Mlinzi wa Haki

Newsletter

Q3 2026 NEWSLETTER | JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2026



3rd Quarter 2026 Edition

July to September 2026 | Justice. Accountability. Human Dignity.

THIS QUARTER

A quarterly look at LHRC's work advancing access to justice, accountability, and human rights across Tanzania, from Parliament and the courtroom to the community.

20,920
legal aid clients

622
violations documented

18% → 14%
borrowing ceiling

1,000+
Katiba Database resources

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For a Just and Equitable Society



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Anna Henga

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)

QUARTER AT A GLANCE

60
civilians facing terrorism allegations given full representation

18% → 14%
government borrowing ceiling, after LHRC's submissions

Live
public launch of the Katiba Database

FOREWORD

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) is pleased to share with you the Third Quarter 2026 edition of the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter. This quarter has been defined by proactive legal monitoring, impactful legislative advocacy, and quick interventions to uphold the rule of law and protect fundamental human rights across Tanzania.

Throughout July, August, and September 2026, LHRC demonstrated its unwavering commitment to access to justice. In response to the wave of arbitrary detentions following civil unrest, our legal response teams actively stepped in to coordinate full representation for 60 civilians facing terrorism allegations across the country. On the policy front, our evidence-based submissions to the Parliamentary Budget Committee yielded milestone wins for public accountability, successfully prompting Parliament to amend the Bank of Tanzania Act and lower the executive government borrowing ceiling from 18% to 14%.

From the live public launch of the Katiba Database to our field-based observations of corporate resettlement plans in Tarime, our programs have continued to deliver structural improvements for everyday citizens. We extend our sincere gratitude to our development partners, civil society allies, and community champions for their continued cooperation in advancing human dignity and social justice.

I welcome you to read this newsletter to remain informed about LHRC's latest interventions, and I encourage you to share these updates with your colleagues.

Warm regards,

Dr. Anna Henga
Executive Director
Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)

DEMOCRACY & CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Tanzania's Constitutional Reform: What Needs to Change?

LHRC brings together 81 stakeholders to discuss lessons from the 2025 General Elections as it unveils a Katiba Database





*Norwegian Ambassador **Ms. Tine Tonnes** addressing participants at the International Democracy Day commemoration at Four Points by Sheraton, Dar es Salaam.*

What will it take to strengthen democracy and advance constitutional reform in Tanzania? This question brought together government representatives, political parties, civil society organisations, development partners, human rights defenders, media practitioners and academics in Dar es Salaam on 15 September 2026.

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) convened 81 participants (45 men and 36 women) to mark International Democracy Day under the theme "Driving Constitutional Reform: Lessons from the 2025 General Elections." The discussions focused on democratic progress, challenges facing the country, and the way forward for constitutional reform.

INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRACY DAY

81 participants

45 men	36 women

15 September 2026 · Dar es Salaam

Participants Call for a Clear Roadmap for Constitutional Reform

The discussions resulted in several recommendations aimed at strengthening democracy and accountability in Tanzania.

Participants called for

- a transparent timetable for constitutional reform,
- restructuring the Independent National Electoral Commission under **Act No. 2 of 2024,**
- and establishing an independent Justice, Accountability and Reconciliation Commission.

They also emphasised the need to

- protect media freedom,
- ensure transparency in the nomination of special-seat representatives,
- and safeguard academic and religious freedoms through broad national consensus.

DEMOCRACY & CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Katiba Database



The official launch of the Katiba Database during the commemoration.

KATIBA DATABASE
1,000+ resources

NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC
268
new materials added this quarter

WHAT THE COLLECTION INCLUDES

- Case law
- Books
- Reports
- Academic papers
- Videos
- Audio materials

A New Digital Resource Makes Constitutional Information More Accessible

The commemoration also marked the official launch of the Katiba Database, an online resource designed to help the public access information on Tanzania's Constitution and constitutional reform processes.

The database now contains more than 1,000 resources, including case law, books, reports, academic papers, videos and audio materials. During the third quarter, 268 new materials were added to the collection.

Young people had their say too. LHRC and Elimika Wikiendi held an online youth dialogue, **"Baada ya Uchaguzi, Je, Ahadi za Vijana Zimesahaulika?"** (After the Elections, Have the Promises to Youth Been Forgotten?), asking whether commitments made to young people during the 2025 General Election are being kept and how youth can hold leaders to account.

POLICY WINS THIS QUARTER

From 18% to 14%: Parliament Acts on LHRC's Borrowing Recommendation

LHRC's review of the Finance Act 2026 highlights key changes Parliament made to strengthen public accountability and protect tax laws.



Government borrowing ceiling reduced as a share of domestic revenue, in line with LHRC's recommendation.

When the Government borrows money, public accountability matters. That is why LHRC submitted its analysis of the Finance Bill 2026 to the Permanent Parliamentary Budget Committee on 22 June, highlighting provisions that needed reconsideration.

> **After the Finance Act was passed, LHRC reviewed the final law to establish which of its recommendations Parliament had adopted.**

ADOPTED

A Lower Borrowing Ceiling: One Recommendation Adopted

One significant outcome was the amendment of the Bank of Tanzania Act. Parliament reduced the government borrowing ceiling from 18% to 14% of domestic revenue, in line with LHRC's recommendation.

2 PROVISIONS REMOVED

Two Provisions Removed to Protect Tax Laws

Parliament also removed two provisions that LHRC had raised concerns about: Section 169A of the Income Tax Act and Section 9 of the Roads and Fuel Tolls Act.

These provisions would have allowed private executive framework agreements to override primary tax legislation. Their removal addressed LHRC's concerns about protecting the authority of tax laws and strengthening public accountability.

PARTLY ADOPTED

Not Every Recommendation Was Fully Accepted

Parliament only partly adopted LHRC's recommendation concerning proposed Section 146B of the Excise Act.

The provision retained the Minister's discretion to remit excise duties for mining licence holders, but petroleum products were excluded from tax remissions. This protects revenue in the high-volume energy sector, although questions about oversight across the wider extractive sector remain.

