



Legal and Human Rights Centre



GREETINGS FROM LHRC

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 June 2024 edition of the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

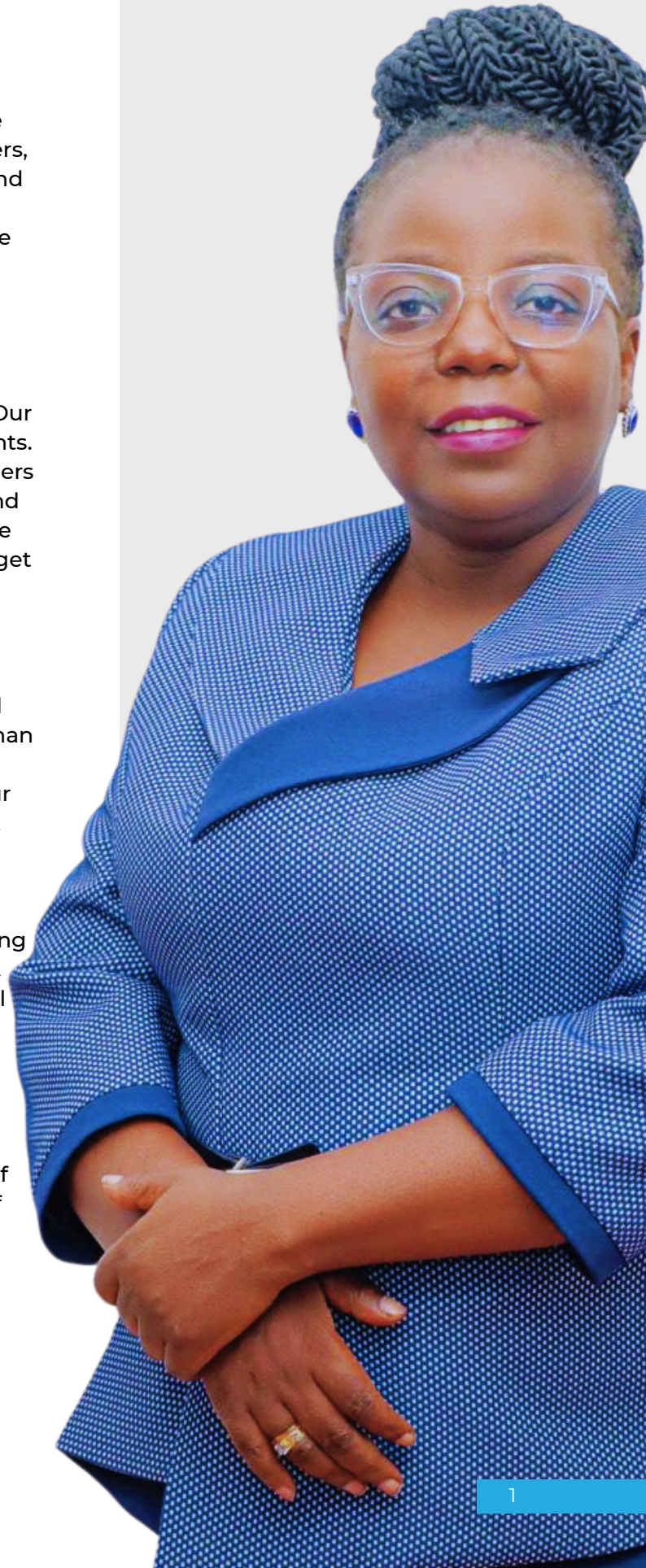
June was dedicated to fieldwork, with LHRC visiting the Mara region to speak with the community about eradicating female genital mutilation and other human rights violations. Our mission is to uphold and champion human rights. LHRC also met with Regional Police Commanders to discuss the femicide situation in Tanzania and submitted its recommendations on the Finance Bill 2024 to the Permanent Parliamentary Budget Committee in Dodoma.

We are thrilled to share these remarkable experiences with you, underscoring our continuous dedication to fostering change and amplifying voices. The engagement of our human rights clubs in various educational institutions has been a source of inspiration, reaffirming our belief in the power of education to shape a just and equitable society.

In our relentless pursuit of human rights advocacy, LHRC's commitment to understanding and amplifying vital work remains unwavering. During June, the Mass Education and Paralegal unit had the privilege of visiting Morogoro, including Kilosa and Mvomero, to conduct backstop visits to its community radios.

Additionally, we have witnessed human rights violations in the country, including the killing of individuals with albinism, the disappearance of persons, and the detention of journalists. We urge the authorities to take action on these matters.

Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate)
LHRC Executive Director



LHRC joins forces to eradicate FGM in Tanzania.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), in collaboration with the Tanzania Network to End Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania, recently engaged with the Mpakani community in the Tarime District of the Mara Region to address ongoing issues related to female genital mutilation (FGM).

During this meeting, the villagers of Mpakani were educated on the importance of opposing the brutality of FGM against girls. They were encouraged to unite as a community and strongly condemn FGM practices, cooperating with authorities by providing information and evidence to facilitate the fight against FGM and gender-based violence in general.

The discussions also covered the pressing issues of cross-border child trafficking for labour exploitation, child marriages, and violence and sexual abuse against children. The community suggested that more efforts should be directed towards traditional elders who perform FGM to combat the cruelty against girls.

