



Legal and Human Rights Centre



GREETINGS FROM LHRC

Dear esteemed readers!

With the dedicated efforts of our staff and the generous support of our development partners, including the embassies of Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, LHRC is excited to present the July 2024 edition of the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

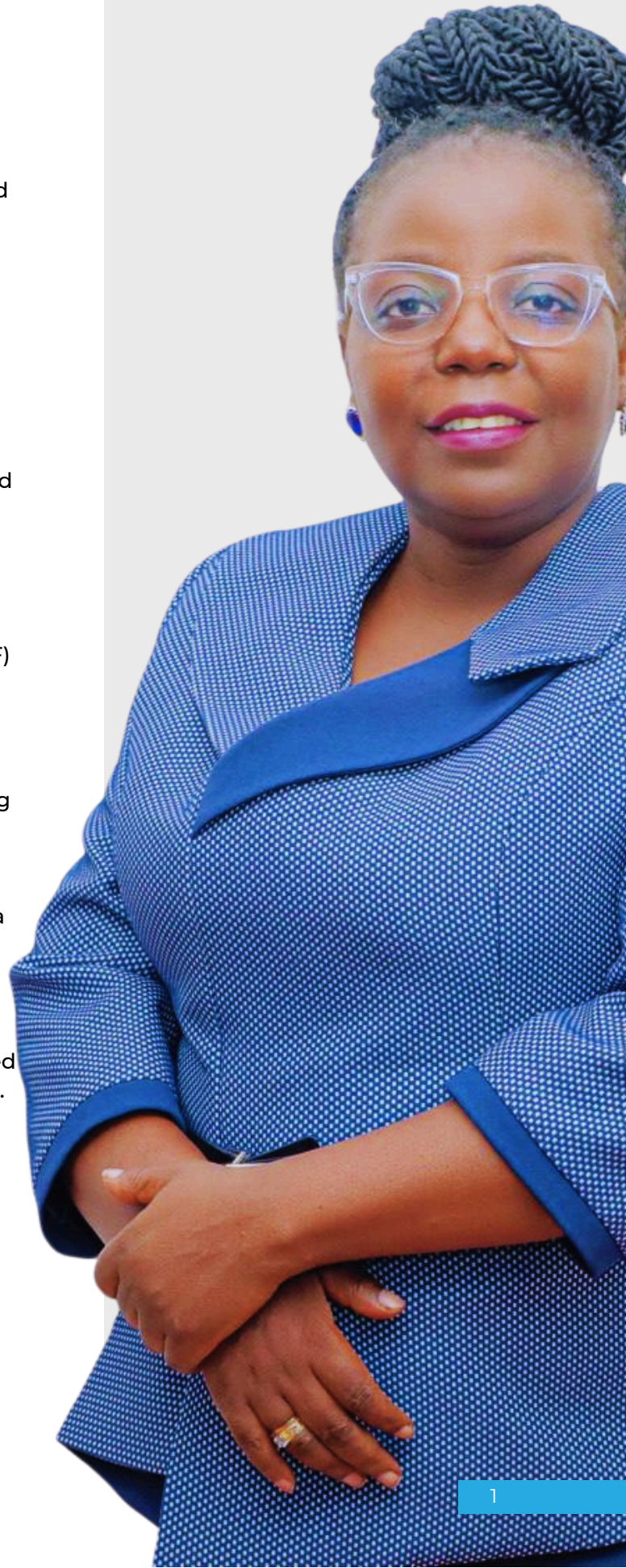
This month, we focused on fieldwork and began crafting our strategic plan for 2025-2030. Our team visited the Pwani region to provide education and inspiration on critical issues such as law, rights, leadership, gender, and sexuality. These efforts aim to enhance and strengthen human rights clubs and boost the protection and advocacy of children's rights and welfare across the country.

Our mission is to uphold and champion human rights. In addition to our fieldwork, LHRC held a joint session with the Tanzania Police Force (TPF) to address emerging criminal justice issues

We are thrilled to share these remarkable experiences, highlighting our ongoing commitment to fostering change and amplifying voices. The involvement of our human rights clubs in various educational institutions continues to inspire us, reinforcing our belief in the transformative power of education to build a just and equitable society.

As we persist in our advocacy for human rights, LHRC remains steadfast in understanding and promoting essential work. We have also observed troubling human rights violations in the country. Reports of abductions, disappearances, kidnappings, and killings of children across various regions highlight an urgent need to strengthen and enhance the protection and safety of children, ensuring their security and upholding their fundamental rights.

Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate)
LHRC Executive Director



LHRC advocates for gender inclusion in politics.

On 3rd July 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) participated in a meeting organized by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Dar es Salaam. The registrar of political parties served as the guest of honor.

