



# Mlinzi wa **HAKI**



## OCTOBER 2023

 [www.humanrights.or.tz](http://www.humanrights.or.tz)

 [lhrc@humanrights.or.tz](mailto:lhrc@humanrights.or.tz)

 +255 22 2773038/48

# Dear esteemed readers

Greetings from the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).



We invite you to read this newsletter to stay informed about LHRC's ongoing activities and to become better acquainted with the work being carried out within our organisation.

*Regards,*

**Dr. Anna Henga  
(Advocate)  
LHRC Executive  
Director**

With support from our devoted staff and developmental partners, including the Embassies of Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, LHRC is delighted to welcome you to our October 2023 Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

LHRC dedicated the month of October to fieldwork and actively participated in the Cso Week 2023, which was conducted in Arusha, and participated in the side events to discuss different topics: The role played by Tech innovation in Advancing access to justice, The role of technology in addressing the socio-economic impacts of climate change also launching of the femicide study report.

The overall objective of the study was to assess the current context of femicide in the regions of Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Dar Es Salaam, and Kilimanjaro.

Specific Objectives of the study were to determine the causes of femicide in Tanzania by assessing affected communities and victims' families and offenders; to assess the current policy and legal framework on femicide in Tanzania and beyond; to assess the situation of femicide in selected regions; and to provide recommendations on the key findings and lessons which inform the future interventions.

For October, LHRC also participated in the 77th of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in Arusha and read a statement on the status of Human Rights in Tanzania the statement addressed four key areas: Civil and Political Rights, Socio-economic Rights, Human Rights and Business and Women and Children's Rights.





# LHRC's Anna Henga visits Mvomero as part of the organisation's legal aid campaign

Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Dr. Anna Henga, embarked on an insightful journey to the Mvomero district in the Morogoro region. Her mission was to closely examine and study the exceptional work performed by paralegals in the community.

LHRC, in its commitment to advancing justice and human rights, has been deeply engaged in collaborative efforts with paralegals throughout Tanzania. Their goal is clear: to empower these providers and equip them with the necessary training and resources to enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of legal aid services.

Dr. Anna Henga's visit to Mvomero is a testament to LHRC's hands-on approach to achieving these objectives. By immersing herself in the environment and gaining firsthand experience of the services being delivered, she not only supports the local legal aid providers but also identifies potential areas for improvement.



# LHRC participates in the Annual NGOs Forum in Dodoma

In October, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Anna Henga, actively participated in the Annual NGOs Forum held in Dodoma from October 3 to October 5, 2023.

The primary aim of the forum was to foster connections with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including NGOs, government officials, development partners, and changemakers. It provided a platform for passionate individuals who are committed to driving positive change within their communities to come together.

In her speech at the forum, LHRC's Executive Director expressed her satisfaction with the event, which brought together a diverse array of stakeholders to highlight the importance of NGOs and the appropriate approach to their work.



She also urged the government to continue prioritising and supporting the activities carried out by these organisations in service to the community.

During the forum, LHRC set up a booth to showcase the wide range of activities they are involved in, offering the opportunity for other stakeholders to collaborate with them. Additionally, LHRC provided legal aid assistance to the participants, NGOs, and residents of Dodoma who were present at the NGOs Forum.

This event served as a valuable platform for networking and collaboration, emphasising the crucial role that NGOs play in promoting positive change and advocating for the well-being of communities.

The Guest of Honor at the forum was the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango, and the event was held under the theme Our Organizations, Our Values, Our Nation.

Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of LHRC, took part in the forum, and the LHRC booth was visited by various guests located outside the JK Convention Center, where they had the opportunity to observe the various activities carried out by LHRC.



## LHRC advocates for abolishing death penalty in Tanzania at ACHPR side event

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) participated in the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) side event, jointly prepared by LHRC, PALU, and Cornell University, and reviewed the trends toward the abolition of the death penalty.

LHRC called Tanzania an abolitionist state in practice, joining a global movement against the death penalty and abolishing it altogether. Only about 53 countries in the world have retained the death penalty and executed death row inmates, while 29 are abolitionist in practice, including Tanzania.

Neighbouring countries like Rwanda, Malawi, and Mozambique are among the at least 112 countries in the world that have abolished the death penalty, and Tanzania can take a step further and do the same.