FGM involves the cutting, pulling, or otherwise damaging of a girl's internal or external genitalia without any scientific or health-related reasons. This practice degrades girls and strips them of their dignity.



Advocate Getrude Dyabene, Senior Program Officer of the Gender Unit at LHRC, engages with the community on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) issues.

Believed to have begun around 2000 years ago, FGM is perpetuated by various human pressures, including gaining wealth by marrying off a mutilated girl, adhering to cultural rituals, and removing perceived bad luck from the family. However, these reasons only serve to perpetuate oppressive traditions against women and girls.

The harmful effects of FGM are both immediate and long-term. Immediate effects include severe pain during the procedure, shock, high fever, excessive bleeding, infection with diseases such as HIV, and mental distress. Long-term effects include psychological trauma, permanent scarring or disability in the genital area, intellectual impairment due to lack of oxygen during childbirth, fistula, difficulties during birth, and infertility.

Tanzania Network to End Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania aims to eradicate FGM through annual meetings and educational campaigns. Despite government efforts, FGM continues in some communities, with leading regions being Manyara, Dodoma, Arusha, Mara, and Singida, according to the 2016 Demographic and Health Survey.

The persistence of FGM is partly due to the high level of secrecy within communities that consider it part of their customs and traditions.



These communities protect and conceal the identities of those who perform FGM to avoid legal repercussions, leading to the continued suffering of girls and women.

The network of organisations opposing FGM remains steadfast in its goal to end FGM by 2030, in line with global sustainable development strategies and national action plans against all forms of violence against women and children.

Significant efforts have been made in various districts across the country, including educational projects and support for girls to combat FGM. Activities undertaken by the network include training traditional elders, circumcisers, police, judiciary, teachers, children, parents, and the community at large.

These efforts have been instrumental in raising awareness and providing legal services to FGM victims, holding those who perpetuate this practice accountable.

The government has continued to improve laws and policies to expand the scope of punishment for those who perform FGM. For example, amendments to the Child Act (2009) and the Penal Code (2019) have broadened penalties and established the extent of involvement in FGM.

National policies, such as the 2015 Education Policy, oppose all forms of harassment against girls and recognise the principles of rights and equality for all children. Tanzania has also ratified international conventions, such as the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Maputo Protocol, which oppose harmful practices, including child marriage and FGM.

Despite significant efforts by stakeholders, several measures still need to be taken to eliminate FGM. These measures include enacting and passing laws to prevent FGM, amending the Child Act and the Penal Code to increase penalties, criminalising the involvement of traditional elders and parents, and ensuring top leaders openly support ongoing efforts to eradicate FGM. Additionally, the government should allocate a budget for the national action plan to eradicate FGM, implement the regional cross-border declaration action plan on FGM involving five countries, strictly enforce laws to hold those who perform FGM accountable, and maintain cooperation with non-governmental and international organisations.

The community should unite to condemn FGM practices and cooperate with law enforcement agencies by providing information and evidence. To eradicate this problem, stakeholders should increase efforts to reach communities practicing FGM through education and direct assistance.

Together, these actions can help bring an end to the harmful practice of FGM and protect the rights and dignity of girls and women in Tanzania.



LHRC engages with a Mara-based former traditional female cutter.

Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), visited Bhoke Ryoba, 66, a former traditional female cutter in Masanga village, Tarime district, Mara region. Bhoke performed female genital mutilation (FGM) on more than 2,000 girls over ten years.

Bhoke abandoned the practice in 2015, admitting she believed she was doing the right thing at the time.



Dr. Henga took this step after receiving information from the region's Anti-FGM Organization (ATFGM), seeking to understand Bhoke's reasons for performing the practice despite it being against the law.

Explaining her engagement in this practice, Bhoke stated that the Kurya community respects and honours FGM, and if she had abandoned the practice earlier, she might have lost her life.

Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director of LHRC, with Bhoke Ryoba, Former Traditional Female Cutter from Masanga Village, Tarime District, Mara Region.

LHRC, anti-FGM activists spearhead bold initiatives to combat FGM in Tanzania.

In a significant step towards combating female genital mutilation (FGM) in Tanzania, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), in collaboration with a network of organisations dedicated to ending FGM, convened a pivotal meeting with Colonel Maulid Hassan Surumbu, the District Commissioner of Tarime in the Mara region.

The meeting, held this month, focused on addressing the pressing challenges associated with FGM and strategising effective interventions within the region. Colonel Maulid Hassan Surumbu underscored the urgency of the issue, highlighting that this year marks a critical period for combating FGM practices. In response, local authorities are planning proactive measures to prevent the harmful tradition from affecting young girls.

Colonel Surumbu mentioned a proactive initiative aimed at rescuing children at risk of undergoing FGM this year. The strategy involves the establishment of two rescue camps in the region.



The first camp is designed to accommodate up to 700 children and will provide a haven and necessary support systems to prevent girls from undergoing FGM. The second camp, with a capacity for 300 children, will further bolster efforts to protect vulnerable girls and promote awareness about the harmful effects of FGM.

As the initiatives gain momentum, the focus remains on leveraging community engagement, legal frameworks, and advocacy to eradicate FGM in Tanzania. The commitment of all involved parties reflects a shared determination to protect the rights and well-being of young girls, paving the way for a future free from the harmful practice of FGM.

The meeting marks an essential moment in the ongoing efforts to combat FGM in Tanzania, emphasizing the importance of collaborative action and sustained advocacy in safeguarding the rights of girls and promoting gender equality.