The meeting brought together women representatives from the 19 registered political parties, representatives from civil society organizations, government officials, and the media.

The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences on how political parties can establish gender policies and promote gender mainstreaming in compliance with Section 10C of the Political Parties Act.

During the meeting, LHRC had the opportunity to present its experience in gender inclusion and mainstreaming.

Ensuring that women are represented in political parties allows for more diverse perspectives and better representation of the population's needs and interests.

A democratic system thrives when all citizens have an equal opportunity to participate. Gender inclusion in political parties contributes to a more balanced and fair political process.

Also complying with international standards, Tanzania is committed to various international agreements and conventions that promote gender equality, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Advocating for gender inclusion aligns with these commitments.



In a meeting of minds, LHRC and the Danish Institute for Human Rights discuss critical issues.



On July 4th, 2024, LHRC hosted visitors from the Danish Institute for Human Rights to discuss various human rights and business issues.

On July 4th, 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) proudly hosted representatives from the Danish Institute for Human Rights for a vital discussion on pressing human rights and business concerns. This visit marked a significant opportunity for both organizations to exchange knowledge, insights, and strategies aimed at advancing human rights in the context of business practices.

During the meeting, LHRC shared the breadth and depth of its work, offering the Danish Institute a comprehensive view of the human rights challenges and triumphs within Tanzania. One of the focal points of the discussion was the plight of small-scale fishermen and coastal fishing communities. As these communities grapple with the effects of climate change, their socio-economic and environmental rights are increasingly under threat. The meeting provided a platform to explore these challenges in detail, with input from key fisheries actors who underscored the urgent need for action.

Another critical issue on the agenda was the impact of industrial illegal fishing and overfishing on the socio-economic rights of small-scale fishing communities. Through a human rights lens, the participants examined how these activities not only deplete marine resources but also undermine the livelihoods and rights of local populations who rely on fishing as a primary source of income.

The discussions highlighted the interconnectedness of environmental and human rights, emphasizing the need for comprehensive approaches that address both ecological sustainability and the protection of vulnerable communities. The Danish Institute's visit to LHRC thus served as a crucial step in forging stronger collaborations and finding innovative solutions to these complex issues.

As the meeting concluded, both organizations reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together in advocating for the rights of those most affected by these challenges, with a shared vision of promoting a more just and sustainable future for all.

LHRC champion girls' education and child rights in Bagamoyo

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has been actively engaging with the Bagamoyo District Council in the Pwani region to advocate for and enhance children's rights and welfare.

Represented by Youth Officer Ally Seif Ramadhani, LHRC was warmly received by the District Executive Director, Shauri Selenda, who commended the Center for its longstanding efforts in educating the public on legal and human rights issues through children's and youth clubs established in schools.

The visit aimed to provide education and motivation on various cross-cutting issues such as law, rights, leadership, gender, and sexuality. This initiative seeks to strengthen these clubs and increase the protection and advocacy of children's rights in the country.

In collaboration with the international organization Malala Fund, LHRC introduced a new project titled "Girls' Education for a Better Tomorrow."



This project, to be implemented in Hassanal Damji Memorial Secondary School and Dunda Secondary School within the Bagamoyo District Council, aims to empower fifty female students on issues related to reproductive health and gender-based violence.

The initiative also seeks to contribute to efforts to eradicate child marriages in Tanzania and provide educational support to foster the student's academic growth. Vanessa Kiango, the Project Officer for "Girls' Education for a Better Tomorrow," highlighted that this project is set to run for nine months from its inception.

During the educational outreach in four schools within Bagamoyo District, Ally Seif Ramadhani informed students about government guidelines that offer opportunities for those who have dropped out of school for various reasons, including truancy and pregnancy.

Emphasizing that obtaining an education is a fundamental right, Ramadhani explained the government's guidelines for allowing pregnant students to return to school after giving birth.

"The government's guideline provides an opportunity for children who have dropped out of school due to various challenges, including pregnancy among girls, intending to continue their interrupted dreams," said Ramadhani.

Additionally, the youth officer provided education on children's rights and the laws that protect them, stressing the importance of upholding them at home and in school. This comprehensive approach by LHRC and its partners underscores their commitment to promoting education, gender equality, and children's rights in Tanzania.



Strengthening Norway-LHRC Partnership in advancing Human Rights

On July 17, 2024, H.E. Ambassador Tone Tinnes of the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Tanzania visited the headquarters of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in Kijitonyama, as well as the LHRC Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic.

Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director of LHRC, led the meeting, during which Ambassador Tinnes was introduced to LHRC's development programs that support human rights and governance. These programs are crucial in providing legal aid to underserved communities across Tanzania.





