



Legal and Human Rights Centre



GREETINGS FROM LHRC

Dear esteemed readers!

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

This month, LHRC commemorated International Democracy Day by hosting a dialogue to discuss the challenges faced by women, youth, and persons with disabilities before and during elections. Topics included voter and candidate registration, voter education, violence against women in elections, campaign financing, and nominations. The dialogue explored how these challenges can be addressed to ensure greater participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities in the political process.

In September, LHRC celebrated its 29th anniversary. Established in 1995 as a non-governmental, voluntary, non-partisan, and not-for-profit organization, LHRC aims to empower and educate the people of Tanzania on legal and human rights.

As part of its efforts to collaborate with the government, LHRC convened a meeting with the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Professor Palamagamba Kabudi, and the Deputy Minister. This meeting, which also involved providing legal education, coincided with the Annual NGO Forum held in Dodoma.



We are thrilled to share these remarkable experiences, highlighting our ongoing commitment to fostering change and amplifying voices.

LHRC remains unwavering in its commitment to human rights advocacy and understanding. We have witnessed human rights violations in Tanzania, including the arrests of opposition leaders to stifle peaceful protests. These arrests were a clear violation of their constitutional rights to freedom of assembly and expression.

Protesters were exercising their right to mourn and protest the rising incidents of arbitrary arrests, detentions, and killings. Reports of abductions, disappearances, and child violations across the country underscore the urgent need to strengthen child protection measures and ensure their safety and well-being.

Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate)
LHRC Executive Director



Kenya Methodist University students visit LHRC to learn about human rights.

On September 12, 2024, about 40 students from Kenya Methodist University, accompanied by their teachers, paid a courtesy visit to the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) Headquarters. Their visit aimed to learn about various human rights issues and gain insight into the LHRC's daily activities.

During the visit, Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of LHRC, provided detailed explanations about the organization's work in society. She also discussed various human rights, focusing on sexual and reproductive health rights.

Overall, the visit to LHRC was a valuable learning experience for the students from Kenya Methodist University. It provided them with a deeper understanding of human rights issues and inspired them to become engaged citizens and advocates for social justice.

The students were particularly interested in learning about the LHRC's work on sexual and reproductive health rights. Dr. Henga discussed the importance of these rights and the challenges that women and girls face in accessing them.



Dr. Anna Henga inspires future leaders: A thought-provoking engagement with Kenya Methodist University students on Human Rights.

The students also had the opportunity to meet with some of the staff. This gave them a chance to see firsthand how the organization works and to ask questions about their work.

The visit to LHRC was part of a larger program that the students were participating in. The program was designed to give students a better understanding of the role of civil society organizations in promoting human rights and social justice.