Anti-FGM activists meet with the District Commissioner of Tarime, Mara region, to discuss strategies for ending Female Genital Mutilation.

Henga visits a safe house in Tarime to address child abuse and advocate for children's rights.

The Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Dr. Anna Henga, visited a safe house centre for children who are victims of abuse in Masanga village, Tarime district, Mara region.

Dr. Henga spoke with the children at the centre to understand the reasons leading to various forms of abuse by parents, guardians, and the community at large. The children revealed many issues, including customs and traditions that have significantly violated children's rights.

Also, the children suggested that they need more support from stakeholders, especially in educating the public about the consequences of child abuse, to eradicate the abuse that has been shattering the dreams of many girls in the Tarime district.



Dr. Anna Henga with children at the safe house in Masanga village, Tarime.

Empowering future leaders: St. Joseph Millennium Secondary School Students tour LHRC headquarters.

On June 7, 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) welcomed twelve Form III students from St. Joseph Millennium Secondary School in Dar es Salaam. The visit aimed to educate the students about various legal and human rights issues, focusing on women's rights in Tanzania and the pivotal role LHRC plays in championing these rights.

This educational visit was part of the students' mandatory academic research project, an essential component of their secondary education.

For over a decade, the LHRC has been at the forefront of efforts to sensitise and empower youth in Tanzania. The organisation strives to ensure that youth are well-informed about their rights and the rights of others, including women's and children's rights. By doing so, LHRC aims to inspire and equip the younger generation to actively participate in promoting and protecting these rights, fostering a just and equitable society.



Exploring Justice, St. Joseph Millennium Secondary School students visit LHRC Headquarters in Kijitonyama for educational insight.

Rising violence against people with albinism in Tanzania: An urgent call for action.

Violence against people with albinism has repeatedly occurred in various forms, including stigma, discrimination, and superstitious beliefs. Criminals have targeted people with albinism due to misguided beliefs that their body parts possess magical powers if used in witchcraft and traditional medicine. These superstitions are widespread in sub-Saharan Africa.

Recently, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) strongly condemned the continued incidents of violence. This follows the recent abduction of a two-year-old child named Asimwe Novati on May 31, 2024, in Bulamula Village, Mbale Ward, Kamachumu Division, Muleba District, Kagera Region.

The perpetrators attacked and assaulted the child's mother, Kebyera Richard, before taking the child and disappearing. This incident comes shortly after ten-year-old Kazungu Julius, a child with albinism, was attacked and mutilated with machetes, resulting in severe bleeding.

These attacks have resurged, with children being the primary targets. It is recalled that in 2015, in the Rukwa Region, a six-year-old boy named Baraka Cosmas was attacked and had his hand chopped off by unknown assailants. Despite various individuals being sentenced to death for these murders, such acts continue in Tanzania.

These incidents violate human rights, dignity, and respect as enshrined in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, International Human Rights Treaties, and national laws, including the Penal Code Act, Chapter 16 (2019 Revision). LHRC vehemently condemns these cruel, brutal, and heinous acts against our brothers and sisters with albinism.

Over the past three years, there has been a significant decrease in such incidents. It is crucial for society and the government to collectively question who benefits from these brutal acts against people with albinism! It is high time for a thorough investigation to uncover and expose the beneficiaries of these acts, as it is shameful for our great nation of Tanzania to be plagued by such superstitions and occult beliefs.

In April this year, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) expressed its regret that Tanzania has not been willing to pursue three applications submitted to the Committee regarding the mutilation of body parts of people with albinism.

Tanzania's failure to condemn and investigate these attacks may constitute a serious breach of its duty to protect people with disabilities.

LHRC calls upon the government, through all its security organs, to ensure the safe recovery of Asimwe Novati and bring all perpetrators to justice. The government should conduct thorough investigations into all incidents and ensure they are fully prosecuted to end these atrocities. Implement comprehensive protective systems at all levels—from villages to national levels—to ensure the safety of people with albinism and their enjoyment of life like other members of society.

The community should report any individuals involved in these acts to law enforcement agencies for investigation. The government should implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on Persons with Disabilities as decided in the three cases against Tanzania before the Committee.

Also, the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) and the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) strongly condemn the brutal kidnapping and murder of Asimwe Novati, a two-and-a-half-year-old child with albinism, a resident of Mbale village, Bulamula ward, Kamachumu district, Muleba region in Kagera.

This statement comes shortly after our initial condemnation and call for authorities, through all security agencies, to ensure the safe recovery of Asimwe Novati and bring all perpetrators to justice. On May 30, 2024, it was reported that Asimwe Novati was kidnapped by unknown individuals in Bulamula village, Mbale area, Kamachumu ward, Muleba district, Kagera region.

The perpetrators attacked the child's mother, Kebyera Richard, and fled with the child to an unknown location. Approximately eighteen days later, on June 17, 2024, Asimwe's body was found mutilated, with limbs, tongue, and eyes cut off, and discovered abandoned in a ditch with water along the Makongora road in Malele village.

According to the District Commissioner of Muleba, Benjamin Mwakasyege, this barbaric act against Asimwe Novati perpetuates a history of violence against persons with albinism, undermining human dignity and recalling past atrocities, such as the near-fatal attack on ten-year-old Kazungu Julius in Katoro, Geita, where he was viciously assaulted with machetes.

