal therefore seeks to move the University towards adopting a social and cultural pattern where men and women and seek to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women. In this regard, the University has developed and approved this policy together with that of Gender mainstreaming to be the guiding principles on gender matters.

In conclusion it is important to state clearly that violence against women constitutes a violation of women's fundamental rights and freedoms. Thus gender-based violence is incompatible with the values of a democratic state and the rule of law and consequently, that of KYU. Let us therefore seek to promote a culture that provides for the co-existence of both sexes to promote a better working environment.