# LHRC champions human rights and dignity at Isanga Prison, Dodoma

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has shown a commendable commitment to promoting human rights and improving the conditions of prisoners and detainees at Isanga prison in Dodoma. Their active involvement in providing legal assistance and essential items has had a significant impact on the well-being and rights of the inmates.

Legal assistance is fundamental to ensuring that prisoners have access to justice and that their rights are upheld. LHRC's dedication to this cause is a testament to its mission of advocating for human rights and equality.



---

Additionally, the provision of feminine towels, underwear, toothbrushes, and toothpaste goes beyond legal aid; it addresses the basic hygiene and personal care needs of inmates, thereby enhancing their living conditions and dignity. This thoughtful gesture not only supports the physical well-being of the prisoners but also acknowledges their humanity.

The collaboration between different LHRC offices, like the Dodoma and Arusha offices, underscores the organisation's commitment to a coordinated effort to support those in need. Such collaboration allows for a more comprehensive and impactful approach to addressing the issues faced by prisoners and detainees.

In conclusion, LHRC's initiative in Isanga prison is a laudable effort to protect and uphold human rights. Their work not only provides legal support but also recognises the importance of personal dignity and hygiene for incarcerated individuals.

This commitment to promoting human rights should be commended and encouraged to continue making a positive difference in the lives of prisoners and detainees.





Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC), Dr. Anna Henga, and partners from various sectors in the picture at the Stories of Change 2023 competition, held on October 7, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dar es Salaam.



## Embassy of the United States in Tanzania delegate tours LHRC

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) was honoured to receive a delegation from the Embassy of the United States in Tanzania on October 17, 2023, at LHRC headquarters in Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam. This partnership meeting was a significant step in our commitment to promoting human rights and accountability.

LHRC's Director of Empowerment and Accountability, Ms. Felista Mauya, led the meeting and warmly welcomed the distinguished visitors.

The U.S. Embassy delegation included Andy Allen, the Political Unit Chief of the Political and Economic Section, and Angela Chang, the Tanzania Desk Officer from the Bureau of African Affairs. Bahati Mhavile, also from the Embassy of the United States in Tanzania, was present to engage in constructive discussions.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity for the U.S. Embassy delegates to gain insight into the various impactful initiatives and works carried out by LHRC in the fields of human rights, legal advocacy, and corporate accountability.



## Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania visits LHRC

On October 23, 2023, a delegation from the Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania paid a courtesy visit to the LHRC Legal Aid Clinic in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

Ms. Felista Mauya, the director of empowerment and accountability, and Advocate Rose Nyatega, the legal officer-in-charge of the Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic, led this partnership meeting.

During their visit, the Embassy of Sweden delegates had the opportunity to explore different units at the Clinic and learn about various legal aspects, including marriage and divorce issues, land disputes, and strategic litigation.

Lastly, the delegates received a briefing on the Legal Aid Management System.





## LHRC submits recommendations to the Parliamentary Committee on multiple laws

LHRC has submitted recommendations on Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendment) No. 4. Recommendations have been submitted today before the Parliamentary Committee (Governance, Constitution, and Legal Affairs).

Recommendations were specific to the following legislations:

The Business Licensing Act (Act No. 25 of 1972).

The Political Service Retirement Benefits Act, CAP 225.

The Public Service Act, CAP 298.

Town Planner (Registration) Act, CAP 426.

The Weight and Measures Act, CAP 340.

LHRC has further submitted recommendations to the same committee on the Legal Sector Laws (Miscellaneous. Amendments) Bill, 2023, specific to the following legislations:

The Criminal Procedure Act, CAP 20

The Law Reform Commission of Tanzania Act, CAP 171

The Legal Aid Act, CAP 21

The Office of the Attorney General (Discharge of Duties) Act, CAP 268.



# LHRC participates in the 77th meeting of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

The 77th meeting of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights was a significant event, where Anna Henga, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), played a pivotal role in shedding light on the status of human rights in Tanzania.

The conference, held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), provided a platform for discussions and initiatives aimed at upholding and advancing human rights in the region.



---

During her address, LHRC's Executive Director, Anna Henga, focused on four key areas: civil and political rights, socio-economic rights, women and children's rights, and the role of human rights in the business sector.

