



**OUR**  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT

# WOMEN WORKERS IN THE MATATU INDUSTRY

**DEFEND WORKERS' RIGHTS**

**EMPOWER WOMEN WORKERS**

**DEMAND QUALITY PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

# WE DEMAND RESPECT

Women in the matatu sector must be courageous simply to earn a living.

We are told to go back to our houses, to look after our children.

We are accused of being prostitutes or sluts.

We are insulted, and we face social stigma, but we are simply doing our jobs in the transport industry.

We have the right to earn a living with respect and dignity.



# WE DEMAND AN END TO ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

FROM POLICE AND COUNTY ASKARIS  
FROM OWNERS  
FROM PASSENGERS  
FROM OUR COLLEAGUES

We are targeted for harassment by police. The way we are handled is wrong.

Sometimes policemen think they have the right to touch and grope us in the street. Passengers do the same thing. This is bad and very embarrassing.

Many of us depend on the drivers to give us a job for the day. Some think that this gives them the right to demand sex in return.

# WE DEMAND AN END TO DISCRIMINATION

Even though many of us have had years of experience in the industry, few of us are ever given the opportunity of getting better jobs.

Too few women work as drivers or managers.

You will find more of us in the jobs with the worst pay and conditions – vendors, cleaners, in catering etc.

Employers think we are incapable of working in the higher-paid jobs, but this is not true. We are very capable of all the work undertaken by men.

We demand the same training opportunities as men.

**THIS IS OUR WORLD TOO!**



# WE NEED BETTER SOCIAL PROTECTION

Women workers need social protection more than anyone else.

We are the ones who do the most to look after our children and families.

We demand social security.

We demand paid maternity leave.

We demand access to affordable and good quality healthcare and childcare.

We demand the right to be healthy and safe at work.

We demand dignity and security – especially in our old age.

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

## JOIN A TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION.

Anyone who works in transport  
for a living can join.

We are stronger together than  
we are on our own.

By coming together in a trade union,  
women are a powerful voice for change.  
We cannot be ignored.

Women in trade unions fight for equality  
with men, to be treated in the same way  
as men, and to demand respect for  
the work we do.

Everyone has a right to be in a trade union.  
The trade unions are not just for men,  
but also women.



# WHO SUPPORTS US?

Kenyan transport unions are members of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF).

The ITF is the world-wide federation for workers in the transport industry, with more than 700 unions affiliated, representing over 16 million transport workers from 150 countries.

The ITF women's department works with unions to strengthen the collective voice of, and win better working conditions for, women transport workers. Particularly access to decent pay and jobs, and the right to work free from violence.

The ITF is assisting the Matatu Workers Union (MWU), the Public Transport Operators Union (PUTON), and the Transport and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) to represent matatu workers, to ensure that the workers' voice is heard.

# HOW DO I JOIN A UNION?

## MATATU WORKERS UNION

General Secretary: Henry Nyambuto Omoga  
Contact: +254 722 889160 / +254 731 981652  
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Nairobi, Kenya

For information and resources on the international campaign for violence-free transport workplaces for women visit [itfendvaw.org](http://itfendvaw.org)

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