Ambassador Tinnes also visited the LHRC office in Arusha, where a meeting was held at the Gran Meliá Hotel. The discussion centered around the various activities undertaken by the legal aid clinic in Arusha. Topics included the types of cases the office handles, such as land disputes in the northern region, also conflicts related to family, civil, criminal, and employment matters.

This meeting served as an opportunity for familiarization, offering insights into the structure, capacity, and geographic reach of the legal aid clinic. The visit underscored the strong partnership between the Royal Norwegian Embassy and LHRC, highlighting their shared commitment to advancing human rights and legal support in Tanzania.



LHRC and Tanzania Police Force (TPF) discuss emerging criminal justice issues

On July 18, 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) held a significant meeting with the Tanzania Police Force (TPF) to review the progress of their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and address pressing issues within the criminal justice system.

This collaborative effort between LHRC and TPF aims to uphold the rule of law, ensure public safety, and safeguard human rights across the country. The meeting provided a crucial opportunity to reflect on the achievements since the MoU's inception, exchange insights, and strategize future steps.

During the discussion, both parties evaluated the implementation of the MoU and identified best practices. They also tackled emerging challenges in the criminal justice sector, working together to find effective solutions and enhance their collaborative efforts moving forward.



LHRC showcases its milestones at SabaSaba

At the 48th International Trade Fair, commonly called SabaSaba, in Dar es Salaam, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) booth has been a hub of activity and interest.

On July 6, 2024, the Inspector General of Police, Camilius Wambura, visited the booth, highlighting the importance of legal aid and human rights education in the community.

The LHRC booth offered a comprehensive range of legal aid services to visitors, including assistance with land issues, family law, labor and employment disputes, and other legal challenges. Free publications on law and human rights are also available, providing valuable resources to the public.

On July 10, 2024, the booth welcomed another distinguished guest, the Registrar of the Judiciary of Tanzania, Hon. Eva Nkya. Hon. Nkya was briefed on the various services provided by LHRC, emphasizing the center's commitment to supporting individuals in navigating complex legal matters.

The booth's location within the Judiciary of Tanzania's pavilion underscores the collaborative efforts between the judiciary and LHRC to enhance access to justice.



In addition to these visits, Hon. Mary Gasper Makondo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, visited the LHRC booth. Hon. Makondo commended the center for its significant contributions to constitutional education and the empowerment of Tanzanians.

Throughout the exhibition, the LHRC booth has been a gathering point for clients and stakeholders, including judges and other legal professionals. The ongoing engagement and support from various dignitaries and the public reflect the crucial role that LHRC plays in promoting legal awareness and protecting human rights in Tanzania.





LHRC has been approved to conduct voter education for the Permanent Voters' Register

In a pivotal move for Tanzanian democracy, the National Electoral Commission (NEC) has announced the commencement of the 2024/2025 voter registration update, urging all eligible citizens to participate actively. This registration drive ensures that every eligible Tanzanian is included in the Permanent Voters' Register before the upcoming general elections.

According to Article 5(1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977, every citizen who reaches eighteen is entitled to vote in Tanzanian elections. To facilitate this, the Parliament has established guidelines for maintaining and updating the Permanent Voters' Register, as outlined in Article 5(3) of the Constitution and Section 9 of the Election Act No. 1 of 2024.

Voter registration will officially commence in Kigoma starting July 20, 2024, with the Prime Minister, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, serving as the guest of honor. The registration will extend to Katavi and Tabora from July 20 to 26, 2024, with subsequent phases covering Geita, Kagera, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Singida, Manyara, and other districts. The entire registration process is scheduled to conclude by March 5, 2025.

This registration exercise is essential for several groups, including new voters who will be eighteen by 2025, individuals who missed the 2018/2019 registration, and those needing to update or correct their information. Additionally, the process will accommodate voters who have moved to new locations, replace lost or damaged voter cards, and remove those who no longer meet registration qualifications.

The NEC has also set up 130 centers on the mainland and 10 centers in Zanzibar specifically for prisoners sentenced to less than six months and detainees. Updates and transfers can be managed through basic mobile phones using the USSD code 15200# for those without smartphones.

A dedicated voter service center has been established to assist with the registration process. This service, available from July 18, 2024, operates daily from 12:00 PM to 2:00 AM. Citizens can call 0800112100 for free, 14-hour daily assistance.

As the authorized institution for voter education, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) encourages all eligible Tanzanians to take advantage of this opportunity. By registering at the designated centers, citizens will secure their place in the Permanent Voters' Register and be prepared to exercise their fundamental right to vote in the 2025 elections.

LHRC joins PM Majaliwa in launching biometric voter registration in Kigoma.

On July 20, 2024, LHRC participated in launching the Biometric Voters Registration (BVR) exercise at the Kigoma Ujiji Municipal Council in the Kigoma region.

