



Mlinzi wa **HAKI**

*"...ndani ya nchi ni ...
...ndani ya sheria za hiyo nchi."
... Mstac ... arnabas A. Samatta*



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Dear esteemed readers



Greetings from the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC). We invite you to explore this newsletter to stay updated on LHRC's ongoing initiatives and to gain a deeper understanding of the important work being undertaken within our organisation.

Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate)
LHRC Executive Director

With the dedicated efforts of our staff and the generous support of our developmental partners, including the embassies of Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, LHRC is pleased to extend a warm welcome to you for the November 2023 edition of the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

In November 2023, LHRC organized a backstopping session for the Pwani Region, which comprises Bagamoyo and Kibaha, Visiga ward, to gather feedback on the training provided to women councilors in 2022.

Furthermore, our program officers also conducted fieldwork and trained police officers on gender issues in the Mara region. Additionally, they trained paralegals in Shinyanga, Singida, and Kahama.

We invite you to explore this newsletter to stay updated on LHRC's ongoing initiatives and to gain a deeper understanding of the important work being undertaken within our organization.



LHRC Extends Legal Aid for Rights Advocacy at TGNP's Empowering Gender Festival

On September 1, 2023, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Anna Henga, undertook a noteworthy visit to Kahama, Shinyanga. Her purpose was to actively engage with and observe the progress of LHRC's legal assistants in providing essential legal aid services to local communities.

This hands-on approach exemplified LHRC's commitment to its mission and highlighted the profound dedication of the legal assistants working tirelessly to champion justice.

Henga's visit was a unique opportunity to gauge the impact of LHRC's initiatives and gain a deep and personal understanding of the challenges faced by the communities they serve. It emphasised the organisation's dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of those who rely on legal assistance.



Landmark Collaboration: Stakeholders Unite to Advance Girls' Education Rights in Africa

On November 20, 2023, LHRC and the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) organized a five-day meeting in collaboration with key stakeholders on children's rights. This meeting was under coordination of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups to facilitate the development of a comprehensive road map for the effective implementation of the ACERWC (African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child) decision concerning girls' right to education.

The decision's recommendations have far-reaching implications, involving multiple ministries and actors, most of them participated in this meeting. This collaborative effort is a testament to the commitment of these organizations and government bodies to ensure that the rights and educational needs of girls are met, ultimately contributing to their empowerment and well-being.





LHRC participates in empowering women parliamentary champions

On November 10, 2023, Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of LHRC, participated in empowering women parliamentary champions on electoral laws, political party laws, and the Election Expenses Act.

LHRC use platform like this to enrich its network but also build rightschampions who advocate for needed reforms in the civic space as well as amplify LHRC message on human rights.



Transformative Human Rights and Gender Training empowers Police in Mara's Special Zone.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), in collaboration with the Office of the Inspector General of Police, conducted human rights and gender training for police officers in the Special Tarime Rorya police zone in the Mara region.

The training sessions were tailored to empower and educate police officers on vital aspects of human rights and gender equality. Advocate Rose Omuga, a distinguished Human Rights Monitoring Officer from LHRC, took the lead in orchestrating these transformative sessions. This collaborative effort aimed to cultivate a more nuanced understanding of human rights principles and gender dynamics within law enforcement. The sessions were designed to impart knowledge and encourage a shift in perspective, fostering a culture of respect, equality, and fairness within the police force.



Through interactive workshops, discussions, and practical case studies, participating officers were equipped with the tools and insights necessary to navigate sensitive situations, uphold human rights standards, and approach gender-related issues with sensitivity and understanding. The expertise brought by Advocate Rose Omuga, along with the contribution of officers from the Police Headquarters, ensured a comprehensive and engaging learning experience.

This initiative signifies a proactive stance toward aligning law enforcement practices with the principles of human rights and gender equality. The collaborative efforts between LHRC and the police authority reflect a commitment to fostering a more rights-based and inclusive approach to policing within the Mara region's Tarime Rorya zone.