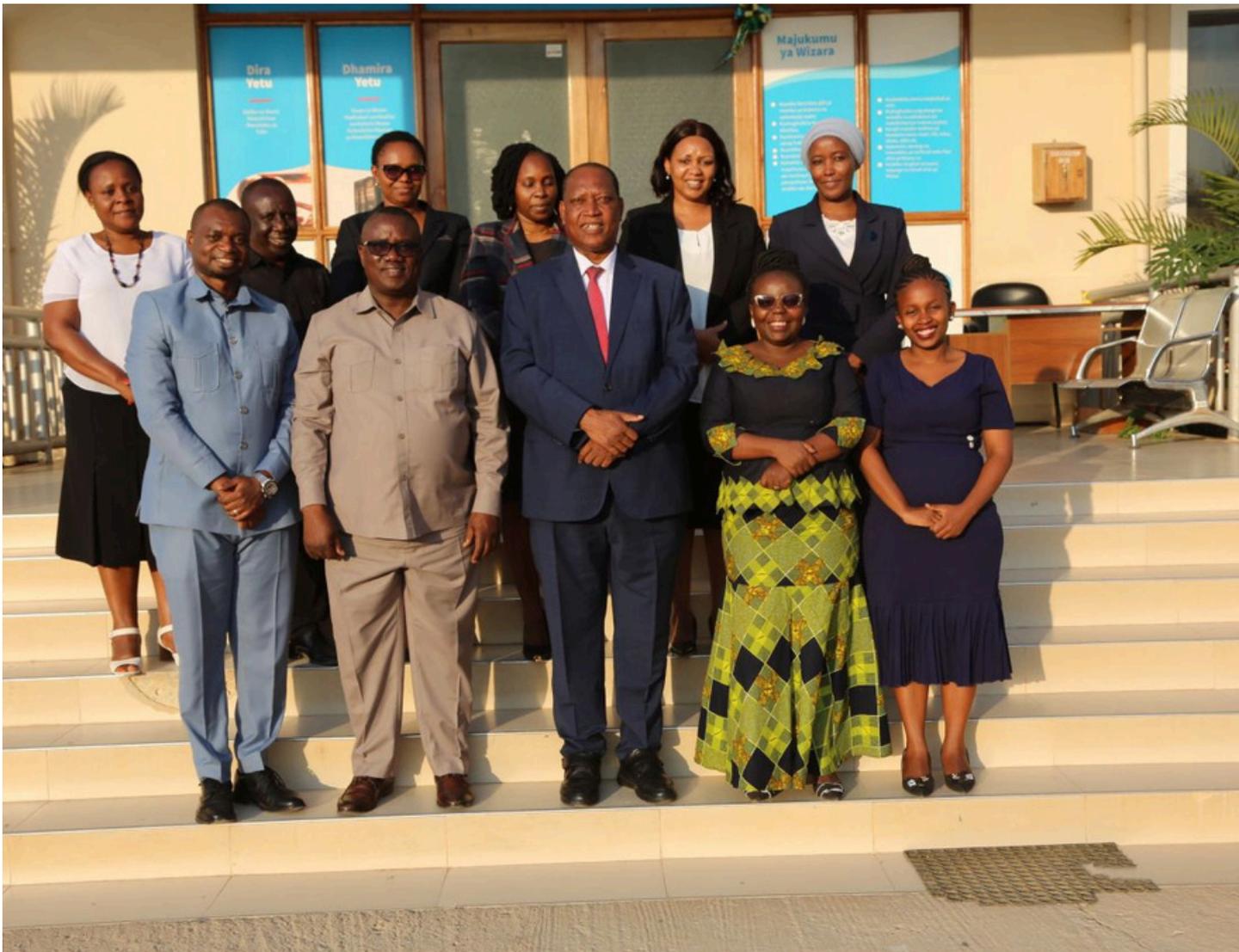
The students were very impressed with the LHRC's work and said that they would like to learn more about human rights issues and how they can get involved in promoting social justice.



LHRC meets with the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs to strengthen legal and human rights in the country.

This month, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Dr. Anna Henga, accompanied by the Director of Empowerment and Accountability, Deogratus Bwire, and other LHRC staff, held a meeting with the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Professor Palamagamba Kabudi, and the Deputy Minister of the Ministry, Mr. Jumanne Sagini, along with Directors of various departments in the Ministry.

This meeting aimed to discuss cooperation between the Ministry and LHRC on legal, policy, and procedural improvements.



During the meeting, Dr. Henga presented the Minister with various publications including the Human Rights and Business Report 2023, the Human Rights Report 2023, and the Legal Aid Report 2023.



LHRC team and Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs forge a path for Legal and Human Rights cooperation.

LHRC provides legal aid and advocates for good governance at the annual NGOs forum.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) Dodoma office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, provided legal education in the Chang'ombe, Mpunguzi, and Chamwino Ikulu wards. This activity coincided with the Annual NGO Forum, which took place in Dodoma at the Jakaya Kikwete Stadium from the 4th to the 6th of September, 2024.

Additionally, Deogratious Bwire, the Director of Empowerment and Accountability at LHRC, served as a moderator for a discussion on the adherence to the principles of transparency, accountability, integrity, and good governance in non-governmental organizations. Advocate Fulgence Massawe, LHRC's Director of Advocacy and Reforms, was a speaker on the topic of policies, laws, and coordination of non-governmental organizations, addressing the challenges and opportunities in this space. This session was also held at the Jakaya Kikwete Stadium.



LHRC participated in providing legal aid services to promote legal and constitutional reforms, expanding civic space and the rule of law, and increasing access to justice for indigent persons. These services included offering legal knowledge, advice, support in litigation, and the drafting of legal documents. The goal was to empower individuals, particularly prisoners, to defend their cases, as well as to provide legal support, information, and representation.

The primary objective of providing legal aid at the Annual NGO Forum was to increase access to justice, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). LHRC also aimed to enhance cooperation and accountability between government authorities and non-governmental organizations to address issues that may not necessarily require legal intervention but have been treated as such. Additionally, the forum provided an opportunity to identify legal issues that can be addressed through advocacy, intending to reform harmful laws, policies, and practices.



Empowering communities, LHRC, and stakeholders champion legal aid and good governance at the annual NGOs Forum.

Representative from the US Embassy to Tanzania visit the LHRC Dodoma office.

Ashley Inman, the Political Officer from the Embassy of the United States of America to Tanzania, paid a courtesy visit to the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) Dodoma office to discuss the office's operations and engagement with the government of Tanzania.