ONGOING ADVOCACY

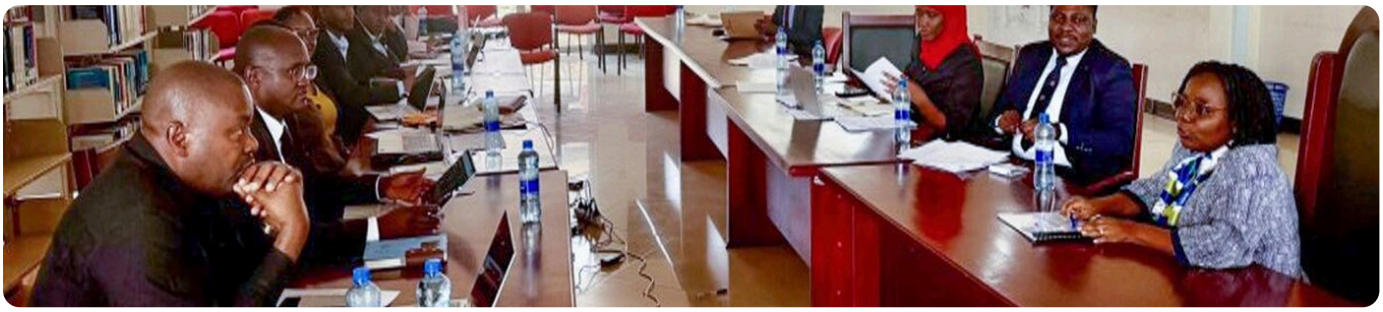
LHRC Continues to Push for Accountable Lawmaking

Beyond the Finance Act, LHRC also submitted recommendations to the Standing Committee on Governance, Constitution and Legal Affairs regarding the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Bill, 2026.

The submissions focused on public accountability in land-use planning decisions, transparency in the handling of natural resource disputes, and safeguards for fair valuation of livestock keepers under the Wildlife Conservation Act.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Parliament Acknowledges and Appreciates LHRC's Contribution to Legal Reform



LHRC and Law Reform Commission staff discussing issues for advocacy during the engagement meeting in Dodoma.

1

5 August
Parliament formally acknowledges LHRC's submissions on Section 13 of the Civil Procedure Code

2

7 September
LHRC delegation meets the Law Reform Commission in Dodoma: 11 participants (5 men and 6 women)

3

Going forward
Both institutions agreed to meet quarterly

On 5 August, the Parliament of Tanzania formally acknowledged LHRC's written submissions addressing ambiguities in Section 13 of the Civil Procedure Code. Parliament confirmed that the relevant committee had reviewed the recommendations and would consider them, while recognising LHRC's continued contribution to lawmaking. The acknowledgement shows that LHRC's contributions to legal reform are valued and taken seriously by Parliament.

On 7 September, an LHRC delegation led by Executive Director Dr. Anna Henga met the Secretary of the Law Reform Commission and his team in Dodoma, with 11 participants (5 men and 6 women).

LHRC brought issues that first surfaced in its legal aid clinics, from remand prison congestion and restrictive bail rules to impractical labour dispute timelines at the CMA, the difficulty of executing court judgments against the Government, and the need to codify school re-entry rights for teenage mothers. It also renewed its call to abolish the mandatory death penalty and for a comprehensive law on gender-based violence.

Both institutions agreed to meet quarterly. The Commission also asked LHRC for technical input on reviews of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Motor Vehicle Insurance Act and the Insurance Act.

ISSUES LHRC RAISED FROM ITS LEGAL AID CLINICS

- Remand prison congestion
- Restrictive bail rules
- Labour dispute timelines at the CMA
- Executing judgments against the Government
- School re-entry for teenage mothers
- Abolish the mandatory death penalty
- Comprehensive GBV law

TECHNICAL INPUT REQUESTED ON

- ✓ Occupational Health and Safety Act
- ✓ Prevention of Terrorism Act
- ✓ Motor Vehicle Insurance Act
- ✓ Insurance Act

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Taking Tanzania's Human Rights Concerns to Geneva





*LHRC's **Fulgence Massawe** at the UPR pre-session (left) and **Raymond Kanegene** at a side event on the abolition of the death penalty (right), Geneva.*

REVIEW CYCLE
4½ yrs
Each UN Member State's record is examined through the UPR

TANZANIA
4th
cycle review of Tanzania approaching

SHADOW REPORT
140+
organisations in the civil society shadow report LHRC coordinated

Every four and a half years, each UN Member State has its human rights record examined by other states through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the country under review receives recommendations to act on. With Tanzania's 4th cycle review approaching, LHRC took its priorities to the place where those recommendations take shape, carrying out an advocacy mission at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Working with UPR Info and The Advocates for Human Rights, the team met diplomatic representatives of UN Member States, Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and officials of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The aim was to present LHRC's key UPR recommendations and win international attention for priority concerns, so that States and UN human rights mechanisms raise them during Tanzania's review and in later engagement.

The mission builds on the civil society shadow report that LHRC coordinated earlier this year with more than 140 organisations, and on the child-led report that gave children a voice in the process.

WHO THE TEAM MET IN GENEVA

- **Diplomatic representatives of UN Member States**
- **Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council**
- **Officials of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Strategic Litigation: Two Petitions Move Forward

STRATEGIC LITIGATION

Heard on the merits

The High Court set aside its dismissal of the tobacco petition and directed that the case proceeds as public interest litigation.

PETITION 01 · DODOMA — TO BE HEARD ON MERITS

Tobacco petition, Lutgard Kokulinda Kagaruki

In Dodoma, the High Court revisited a constitutional petition by Lutgard Kokulinda Kagaruki challenging the cultivation, production and use of tobacco in Tanzania, raising environmental and public health concerns. The petition had been dismissed on 2 October 2025 over problems uploading submissions. The applicants explained that the failure came from confusion in the electronic filing system. The Court agreed they had not been negligent, recognised the public interest nature of the case, set aside its earlier decision and ordered the main case to be heard on its merits.

PETITION 02 · UBUNGO — MENTION: 10 SEPT

Bus station bylaws, Melchzedeck Joachim

LHRC also supported a constitutional petition by Melchzedeck Joachim challenging the Ubungo Municipal Council (Bus Stations and Motor Vehicle Parking Areas) Bylaws, 2022 and section 32(3)(e) of the Transport Licensing Act. The petition argues that the rules limiting where long-distance passengers may be picked up and dropped off go beyond the Council's mandate and affect the rights of operators and passengers. The case was scheduled for mention on 10 September.

