



Mlinzi wa **HAKI**



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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 July 2023 Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

LHRC dedicated the month of July to fieldwork and actively participated in the Women Deliver 2023 Conference held in Kigali, Rwanda. This involvement demonstrates LHRC's commitment to women's rights and advocating for the removal of the death penalty in Tanzania, focusing on its societal impact.

Also engaged advocates to raise awareness and provide education on women's rights, particularly concerning the death penalty. This is essential in addressing this critical human rights issue and fostering informed discussions within society.

For July, LHRC's participation in the Excellence in Journalism Awards is a testament to its support for quality journalism. Recognising and awarding excellence in human rights news is an excellent way to promote responsible reporting on human rights issues.

LHRC's Program Officers conducted visits to various regions, including Mwanza and Manyara. These visits are essential for understanding the diverse human rights challenges faced in different areas and tailoring LHRC's efforts accordingly.

Also, the LHRC office in Dodoma provided legal aid services in various areas, including Bahi and Zanka wards. These services covered a wide range of legal issues, such as land disputes, employment and labour matters, family concerns, children's rights, claims, and crimes, specifically combating gender-based violence.

This month also saw the organisation sharpening the knowledge and skills of our paralegals scattered across the country, helping to ensure access to justice for all. We continued to provide legal aid to the needy and monitor human rights issues in Tanzania, which is why LHRC exists.



LHRC provides legal awareness at the Sabasaba Exhibition

From June 28th to July 13th, 2023, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) took an active role in the Sabasaba Exhibition in Dar es Salaam. This event served as a remarkable opportunity for LHRC to engage with the public and showcase its commitment to promoting legal awareness and access to justice.



Being a part of the 47th edition of the exhibition, LHRC demonstrated its dedication to making legal assistance accessible to all segments of society. LHRC's presence at the exhibition was about showcasing its initiatives and reaching out to individuals who might require legal guidance and support.

LHRC's involvement extended beyond merely offering legal aid – they sought to empower people with knowledge. Through the distribution of various publications such as reports and brochures, LHRC aimed to educate the public about diverse legal issues. These materials were carefully curated to provide valuable insights into matters that affect individuals' rights and responsibilities within the legal framework.

The Sabasaba Exhibition was a platform for LHRC to bridge the gap between legal expertise and the general public. Visitors to the exhibition had the opportunity to interact with LHRC representatives, seek guidance, and gain a better understanding of their legal rights and options.

By participating in this event, LHRC reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for human rights and ensuring that legal knowledge is accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances. The exhibition was a testament to LHRC's ongoing efforts to create a society where individuals are empowered to confidently navigate the legal landscape and assert their rights when needed.



LHRC extends legal aid and awareness in Babati, Arusha

From the 3rd to the 7th of July 2023, the Arusha office of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) embarked on a significant initiative by setting up camp in the Babati District, specifically in the Magugu Ward of the Manyara Region. This undertaking aimed to extend much-needed legal aid services to the local community.

During these dates, LHRC dedicated its resources and expertise to offer legal assistance to the residents of Babati District. This act of reaching out to a specific locality exemplified LHRC's commitment to ensuring that legal aid is accessible to all, regardless of their geographical location.



Furthermore, the efforts of the LHRC team did not stop at the provision of legal aid. The program officers from the Arusha office seized the opportunity to broaden their impact by engaging with the public through Manyara FM Radio.

Through this medium, they delivered legal awareness and education, thus empowering individuals with crucial information about their rights and the legal avenues available to them.

This comprehensive approach taken by LHRC underscored their dedication to offering immediate legal assistance and building a foundation of legal awareness within the community. By camping in Babati District and utilising the platform of Manyara FM Radio, LHRC not only addressed legal issues on an individual basis but also fostered a broader understanding of legal rights among the local population.

This initiative showcased LHRC's commitment to advocating for human rights and promoting a just society. It demonstrated that LHRC goes beyond the confines of its office to actively engage with communities, ensuring that justice and legal assistance are not just theoretical concepts but tangible realities for all.



LHRC bids farewell to Norwegian Ambassador

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) hosted a heartfelt farewell event on July 6, 2023, bidding adieu to H.E Elisabeth Jacobsen, the Ambassador of Norway in Tanzania. The event took place at LHRC's headquarters in Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam, and served as an opportunity to express gratitude for the valuable partnership between LHRC and Norway.

