# **Ethical Practice Guidelines**

## Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Shelters in Kenya

### 1. Foundational Ethical Principles

1.1 Core Values

1.2 Ethical Framework

* International human rights standards
* Kenyan legal protections
* Survivor-centered methodology
* Informed consent principles

### 2. Survivor Rights and Dignity

2.1 Fundamental Rights

* Right to safety
* Right to confidentiality
* Right to self-determination
* Right to comprehensive support
* Right to non-discrimination

2.2 Consent and Autonomy

* Voluntary participation
* Informed decision-making
* Respect for personal choices
* No coercion
* Age-appropriate engagement

### 3. Cultural and Social Considerations

3.1 Cultural Competence

* Respect for ethnic diversity
* Understanding local community dynamics
* Addressing cultural stigma
* Multilingual support
* Adaptive intervention strategies

3.2 Intersectionality

* Recognize multiple marginalization factors
* Address compounded vulnerabilities
* Tailored support approaches
* Inclusive service delivery

### 4. Intervention Ethics

4.1 Trauma-Informed Approach

* Prioritize psychological safety
* Minimize re-traumatization
* Recognize individual trauma responses
* Provide comprehensive healing support

4.2 Intervention Principles

* Survivor-led recovery
* Empowerment-focused interventions
* Holistic support mechanisms
* Transparent communication

### 5. Professional Conduct

5.1 Ethical Boundaries

* Maintain professional distance
* Avoid personal relationships
* Prevent power abuse
* Continuous self-reflection

5.2 Professional Accountability

* Regular supervision
* Ongoing training
* Performance evaluations
* Peer support mechanisms

### 6. Confidentiality and Privacy

6.1 Information Protection

* Strict confidentiality protocols
* Secure documentation
* Limited information sharing
* Digital security measures

6.2 Mandatory Reporting

* Child protection protocols
* Legal reporting requirements
* Survivor consent considerations
* Transparent disclosure processes

### 7. Comprehensive Support Model

7.1 Holistic Services

* Medical support
* Psychological counseling
* Legal assistance
* Economic empowerment
* Social reintegration

7.2 Continuous Care

* Long-term support planning
* Follow-up mechanisms
* Transitional support services
* Community reintegration strategies

### 8. Ethical Challenges Resolution

8.1 Ethical Dilemma Framework

* Structured decision-making process
* Multidisciplinary consultation
* Survivor-centered resolution
* Transparent deliberation

8.2 Conflict Resolution

* Internal review mechanisms
* External ethical oversight
* Professional mediation
* Continuous improvement protocols

### 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

9.1 Ethical Performance Indicators

* Survivor satisfaction metrics
* Service quality assessment
* Impact measurement
* Continuous improvement framework

9.2 Accountability Mechanisms

* Regular ethical audits
* External supervision
* Transparent reporting
* Stakeholder feedback integration

### 10. Emerging Challenges

10.1 Adaptive Strategies

* Technology integration
* Evolving social dynamics
* Emerging violence patterns
* Global best practices adaptation

10.2 Continuous Learning

* Research collaboration
* Knowledge exchange
* Professional development
* Innovation in intervention strategies

### Signature and Commitment

By implementing these guidelines, we commit to ethical, compassionate, and transformative support for survivors of gender-based violence.

Effective Date: [Current Date] Review Cycle: Annual