Her statement highlighted the collaborative efforts of human rights institutions and stakeholders in protecting human rights. This collaboration is instrumental in ensuring that individuals can engage in development activities without fear of oppression or legal constraints.

Moreover, Anna Henga emphasised the importance of safeguarding the rights of women and children, particularly by addressing critical issues such as the eradication of gender-based violence and advocating for equal opportunities. These efforts are crucial steps towards creating a more just and equitable society.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has proven to be a powerful platform for effectively communicating its message to governments across the African continent.

As a result, it has contributed to the establishment of impactful laws and policies aimed at ensuring the protection and security of human rights. This conference is a testament to the ongoing commitment to human rights in Africa and the collective efforts to promote a more inclusive and just society.





# LHRC takes centre stage at CSO Week 2023, advocates for human rights and collaborative solutions

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) actively participated in the Civil Society Organization Week 2023 in Arusha, which lasted from October 23rd to October 28th. This event brought together various non-governmental organisations domestic and foreign development stakeholders, creating a platform for collaboration and discussions on critical issues.

The origins of CSO Week can be traced back to 2003 when the Foundation for Civil Society initiated it on a modest scale with limited participation from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).



Bringing CSOs together during CSO Week is a vital means of consolidating their strength and strategies to serve the community on a broader scale. LHRC's involvement in the event included various initiatives, such as organising debates on human rights issues, setting up exhibition booths to showcase the activities conducted by LHRC, and providing legal support to the participants.

One of the notable discussions during CSO Week revolved around the impact of climate change, which has adverse effects on economic factors, social well-being, and environmental rights. The role of technology in responding to these effects was also explored, highlighting the importance of innovation in addressing climate-related challenges.

LHRC also reported on a study of domestic violence, specifically femicide, and engaged in discussions regarding appropriate measures to safeguard victims of violence and their families. This commitment to addressing gender-based violence is crucial in ensuring the protection and rights of vulnerable individuals.

LHRC's active participation in CSO Week underscores its dedication to human rights, community service, and collaboration with other organisations to effect positive societal change.



# LHRC's Anna Henga Honored with Women's Empowerment Rights Award



In October, LHRC's Executive Director Anna Henga participated in a women's forum at Ubungo Plaza in Dar es Salaam, where she received the Joyful Foundation's Excellence Award for Women's Rights Empowerment.

This prestigious award recognised her unwavering efforts in advocating for justice and equality, including facilitating access to legal aid through LHRC and actively promoting good governance and women's inclusion in pursuing gender equality.

The Joyful Foundation gathered diverse women at the forum to discuss opportunities and challenges. The women were also inspired to use social media to promote their businesses and boost their self-esteem.





# LHRC gathers stakeholders in Morogoro to tackle climate change and key environmental issues

On October 31, 2023, LHRC convened a meeting at the Morena Hotel in Morogoro with various stakeholders from different institutions and sectors. The participants represented fields such as land management, environmental conservation, gender equality in the context of climate change, human rights advocacy, extractive industries, and business.

During this session, the focus was on addressing crucial aspects related to climate change. Several key topics were discussed, including the importance of critical minerals in adapting to the effects of climate change, the role of education in ensuring the availability of nutritious and high-quality foods, nomadism, and the influx of conflicts and human settlements.



# Our development partners



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN



Norwegian Embassy



EMBASSY OF FINLAND



Ambasáid na hÉireann  
Embassy of Ireland





**LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE, HEADQUARTERS**  
Justice Lugakingira House, Block 44, Plot 508/509  
P. O. Box 75254, Kijitonyama  
Dar es salaam, Tanzania.  
Tel: +255 (0) 2773038/48

---

**THE LEGAL AID CLINIC**  
Justice Mwalusanya House, Isere St. House No.660,  
P. O. Box 79633, Kinondoni, Dar es salaam, Tanzania.  
Tel: +255 717 143 784

---

**ARUSHA OFFICE,**  
Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba House, Olerian Street PlotNo116/5,  
P. O. Box 15243, Sakina Kwa Idd, Arusha, Tanzania.  
Tel: +255 782 277 569  
Tel: +255 626 281 244/5

---

**DODOMA OFFICE**  
Chimuli Street, Plot No:20, P. O. Box 2289, Area D  
Dodoma, Tanzania.  
Tel: +255 (0) 262350050  
Tel: +255 655 444 828

---