Norway has been an instrumental partner to LHRC, and their collaboration has significantly contributed to the advancement of human rights in Tanzania. LHRC recognises and values the support, guidance, and encouragement received from the Norwegian Ambassador Jacobsen throughout her tenure.

The partnership between LHRC and Norway has been a source of inspiration and motivation for the organisation. Through this collaboration, LHRC has strengthened its initiatives and effectively promoted legal and human rights awareness among various groups in Tanzania, including women, youths, children, and persons with disabilities.





LHRC camps in Ukerewe for legal awareness, assistance

In July 2023, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) embarked on a significant initiative by establishing a camp in Ukerewe District, situated within the Mwanza Region.

This endeavour aimed to bring legal awareness and assistance to the local community, demonstrating LHRC's commitment to upholding human rights and promoting equality.

During their stay, program officers from LHRC were welcomed by the District Commissioner of Ukerewe, Hon. Hassan Bomboko. This meeting held special significance as the District Commissioner was presented with copies of the Tanzania Human Rights Report for the year 2022.

These discussions provided a platform to delve into matters concerning human rights, equality, and community development.

One of the focal points of these discussions was the acknowledgement and commendation extended by the District Commissioner towards LHRC for their commendable efforts in safeguarding fundamental rights.

Within the context of Ukerewe District, the District Commissioner highlighted various areas that present challenges in terms of accessing these rights: child labour and exploitation; early marriages and pregnancies stemming from cultural and traditional norms; domestic violence; and land disputes.

It was evident that the District Commissioner's office has been actively engaged in addressing these pressing issues. They have taken substantial steps, including providing public education and offering legal guidance to individuals in need, underscoring the office's commitment to ensuring justice for all members of the community.

The essence of this visit extended beyond immediate interactions. One of its primary objectives was to bolster the capacities of legal assistants affiliated with the Mumbuga Paralegals Organization (MPO).



This collaborative effort sought to enhance the mechanisms for delivering and accessing justice within the district, ultimately working towards building a stronger foundation of legal awareness and rights advocacy.

Through their stay in Ukerewe District, LHRC provided essential legal aid and guidance and further solidified their commitment to a just and equitable society.

The initiative exemplified LHRC's dedication to extending their services beyond the traditional boundaries of their organisation and collaborating with local partners to create a lasting impact on the community.





US-based fashion model Tausi Likokola visits LHRC in Dar es Salaam

On the 10th of July 2023, fashion model Ms Tausi Likokola, who is currently based in the United States, visited the premises of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC). This encounter marked a meaningful convergence of two individuals driven by a shared commitment to advancing human rights.

Ms Likokola was warmly received by her host, LHRC's Executive Director, Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate), and they discussed collaborating to assist young people, particularly in enhancing their understanding of various human rights issues.

During their conversation, LHRC's Executive Director reiterated the organisation's steadfast dedication to working closely with Ms. Tausi Likokola. A notable aspect of the dialogue was the mention of LHRC's existing human rights clubs, which have been established in educational institutions across different regions of Tanzania.

These clubs, a testament to LHRC's proactive approach, serve the noble purpose of disseminating education and raising awareness about fundamental human rights among the youth.

This interaction underscored LHRC's unwavering commitment to forging partnerships with individuals like Ms. Tausi Likokola, who are deeply aligned with the organisation's mission of championing human rights.

Through the collaborative efforts of both parties, LHRC aspires to broaden the reach of human rights education and awareness, fostering a more informed and conscientious society.

The visit exemplified the impactful convergence of two entities from distinct spheres – fashion and human rights advocacy – united by their determination to contribute positively to promoting and protecting human rights.



It stands as a testament to the potent force that collaboration can be in driving meaningful change, transcending borders and boundaries to elevate the discourse around human rights on a global scale.





LHRC organises training to empower legal aid assistants at Ilala, Dar

On July 13th, 2023, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) orchestrated a training session aimed at bolstering the capabilities of legal aid assistants within the confines of the Ilala District in Dar es Salaam.

This instructive session, skillfully facilitated by legal experts hailing from LHRC, held a focal lens on imparting valuable insights into the realm of office management. Moreover, it delved into the realm of mastering effective methodologies for crafting an array of reports, each a testament to the legal aid rendered to fellow citizens in need.

