



MAY 2024



Dear esteemed readers!

With the committed efforts of our staff and the generous support of our developmental partners, including the embassies of Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, LHRC is pleased to extend a warm welcome to you for the May 2024 edition of the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

At LHRC, our efforts revolve around empowering Tanzanian citizens by advocating for, bolstering, and protecting their fundamental rights and advocating for effective governance within the nation.

(LHRC) dedicated this month to extensive fieldwork and also convened a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) midterm stakeholders' consultation session in Morogoro and Dodoma. Additionally, LHRC is pleased to have conducted a capacity-building session for journalists on the pressing issue of femicide. This training aimed to equip journalists with the necessary skills to report on this critical topic effectively.

The newsletter covers this story and many others, highlighting LHRC's key activities and engagements in May. I welcome you to read this newsletter to stay informed on what LHRC is up to and familiarise yourself with activities here at the organisation.

I encourage you all to read and share the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate)
LHRC Executive Director

LHRC teams up with other stakeholders in commemorating 2024 World Press Freedom Day 2024

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) joined other actors in Tanzania on May 2, 2024, in the capital, Dodoma, to commemorate the 2024 World Press Freedom Day.



As part of its participation in the event, LHRC, in collaboration with the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), hosted a panel discussion at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre to discuss legal, policy, and institutional frameworks affecting press freedom in the country.

The panellists discussed employment standards for journalists, gender-related issues, and security concerns within the media industry.

The Speaker of the Tanzanian Parliament, Dr. Tulia Ackson, delivered an inspiring opening address, emphasising the indispensable role of journalism in fostering democratic societies and addressing global challenges. Dr. Ackson highlighted the critical need for a free press to promote transparency, accountability, and informed public discourse.

Advocate Hidaya Haonga, Coordinator of the LHRC Dodoma Branch Office, advocated for journalists' rights and safety and provided a detailed assessment of the working conditions of journalists in Tanzania.

Haonga's evaluation covered the regulatory landscape governing the media, highlighting both strengths and areas needing improvement. She also addressed the pressing issue of





gender-based violence (GBV) in media houses, calling for robust measures to protect journalists, particularly women, from harassment and discrimination.

Haonga underscored the importance of enhancing employment standards and ensuring safe working environments for journalists. Her assessment indicated the need for more stringent policies and institutional support to safeguard journalists' rights and well-being.



World Press Freedom Day 2024 is dedicated to journalism and freedom of expression in the current global environmental crisis. The event stressed the essential role of journalists in raising awareness about the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and air pollution.

Journalists face significant challenges in reporting on critical environmental issues such as supply chain problems, climate migration, extractive industries, illegal mining, pollution, poaching, animal trafficking, deforestation, and climate change. Ensuring visibility and public understanding of these issues is vital for fostering democratic values and promoting peace worldwide.

In the global environmental crisis context, dis-/misinformation campaigns pose a significant threat to informed public debate and scientific research. Misleading information about climate change can undermine international efforts to address these urgent issues, leading to a lack of public and political support for necessary climate actions and policies.

This is particularly detrimental to vulnerable communities and exacerbates existing inequalities, especially affecting women and girls. To counter these challenges, a comprehensive strategy is required, including:

- Preventing and protecting journalists from crimes committed against them and ensuring their safety and freedom are paramount for them to carry out their vital work.
- Upholding freedom of expression and access to information by promoting the rights to freedom of expression and scientific research while combating dis-/misinformation through responsible journalism.
- Promoting media diversity and viability by supporting regional, local, indigenous, and community-based media to ensure a plurality of voices and perspectives.
- Ensuring transparent digital platform governance by fostering accountability, due diligence, and user empowerment in digital content moderation, in line with UNESCO's Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms.
- Media and information literacy programs empower users with critical thinking skills to navigate the digital information landscape effectively.

The panel discussion concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to support and protect journalists' vital role. Ensuring accurate, timely, and comprehensive reporting on environmental issues and their solutions is crucial for sustainable development and a healthy democracy.



LHRC's Henga addresses national conference on new electoral laws at UDSM

NEWS IN BRIEF

On May 8, 2024, Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), participated in a national conference at the New Library Hall, University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), to reflect on and build an understanding of the newly enacted election laws. The conference was organised by the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD).

