



# Mlinzi wa **HAKI**



## DECEMBER 2023

[www.humanrights.or.tz](http://www.humanrights.or.tz)

[lhrc@humanrights.or.tz](mailto:lhrc@humanrights.or.tz)

+255 22 2773038/48

# Dear esteemed readers

Greetings from the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).



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

*Regards,*

**Dr. Anna Henga  
(Advocate)  
LHRC Executive  
Director**

With the dedicated 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 November 2023 edition of the Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

In our latest newsletter, we're excited to share the key accomplishments and milestones achieved by LHRC throughout December 2023. This update aims to keep you informed about our recent activities.

During this month, LHRC successfully met all the goals it had set, engaging in significant events such as the commemoration of International Human Rights Day 2023. Additionally, we welcomed a distinguished visitor, Mr. Marcel Akpovo - the Director and Regional Representative of UN Human Rights EARO, along with UN delegates, who visited our Legal Aid Clinic in Kinondoni Dar es Salaam.

December marked the completion of our planned work for 2023, allowing us to reflect on our achievements and strategize for the upcoming year, 2024.

As we embark on 2024, I wish to emphasize to our key stakeholders, especially the citizens, that human rights are not merely privileges; they are indispensable for fostering an environment where everyone can live with dignity, safety, and respect.

Safeguarding fundamental human rights is a collective responsibility crucial for nurturing a peaceful and democratic society.

Let us make 2024 the year where we stand united against any human rights violation. Wishing all human rights defenders a Happy New Year!



# UN Human Rights Director, Mr. Marcel Akpovo, Engages in the Human Right Day Commemoration Events During a Visit to Tanzania.

On December 7, 2023, Mr. Marcel Akpovo, the Director and Regional Representative of UN Human Rights EARO, accompanied by UN delegates, visited the LHRC Legal Aid Clinic in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam. Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre, led this important engagement.

During this visit, the delegates had an opportunity to share experience and discuss human rights development in Tanzania as well as coverage of LHRC work. Discussions included topics such as the Legal Aid Management System (LAMS), access to justice, family law, litigation, and juvenile cases. Additionally, the UN delegates had the opportunity to explore various units within the clinic.



*Mr. Marcel Akpovo, the Director and Regional Representative of UN Human Rights EARO, Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director LHRC on the right, Director of Empowerment and Accountability Ms. Felista Mauya on the left and Director of Advocacy and Reforms on the left during a visit to Kinondoni Legal Aid.*



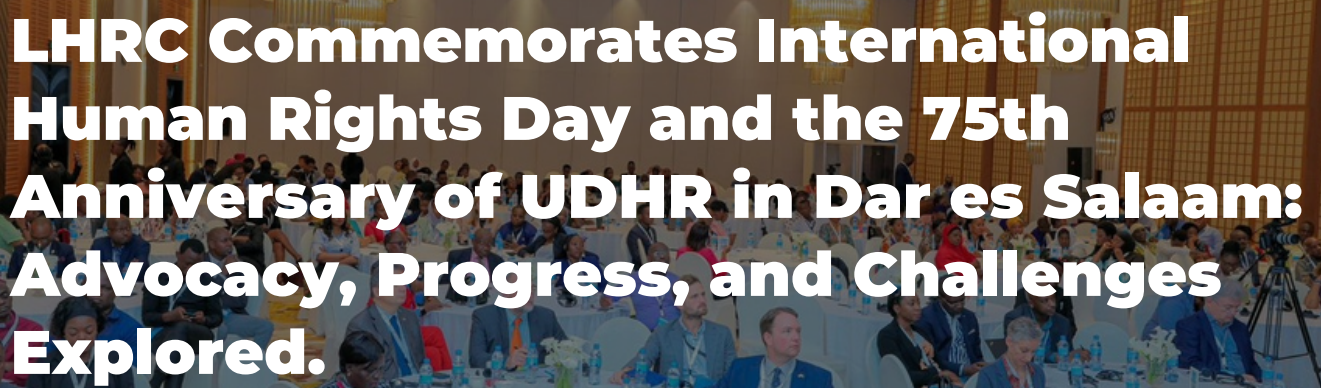
Mr. Marcel Akpovo and the UN delegates also convened with Tanzania's senior editors at the Seashells Millennium Hotel in Dar es Salaam on December 7, 2023. This meeting was instrumental in discussing critical issues, including human rights violations, matters within the realm of criminal justice, and the paramount importance of safeguarding freedom of expression.