The resurgence of attacks against people with albinism, especially children, is alarming, particularly in the lead-up to elections. Notably, in 2015, in the Rukwa region, a six-year-old boy named Baraka Cosmas was attacked while asleep with his mother, resulting in the severing of his hand.

These incidents flagrantly violate Article 14 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977, which guarantees the right to life, as well as international

agreements such as the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and domestic laws, including the Penal Code Act, Chapter 16 (2019).

THRDC and LHRC vehemently condemn these heinous and savage acts against our fellow citizens with albinism. THRDC and LHRC are dissatisfied with the authorities' handling of this matter, including the lack of timely public updates on efforts to locate the perpetrators and ensure public safety. Such negligence heightens fear within the albinism community, undermining Tanzania's reputation as a peaceful nation committed to upholding human rights.

This brutal and barbaric act against Asimwe Novati underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts by the government and all stakeholders to combat abuse and violence against people with albinism in our communities.

On June 18, 2024, President Samia Suluhu Hassan expressed her deep sorrow and dismay over Asimwe Novati's murder during the Media Development Symposium. We urge the government to heed the reminder issued earlier this year by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), expressing disappointment in Tanzania's failure to investigate attacks against people with albinism. This failure may constitute a serious breach of its duty to protect people with disabilities.

Calls to Action THRDC and LHRC call for the following actions: the police should conduct a thorough investigation into this incident and ensure all perpetrators, including those who planned, executed, and utilized the body parts of the victims, are swiftly brought to justice.

The Office of the Prime Minister (Labour, Employment, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities) should establish robust strategies to identify and safeguard the well-being of all persons with albinism nationwide.

The Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania should use the budget session to discuss and allocate specific funds to strengthen protection systems for persons with albinism at all levels—from villages to national. Communities should report individuals involved in these acts to law enforcement agencies for investigation. Communities must abandon superstitions regarding the use of albino body parts for wealth or authority at various levels.

Also, all community members should come together to report and provide information about people who commit acts of violence against people with albinism because of ritual beliefs. The rising violence against people with albinism in Tanzania is a grave human rights issue that demands immediate and sustained action from the government, law enforcement, and society as a whole.

LHRC convenes Regional Police Commanders to discuss rising femicide incidents in Tanzania.

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) this month organised a meeting with Regional Police Commanders from Mwanza, Geita, Dodoma, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Dar es Salaam to address the alarming issue of femicide in Tanzania.

Femicide, the intentional killing of women and girls due to their gender, is the most extreme form of gender-based violence (GBV). In Tanzania, nearly half of women (48%) have experienced intimate partner violence.

Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), opened the meeting with a detailed discussion on intimate-partner killings, focusing on the 2023 report on femicide. Dr. Henga emphasized the importance of collaboration in ensuring the accurate recording of these incidents and establishing protective procedures for individuals seeking help.



LHRC team meeting with Regional Police Commanders from Mwanza and Geita at Gold Crest Hotel in Mwanza, discussing strategies for enhancing collaboration and human rights enforcement.



The study highlighted several causes of femicide in Mwanza, Geita, Shinyanga, Dar es Salaam, and Kilimanjaro, with intimate femicide being the most prevalent form, followed by dowry and witchcraft-related femicides. Factors driving femicide include the patriarchal system, economic dependency, low education, economic freedom, traditions, and taboos. Violence against women manifests in physical, sexual, economic, and emotional/psychological forms.

The 2022 Human Rights Report documented 35 partner killings, with 34 female victims and one male victim. The 2023 report showed an increase of 50 incidents, including 45 female and five male victims, indicating a 15% rise.

Intimate partner violence, involving physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, remains a significant issue. The meeting aimed to raise awareness and ensure the accurate reporting of these incidents while making arrangements to protect victims seeking help. Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander Simon Maigwa reported eight partner homicides due to jealousy from January 2023 to May 2024 in the region.

Police reports from the Director of Criminal Investigation (DCI) office revealed that over the past five years, 2,438 women were killed, averaging 492 women per year and



Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) meets with Special Zone Police Commanders of Dar es Salaam from Ilala, Kinondoni, and Temeke districts at Protea Hotel, addressing femicide issues and intentional killings of women.

43 per month. As of September 2022, 472 women had been killed, averaging 53 per month, marking a concerning increase.

GBV remains a persistent threat, with physical violence constituting 61% of documented incidents. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is prevalent, with one in five ever-partnered women experiencing it, and a third (33%) facing it in the last 12 months. IPV is notably prevalent (40%+) in regions like Mara, Dodoma, Kagera, Iringa, Njombe, Tabora, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Singida, Geita, Morogoro, and Manyara.

To combat femicide and GBV, the following recommendations were proposed:

On the government level to collect and publish national data on the killings of women, distinguishing between intimate and non-intimate perpetrators, to provide specialized training for police officers, prosecutors, and judges on handling femicide cases, to support services for survivors, including safe houses, medical care, rehabilitation centers, and counseling to develop and implement gender-sensitive educational programs also establish clear protocols for evidence collection, reporting, and victim support in GBV cases.



Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander, Simon Maigwa (left), engaging with Advocate Getrude Dyabene (right) during an LHRC meeting with regional police commanders from Arusha and Kilimanjaro to discuss femicide in Tanzania, held at Gold Crest Hotel in Arusha.