The significance of this initiative lies in LHRC's steadfast commitment to nurturing the potential of its legal aid assistants. By equipping them with the skills and knowledge encompassing office management techniques and report preparation, LHRC is paving the way for these professionals to contribute more effectively to pursuing justice and safeguarding human rights.



As this training marks a milestone within the Ilala District, it is but a microcosm of a larger vision. LHRC's dedication to enhancing the capacities of its legal aid assistants is not bound by geography; rather, it extends across the entirety of the nation. The commitment to provide such training and empowerment initiatives echoes LHRC's mission to disseminate legal awareness and advocacy far and wide.

This event encapsulates the essence of empowerment and education. By imparting knowledge and skills to these legal aid assistants, LHRC is essentially fortifying the bedrock upon which access to justice and human rights protection stands.

Such training reverberates beyond the confines of the training room, reaching individuals and communities touched by the legal aid services provided.

In a society where justice and human rights are cornerstones of a fair and equitable existence, LHRC's endeavours emerge as a beacon of hope.

By investing in the development of their team members, they are investing in the greater good. As the training echoes its effects throughout the region and beyond, it underscores LHRC's unwavering dedication to its mission, catalysing positive change one empowered legal aid assistant at a time.



Rose Male's Courageous Journey: A call for Justice reform and abolition of the Death Penalty

The participation of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in the Women Deliver conference in Kigali, Rwanda, for an unofficial side event organized with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty on July 19, 2023, shed light on the plight of women who have faced the death penalty and been released.

Rose Male's story from Moshi, Tanzania, is a poignant example of the challenges and injustices that can occur within the criminal justice system.

Rose Male's case is a stark reminder of the flaws in the legal system, as she was sentenced to death for a crime she maintains she did not commit. Her ordeal not only affected her but also had a devastating impact on her family, especially her mother, who suffered health issues due to the stress of her daughter's situation.

One of the key issues highlighted is the difficult conditions faced by female prisoners, particularly those sentenced to death. These women often experience limited access to basic services, including medical care and the right to privacy during visits. Moreover, they are isolated from other prisoners and labeled as 'notorious,' which adds to their emotional burden.

Rose Male's call for the abolition of the death penalty is significant. She rightly argues that the death penalty infringes upon the fundamental right to life and that rehabilitation and learning should be the primary focus of the justice system. Her personal experience underscores the importance of a fair and just legal process.

Furthermore, Rose's story illustrates the lasting impact of a criminal record, which can hinder an individual's ability to reintegrate into society and access opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Stigmatization within the community further compounds these challenges.



Rose's resilience and determination in the face of adversity are commendable, as she and others like her strive to overcome these obstacles.

Rose Male's story serves as a powerful testament to the need for criminal justice reform, including the reevaluation of the death penalty, fair legal proceedings, and support systems for individuals who have been through the justice system.

Her advocacy for the abolition of the death penalty and emphasis on rehabilitation offer valuable insights into improving the justice system and ensuring that individuals have a chance at redemption and rebuilding their lives.



The Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate), and the Director of Empowerment and Accountability LHRC, Felista Mauya, in a group photo with the winners of the Excellence in Journalism Awards (EJAT) in the category of human rights news. The event took place on July 22, 2023, at the Mlimani City Hall in Dar es Salaam.





On the 28th and 29th of July 2023, the Office of the Regional Commissioner of Dar es Salaam, in collaboration with the National Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (NACONGO) for Dar es Salaam Region, conducted the Forum for Non-Governmental Organizations at the Main Library Hall, University of Dar es Salaam.

Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Dr Anna Henga, also participated in a non-governmental organisations forum.

The honourable Albert Chalamila, the Regional Commissioner of Dar es Salaam, was the esteemed guest of honour at the significant forum for non-governmental organisations. The forum's primary objective was to provide a platform for NGOs in the region to exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and propose improvements to the country's tax laws concerning non-governmental organisations. Also, there was a session on focusing on the utilisation of the Tanzania Revenue Authority's (TRA) online tax payment system.

During the forum, participants had the opportunity to delve into the challenges they face in taxation and present their recommendations for enhancing tax laws to foster the efficiency of non-governmental organisations.

Another critical topic revolves around identifying the challenges in managing and operating NGOs and brainstorming effective solutions. The discussions also encompass the laws about preventing money laundering and terrorist financing in the country.