During the event, Dr. Henga discussed the Election Act for the President, Members of Parliament, and Councilors of 2024: "This law provides guidelines on how to manage the election of these three leaders - the President, Members of Parliament, and Councilors - and it repeals the Election Act of 1985 as well as the Local Government Act of 1979."

The conference aimed to foster a shared understanding of the newly signed electoral laws in preparation for the 2024 local government and 2025 general elections.

Participants included representatives from political parties, civil society organisations, diplomats, and journalists. Discussions focused on the Presidential, Parliamentary, and Councillor Election Act No. 1 of 2024, the Independent National Electoral Commission Act No. 2 of 2024, the Political Parties Amendment Act No. 3 of 2024, and the Miscellaneous Amendments Act No. 4 of 2024.



Dr. Anna Henga speaking during a national conference at the New Library Hall, University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).



LHRC convenes stakeholders for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) midterm review consultative session

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) this month convened a UPR Midterm Review Stakeholders Consultation Session with its Executive Director, Dr. Anna Henga, presenting the status of the implementation of the United Nations recommendations on the state of human rights to the Minister of Constitution and Law, Hon. Pindi Chana.



This presentation occurred during a meeting organised by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) on May 12, 2024, in Dodoma.

Dr. Henga highlighted laws that hinder freedom of expression and the process of accessing criminal justice. However, she also acknowledged several steps the Government has taken in these areas.

The meeting aimed to enhance parliament's capacity and role in implementing human rights standards from regional and international human rights mechanisms in Dodoma.

Additionally, on May 13th and 14th, 2024, LHRC convened a UPR stakeholder consultative session at the Flomi Hotel in Morogoro. The session gathered more than 50 stakeholders working on various thematic areas, including but not limited to civil and political rights,



women's rights, children's rights, minority and PWDs rights, general human rights, economic rights, social rights, and civil society and human rights defenders in general.

The consultative session is part of the UPR process, for which Tanzania is expected to be reviewed for the midterm period from 2022 to 2024. A shadow report for this period is expected to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in November 2024.

The report will, among other things, incorporate recommendations that Tanzania has accepted to implement in the following thematic areas: (i) Women's rights; (ii) Minority groups and PWDs; (iii) Child rights; (iv) Freedom of expression, association, and assembly; (v) General human rights; (vi) Civil society and human rights defenders; (vii) Social rights; (viii) Economic rights and land rights.

The UPR is part of the UN human rights review mechanism, in which all 193 UN member states are involved, unlike the treaty-based mechanism, in which only treaty body members are involved.



Dr. Anna Henga during a UPR stakeholder consultative session at the Nashera Hotel in Morogoro.



LHRC trains journalists in Dodoma to combat rising femicide rates in Tanzania

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) conducted a capacity-building session for journalists at the Morena Hotel in Dodoma on May 14–15, 2024. The session focused on reporting on cases of intimate partner homicide, specifically femicide.



LHRC Senior Program Officer for Gender, Women, Children, and Persons with Disability, Adv. Getrude Dyabene led the session. Journalists were empowered to report on gender issues and learn about marriage laws.

Adv. Dyabene said there is a lack of a national definition of femicide in a context where standardised data on gender-related killings of women and girls remain patchy and of insufficient quality to monitor trends and understand the scale of the problem.

The LHRC Femicide Report underscores the urgency of this issue, revealing alarming statistics regarding gender-related killings of women and girls in Tanzania.



Despite the lack of a national definition of femicide and standardised data, the Director of Criminal Investigation (DCI) report highlights a concerning trend. Over the past five years (2018–September 2022), 2,438 women were tragically killed, averaging 492 women per year and 43 women per month.

Shockingly, the data from September 2022 indicates a distressing increase, with 53 women killed per month, marking a significant rise from previous years.

This training session aims to empower journalists to effectively cover the issue of femicide across Tanzania by enhancing their understanding and reporting capabilities.

Violence against women encompasses a wide array of harmful acts, ranging from verbal harassment and emotional abuse to severe physical and sexual assault. At its most extreme, this violence manifests as femicide: the intentional murder of women because they are women.

Despite its alarming prevalence, our understanding of femicide remains limited, largely due to inadequate data collection and reporting. Accurate documentation of femicide is challenging. In many countries, police and medical records do not specify the relationship between victim and perpetrator, nor do they always indicate whether gender-related motives were involved. This lack of detailed reporting hampers efforts to fully understand and address the issue.

