

Tell our wives we're in charge, men in Kenya plead

Written by Administrator
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Tom Collins 04/06/2021

Kenyan men have appealed to the government to help them reassert their role as traditional heads of the household.

Men from Kiriari, a village in Embu county, have formed a self-help group to tell the authorities that their wives and children are mistreating them. They claim they are being physically abused, and also complain that their wives do not follow orders and refuse on "flimsy grounds" to have sex with them.

The group laments that men are no longer at the top of the pecking order. The government has spent too much time empowering women, they say, and men are left on the sidelines.

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“We urge the government to empower men and consider balanced treatment of both men and women in the county,” Samuel Muturi, the group’s chairman, said.

Group members say that attempts to seek help from the authorities have failed. “Whenever you try fighting back, the police act very harshly,” Joseph Wega, a group member, said.

The University of Nairobi has found that domestic violence against men has risen in Kenya. An estimated 3.8 women and 1.3 men in every 1,000 are victims of partner violence each year. Violence against men was found to rise when women took over household financial responsibilities. The study also concluded that the ready availability of illicit alcohol had led to an increase in abuse of men.