Police level to provide ongoing training for officers on handling femicide and GBV cases and develop efficient and prompt emergency response systems.

Judiciary level to establish specialized courts and appoint judges for GBV cases, strengthen expedited procedures for timely access to justice for survivors adopt a victim-centered approach, and issue protection orders.

Media level to ensure transparent and impartial coverage of femicide cases, challenge discriminatory stereotypes, and provide ethical reporting also raise awareness using social media platforms and public discussions.

Community and individual levels by developing a checklist of early warning signs for self-risk assessments, challenging traditional gender norms and stereotypes and engaging community and religious leaders in GBV prevention efforts.

LHRC and civil societies establish a femicide watch or observatory to strengthen surveillance and screening of cases and also collaborate with strategic allies for legislation, awareness campaigns, and government accountability.

A year of triumph, LHRC's journey towards justice and equality in 2023.

In 2023, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) marked a year of notable achievements, seamlessly aligning with its six-year strategic plan. Now, in the second year of its operational plan, LHRC has made substantial strides in empowering Tanzanians with knowledge about their human rights and basic freedoms.

Through a blend of social and mainstream media, LHRC reached a staggering 16.8 million people through 790 engagements. Haki TV, a significant part of this outreach, surpassed its viewership target with 272,423 viewers. Social media initiatives flourished, particularly on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Despite a gender disparity favoring male users on Twitter (80%) and Instagram (73.3%), the campaigns spread widespread awareness.

LHRC's innovative Haki Kiganjani system handled 50% of the 1,919 reported human rights violations, revealing that women comprised 56% of the victims compared to 44% of men. While many issues remained pending at police stations due to their criminal nature, LHRC successfully resolved 12% of cases. About 29% of cases were referred for legal aid, particularly in land-related disputes, emphasizing the center's commitment to providing legal assistance and empowering individuals for self-representation.

To bolster human rights protection, LHRC conducted a police training program focusing on gender and human rights issues, attended by 5,290 participants (20% female, 80% male). This initiative resulted in a significant 23% increase in participants' knowledge, showcasing LHRC's impact on enhancing the understanding of human rights among law enforcement officers.

Advocacy and legislative reforms, LHRC's recommendations on the Universal Health Insurance Act were fully adopted, removing provisions that restricted access to essential services like obtaining National Identity Cards, Passports, Business Licenses, Mobile SIM cards, and registration for Advanced Secondary Education. This legislative victory underscored LHRC's influence in shaping policies for better access to health services.

In a milestone celebration of thirty years of multiparty democracy in Tanzania, LHRC launched a commemorative book on Democracy Day 2023. This historical reference also served as an advocacy tool, presenting stakeholders' recommendations to the Registrar of Political Parties and influencing recent electoral law reforms. LHRC also scored a significant victory in strategic litigation by challenging a provision of the Immigration Act that restricted judicial review, reaffirming the court's constitutional role as the final decision-maker.

Progress in the criminal justice system, the presidential commission on criminal justice system reforms adopted 90% of LHRC's proposals, marking a substantial achievement. Furthermore, a landmark litigation victory curtailed the Minister's power under the Immigration Act, ensuring that court authority remains unchallenged, aligning with constitutional principles.

Enhancing civic space and media freedom, LHRC's efforts led to the lifting of bans on political rallies imposed in 2016, restoring the constitutionally guaranteed rights to freedom of assembly and political space. In collaboration with the Coalition for the Right to Information (CORI), LHRC influenced amendments to the Media Service Act of 2016, enhancing freedom of expression and media operations by repealing criminal defamation laws and reducing penalties for media-related offenses.

In 2023, LHRC significantly expanded its legal aid services, assisting 29,491 clients—a 50% increase from the previous year. The organization achieved 147% of its client outreach target, reflecting a growing demand for legal assistance. The gender breakdown revealed that 65% of clients were male and 35% were female. Among the 209 court cases won, 68% were for male clients and 32% for female clients, underscoring LHRC's commitment to justice.

Corporate accountability and gender equality, following LHRC's recommendations, North Mara Gold Mine showed progress in adhering to human rights standards, demonstrating effective corporate compliance. LHRC also celebrated improved civic space and freedom of association, leading to the lifting of bans on political rallies.

Empowerment initiatives led by women councilors increased the number of female candidates aspiring to participate in the 2024 Local Government Elections in the Pwani region. Additionally, the National Marriage

Reconciliation Guidelines were launched to address rising divorce rates, showcasing LHRC's commitment to social stability.

Commitment to gender equality, LHRC achieved a notable gender balance within its organization, with 63% female representation on the board and 62% within the workforce. The presence of four generational cohorts within the workforce further enhanced organizational effectiveness through diverse perspectives and innovative ideas.

Advocacy Impact, the implementation of recommendations from the Tanzania Human Rights Report increased from 31% in 2021 to 35% in 2022, reflecting LHRC's growing influence and advocacy effectiveness.

LHRC remains steadfast in advancing human rights, democracy, and justice in Tanzania.



Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of LHRC, alongside Neema Lotang'amwaki, the Program Quality Assurance and Learning Manager, on the left during the launch of the LHRC Annual Report 2023.

Building on its 2023 achievements, LHRC is poised to address emerging challenges and ensure the continued protection of human rights and freedoms for all Tanzanians.

