

# Mtetezi: Daughters of Tomorrow

## The Story

In 2025, the **African Women's Rights Advocates (AWRA)** released its debut feature-length documentary, *Mtetezi: Daughters of Tomorrow*. This groundbreaking film shines a light on the realities of **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**, **child marriage**, and **the systemic barriers to education** while amplifying stories of courage, resilience, and transformation from women and girls at the frontlines.

More than a documentary, *Mtetezi* is a movement. It honors the voices of survivors, activists, and families who dare to challenge harmful practices and imagine a different tomorrow. At its heart, the film calls us all to act, reminding the world that **every girl deserves a life of dignity, safety, and opportunity**.

## The Journey

The journey of creating *Mtetezi* was long, demanding, and deeply transformative. It took the AWRA team and partners from the **most interior parts of West Pokot**, where harmful practices persist, to **Nairobi roundtable meetings** that brought activists together in dialogue.

The story also traveled across borders to **New York**, where AWRA engaged in global advocacy during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW); and finally to **London**, where Domtila Chesang presented her groundbreaking research "*Breaking the Cycle of FGM*" at King's College London. It was here that the *Mtetezi* trailer was first unveiled to an international audience, marking the beginning of the film's global journey.

In March 2025, we were honored to host our **first premiere** in partnership with the **British High Commission** at the High Commissioner's residence. This powerful evening brought together over 80 participants, including diplomats, survivors, government officials, activists, partners, and allies uniting diverse voices in solidarity to end FGM and all forms of violence against women and girls.

## The Impact

Since its release, *Mtetezi* has already begun shifting conversations and sparking change.

- At **Ortum Girls Boarding School**, more than 300 girls engaged with the film, opening dialogue about their rights and future ambitions.
- With the **Nadoluk Women's Group in West Pokot**, 55 community members, parents, elders, and youth confronted harmful traditions and committed to change.
- Across village gatherings and activist roundtables, the film has left audiences both in tears and empowered, transforming empathy into action.

The impact extends beyond emotion. *Mtetezi* has become a **tool for advocacy and education**, bridging generations, breaking silences, and equipping communities with the courage to challenge harmful norms.

## What's Next

The journey of *Mtetezi* is only beginning. AWRA is committed to expanding the reach of the film across Africa and onto global platforms. Our next steps include:

- **Expanding community screenings** in high-prevalence counties across Kenya and beyond.
- **Equipping schools and youth leaders** with educational toolkits to accompany the film.
- **Engaging policymakers and partners** to integrate the film into advocacy campaigns and legal reforms.
- **Showcasing *Mtetezi*** at international film festivals and human rights forums, amplifying African survivor-led voices on the global stage.

At its core, *Mtetezi: Daughters of Tomorrow* is more than a film; it is a collective act of resistance, resilience, and hope.

## Acknowledgements

*Mtetezi* was only made possible through the **generous support of the Firebird Foundation**, which fully funded the production. Their belief in survivor-led advocacy enabled AWRA to bring this story to life on a global stage.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all who made this film possible.

**Filmed, Produced, and Directed by**  
RUHI HAMID

**Featuring**

DOMTILA CHESANG

**Nairobi Round Table Activists**

- LINAH JEBII (Elgeyo-Marakwet County)
- AGNES SELEYIAN (Narok County)
- NANCY CHEROTICH (West Pokot County)
- AISHA RHOBA (Isiolo County)
- VALARY LOLOJU (Samburu County)

**With thanks to**

- King's College London
- Nadoluk Women's Group
- St. Bernadine Ortum Girls' Boarding School

**Assistant Producer** – Godson Salman

**Assistant Camera Operator** – Steve Ganza

**Sound Recordist** – Fred Karani

**Film Editor** – Michael Nollet

**Final Post** – Clear Cut Pictures

**Colourist** – Damion Katwaroo

**Online Editor** – Ben Salkeld

**Dubbing Mixer** – Aoife McCrohan

**Production Management** – I Rep Foundation, Dee Lukic, Mamlisa Camara

**Executive Producer** – Naimah Hassan

An **African Women's Rights Advocates (AWRA) Group, LTD Production**

Funded by the **Firebird Collective**

2025