As these trained officers return to their duties, they carry with them not just knowledge but also a renewed perspective that seeks to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights while addressing gender-related concerns within their communities.



Legal Empowerment: LHRC Equips Paralegals for Community Justice in Shinyanga and Beyond

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has taken proactive steps to bolster legal aid within local communities by conducting a comprehensive three-day training session for paralegals in the Shinyanga region. The aim is to equip these dedicated individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide crucial legal assistance.

This initiative reflects LHRC's commitment to enhancing access to justice for all. Led by Program Officer Naserian Guga, an advocate specializing in mass education, and Program Officer Ally Seif, focusing on Human Rights Monitors and Human Rights Clubs, the training sessions were meticulously designed to empower paralegals with a deep understanding of legal principles.



Throughout the interactive training program, paralegals engaged in immersive workshops and practical exercises, honing their abilities to navigate legal complexities and offer valuable assistance to their communities. Topics ranged from fundamental legal frameworks to effective communication and advocacy strategies.

This endeavor not only seeks to elevate the capabilities of paralegals in the Shinyanga region but also sets the stage for a forthcoming visit to the Singida region for a similar training program. LHRC's proactive approach, coupled with the expertise and dedication of Naserian Guga and Ally Seif, underscores the organization's commitment to expanding legal aid services and promoting a more just and informed society.

As LHRC continues to extend its reach, these empowered paralegals will play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between legal knowledge and community needs, ensuring that access to justice becomes a reality for all individuals, regardless of their circumstances.





A delegation comprising 26 students and their professors from the University of Norway visited the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) headquarters in Dar es Salaam on November 14, 2023.

The group was able to engage with LHRC officials on key issues and experience on human rights in Tanzania as well as to understand LHRC operations.

Students were able to share their experience on human rights in Norway and reflect on key issues between the two countries based on their perspectives as students.



LHRC Empowers Female Leaders in the Pwani Region for Societal Transformation

In November 2023, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) organized a reflection session on the impact of the training undertaken to women councilors from Bagamoyo and Kibaha districts.

This reflection session was conducted in collaboration with Hawa Mchafu, a special seat member of parliament from Pwani.

In a specialized program tailored for female councilors from Pwani in 2022, LHRC equipped these councillors with essential leadership skills. The trained women went on into implementing various programs after establishing a work plan during the training session.

The program encompassed adeptly navigating gender issues, honing leadership prowess, accessing loans, and leveraging social media for business enhancement. This initiative sought to not just empower but transform, amplifying women's roles within the economic landscape.



Additionally, the Irish Embassy paid a visit to Kibaha district, Visiga ward, engaging with women councilors of special seats, accompanied by Dr. Anna Henga, LHRC's Executive Director. The purpose was to collect feedback on LHRC's 2022 training, which focused on empowering women in gender issues, leadership, and financial self-reliance.

During this meeting on November 16, 2023, LHRC's Executive Director, Dr. Anna Henga, convened with the Irish Embassy, Hon. Hawa Mchafu, and Mshamu Munde, the District Executive Director of Kibaha.

The District Executive Director, Mshamu Munde highlighted the councilors' progress in public speaking, addressing gender-based violence, and achieving economic empowerment.

These women councilors actively engaged in schools by educating students about gender-based violence. Moreover, they empowered women in the district by encouraging them to form various businesses, such as crafting soap from plants and water and weaving mats, paving the way for their financial independence.

The collaborative efforts between LHRC, government representatives, and empowered female leaders reflect a concerted stride toward community transformation and gender equity.



Legal and Human Rights Centre Advocates Key Electoral Reforms in Tanzania

In November 2023, the LHRC shared its proposals on three vital bills on election laws and political parties in Tanzania.

Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director of the LHRC, presented eleven recommendations on the bills during a press conference with a journalist at Kijitonyama, LHRC HQ. Some of the proposal include:

- The Bill on the Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government Elections should incorporate the right of prisoners to vote under a legal framework as determined by the High Court of Tanzania in the case of Tito Elia Magoti and Another against the National Electoral Commission, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, and the Tanzanian Prisons Service.
- LHRC proposed to establish an interview system for the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission and their Deputy.
- LHRC proposed that the bill should explicitly stipulate that one of the qualifications for members of the Electoral Commission is not being a member of any political party for five years before their appointment to the position.



- The Political Parties Act should include a provision for the existence of a specialized dispute-resolution mechanism within political parties.
- The Bill on Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government Elections should include a requirement for a national debate among all presidential candidates.
- The Bill on Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government Elections should have a provision granting the right for Tanzanians living outside the country (Diaspora) to vote in a manner specified by the law.
- The Government, through sessions of the February 2024 Parliamentary meetings, should present a Bill to oversee local government elections, distinct from the current situation where the Ministry of Local Government (TAMISEMI) handles this responsibility.
- LHRC proposed addition of a clause in the bill to allow citizens to self-register as voters or through a system of agents (self-registration).
- LHRC proposed an introduction of a clause to outline the procedure for auditing the voter register using the Commission itself and other stakeholders (voters' registration auditing and assessment).
- Addition of a provision that establishes a procedure to hold accountable any election officer who intentionally disrupts or sabotages the election since Clause 138 of the bill does not specify such a procedure.
- The agenda for the New Constitution amendments should be continuous and cover all critical areas.



Ford Foundation's Engages LHRC in Advancing Social Justice Pursuits in Tanzania.

On November 15, 2023, at the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam, with a visit from Ms. Jessica Horn, the Regional Director representing the Ford Foundation.

This meeting marked a significant step towards fostering partnerships and amplifying the pursuit of social justice in Tanzania.

The Ford Foundation got the opportunity to hear success stories related to social justice in Tanzania from LHRC program officers.





Dr. Anna Henga moderated a debate on workplace challenges faced by female journalists at TAMWA's 36th-anniversary commemoration.

The Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Dr. Anna Henga, participated in the commemoration of the 36th anniversary of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) on November 28, 2023.

During the meeting, Dr. Henga led a discussion that involved female journalists in Tanzania and various stakeholders. The meeting marked the 36th year since the establishment of the association, and participants addressed issues of harassment and gender-based violence experienced by female journalists in their workplaces.

Dr. Henga highlighted even with the rise of new media, especially social media women journalist have been subject to a string of online based violent, which make majority of them to avoid engaging on social media, platforms which are useful in advancing their careers.





Dr. Anna Henga Advocates for Women Human Rights Defenders Amid Challenges in Tanzania

Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of LHRC, participated on November 30, 2023, in the commemoration of International Women's Human Rights Defenders Day in Dar es Salaam.

During this significant gathering, Dr. Henga addressed the challenges that women human rights defenders often face in Tanzania. She spoke about the various obstacles that these defenders encounter, including defamation, negative criticism, and cyberbullying.

The event was held at the Four Points by the Sheraton Hotel and was organized by a coalition of women human rights defenders in Tanzania. It featured the unveiling of their seminal Report on Mapping and Analysis of Women Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania 2022.





Retired Chief Justice Samatta's Book Launch Tackles Crucial Societal Challenges in Good Governance

On November 30th, 2023, the LHRC participated in the launch of the book by Hon. Barnabas Albert Samatta, Retired Chief Justice, at the International Conference Center (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam.

The guest of honor at the book launch on Good Governance, titled "The Fight Against Tyranny, Corruption, and Poor Education," was Chief Justice Prof. Ibrahim Hamis Juma of Tanzania. The book primarily delves into the multifaceted challenges confronting good governance. It addresses critical issues within society, emphasizing the struggle against tyranny, corruption, and deficiencies in the education system.

The focus on good governance implies a comprehensive examination of how effective leadership, ethical practices, and accountable systems can play pivotal roles in addressing societal problems.



Our development partners



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