• Hon. Deputy Chief Justice Kalpana Rawal, Vice president of the Supreme Court

• Inspector General of Police

• Judges of the Court of Appeal and the High Court Judicial Officers

• Ms. Winfred Lichuma, Chair, National Gender and Equality Commission

• Representatives of government agencies and Constitutional Commissions

• Civil Society Organizations Represented

• Distinguished Presenters
• Academic Staff and Students
• Ladies and Gentlemen
It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this event celebrating the victory of rape victims in forcing the State to take greater responsibility for the investigation of sexual violations.

As the University of Nairobi and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, this issue is at the core of what we teach in different units of our institution. This is particularly germane to the School of Law's mandate and work.
Indeed, this convening titled "STATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INVESTIGATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASES: THE ‘160 GIRLS DECISION’ (PETITION NO. 8 OF 2012)" avails us the opportunity to contribute to pertinent social and legal discourses.

Just last year, we had 100 days Rapid Results Initiative to educate ourselves and the society at large on the implications of the diverse aspects of our Constitution. This convening follows along the same trajectory. It enables us to empower society through knowledge generation and dissemination.
As a University we have an unrivalled convening mandate and the opening of space to this kind of dialogue enables us to link with the society, particularly vulnerable members.

In articulating the concerns that victims of sexual violations suffer, we identify with their plight and contribute to finding solutions to problems that they face. This particular issue is even more critical considering that the victims are children who are legally minors and have therefore limited ways and voice to channel their suffering.
In more specific terms, this morning we will be discussing a landmark constitutional decision emanating from the High Court in Meru. In this case, a group of young girls successfully challenged the Kenya government on failure to conduct prompt, effective, proper and professional investigations into their complaints of defilement. The decision makes legal history in Kenya as it recognizes the obligation of the police to conduct proper investigations in cases of sexual abuse and holds them accountable for their treatment of defilement victims. This was the first time that the Kenyan Government had been
sued for inaction and failure to protect rights in relation to sexual violence, particularly defilement. The decision also has broad implications for constitutional and human rights litigation, particularly due to its reliance on international human rights norms and international jurisprudence, thus breathing life into the provisions of Articles 2 (5) and (6) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010.
The objectives of this meeting are:

1. To raise awareness of the decision among key stakeholders in the justice sector.
2. To consider the implications of the decision in terms of human rights litigation and development of jurisprudence, particularly in the area of sexual violence.
3. To deliberate on mechanisms for enforcing and implementing the decision.
We are particularly delighted to be partnering with actors in state and non-state law, governance and justice agencies in co-hosting this event. We are anxious to partner with more of you.

You will be happy to learn that this is not the first time that we have hosted a discussion on a court decision. Just last November, we hosted a Symposium to discuss the Supreme Court Decision in Raila Odinga Vs. IEBC and others, a decision which I am sure many of you are familiar with and have an interest in.
Indeed, the University of Nairobi has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Judiciary under which we have co-hosted debates. This event marks the beginning of what promises to be a vibrant year for the collaboration with the Judiciary and you all.

I wish you all a very fruitful deliberation.

Thank you.