In the first phase, the BVR process will run from July 20 to 26, 2024, in Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora, followed by Geita, Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, and Simiyu.

More than 5 million new voters are expected to be registered, and over 4 million voters who have lost their qualifications will be removed from the voters' register. In total, over 34 million voters are expected to be registered.

The Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, was the guest of honour.



The Legal and Human Rights Centre welcomes four new board members.

The Board of Directors of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) is thrilled to announce the appointment of four distinguished professionals to its Board.

Ms. Hellen D. Kilontsi, an Economist with strengths in resource mobilization, corporate governance, and leadership, will bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to LHRC. Her strategic insights are expected to significantly enhance the organization's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights.

Ms. Vivian Temi, a Business Management expert, adds her extensive experience in relationship management, team management, stakeholder engagement, and pitching strategies to the Board. Her expertise will be instrumental in advancing LHRC's mission.

Dr. Ringo Tenga, a Senior Law Lecturer and one of the five founders of LHRC in 1995, rejoined the Board, bringing invaluable historical perspective and legal expertise. His deep connection to the organization and vast knowledge will greatly benefit LHRC's ongoing work.

Ms. Anabahati J. Mlay, a seasoned lawyer with vast experience in gender mainstreaming, leadership, and stakeholder management, rounds out the new appointments. Her contributions are poised to strengthen LHRC's commitment to human rights advocacy.

These appointments underscore LHRC's dedication to bolstering its governance with experienced professionals who share its mission to promote and protect human rights.



MS. HELLEN D. KILONTSI



MS. VIVIAN TEMI



DR. RINGO TENGA



MS. ANABAHATI J. MLAY

Urgent action is needed to protect our children from rising brutality.

Reports of child kidnappings, abductions, and killings have surfaced across various regions in recent months, gripping the nation with a wave of fear and sorrow. These heartbreaking incidents, highlighted by mass media outlets—television, radio, and social media—have shaken us to our core, revealing the vulnerability of our most precious members of society.

The tragic stories are numerous and deeply disturbing. On May 5, 2024, in the Kagera region, two-year-old Asimwe Novart was snatched from his mother's arms. His lifeless body was later discovered, mutilated, with parts of him missing. Just two months later, on July 7, 2024, in Dodoma, young Sumaiya Issa went missing and remains unaccounted for, leaving her family in agonizing uncertainty. That same day, in Mbagala, Dar es Salaam, four-year-old Nusra Omary was found dead, her body desecrated. In another horrifying event in Dodoma, four-year-old Theresphoa Mwakalinga was reported missing one evening and was later found dead, also with parts of her body missing.

These heinous acts, which strike at the very heart of our humanity, have left us, as stakeholders and advocates of children's rights, deeply saddened and outraged. We cannot remain silent as these brutal crimes continue unabated. While we acknowledge the efforts made by the government and various stakeholders to protect our children, the persistence of such violence indicates that much more must be done.



Our hearts go out to the families who have been devastated by these senseless acts. The pain and suffering they endure are unimaginable, and we stand in solidarity with them in their grief.

These atrocities are not just crimes; they are grave violations of human rights. They contravene both national and international laws, undermining the constitutional protections afforded to every child in the United Republic of Tanzania. Despite some police announcements regarding these incidents, we are deeply dissatisfied with the current strategies and the pace of investigations. We call for a more rigorous and thorough investigation to identify and bring to justice those responsible for these crimes.



A call to action to the Honourable President, As the Commander-in-Chief and a guardian figure to our nation, we implore you to prioritize the security and protection of children. We urge you to direct all relevant sectors with civil defense authority to fulfill their duties, expedite investigations into these crimes, and review past incidents with renewed urgency.

To the Prime Minister, as the head of government, responsible for overseeing all ministries and agencies tasked with ensuring child security—including the Ministry of Social Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups, and the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology—we call upon you to develop a comprehensive national plan to eradicate child brutality. This plan must involve coordinated efforts at all levels, from local to national, to protect our children.

To the Inspector General of Police (IGP), while we recognize the efforts of the police force, we are deeply concerned about the slow pace of investigations into child kidnappings, disappearances, and killings. We demand that these investigations be prioritized and the public be informed with timely and accurate information. Furthermore, we call for enhanced security measures to protect citizens, particularly children, at all levels—from the family to the national stage. Missing child cases must be immediately followed up, with immediate action rather than waiting 24 hours.

To society, we must all take responsibility for the safety of our children. Parents, guardians, teachers, and the community must work together to ensure their well-being. Children should be encouraged to travel in groups, and neighborhood security teams should be established. It is crucial to educate children about the dangers of interacting with strangers, and parents and guardians should avoid sending children to shops or other vulnerable areas at night. Ensuring the safety of our children must be our top priority at all times.



Our development partners.



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN



Wellspring
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