The second day of the forum was centred on the future direction of non-governmental organisations and how they can effectively tackle both present and future sustainability challenges, not only on a national level but also in the global context.

Each session was followed by a Q&A segment, where participants actively contributed, shared opinions, and collectively addressed various inquiries.



During the discussions, various topics were addressed, including the use of the online TRA's online payment system. Participants had the opportunity to delve deep into the challenges they face regarding taxation and provide recommendations for improving tax laws to enhance the effectiveness of non-governmental organisations.





LHRC's Anna Henga addresses discrimination in newsrooms at WIN Conference.

On 28 July 2023, Executive Director of Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) Dr Anna Henga attended the Women in News -WAN-IFRA Tanzania alums skills building and networking conference at Giraffe Beach Hotel in Dar es Salaam as a Guest of Honor and keynote speaker.

The Women in News (WIN) Programme is an initiative by the WAN-IFRA that was started to develop and promote women's leadership in the media.

During the conference, Dr Henga said women in newsrooms are discriminated against in getting promotions and are more likely to be paid less than their male counterparts with the same qualifications (or even less) and experience.

“Part of my work is to provide Legal Aid,” Dr Henga said. “I receive cases of Journalists who have been exposed to Sextortion in the Newsroom, they are told to exchange their bodies in exchange for positions. Some are brave enough to say no, but some fall into the trap of gender-based violence (GBV) that also affects their career paths and their self-confidence.”





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Dr. Anna Henga





LHRC reiterates need for Tanzania to abolish death penalty

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) on July 25th, 2023, presented important recommendations made by the Commission for Criminal Justice to H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

One of the recommendations is advising the government to abolish the death penalty because the punishment has been proven to be ineffective, and it has been confirmed by the Commission for Criminal Justice that it does not deter crime.

Speaking to journalists at LHRC's headquarters in Kijitonyama, the Executive Director of LHRC, Dr Anna Henga, stated that according to the Commission, the death penalty is cruel, degrading, and contrary to human rights principles.

Therefore, it should not be a mandatory punishment, and if a person is sentenced to death and three years pass without the President of the United Republic of Tanzania approving the execution, the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment.

“For many years, LHRC has been advising the government to ratify the international human rights treaty to abolish the death penalty. This is because the punishment itself has been proven ineffective, and the Commission itself acknowledges the harm it causes,” Dr Henga said.

“Despite the Commission's hesitation to directly propose the abolition of the death penalty, LHRC continues to recommend its abolition. In a criminal justice system with numerous challenges, as outlined, it is easy to sentence an innocent person to death wrongfully,” she added.

Regarding investigations, LHRC has long been advocating for an independent and autonomous system for investigating and examining criminal offences in the country.





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Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate)
LHRC Executive Director.

The current system, where the Police are part of the process, creates the possibility of framing suspects with false charges, and sometimes the evidence is tampered with or interfered with during investigations, resulting in lengthy investigations. This is one of the recommendations made to the Commission.

LHRC advises the government to implement the Commission's recommendation to establish a new, independent body called the National Bureau of Investigation with the authority to investigate all criminal cases.



LHRC proposes that the bill for the establishment of this body be submitted to Parliament by September 2023 to expedite the efficiency of the investigation and examination system in the country.

LHRC has been raising concerns about the brutality of certain military forces, especially those dealing with wildlife and our protected areas. Fortunately, the Commission has identified and made recommendations about the existence of numerous institutions with military characteristics that sometimes hold unknown prisoners.

According to the Commission, approximately 18 institutions are functioning as police while lacking the necessary expertise.

Due to their lack of expertise and adequate training on the concept of arrests, we have witnessed serious human rights violations committed by officers of these forces under the control of organisations like TANAPA, TAWA, TFS, and others responsible for managing game reserves, including killings and sometimes clashes between these forces and the neighbouring communities.

LHRC advises the government to entrust all arrest responsibilities to the Police Force, while other institutions established by law, such as the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), which have the authority to conduct investigations and arrests, should work in cooperation with the Police when carrying out their operations. This proposal does not require a budget but is a matter for the government to decide.

LHRC has advised the Government to abolish the death penalty because the punishment itself has been proven, even by the Commission for Criminal Justice, to be ineffective, and its consequences are not being implemented.



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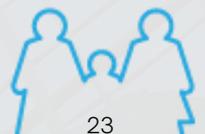
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