HOW THE TOBACCO PETITION GOT BACK ON TRACK

1. **2 Oct 2025** — Petition dismissed over problems uploading submissions
2. **Application** — Applicants explain confusion in the electronic filing system
3. **Ruling** — Court finds no negligence and recognises the public interest nature
4. **Next** — Main case ordered to be heard on its merits

> The Court agreed they had not been negligent, recognised the public interest nature of the case, set aside its earlier decision and ordered the main case to be heard on its merits.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Freed from Unlawful Custody: The Story of Olsoni Richard Shabani

LIBERTY
23 days | Police detention without being taken to court, until LHRC intervened.

FROM ARREST TO FREEDOM

1. **2 June 2026** — Arrested and held at the Arusha Central Police Station
2. **22 June** — His father comes to LHRC's Arusha Office
3. **25 June** — Habeas corpus application filed, under a certificate of urgency
4. **Same night** — Within hours of filing and service, Olsoni is granted bail
5. **8 July** — Application withdrawn after the charges were also withdrawn

On 2 June 2026, Olsoni Richard Shabani was arrested and held at the Arusha Central Police Station over an allegation of stealing by agent. The offence is bailable, yet he was denied bail and held without being taken to court.

On 22 June, his father came to LHRC's Arusha Office, worried about his son's arbitrary detention. After assessing the matter, LHRC filed a habeas corpus application in the High Court of Tanzania, Arusha Sub-Registry, on 25 June. In plain terms, a habeas corpus application asks the court to order that a person held in custody be brought before it, so that the court can decide whether the detention is lawful and, if it is not, order the person's release. The application was filed against the Officer Commanding Station, the Officer Commanding District, the Regional Police Commander, the Inspector General of Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions, under a certificate of urgency, and it was fixed for hearing on 8 July.

Within hours of the application being filed and served on the police, Olsoni's father was called to the station, and Olsoni was granted bail that same night. LHRC continued with follow-up, and on 8 July the application was withdrawn because events had overtaken it, after the charges against Olsoni had also been withdrawn.

WHAT IS HABEAS CORPUS?

In plain terms, a habeas corpus application asks the court to order that a person held in custody be brought before it, so that the court can decide whether the detention is lawful and, if it is not, order the person's release.

FILED AGAINST

- Officer Commanding Station
- Officer Commanding District
- Regional Police Commander
- Inspector General of Police
- Director of Public Prosecutions

> **The outcome brought relief to Olsoni and his family, and it shows how timely legal aid can protect people against unlawful detention.**

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND HIGHLIGHTS

High-Level Diplomatic Envoys and Global Lawmakers Strengthen Strategic Ties with LHRC

The third quarter of 2026 was marked by a powerful convergence of international solidarity, high-level diplomatic missions, and global parliamentary engagements that highlighted Legal and Human Rights Centre's (LHRC) vital role as a leading independent watchdog in East Africa. Key envoys and global delegates carried out targeted visits to review democratic progress, monitor human rights enforcement, and solidify core support agreements.

VISIT 01

Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam

Royal Norwegian Mission

Deputy Head of Mission leads a high-level headquarters visit to monitor civil society platforms.

VISIT 02

Arusha Office

IPU Parliamentary Delegation

Norwegian members of parliament visit LHRC's Arusha Office to review good governance and rule of law indicators.

VISIT 03

Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam

Finland Embassy Delegation

H.E. Ambassador Anna Merrifield reviews the 2025 to 2027 ten-region strategic accountability project.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND HIGHLIGHTS

Royal Norwegian Embassy Delegation Conducts High-Level Visit to LHRC Headquarters

ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY
Units visited at the Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic

Land | Family | Employment | Civil & Criminal

Reflecting a deep-rooted strategic partnership, a high-profile delegation from the Royal Norwegian Embassy carried out an official visit to the LHRC Headquarters in Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam. Led by the Deputy Head of Mission, the delegation held structured, comprehensive briefings focused on the protection of civic space and the security of human rights defenders in Tanzania.

During the headquarters session, LHRC executive leadership presented a closer look at our daily operations, including our paralegal programs, legal assistance infrastructure, strategic litigation frameworks, and corporate accountability initiatives.

The Norwegian delegation then extended their tour to the Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic, meeting directly with the advocates and lawyers managing the Land, Family, Employment, and Civil and Criminal units. This critical field engagement strengthened the long-standing core funding partnership between Norway and LHRC, which continues to drive essential programs in national criminal justice transparency and equitable access to legal remedies.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND HIGHLIGHTS

Norwegian Members of Parliament Visit LHRC's Arusha Office

NORWEGIAN IPU DELEGATION

MPs visit LHRC Arusha

Norwegian members of parliament joined a specialised briefing at LHRC's Arusha Office on the rule of law, democratic institutions and the safety of human rights defenders.



Norwegian Members of Parliament gather outside LHRC's Arusha Office following their official briefing on the rule of law.

While international lawmakers gathered in Arusha for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) activities, a parliamentary delegation from Norway visited LHRC's Arusha Office, where we hosted them for a specialised briefing. The meeting gave our team a platform to exchange field experiences on the rule of law, the independence of national democratic institutions, and emerging challenges to human rights protection around the world.

The Norwegian members of parliament engaged directly with LHRC's legal officers to understand ground-level trends in community inclusion, access to courts for marginalised groups, and the safety of human rights defenders. The visit allowed LHRC to put regional human rights evidence in front of international lawmakers, and showed why vibrant civil society organisations matter in shaping global policy dialogue.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND HIGHLIGHTS

Finland Ambassador H.E. Anna Merrifield Pays Courtesy Visit to LHRC Headquarters



EMBASSY OF FINLAND

10 regions

Strengthening Human Rights and Democratic Accountability in Tanzania, a multi-year project running from 2025 to 2027.

2025 2026 2027

Project period: 2025 to 2027

Finland Ambassador H.E. Anna Merrifield engages in bilateral discussions with the LHRC team during her introductory courtesy visit.

Advancing human rights and democratic governance requires strong, enduring partnerships. LHRC was deeply honoured to welcome the newly appointed Ambassador of Finland to Tanzania, Her Excellency Anna Merrifield, to our headquarters in Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam. Her Excellency visited our offices to learn more about LHRC's core institutional work and to receive a comprehensive briefing update on the ongoing strategic partnership between the Embassy of Finland and LHRC around human rights and democracy.