LHRC at the forefront: Keynote address on governance and democracy at the East African CSO Summit 2024.

On June 18, 2024, Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre, attended the East African Civil Society Summit 2024 at Mt. Meru Hotel in Arusha. Dr. Henga moderated the event's keynote session on governance and democracy, focusing on the region's civic space and Civil Society Organization (CSO) resilience.

The event's theme was "Harnessing citizen's potential in regional integration processes," with a subtheme of "Harnessing technological advancement to resolve climate change challenges and ensure food security in the region."

The overall goal of the summit was to promote an East African Community (EAC) integration process that is inclusive of East African citizens' voices and responsive to their needs and demands.



Dr. Anna Henga (centre) in a group photo with stakeholders during the African CSO Summit 2024 in Arusha.

LHRC participates in media sector development conference.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) participated in the second Media Sector Development Conference organized by the Ministry of Information, Communications, and Information Technology held at the Mlimani City Conference Center in Dar es Salaam.

The conference was officially opened by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, and took place from June 18 to June 19, 2024. Advocate Fulgence Massawe, Director of Advocacy and Reforms at LHRC, participated in the conference. Advocate Fulgence Massawe, Director of Advocacy and Reforms at LHRC, led a discussion on "The Safety of Journalists in Tanzania" at the second Media Sector Development Conference today, June 19, 2024, at the Mlimani City Conference Center in Dar es Salaam.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Information, Communications, and Information Technology and was held over two days from June 18-19, 2024. It was officially opened by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, and concluded on June 19, 2024, by the Honorable Nape Nnauye, Minister of Information, Communications, and Information Technology.



Advocate Fulgence Massawe, Director of Advocacy and Reforms at LHRC, speaking at the media sector development conference at Mlimani City Conference Center in Dar es Salaam.

Introducing Mr. Deogratias Bwire: LHRC's new Director of Empowerment and Accountability.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) welcomed Mr. Deogratias Bwire as the new Director of Empowerment and Accountability (DEA) in June. Mr. Bwire is a practicing advocate with over ten years of experience in legal, governance, constitutional matters, human rights, media, gender and inclusion, organizational development, and security management for human rights organizations. He holds a Master of Laws in Human Rights and Comparative Constitutional Law from Central European University-Budapest (Hungary).

Mr. Bwire has served in various capacities as an in-service manager and legal consultant for local and international nonprofit organizations, including donors and grant-making entities. His previous role as Senior Program Manager at the Legal Services Facility Tanzania (LSF) enhanced his expertise in overseeing the coordination and administration of development programs, encompassing governance, planning, budgeting, management, leadership, and program activity oversight.

Additionally, Mr. Bwire worked at KPMG East Africa as a Manager in the International Development Advisory Services-IDAS, where he led the UKAID-Accountability in Tanzania's (Act2) program, particularly focusing on access to justice and human rights portfolios. Leveraging his legal expertise and understanding of the NGO sector, he provided professional advisory services on the legal environment and political economy, emphasizing civic space.

Meet Advocate Deogratias Bwire, Our New Director of Empowerment and Accountability (DEA).



Welcoming Mary Stanslaus Mlay: LHRC's new People and Culture Manager.

We are delighted to announce that Mary Stanslaus Mlay has joined us as the People and Culture Manager at the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC). Mary brings with her a wealth of experience to lead and support LHRC's strategic objectives in People and Culture, contributing to the organization's mission of fostering a just and equitable society.

In her role, Mary will focus on strategy and leadership, organizational development and culture, talent management, people development, remuneration and benefits, risk and compliance, human resources management, as well as internal and external communication. Her expertise will ensure that our workplace continues to cultivate a culture dedicated to empowering the public and promoting, reinforcing, and safeguarding human rights and good governance in Tanzania.



Mary Stanslaus Mlay: Charting new paths with passion and purpose.

LHRC submits recommendations on the 2024 Finance Bill to the Parliamentary Budget Committee.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has submitted its recommendations on the Finance Bill, 2024 to the Permanent Parliamentary Budget Committee in Dodoma.

From 23rd to 25th June 2024, the committee conducted public hearings to receive recommendations on the Finance Bill, 2024.

The proposed amendments include:

1. Amendment of the Budget Act (CAP 439)
2. Amendment of the Income Tax Act (CAP 332)
3. Amendment of the Road and Fuel Tolls Act (CAP 220)
4. Amendment of the Universal Health Insurance Act (CAP 161)
5. Amendment of the Tax Administration Act (CAP 438)



Advocate Hidaya Haonga Dodoma Branch Office Coordinator (left) with other stakeholders during a parliament session.

LHRC proposes reforms following Tanzania's 2024–2025 budget analysis.

On June 26, 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) shared its proposals with the public following an analysis conducted after the government's budget proposals for the 2024–2025 fiscal year, which were presented by the Minister of Finance, Hon. Mwigulu Nchemba, on June 13, 2024, in the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Director of Advocacy and Reforms at LHRC, Advocate Fulgence Massawe, speaking to the press at the LHRC offices in Kijitonyama, said that this analysis was conducted from a human rights perspective, considering the rights enshrined in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977.

Additionally, LHRC has considered gender needs, climate change challenges, and the current economic hardship. Overall, the budget proposes tax amendments in twenty-five (25) laws; however, LHRC has prioritized eight (8) laws that it has been working on and providing feedback on for a long time.



