



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021



This year's Women's day finds Kenya and the whole world slowly recovering from the heat of the pandemic, that has well demonstrated that humanity is equal, and that we are all vulnerable in the face of the pandemic. With the scientists doing an amazing job that has produced the COVID-19 vaccine, they have really restored hope, and we are confident that the Pandemic will be behind us sooner than later. Women's day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the milestones that the world and Kenya has achieved in the social, economic, cultural and political spaces for women, while also making a call to action for strengthening gender equality and accelerating women's empowerment.

The United Nation's theme for this year's women's day is ***Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world***. It celebrates the remarkable efforts by women and girls around the globe to shape a more equitable future and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN also, states that this is aligned with the **priority theme of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**, "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls", and the flagship Generation Equality campaign, which calls for women's right to decision-making in all areas of life, equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end all forms of violence against women and girls, and health-care services that respond to their needs.

The National Taxpayers Association takes this opportunity to recognize and appreciate the efforts made by the grassroots women in empowering the society, by being enablers of other vulnerable groups in the society, to help them achieve their life potential.



Ann (**Mama Sharon**) from Nairobi. She is the parent and the caregiver of Sharon. Sharon was born a disabled child, her mother narrates that as soon as she discovered her baby was disabled, she embraced it positively and from there decided to raise Sharon to realize her future as an independent lady.

Mama Sharon also states that she treated Sharon like just another child, assigning her house chores according to her ability, and enabling her to even do more through enhancing her reach, for instance, cooking. She says that she would enhance the cooking facilities to enable her to cook.

Further, Mama Sharon has helped coordinate the women in her local area who have children living with disabilities. This group helps them rally for resources to help them as caregivers, and cater for the special needs of the children. Please see further details on the link: https://youtu.be/8x3_Hr92Cf0

She also highlights that it has not been a very easy journey, as the costs, societal stigma, continue being main challenges that affect the embracing of the PWDs in the society.

Sharon on the other hand, has positively embraced her challenge, and as she dubs it, PWDs are people enabled differently, in that if well exposed to opportunities, the PWDs can be as productive to the economy just like the other citizens. Sharon calls upon everyone to embrace the PWDs and accord them support.



“A disabled person cannot survive on the daily 10ksh handouts; they need real life opportunities that will help them be productive and sustain their lives” Sharon says. Sharon is Now pursuing her university level education, and she is confident she will secure a job upon completion.

Please see her story on the link below: <https://youtu.be/G0tuF59FoNU>