Finland has long stood as a pillar of development support for LHRC. Currently, the Embassy is backing our team on a vital, multi-year project running from 2025 to 2027, titled “Strengthening Human Rights and Democratic Accountability in Tanzania.” This crucial initiative focuses heavily on executing strategic human rights and governance interventions across 10 key regions of Mainland Tanzania.

During this introductory courtesy visit, the LHRC team, led by Executive Director Dr. Anna Henga, engaged in highly insightful, bilateral discussions with Her Excellency regarding active project milestones, documented field outcomes, and potential future areas of strategic cooperation.

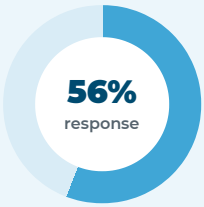
HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

622 Violations Documented, and a Stronger Response

Quarter 2

568 valid violations documented

318 responded to

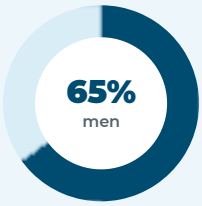


Quarter 3

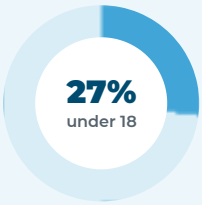
622 violations documented

517 responded to

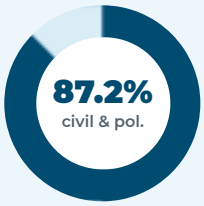




405 involved men (65%) and **217** involved women (35%)



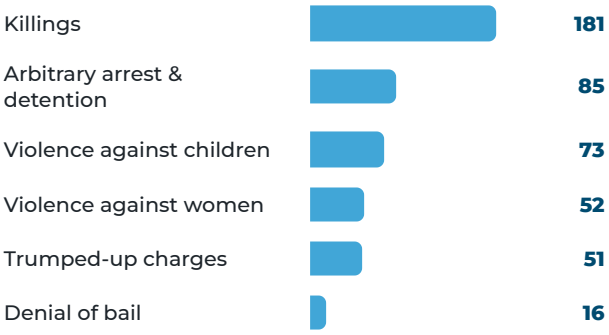
Young people under 18 were the most affected group, with **170** cases



Civil and political rights again dominated, with **543** incidents

Most violated rights

Number of incidents, July – September 2026



Regions with most violations

Number of violations, July – September 2026



Between July and September, LHRC documented 622 human rights violations through the Haki Kiganjani system, Marafiki wa Haki and staff, online and media sources, and clients who walked in or contacted the response team. Of these, 405 involved men (65%) and 217 involved women (35%). Young people under 18 were the most affected group, with 170 cases (27%).

Civil and political rights again dominated, with 543 incidents (87.2%). Killings remained the most violated right at 181 incidents (29%), followed by arbitrary arrest and detention (85), violence against children (73), violence against women (52), trumped-up charges (51) and denial of bail (16). Dar es Salaam (65), Mwanza (63), Kigoma (47), Mara (45) and Tabora (38) recorded the most violations. Morogoro dropped out of the top five, which the team cautions may point to under-reporting or fear of reporting rather than fewer violations.

The report links the rise in bail denials, arbitrary arrests and trumped-up charges to the alleged Sabasaba demonstrations of 7 July, and links killings and violence against women and children largely to harmful beliefs and customs, including those tied to witchcraft.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Standing with Civilians Arrested Around the Alleged Sabasaba Demonstrations

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

60 charged, all represented

Of 130 civilians arrested around the time of the alleged 7 July demonstrations, 60 were charged with terrorism.

FROM ARREST TO REPRESENTATION

130	civilians arrested
60	charged with terrorism
60	represented by LHRC's response team

Where those charged are

Number of accused, by region

Mwanza	23
Shinyanga	17

with others in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Iringa and several other regions

LHRC's response team coordinated legal representation for every one of the 60 accused, so that no one was left without a lawyer. The cases are in committal proceedings, apart from a few that subordinate courts were allowed to hear with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Most of those charged are in Mwanza (23) and Shinyanga (17), with others in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Iringa and several other regions.

The team also recorded what followed public statements issued by LHRC during the quarter:

22 July
after LHRC condemned the detention of 130 civilians without bail or referral to court, 36 were released on bail and the remaining accused were taken before the courts.

24 July
after a statement on the terrorism charge against a University of Dodoma lecturer, he was released on 10 September.

31 July
after a statement on the killing of a secondary school teacher in Galula, the perpetrators were arrested and taken to court.

14 August
after a statement on the arrest of an advocate, he was released on bail and later referred to court for contempt.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

A Widow Beats an Attempt to Take Her Late Husband's Estate

INHERITANCE RIGHTS

Fake claim stopped

LHRC's objection stopped a forged claim over the estate of her late husband.

TIMELINE OF THE CASE

1 **Aug 2025**
Kanna is widowed and appointed administrator of the estate

2 **14 Sep 2025**
A relative threatens her and forces her and her daughter out

3 **Probate claim**
A forged death certificate is found in a probate case at Arumeru District Court

4 **24 Jul 2026**
Court dismisses the probate case as res judicata and fraudulently obtained

5 **31 Jul 2026**
His appeal is dismissed too

Kanna Zephania Mbise was widowed in August 2025. The Maji ya Chai Primary Court appointed her administrator of her late husband's estate, and she completed the process properly, filing the inventory, distributing the assets and closing the probate. Then came trouble from her in-laws. On 14 September 2025, a relative of her husband entered the house carrying an axe and a machete, threatened to kill her and forced her and her daughter out. He was convicted of threatening to kill and malicious damage, and he appealed. Kanna came to LHRC to oppose the appeal.

While preparing, Kanna discovered that the same relative had filed a probate case at the Arumeru District Court, asking to administer the estate of a supposed sister who had died on 28 August 2025. The properties listed were the ones that belonged to her late husband. LHRC checked the documents and found that no one of that name had died on that date, and that the death certificate was forged.

LHRC's advocate objected, and the magistrate stopped the grant of probate, summoned the man and ordered his arrest. After three hours in custody, he admitted before his advocate that the application was forged. On 24 July 2026, the court dismissed the probate case as res judicata and fraudulently obtained, and on 31 July his appeal was dismissed too. Kanna and her daughter kept their right to inherit.