The 2023 Human Rights Report by LHRC documented 50 intimate partner homicides (IPH) in 2023. These IPH incidents were reported in Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Geita, Mbeya, Tabora, Kagera, Mwanza, Simiyu, Dar es Salaam, Songwe, Mara, Dodoma, Manyara, Iringa, Rukwa, Njombe, and Morogoro.

Half of the incidents were reported in the Northern Zone and Lake Zone, while the remaining half were reported in other zones. Gender-based violence (GBV) is widespread and common in Tanzania. Data revealed that 40% of women and girls in Tanzania aged 15–49 have experienced physical violence, and 17% have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.

A violence against children survey found that 27.9% of girls had experienced sexual violence before their 18th birthday. The Tanzania Demographic Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (2015–16) showed that the Lake Zone has a higher violence prevalence compared to the rest of the Tanzanian mainland.

For example, spouse violence ranges at 78% in both Mara and Shinyanga and 60% in Mwanza regions, while in Pemba/Zanzibar, the prevalence rate is between 8% and 9%. In Arusha, about eight women have been killed and their bodies thrown into the barracks by unknown



perpetrators since January 2018. In Tanzania, the difference in earnings between abused and non-abused women amounts to 1.22% of the country's GDP.

During the training session, Adv. Dyabene explained that there is a need to have a comprehensive, specific law on gender-based violence (GBV), which will also address, among other issues, femicide, domestic violence, and the protection of survivors and victims, including having appropriate punishment for perpetrators of gender-related killings of women and girls.



Advocate Getrude Dyabene, Senior Program Gender Unit LHRC on the left during journalists' capacity building session in Dodoma at Morena Hotel.



LHRC participates in the Zanzibar Democracy Forum in Zanzibar

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) participated in the Democracy Forum, held at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Zanzibar from May 16th to 17th, 2024. The event was organised by the Centre for Strategic Litigation, LHRC, Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD), and WAHAMAZA.



LHRC Executive Director Dr. Anna Henga during the Democracy Forum, held at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Zanzibar.

LHRC Executive Director Dr. Anna Henga attended the forum and was joined by renowned intellectual Prof. Chris Peter Maina and TAMWA-Zanzibar Director Dr. Mzuri Issa in a panel discussion titled “Election Cycle and Civic Space.”

The forum gathered more than 70 participants, including representatives of political parties, civil society organisations, religious leaders, development partners, representatives from South Africa and Ghana, and press members.

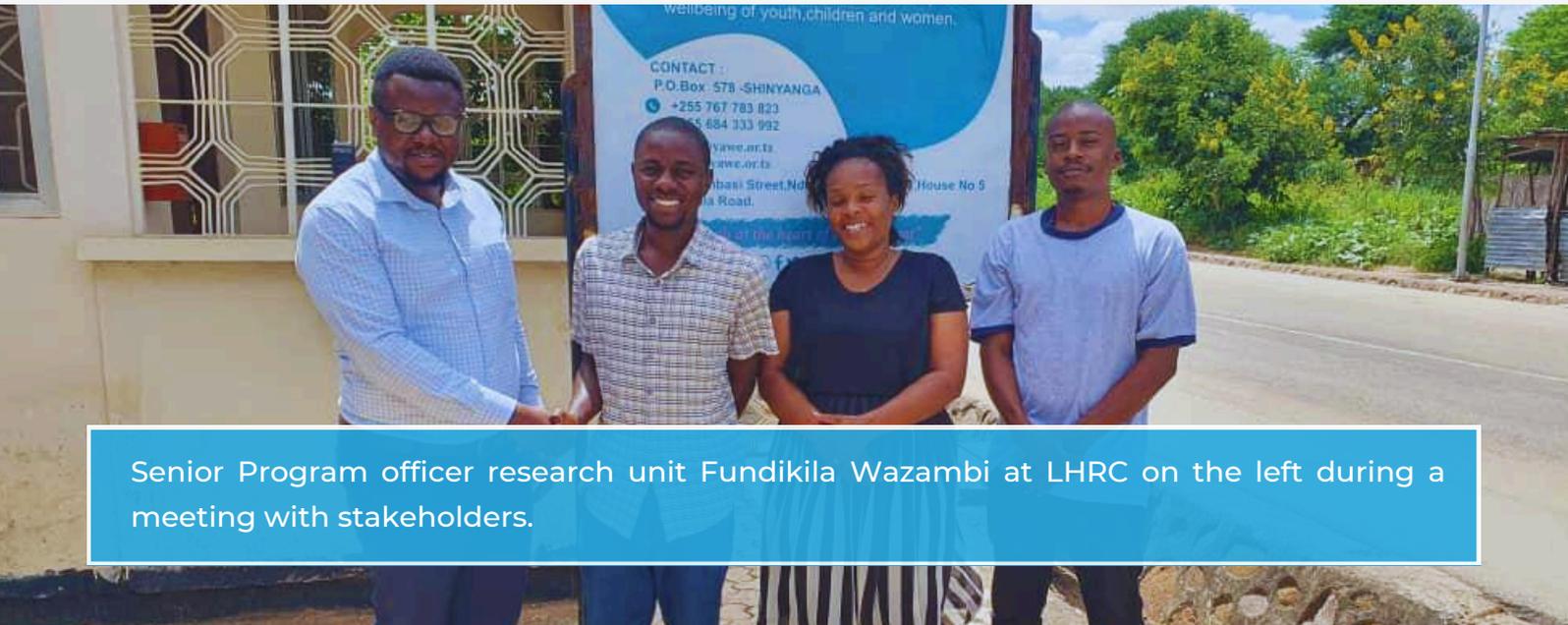
The forum concluded on May 17th, 2024, with the issuance of resolutions and a plan for the way forward.



