

# NEWSREEL WORLD

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Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

**ALANNA LESLIE:**

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today we're talking about Bangladesh, Northern Ireland and Jamaica but first...

Kenya is grappling with the urgent task of how to prevent violence against women and girls after a series of murders at the start of the year shocked the nation.

Femicide Count Kenya, which monitors killings reported in the news, say that last year saw the highest number of murders of women and girls in the past five years.

Michael Kaloki has this report from Nairobi.

**Pauline Muthoni:** I'm really concerned about my safety as a woman living in Kenya but I'm really glad about my circle. They make a personal initiative to be aware of where I am.

**Mercy Omondi:** I have realised that these things are happening on a daily basis and some go even unheard so you can imagine the number, apart from what you are getting on the media.

**MICHAEL KALOKI:** That's Pauline Muthoni and Mercy Omondi, students at the University of Nairobi. They're concerned about their safety after reports that at least 10 women were murdered in Kenya in January alone. The investigations are still ongoing, but it's sparked a conversation in Kenya about violence against women and girls, online dating and safety.

**Radio jingle:** This is The Situation Room, the home of hard hitting political commentary.

**Radio talk show host:** Our next conversation is going to be about the march against femicide that...

**MICHAEL KALOKI:** Social media has played an important role in this debate. One man, writing on X, said "no amount of activism will stop femicide", adding that the only "feasible option" was for "ladies to put their safety first". But others think men need to take more responsibility for the violence.



**Fridah Wawira Nyaga:** There is a lot of victim blaming going on, you know?

**MICHAEL KALOKI:** Fridah Wawira Nyaga works for The Coalition on Violence against Women, an organisation dedicated to tackling gender-based violence. She told me that dealing with gender inequality is key in trying to tackle violence against women.

**Fridah Wawira Nyaga:** I think there is an urgent need to address the systematic gender inequality, evidenced by the continued victim blaming across the social media platforms.

We are also urging the government of Kenya to enhance awareness on protection orders to keep perpetrators away from the victims and empower the police to issue the same to protect survivors of intimate partner violence.

**MICHAEL KALOKI:** Kathleen Anangwe is a sociologist in Nairobi. She told me what legal options women have currently.

**Kathleen Anangwe:** The law exists and is clear on the outcomes of the perpetrators of femicide but, in actual fact, is it evident to all of us that the consequence is clear, you know? Is it a fixed jail term of twenty, thirty years? Enough to provide example and enough to dissuade others?

**MICHAEL KALOKI:** Despite disagreements about how Kenya should respond to violence against women, one thing everyone agrees on is the hope that these gruesome incidents come to an end and that Kenya's young women can feel safe.

Reporting for Newsreel World from Nairobi, this is Michael Kaloki.

**ALANNA:**  
Thanks Michael.

**Sting**

**Music bed**



**ALANNA:**

A man in Bangladesh is on a mission to save a language that's spoken by only six people in the world.

The language is "Rengmitca" and it's spoken in a rural south-eastern region of Bangladesh, bordering India and Myanmar.

Rengmitca declined over the twentieth century as a result of its native speakers integrating with other larger ethnic groups in the region.

But now Singra Mro, a young man from the community, has established language learning classes for children and adults and has enlisted the help of his grandfather to write a Rengmitca dictionary.

**ALANNA:**

The government of New Zealand has repealed a law that would have stopped young people from taking up smoking.

The law, due to come into action in July, would have prevented people born after 1 January 2009 from ever buying tobacco products – the first time a law like this had ever been proposed.

But, despite warnings from health campaigners, the new coalition government decided to scrap the measure, saying they wanted to adopt a different approach to reducing smoking.

**Music: Better Way to Live by Kneecap**

**ALANNA:**

That was a short clip of 'Better Way to Live' by the Northern Irish hip hop group Kneecap.

The trio rap in a mix of English and Irish and are known for their provocative and political lyrics.

They recently got into trouble with the Irish broadcaster RTÉ for appearing on a talk show wearing pro-Palestinian emblems when they'd been asked not to.



**ALANNA:**

Jamaica may seek £500,000 in reparations from the UK government to help preserve sites associated with British colonialism and slavery.

Eighteenth-century ports, plantation houses and courthouses could all be turned into sites where locals and tourists can learn more about Jamaica's history.

It's part of a phenomenon known as "dark tourism" in which historical sites associated with violence and tragedy are preserved to commemorate victims and teach future generations.

Giovanni Dennis is in Kingston, Jamaica to find out more.

**GIOVANNI DENNIS:** So I've come to the Terra Nova Hotel to speak to Jamaica's Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett, who first spoke about this idea of "dark tourism" in Jamaica with the United Kingdom's Telegraph newspaper recently.

The minister steps away from a business breakfast to speak with me. I start by asking; why dark tourism?

**Edmund Bartlett:** Experiences are what drive people to destination. And an amazing part of the psychographic profile of the market is interest in historic sites.

**GIOVANNI DENNIS:** Mr Bartlett told The Telegraph that Jamaica is interested in "dark tourism" because it, quote, "tells a story in stone and sticks and mortar." But local experts are uneasy.

Dr Patricia Green is an architect and historic preservationist.

**Dr Patricia Green:** Our minister of tourism really needs to understand fully the concept of "dark tourism" because if he really understood what it meant he probably would be reluctant to make a comment and embrace dark tourism. And if the funding to restore heritage sites in Jamaica, if that funding is going to come for dark tourism we should reject it.

**GIOVANNI DENNIS:** Reject it because, she says, dark tourism is associated with people interested in gory, occult practices.



**Dr Patricia Green:** That's what dark tourism is about! They're looking for blood and death.

**GIOVANNI DENNIS:** Historian and the Director of the Centre for Reparations Research at the University of the West Indies Professor Verene Shepherd, has been advocating for decades for heritage to be part of Jamaica's tourism product but she's against promoting the island as a dark tourism destination.

**Professor Verene Shepherd:** I actually welcome the focus now on historical sites and integrating sites of terror but also sites of triumph. Remember that our ancestors fought battles for freedom. Even though I don't like the term "dark tourism", the initiative to showcase our historical sites as part of tourism is what I welcome.

**GIOVANNI DENNIS:** But Ed Bartlett is defending the use of the phrase dark tourism.

**Edmund Bartlett:** History helps to define you, so you shouldn't be afraid of history. You shouldn't be afraid of what it is saying. Nor should you be afraid of history's ability to empower you commercially.

**Dr Patricia Green:** I do agree with him –

**GIOVANNI DENNIS:** Dr Patricia Green, again.

**Dr Patricia Green:** – and I think people should come and look at it. But there's a difference with marketing it, our product, which is rich, vibrant, valuable and speaks to the heritage of us who have survived all of these things. We promote it as such, as opposed to adding the label of dark tourism.

**GIOVANNI DENNIS:** But, Mr Barlett says, dark tourism is not intended to be a huge driver of tourists to Jamaica but it will be used to diversify the experiences offered locally. The experts, however, insist historical stories about overcoming the odds and triumphing are what the government should market to help grow Jamaica's 4 billion US dollar tourism product.

Reporting for Newsreel World, I'm Giovanni Dennis.

**ALANNA:** Thanks Giovanni. That's all from me today. See you soon!

Bye!