LEGAL AID BY THE NUMBERS

LHRC Reaches More Than 20,000 Tanzanians Through Legal Aid This Quarter

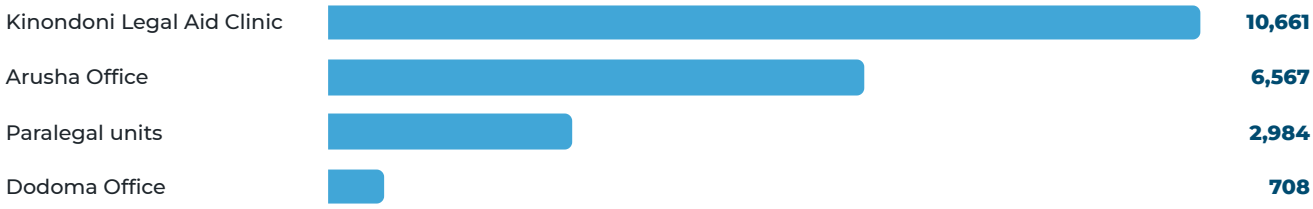
From a busy clinic in Dar es Salaam to a booth at the Nanenane grounds in Dodoma, from Maasai villages around Arusha to paralegal offices across the country, LHRC's legal aid network was in constant motion between July and September. For the people it served, free legal help meant a chance to be heard, and often to win.

LEGAL AID REACH

20,920
clients

Served through LHRC's three legal aid offices and its paralegal units between July and September 2026.

Clients served: legal aid offices and paralegal units
July – September 2026 · total 20,920



KINONDONI · TARGET

140%

of the quarterly target of 7,614

target exceeded

KINONDONI · CLIENTS

73% men | 27%

85 clients were persons with disabilities

ARUSHA · VULNERABLE CLIENTS

443

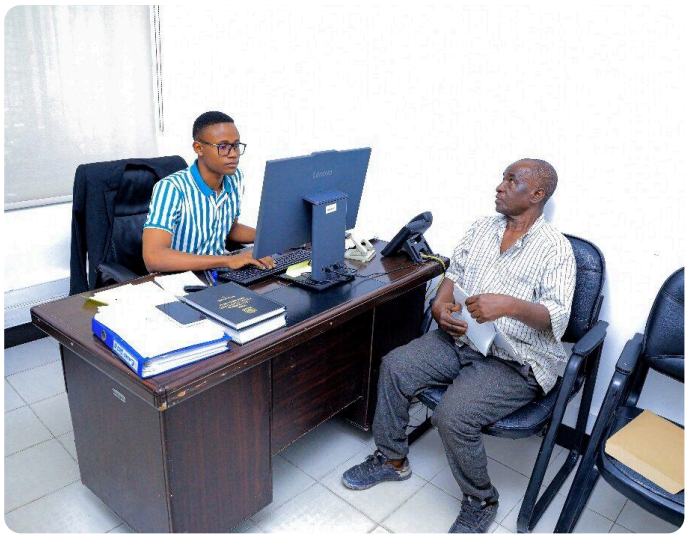
women outnumbered men among them by three to one; nearly three in four clients had land matters

At Kinondoni, men made up 73% of clients and women 27%, and 85 clients were persons with disabilities. In Arusha, 443 clients were considered vulnerable, among them widows, older persons and survivors of gender-based violence, and women outnumbered men among them by three to one. Across the offices, land disputes were the single biggest reason people knocked on LHRC's door. The Arusha Office also took legal education to where people gather: 48 women learned about their rights on marriage, divorce and probate at a church session.

LEGAL AID BY THE NUMBERS

Our Legal Aid Clinics at Work





*Graduate interns **Hellen Kisanga** (left) and **Allan Kagaruki** (right) attending clients at the Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic.*

Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic

1,060
clients
represented in court, including 111 children in conflict with the law

7,301
clients
given legal advice

304
documents
drafted and lodged

17
cases
won

Arusha Office

4,809
clients
with land matters

664
clients
empowered to defend themselves in court

402
documents
drafted

26
cases
won

LEGAL AID

Dodoma Office

In Dodoma, 413 men and 295 women were served, including 65 widows, 29 older persons and 9 persons with disabilities. Most came through court annexed services (295) and the call centre (209). From 1 to 8 August, LHRC joined the Tanzania Land Alliance at the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition, where 33 clients (13 men and 20 women) received advice at the booth. The lesson from the exhibition: legal aid should keep going to public events, with enough private space for clients with sensitive matters.

DODOMA CLIENTS

413 men	295 women

65	29	9
widows	older persons	persons with disabilities

How they came

295 court annexed	209 call centre

Nanenane booth, 1–8 August: 33 clients

13 men	20 women

Paralegals Carry Justice to the Grassroots

REACH

56% women

2,984
clients advised, 56% of them women

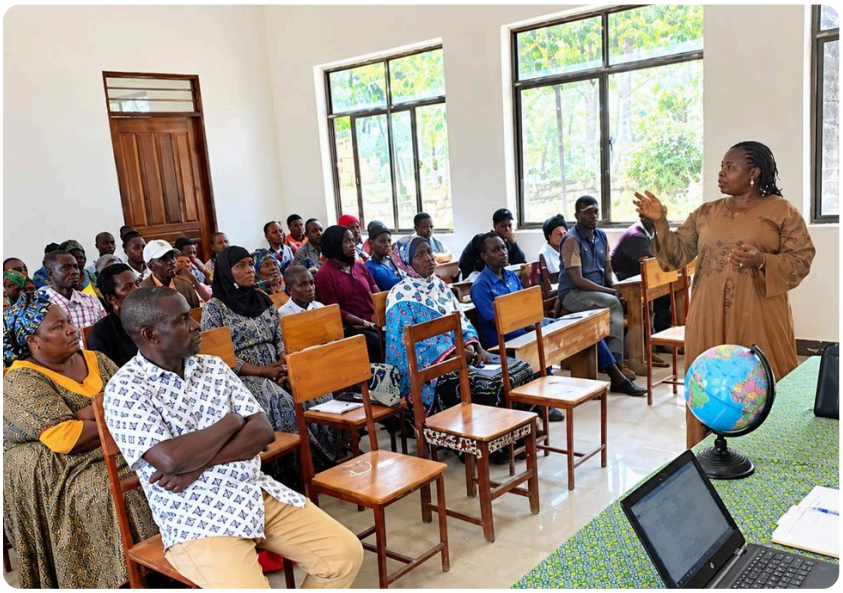
RESOLUTION

267 women

446
disputes reconciled, 267 involving women

60,685
people empowered in villages, markets, hospitals and on radio

862
referrals to police, social welfare, courts and tribunals





*Paralegal **Rose Kayuza** empowering KIKOBA members in Mtipwili Ward, Nyasa (left), and **Abasi Famau** of Kiteto Paralegals using LHRC self-help kits in a session on land disputes (right).*