Director of Advocacy and Reforms at LHRC, Advocate Fulgence Massawe during a press conference on Bills analysis at LHRC Headquarters in Kijitonyama.

LHRC has identified the following areas of concern:

No.	Area of concern	Explanation
1	BUDGET COMPARISON AMONG EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES	<p>Despite Tanzania being the largest country in East Africa by land area and population, our budget ranks third, behind Kenya and Uganda. It's worth noting that Tanzania still has major priorities and strategic projects requiring significant funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: 2024/2025 Main Budgets: Kenya TZS 77 trillion, Uganda TZS 50 trillion, Tanzania TZS 49.35 trillion, Rwanda TZS 11.27 trillion, and Burundi TZS 3.999 trillion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Country Sizes (Sq. KM): Tanzania 945,087, Uganda 241,550, Kenya 225,000, Burundi 27,830, and Rwanda 26,338. ◦ Population (2022): Tanzania 65.5 million, Kenya 54.03 million, Uganda 47.25 million, Burundi 13.89 million, and Rwanda 13.78 million.
2	EXPENDITURE DISTRIBUTION	<p>Our budget is more focused on recurrent expenditures than development. Currently, 70% is allocated to recurrent expenses, with only 30% for development. This indicates that we cannot expect significant development or new development projects since our budget primarily covers recurrent expenses, salaries, and debt payments. Extravagant expenditures include luxurious vehicles and top officials living mostly in Dar es Salaam instead of Dodoma, leading to higher costs for maintaining two capitals.</p> <p>Additionally, the government should reconsider the size of its administration. Increasing the rank of Deputy Prime Minister adds costs to the government. There are now many ministries with deputy ministers and deputy secretaries, even in ministries that previously did not have such positions.</p> <p>Our budget often has a deficit, but this deficit does not affect recurrent expenses. When there is a deficit, development projects are impacted, not recurrent expenses. The government needs to address this and direct more revenue towards the country's development. LHRC believes that development is fundamental to human rights.</p>

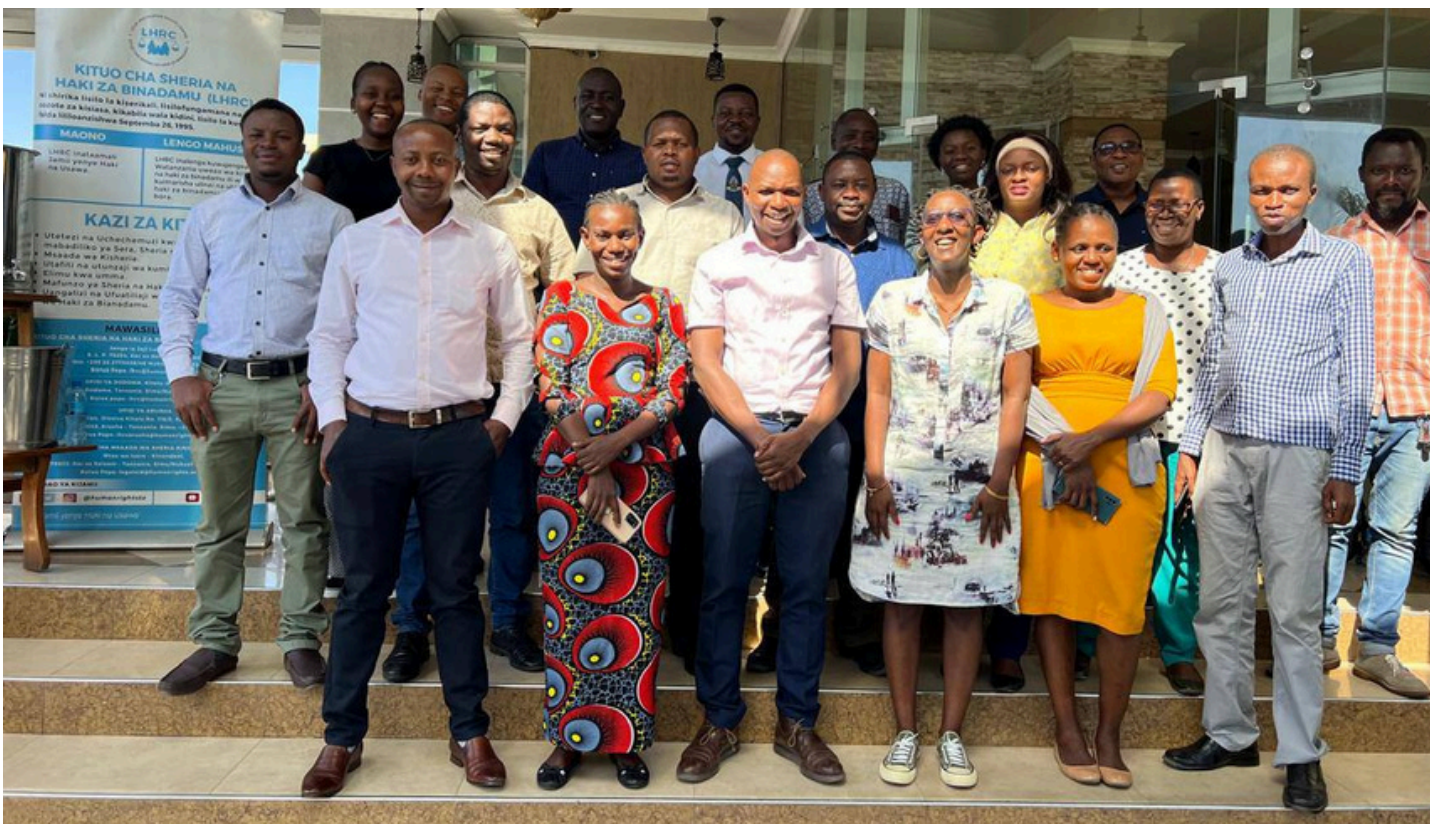
No.	Area of concern	Explanation
3	NEW REVENUE SOURCES	<p>Revenue sources remain the same, with very few citizens contributing to the budget through taxes. Some revenue sources, like alcohol, are not sustainable because if Tanzanians change their lifestyles and stop drinking or smoking, the country will struggle to sustain itself. The government needs to explore new revenue sources. For example, local government contributions to our budget are minimal. Local governments have failed to create new revenue sources, such as by surveying land extensively and issuing land titles to collect land taxes.</p> <p>Despite Tanzania being the third-largest producer and exporter of gold and having exclusive access to tanzanite, minerals have not significantly contributed to our budget.</p>
4	FOREIGN EXCHANGE USAGE	<p>There has been a significant shortage of foreign currency in the country, and the government has failed to identify the cause. We have seen the government banning the use of foreign currency, which will only worsen the situation since foreign currency is still highly needed in our economy as we rely heavily on importing goods. The shortage is caused by the imbalance between our exports and imports. The government needs to develop a strategy to revive and promote the production of cash crops like coffee, cotton, sisal, and cashew nuts.</p> <p>The government must create a conducive environment and encourage large investors to invest in our country. Despite Tanzania having abundant resources, it has never been the top investment choice. The factors hindering investment in Tanzania are well known, but the government has failed to address them. Some countries in our region, smaller than Tanzania, have better policies for land acquisition and ownership, friendly immigration laws for investors, and can register a company and obtain all necessary permits within a day for investment purposes.</p> <p>Allowing the importation of sugar from abroad has significant negative impacts on the balance of trade and the misuse of foreign currency. The government should promote domestic production and investment in sugar production.</p>

