



# LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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## Press Release

### Launch of the Commemoration of International Human Rights Day 2024

**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, October 17, 2024**

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) today 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 is thrilled to officially launch celebrations for the International Human Rights Day, which will be commemorated on December 10, 2024.

Every year on December 10<sup>th</sup>, the international community celebrates this significant day, commemorating the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. This declaration outlines 30 fundamental rights to which individuals are entitled, regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political affiliation, nationality or social origin, birth, or other status.

A substantial portion of the provisions in this declaration have been incorporated into international covenants on civil and political rights (1966) and economic, social, and cultural rights (1976), thereby becoming part of international law. These international covenants have been directly integrated into the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, particularly in the second part, which outlines the Directive Principles of State Policy and the third part, which addresses Fundamental Rights and Duties.

Traditionally, International Human Rights Day celebrations are guided by a specific theme aimed at highlighting emerging challenges in the implementation of human rights and calling upon nations and stakeholders to take necessary actions to improve human rights situation. For 2024, the theme of the celebrations is **"Equality: Reducing Inequalities and Advancing Human Rights."**

The 2024 commemoration, along with the theme, follows the Summit of the Future 2024, a high-level meeting of United Nations leaders held in September 2024 at the UN Headquarters in New York. This meeting aimed to adopt a collective agreement on how to improve the current state of human rights globally while safeguarding the common future of human rights for all nations.

In Tanzania, the 2024 Human Rights Day commemoration comes amidst a rising number of human rights violations, including threats, abductions, and killings of innocent people, including spouses and children. Tanzania has also recently witnessed the enforcement of repressive laws that stifle freedom of expression, speech and the media, particularly online. If left unchecked, this

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situation risks creating fear, unrest, and threatening the security and safety of individuals. LHRC however, remains committed to the principles of good governance, peace and stability that Tanzania has fostered for a long time. It is the duty of the state, security agencies, and all stakeholders to develop strategies and take decisive action to restore the protection of human rights in the country.

During the commemoration of this important day, LHRC concludes its six-year strategic plan (2019-2024). LHRC has therefore organized various events aimed at contributing to reduce inequalities and promoting human rights in the country, in line with the theme of the commemorations.

**Activities planned from October to December 10, 2024, include:**

- **Art competitions for students:** To foster talent, awareness and motivation among youth regarding human rights, the LHRC has organized an art competition involving schools with human rights clubs in Dar es Salaam. Winners will be awarded prizes on Human Rights Day, December 10, 2024.
- **Legal aid services for indigents, in particular women:** LHRC will conduct outreach activities for the provision of legal awareness and legal aid services in various parts of Dar es Salaam. The services target women from high incidents of rights violations. LHRC reports indicate that women have been the most targets and victims of human rights violations of these incidents, and this program will target those who cannot access the center's offices.
- **Legal awareness through social media:** LHRC will disseminate content on social media aimed at educating the public and engaging in discussions with various human rights stakeholders on how to best improve the situation of human rights in the country, with a focus on equality.
- **A short film on the LHRC's achievements of promoting human rights in the country:** To conclude her six-year strategic plan (2019-2024), on Human Rights Day, LHRC will screen a short documentary highlighting six years of achievements in promoting human rights in the country in areas such as public human rights education, legal aid services, strategic litigation, and other critical areas, particularly in the human rights and business sector.
- **Launch of LHRC's six-year strategic plan (2025-2030):** LHRC is excited to launch its six-year strategic plan (2025-2030) on Human Rights Day. This strategic plan builds on previous plans and improves approaches to align with changing contexts and the evolving needs of legal services in the country.

In conclusion, we invite all stakeholders to join us in commemorating this significant International Human Rights Day.

Issued by:

Legal and Human Rights Centre

Dr. Anna Henga

Executive Director