LEGAL AID · PARALEGALS

Where There Is No Lawyer, There Is Often a Paralegal

Where there is no lawyer for miles, there is often a paralegal. LHRC coordinates and supports paralegal units that bring advice, mediation and legal education to the places formal services rarely reach. This quarter their clients came with land, matrimonial and probate disputes and with cases of violence against women and children. Paralegals also took the conversation to the airwaves, with sessions on human rights, children's rights and gender-based violence on Standard FM in Singida, City Radio FM and ZOE TV in Temeke.

ON THE AIRWAVES

- **Standard FM** Singida
- **City Radio FM**
- **ZOE TV** Temeke

LHRC BACKED THE UNITS IN PRACTICAL WAYS

5	units: office rent paid
2	units: registration renewal supported
750	self-help kits to the Ilala, Kinondoni and Temeke offices

LHRC backed the units in practical ways. It paid office rent for five units, supported registration renewal for two, and gave 750 self-help kits to the Ilala, Kinondoni and Temeke offices.



*A local television report on the case of **Lilumba Shira**, supported by SLAPC.*

Work is changing lives one case at a time. Lilumba Shira, a widow from Iglanson Village in Ikungi District, Singida, appealed a District Court decision that had denied her part of her property, including a house she built after her former husband's death. The Singida Legal Aid and Paralegal Centre (SLAPC) took up her case after it was referred from LHRC Dodoma, guided her through the right procedures, and she secured her property rights.

LEGAL AID · LAND RIGHTS

After a Decade-Long Fight, Rose Mvamba Finally Has Her Land Back

A DECADE-LONG LAND DISPUTE

> *I have recovered my land and now use it without any disturbance. I thank you for your legal support free of charge.*

Rose Alfonce Mvamba, *translated from Kiswahili.*



Rose Alfonce Mvamba at the Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic.

THIRTEEN YEARS, STEP BY STEP

1. **2013** — Mabwepande Ward Tribunal rules Rose is the lawful owner
2. **2017** — A buyer obtains a fraudulent one-sided ruling against her
3. **2024** — With the clinic's help, the ruling is set aside
4. **2025** — Tribunal orders demolition of unauthorised structures
5. **Aug 2026** — Court dismisses the later buyers' claim

In 2013, the Mabwepande Ward Tribunal ruled that Rose Alfonce Mvamba was the lawful owner of her plot and that a man who had trespassed on it had no claim. Winning on paper was only the beginning. The trespasser ignored the decision and sold the land anyway, setting off a chain of sales to people who had no right to buy it.

Things got worse in 2017, when a man who had bought the plot obtained a fraudulent one-sided ruling against Rose. When she found out, she turned to the Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic. With the clinic's help, the ruling was set aside in 2024 and permanently dismissed when the other side failed to appear.

The clinic then guided her in enforcing the original 2013 judgment. In 2025, the District Land and Housing Tribunal for Kinondoni ordered the demolition of all unauthorised structures on her plot. The later buyers challenged their eviction, but in August 2026 the court dismissed their claim, confirming that purchases made while a dispute is before the courts are unlawful and invalid.

Today Rose has peaceful, undisturbed possession of her land, more than a decade after the first decision in her favour.

LEGAL AID · EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Five Workers Recover Their Wages Through Reconciliation

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS
5 workers

Recovered unpaid wages and entitlements through reconciliation, with known payments above TZS 2.4 million.

Not every labour dispute needs a courtroom. This quarter, LHRC's Arusha Office helped five workers recover what they were owed by bringing employers to the table and sticking with the process until it paid off.

Known payments recovered (TZS)
Per worker, through reconciliation



PRIME MEAT COMPANY

Habiba Mpondo and Ruth Mollel.

Former employees of Prime Meat Company, they came to LHRC in March 2026. After months of dialogue and follow-up, the matter was resolved in August, and each received TZS 469,000 in arrears.

TZS 469,000 each

NYIKANI WILDERNESS COMPANY

Osward Sarakikya.

Owed arrears by Nyikani Wilderness Company, he saw reconciliation begin in February 2026. Persistent follow-up led to an amicable settlement and payment.

Settled & paid

PREMIUM SUPPLY LTD

Amina Mohamed Sengeda.

A salesperson at Premium Supply Ltd, she received TZS 825,000 through reconciliation.

TZS 825,000

ARUSHA SUNRISE

Pascal Kimario Adolph.

A distributor at Arusha Sunrise whose contract was unfairly terminated, he was paid TZS 700,000 and received his certificate.

TZS 700,000

> Their experiences show that reconciliation can give workers a timely, affordable path to justice, without the delays and cost of long litigation.

LAND, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS

Research Becomes Action: Small-Scale Fishers Report Gains Traction



LHRC officers at the launch of the report on small-scale fishers at LHRC headquarters on 31 July 2026.

REPORT LAUNCH · 31 JULY

67

participants

41 men | 26 women

OUTPUTS

3

policy briefs, plus English and Kiswahili summaries

EARLIER OUTREACH

Tanga | Pwani | Lindi | Mtwara

Research only matters if it changes something. On 31 July, LHRC and CHRAGG launched their report *Human Rights, Small-Scale Fishers and Their Access to and Management of Marine Resources in Tanzania* before 67 participants (41 men and 26 women) from Government, civil society, academia, the media and coastal communities. English and Kiswahili summaries and three policy briefs followed, building on the community outreach LHRC and CHRAGG carried out earlier this year in Tanga, Pwani, Lindi and Mtwara.