LHRC witnesses the launch of a new customer services centre at MoCLA Dodoma.

The Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) Dodoma office participated in the launch of a customer service center which is under the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs.

The launch took place at the premises of the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, in Mtumba, Dodoma. LHRC had the opportunity to witness the operation of the center and congratulated the Ministry for this step of simplifying legal services.



A nation in fear: The Murder of Mr. Kibao and rising Human rights concerns.

The recent murder of Mr. Ali Mohamed Kibao, a prominent member of Tanzania's Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA) party, has sent shockwaves through the nation. His abduction and subsequent death, allegedly at the hands of security forces, are just the latest in a string of violent incidents that have plagued Tanzania.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has expressed deep concern over the escalating violence and human rights abuses. Dr. Anna Henga noted that the country's constitution guarantees the right to life and protection, yet these fundamental rights are being increasingly violated.

"It is deeply troubling to see that those who are supposed to protect us are becoming a source of fear," Dr. Henga stated. "The government must take immediate action to address this crisis."

The LHRC has called on the government to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into Mr. Kibao's murder. They also urged the authorities to take steps to prevent future such incidents and restore public trust in law enforcement.

The rising tide of violence has created a climate of fear and uncertainty among Tanzanians. Many citizens are questioning the government's ability to maintain law and order. As the LHRC continues to advocate for justice and human rights, it remains to be seen whether the government will take decisive action to address this pressing issue.



H.E. Benjamin Sturtewagen visits the LHRC Arusha Office for a deep dive into human rights issues and upcoming local elections.

In September, the Legal and Human Rights Centre's Arusha office received a courtesy visit from H.E. Benjamin Sturtewagen, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Tanzania.

During the visit, the Deputy Head had the opportunity to familiarize himself with the human rights issues handled by the legal aid clinic, as well as the office's structure, capacity, and geographical coverage.

A brief discussion also took place regarding the state of civil and political rights in Tanzania, along with the upcoming local government elections.



Celebrating human rights journalism, LHRC presents awards at EJAT 2023.

On the 29th of September 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) was a key partner in the recently concluded 15th Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT).

As a sponsor of these prestigious awards, presented by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), LHRC has played a vital role in recognizing exceptional journalism in the realm of Human Rights and Good Governance. Director of Empowerment and Accountability from LHRC, Deogratius Bwire, presented the awards to Halfan Chusi, a journalist from Nipashe Newspaper, and Lukelo Francis, a journalist from The Chanzo, who emerged as winners in the Human Rights and Good Governance category at the EJAT awards 2023.

The annual EJAT awards serve as a platform to commend and celebrate the outstanding contributions of journalists across diverse fields, fostering a culture of excellence in the media industry.



Deogratius Bwire, Director of Empowerment and Accountability at LHRC, presented awards to Halfan Chusi from Nipashe Newspaper and Lukelo Francis from The Chanzo for their outstanding contributions to journalism.

Commemoration of International Democracy Day 2024.

In September, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) joined the global celebration of International Day of Democracy on September 14th, 2024, partnering with the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The event, themed "Empowering the Next Generation," brought together stakeholders to discuss the future of Tanzanian democracy, particularly focusing on the inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.

Professor Tibaijuka argued that women face unique challenges when running for local political positions. She emphasized the need for strong social and economic foundations to overcome these hurdles and gain the trust of their communities. "Contesting for village and local government positions is particularly challenging for women," she stated. "They need to be empowered socially and economically to fight poverty, raise children, and be trusted by their communities."

Professor Tibaijuka also criticized the limitations imposed by the political party system on women's participation. She argued that the requirement to be affiliated with a political party to contest for a position undermines democratic principles and highlighted the hypocrisy of parties claiming to support women while marginalizing them within their structures.



The Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania, Tone Tinnes, emphasized the importance of encouraging voter participation. She noted that research shows that once people start voting, they are more likely to continue. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that everyone feels their voice is being heard.

Sandy Quimbaya, Resident Director for NDI Tanzania, highlighted the need to create an equitable society that includes affirmative groups. The discussion focused on internal aspects of democracy, such as inclusion, candidate selection, voter registration, and violations related to women's rights.

The Ambassador of Finland to Tanzania, Theresa Zitting, emphasized that democracy is not just a system but a way of life. She stressed the importance of the rule of law and respect for human rights, particularly in supporting the inclusion of women, youth, and people with disabilities in leadership and political participation.



The International Day of Democracy 2024 brings together the LHRC, NDI staff, and other stakeholders.

Our development partners.



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland

Ford Foundation



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



Mlinzi wa **HAKI**

 +255 22 2773038/48

 www.humanrights.or.tz