LHRC forges partnerships for corporate accountability, human rights in Tanzania's business sectors.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) this month met with organisations working on corporate accountability and business rights, particularly those operating in the extractive sector and various business sectors.



Senior Program officer research unit Fundikila Wazambi at LHRC on the left during a meeting with stakeholders.

The focus was on providing education and assisting in the implementation of policies, laws, and various international treaties that promote accountability and the enforcement of human rights in the business sector.

LHRC has partnered with organizations located in the northern region (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara), the lake region (Mara, Shinyanga, and Geita), the southern region (Ruvuma), and the southern highlands region (Mbeya and Songwe).

These organizations work at both community and national levels to ensure that human rights are upheld and that citizens' rights have been violated receive legal assistance.

The main goal is to ensure that there is an understanding of laws and human rights at the community level, to establish and maintain relationships with organizations working with the community in the extractive sector, and to create a system for joint monitoring and addressing legal and human rights issues reported by community members.

LHRC met with the following organizations: Ruvuma Paralegal Centre (RUPACE), HAKIMADINI, Tuwakomboe Paralegal Centre, New Light Child Centre Organisation, Voluntary Services Overseas, Youth and Women Emancipation, Himiza Social Justice, Mbeya Regional Mining Association (MBEREMA), and Tanzania Mineral and Mining Trust Fund.



LHRC tours human rights clubs across Tanzania

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) this month visited more than 60 Human Rights Clubs in Kagera, Mara, Singida and Dodoma regions.



LHRC's purpose was to ensure that youth in Tanzania become Knowledgeable, Motivated, and Confident about Human Rights issues and take a central role in promoting and protecting Human Rights in the country.

Moreover, through this visit, LHRC has also participated in providing mass education and awareness via our local community radio partners, such as Karagwe FM, Mugumu FM, and Dodoma FM.





Program officer for the Youth and Human Rights Clubs Program Unit Ally Seif during the engaged with the student.



LHRC, CHRAGG collaborate to develop national action plan on Human Rights and Business

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), in collaboration with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), conducted a document review session to prepare a national action plan on Human Rights and Business. This session began on May 20 and ran until May 25, 2024, at the Golden Crest Hotel in Arusha.



The session focused on reviewing various documents and publications (Literature Review) concerning seven sectoral priority areas approved by the National Executive Committee: extractives and Energy, manufacturing and Processing, agriculture and Blue Economy, tourism and Hospitality, labour and Transport, digitalisation and Communication, and Trade, Commerce, and Finance.

The session aimed to improve the assessment of the state of Human Rights and Business (National Baseline Assessment - NBA) conducted by the Commission and launched in 2017.



This assessment was conducted in only a few areas: agriculture and business, tourism, extraction, labour, land, environment, and access to remedies after violations of relevant rights. It aimed to understand the actual situation, especially the challenges related to human rights and business issues.



LHRC hosts a wellness program for Tanzanian civic actors at Nendiwe Wellness Center

NEWS IN BRIEF

On May 22, 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) conducted a wellness program at Nendiwe Wellness Center in Mbweni JKT, Dar es Salaam.