Duty bearers have already started to act. CHRAGG now includes small-scale fishers' concerns in its routine monitoring of human rights incidents reported through the media and the public. In Muheza, the District Council advised the Village Liaison Committee in Msakangoto to register as a Community-Based Organisation so that it can apply for the Council's 10% loan scheme for small-scale fishing activities, and registration is under way.

Fisherwomen are also finding their own voice. In Lindi, women from the Tanzania Women Fish Workers Association (TAWFA) formed a committee of their own to deal with their members' challenges, rather than relying only on village committees or Beach Management Units. In July, TAWFA opened an Instagram account to share content and amplify the voices of women fish workers.

Together, these steps show the research moving beyond a report on a shelf. It is shaping institutional practice and giving rights holders the tools to take their own issues forward.

FROM REPORT TO RESULTS

CHRAGG
Includes small-scale fishers' concerns in routine monitoring

Muheza
Msakangoto committee registering to access the Council's 10% loan scheme

Lindi · TAWFA
Women fish workers form their own committee and open an Instagram account

LAND, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS

Land Conflicts and Livelihoods: The Story of Matonya Malima

LAND RIGHTS
25 acres

Declared the lawful owner by the District Land and Housing Tribunal in September.

The land
Twenty-five acres in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region

Trespass
Samson Makweme trespassed onto the land, bringing conflict and threats

Empowered
LHRC helped draft his documents and prepared him to represent himself

Declared owner
In September the Tribunal declared him the lawful owner

For a family that depends on its land, a boundary that is no longer respected can turn daily life upside down. That was the position of Matonya Chikombi Malima, who owns twenty-five acres of land in Chamwino District in Dodoma Region. When Samson Makweme trespassed onto the land, the dispute brought conflict and threats between the two sides.

To protect his interest, Mr. Malima sought legal assistance from LHRC's Dodoma Office. Rather than leaving him to face the process alone, LHRC empowered him to stand up for himself. The team helped him draft his documents and prepared him to represent himself before the District Land and Housing Tribunal.

The effort paid off in September, when the Tribunal declared Mr. Malima the lawful owner of the land. He was thankful for the support he received, and he is now waiting for the time for appeal to lapse so that he can apply for execution of the decision.

His case reflects a wider pattern. The Dodoma Office observed that boundary disputes often trace back to improper surveys by the relevant authorities, while trespass cases frequently involve wealthier people forcing their way onto the land of those with less. Mr. Malima's story shows the weight of land administration challenges on ordinary people, and what is possible when legal aid reaches clients who live far from LHRC's offices.

PATTERN OBSERVED BY THE DODOMA OFFICE
Boundary disputes
often trace back to improper surveys by the relevant authorities

PATTERN OBSERVED BY THE DODOMA OFFICE
Trespass cases
frequently involve wealthier people forcing their way onto the land of those with less

LAND, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS

When Mines Expand, Who Protects the Communities?
Tarime Resettlement and the World Bank Mining Consultation





Valuation marks on structures after the cut-off date (left) and a woman with her new kitchen, with the RAP team, in Matongo Village on 28 August 2026 (right).

When mining operations expand, nearby communities risk losing property, businesses and livelihoods. In Tarime, LHRC, alongside CHRAGG and Tuwakomboe Paralegals Organization, monitored the resettlement process for residents affected by the proposed expansion of the North Mara Gold Mine's tailings storage facility. The assessment identified gaps, including unclear timelines for property valuations and restrictions on household improvements that may particularly affect women.

GAPS THE ASSESSMENT IDENTIFIED

- **Unclear timelines** for property valuations
- **Restrictions on household improvements** that may particularly affect women

On 8 September, LHRC participated in a World Bank Group consultation in Dar es Salaam on artisanal and small-scale mining, sharing recommendations on human rights, community participation and corporate accountability. LHRC also submitted its Human Rights and Business Report 2023/24 to inform the World Bank's advice to the Government.

LHRC's work extended regionally when Senior Legal Officer Advocate Hamisi Mayombo participated in a corporate accountability forum in Kenya from 15 to 17 July. He shared lessons from LHRC's litigation, highlighting regional and international mechanisms, including the East African Court of Justice.

THREE LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT THIS QUARTER

1. **Local · Tarime**
   Resettlement monitoring with CHRAGG and Tuwakomboe Paralegals Organization
2. **National · 8 Sept**
   World Bank Group consultation on artisanal and small-scale mining, Dar es Salaam
3. **Regional · 15–17 July**
   Corporate accountability forum in Kenya

LAND, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS

Settlement Out of Court Brings Certainty to 43 Maasai Clients





LHRC officers and clients during a case briefing, before individual assessment and coaching.

CLIENTS
43
Maasai community members in the Engikareti land case at the High Court in Arusha

OUTCOME
Settled
out of court, before the hearing set for 20 August 2026

FACT-FINDING
428
clients affected by KADCO land acquisition, fact-finding on 29 and 30 July

WHY A SETTLEMENT MATTERS FOR THE CLIENTS

A judgment can be appealed
which could delay payment of compensation for years

Greater certainty
that the compensation will arrive

Time and resources
saved for the clients and LHRC

Forty-three members of Maasai communities had taken the Engikareti Village Council, other public bodies and the Attorney General to the High Court in Arusha in a land case. As the hearing set for 20 August 2026 drew near, LHRC's job was to prepare them, and it was no small task.

Most of the clients knew little about the legal details of their case, and some could communicate effectively only in the Maasai language, with limited Kiswahili or English. LHRC officers worked with careful interpretation and patient engagement to understand each person's story and prepare their witness statements.

After extensive preparation and coaching, the case was settled out of court, and the hearing was avoided. For the clients, the settlement matters because a judgment can be appealed, which could delay payment of compensation for years. A settlement gives them greater certainty that the compensation will arrive. It also saved the clients and LHRC considerable time and resources.

In a separate effort on 29 and 30 July, LHRC carried out a fact-finding exercise with 428 clients affected by the acquisition of their land by the Kilimanjaro Airports Development Company (KADCO). The team documented their experiences, checked the status of compensation and acquisition processes, and identified the legal and procedural challenges they face, to help shape the next steps in the matter.

GENDER JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Community Champions Step Forward in Singida and Manyara





Community inception meetings at Balang'dalalu Ward in Manyara: a traditional leader speaking (left) and champions in group discussion (right).