No.	Area of concern	Explanation
		<p>Allowing sugar imports will create opportunities for individuals with ill intentions to sabotage local production to get import permits. Additionally, the cost of importing sugar is lower than that of domestic production, so many will prefer importing over producing. Besides foreign currency usage, this sugar issue has major implications for consumers, including production shortages, high prices, and safety concerns.</p>
5	GOVERNMENT DEBT	<p>The government debt has continued to increase, as highlighted in the Economic Status Report, 2024, and the National Development Plan, 2024–2025, presented by the Minister of State, President's Office Planning and Investment, Hon. Kitila Mkumbo. The debt reached TZS 91.7 trillion in March 2024, compared to TZS 69.44 trillion in 2022, up from TZS 60.72 trillion in 2021. This suggests that the cost of living could rise due to debt repayment. We believe the government must reduce operational costs, including allowances, luxurious lifestyles, and expensive vehicles, which could be replaced with more cost-effective alternatives.</p>
6	EFFORTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE	<p>The budget contradicts international efforts to protect the environment by imposing taxes on gas used for running engines such as cars and motorcycles and on electric vehicles. This proposal hinders the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13, which urges UN member states to implement policy plans to combat climate change. We know that gas and electric energy are among the least harmful to carbon emissions compared to petrol and diesel.</p>

Strengthening corporate accountability: LHRC hosts collaborative stakeholders' meetings in Mwanza.

On June 20-21, 2024, the Legal and Human Rights Centre hosted a stakeholder stakeholders' meeting at Adden Palace Hotel in Illemela, Mwanza, The event brought together local government authorities (LGAs), civil society organizations (CSOs), the national environment management council (NEMC), the Mining Commission, and mining companies to bolster collaboration aimed at reinforcing corporate accountability and safeguarding socio-economic and environmental rights within communities.

The gathering addressed the challenges hindering stakeholders from fully fulfilling their mandates and devised a strategy to mitigate human rights violations. This strategy aims to foster coordinated efforts among stakeholders to protect fundamental human rights in the face of infringements by corporate entities.



Advancing Together: Stakeholders gather for a photo, reflecting on efforts to strengthen community rights and corporate accountability



Snapshot from the stakeholders' meeting showcasing collaborative discussions on corporate accountability and community rights.

LHRC empowering youth in human rights at University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) human rights association AGM and Graduation ceremony.

On 22nd June 2024, Ally Seif Ramadhani from LHRC had the privilege to attend and fully participate in the Annual General Meeting (AGM), Election, and Graduation Ceremony of the UDSM Human Rights Association (UDHRA), a youth-led association for which LHRC is the parent organization.

The event was attended by several prominent Human Rights Activists, Defenders, and Advocates, including Dr. Francis Rwiziga from CHRAGG and Onesmo Ole Ngurumwa from THRDC, who was also the Guest of Honor, among many others.

It was a fruitful gathering where Mr. Ally Seif from LHRC had the chance to share brief mentorship tips with the youth on the paramount roles of young justice warriors in Tanzania.



Youth Officer Ally Seif Ramadhani at the UDSM, during the AGM Election and Graduation Ceremony of the UDHRA.

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