The Wellness Resilience Resource Hub supports Tanzanian civic actors, including Civic Catalysts, Veterans, Thinkers, and Supporters, by providing spaces to rest, reflect, heal, learn, and invest away from the stressors of activism.



LHRC conducts legal aid outreach at Arusha Central Prison

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Arusha office, conducted a legal aid outreach exercise at Arusha Central Prison from May 13th to May 21st, 2024.



Activities carried out included listening to inmates and detainees, advising them on their cases, preparing grounds for appeals for inmates, and providing legal representation for some inmates and detainees.

The picture shows legal officers from the LHRC Arusha office and Senior Superintendent of Prison Charles Joshua Minginga.



African Women Leaders Network, Tanzania Chapter, strategises ahead of 2025 elections

NEWS IN BRIEF

On May 18th, 2024, Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), participated in the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Tanzania National Chapter Members Meeting.



Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), participated in the African Women Leaders with other stakeholders.

The meeting theme was “Beyond 2025: The Role of AWLN Tanzania in Upcoming Electoral Processes.”

During the meeting, the team engaged in a fruitful conversation on women’s political participation trends, development vision 2050, climate justice, and financing the women's movement.

Additionally, they discussed the implications of the newly heightened participation in the 2024 and 2025 elections.



Championing justice for all: LHRC's comprehensive legal aid and support for detainees in Dodoma

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in Dodoma stands as a beacon of hope in a society where access to justice is often unevenly distributed. With a commitment to upholding human rights for all, LHRC's Dodoma office has been instrumental in providing legal aid to detainees at Isanga Prison, ensuring that justice is not a privilege but a right for every individual, regardless of gender.

Legal aid for male and female detainees is at the core of LHRC's initiatives. LHRC provides legal aid to both male and female detainees at Isanga Prison. Recognising the importance of fair legal representation, LHRC offers comprehensive assistance, including legal advice and drafting essential legal documents.

Through these services, detainees are empowered to navigate the complexities of the legal system, ensuring that their rights are upheld and their voices heard.

Also addressing the unique needs of female detainees, LHRC goes beyond traditional legal aid by recognising and addressing the unique needs of female detainees at the women's prison in Dodoma. Understanding the intersecting challenges women face in detention, LHRC provides tailored support to preserve their dignity and promote their well-being.

This includes hygiene and health supplies. LHRC ensures that female detainees access essential hygiene and health supplies, including sanitary pads, toiletries, and basic medical assistance. By addressing these fundamental needs, LHRC contributes to female detainees' overall health and well-being.

Counselling and support services LHRC offers counselling and support services to female detainees, recognising the psychological toll that incarceration can take. Through individual and group sessions, detainees have a safe space to express their concerns and receive emotional support.

Also, LHRC conducted legal empowerment workshops specifically tailored to the needs of female detainees. These workshops cover various topics, including understanding legal rights, navigating the legal system, and accessing support services upon release. By equipping female detainees with knowledge and resources, LHRC empowers them to advocate for themselves and seek justice.

Through its comprehensive legal aid initiatives and dedicated support for female detainees, LHRC ensures that the principles of justice and dignity are upheld for all individuals, regardless of gender. As it continues its vital work, LHRC reaffirms the fundamental belief that justice is not a privilege but a right for every individual in society.





German MPs, Embassy representatives visit LHRC's offices in Dar es Salaam

NEWS IN BRIEF

On May 29, 2024, Members of Parliament from Germany and representatives from the German Embassy in Tanzania paid a courtesy visit to the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) headquarters in Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam.



The meeting was led by LHRC's Executive Director, Dr. Anna Henga. The German delegates learned about LHRC's various impactful initiatives and work in human rights, advocacy, and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Dr. Henga also emphasised the relationship between Tanzania and Germany, discussing topics such as politics in Tanzania, Parliament, social and economic rights, climate change, criminal justice, torture, and the death penalty in Tanzania.





Members of Parliament from Germany and representatives from the German Embassy in Tanzania, along with the LHRC team, met at the LHRC headquarters in Kijitonyama.



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LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE, HEADQUARTERS

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

THE LEGAL AID CLINIC

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

ARUSHA OFFICE

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

DODOMA OFFICE

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

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 +255 22 2773038/48

 www.humanrights.or.tz