GBV PREVENTION

26 champions

13 in Singida and 13 in Manyara, ready to mobilise communities and support referrals.

INCEPTION MEETINGS

55 participants

60% women | 40% men

Singida priorities

- Limited participation of women and youth in decision making
- Fear of contesting for leadership
- Too little attention to community voices

Manyara priorities

- FGM
- Male-dominated decision making
- Rape and sexual violence
- Family neglect

LHRC's community inception meetings in Singida and Manyara turned findings from a community mapping into local priorities and action plans. The 55 participants, 60% women and 40% men, identified and oriented 26 community champions drawn from community structures and duty bearers. They have committed to raising awareness on rights and protection, supporting referrals, promoting positive norms and linking survivors to services.

The priorities differ by place. In Singida, communities pointed to the limited participation of women and youth in decision making, fear of contesting for leadership and too little attention to community voices. In Manyara, they raised FGM, male-dominated decision making, rape and sexual violence, and family neglect. Although gender inequality is a common concern, how it shows up, and where to start, differs from one community to the next.

THE CHAMPIONS HAVE COMMITTED TO

- Raising awareness on rights and protection
- Supporting referrals
- Promoting positive norms
- Linking survivors to services

GENDER JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

From Community Findings to Action

EACH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN COVERS

1. **Awareness** — Awareness raising
2. **Identify** — Identifying and documenting GBV cases
3. **Refer** — Referrals
4. **Support** — Survivor support
5. **Engage** — Engagement with service providers

Each community also produced an action plan covering awareness raising, identifying and documenting GBV cases, referrals, survivor support and engagement with service providers. These plans give the champions a clear job and give LHRC a baseline for tracking whether community-led action is making a difference.

The findings are already shaping LHRC's work. Programming will be tailored to each region instead of applying one approach to both. Men, boys, and religious and traditional leaders will be engaged as agents of change, especially in Manyara. Spaces will be created for women and young people to take part in leadership and decisions, especially in Singida. And referral pathways will be strengthened by bringing together health facilities, social welfare services, the police, local government, paralegals and legal aid providers.

HOW THE FINDINGS ARE SHAPING LHRC'S WORK

Tailored programming
Programming will be tailored to each region instead of applying one approach to both.

Agents of change
Men, boys, and religious and traditional leaders will be engaged as agents of change.

Especially in Manyara

Voice in leadership
Spaces will be created for women and young people to take part in leadership and decisions.

Especially in Singida

Stronger referral pathways
Bringing together health facilities, social welfare services, the police, local government, paralegals and legal aid providers.

The same approach is reaching communities in Dar es Salaam

At GBV awareness sessions in Chamazi, Temeke on 30 July and Kigogo, Kinondoni on 13 August, LHRC reached 91 participants (48 women, 34 men and 9 children and students). The 35 GBV cases documented in Temeke were all referred to legal aid, health services or Police Gender and Children's Desks.

GBV AWARENESS SESSIONS · 91 PARTICIPANTS

Chamazi, Temeke (30 July) · Kigogo, Kinondoni (13 August)



TEMEKE

35

GBV cases documented, **all referred** to legal aid, health services or Police Gender and Children's Desks

GENDER JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

A Smile at Last: The Story of Justina Kajuna

FAMILY JUSTICE · 30% TO 50%

Her share of the matrimonial property, after mediation at the High Court, with her business kept out of the division.



HER PATH TO A FAIR SHARE

1. **Primary Court** — 30% of the property, with her place of business included
2. **Around May 2026** — Approached LHRC at the Shinyanga Municipal Office
3. **Appeal filed** — Petition of appeal prepared and filed through ECMS
4. **High Court** — Parties referred to alternative dispute resolution
5. **Mediation** — 50% each, business left out, children's maintenance continues

Justina Kajuna, 52, of Kahama in Shinyanga Region, had lost hope. A divorce court battle had ended her 20-year marriage, and she was deeply stressed and unhappy with the decree issued by the Primary Court on the division of the matrimonial property. The court gave her 30% of the property and also included her place of business in the division, which meant she lost her only source of income.

Around May 2026, Justina heard about LHRC at the Shinyanga Municipal Office and approached the team for help in appealing to the High Court of Shinyanga. LHRC empowered her by preparing her petition of appeal and filing it through the electronic case management system (ECMS).

The case was scheduled for mention, and the High Court then referred the parties to alternative dispute resolution, to avoid the complexity of a full hearing of the appeal.

Mediation succeeded. The division of the property was restructured to 50% for each side, her place of business was left out of the matrimonial property, and her husband was instructed to continue maintaining the children.

Justina's story highlights a challenge many women face in matrimonial proceedings, particularly when both spouses are not recorded as joint owners of property. It also shows how much legal aid can change for people from underprivileged communities who would otherwise have no way to challenge an unfair decision.

GENDER JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Pushing for Laws That Protect Women, Children and Persons with Albinism



Participants at the National Dialogue on the National Action Plan for the Rights and Welfare of Persons with Albinism.

Ending child marriage.

LHRC took part in the African Union monitoring mission on child protection, harmful practices and child marriage and in a multi-stakeholder symposium on amending the Law of Marriage Act, 1971. It reinforced its call to set 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys, and highlighted gaps in Sections 13 and 17 of the Act.

18 yrs proposed minimum age of marriage for girls and boys

Obstetric violence.

A litigation surgery strengthened the proposed strategic case on obstetric violence, with petitions and affidavits drafted for eight petitioners. LHRC is working with WGNRR, PGWOCADE, legal practitioners and medical experts, and next steps before filing include final affidavits and legal review.

8 petitioners with petitions and affidavits drafted

People with albinism.

At the national dialogue on the National Action Plan for the Rights and Welfare of Persons with Albinism, LHRC recommended uniform by-laws so local authorities can keep updated information on persons with albinism and their security needs, and stronger penalties for offences targeting them because of their albinism.

2 recommendations: uniform by-laws and stronger penalties

Youth in law and policy.

LHRC mapped ten laws and policies against youth priorities such as employment, education, health and participation. The findings will guide its youth advocacy and civic education work.

10 laws and policies mapped against youth priorities

WITH THANKS

Our Development Partners

Norway

EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

Embassy of Finland in Tanzania

Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland

FORD FOUNDATION

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

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