Furthermore, Mr. Akpovo was honored as a guest at LHRC's commemoration event for the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and International Human Rights Day, which was hosted on December 8, 2023.



*Mr. Marcel Akpovo, the Director and Regional Representative of UN Human Rights EARO, speaking with Journalists at the Seashells Millennium Hotel in Dar es Salaam*





# **LHRC Commemorates International Human Rights Day and the 75th Anniversary of UDHR in Dar es Salaam: Advocacy, Progress, and Challenges Explored.**

On December 8, 2023, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) commemorated International Human Rights Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) at the Johari Rotana Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

The Executive Director of LHRC, Dr. Anna Henga, inaugurated the conference which was attended by various stakeholders, including ambassadors, government officials, paralegals and other civil society.

The Director and Regional Representative of UN Human Rights EARO, Mr. Marcel Akpovor highlighted the trend of human rights over the years and expounded on challenges facing women.

“More than 1 billion women face various forms of gender-based violence. Therefore, as a nation, we need advocacy organizations to create systems that protect women against gender-based violence,” emphasized Akpovor.

Former Executive Director of LHRC, Dr. Helen Kijo-Bisimba mentioned that Tanzania signed the Declaration of Human Rights immediately upon gaining independence.

It was noted that at that time, the country did not have effective systems for human rights management. For example, there were only two government-owned media outlets, but later on the country saw an increase of media.

This expansion provided the country with an opportunity to discuss human rights and start endorsing declarations on human rights.

Retired Judge Mathew Pauwa Mhina Mwaimu, Chairman of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG),



---

mentioned the steps we have taken as a country in advocating for human rights, including having human rights monitoring centers, the existence of social organizations advocating for human rights and the government using security agencies to protect citizens.

It was noted that there is still a need to continue to educate the population on the understanding of human rights.

“There's a significant challenge regarding understanding human rights. When someone advocates for them, they're often labeled an activist, which carries negative connotations,” said Tom Nyanduga Bahame Vice-Rector for Administrative, Institutional, and Cooperation Issues “We should recognize that human rights are for everyone.” emphasized Bahame

The UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania, Zlatan Milišić, said that the United Nations Human Rights Treaty remains the foundation of human rights and a guide for advocating for human rights.

“The United Nations agency in Tanzania provides recommendations to the government and various institutions overseeing and advocating for human rights to ensure that human rights laws adhere to international laws on human rights,” emphasized Milišić.

On the other hand, the gender officer at the Tanzania Association for the Deaf (CHAVITA), Lupi Mwaisaka mentioned that the assessment of 75 years of human rights in Tanzania shows that there are still challenges for people with disabilities; they continue to face oppression and lack of dignity.

Nevertheless, efforts undertaken by organizations such as LHRC have started to bear fruit.

“Now, Tanzania has ratified the treaty on the rights of persons with disabilities, and we've seen them beginning to get leadership positions, being protected, and their dignity being cared for,” said Lupi Mwaisaka

During the commemoration, LHRC honored those who have made significant strides in advocating for and upholding fundamental human rights within their respective domains.





*Audiences during International Human Rights Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).*



*Executive Director LHRC Dr. Anna Henga during International Human Rights Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).*





*Panelists during the discussion on the commemoration the International Human Rights Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).*



*The Guest of Honor, Mr. Marcel Akpovo, the Director and Regional Representative of UN Human Rights EARO, issued the certificate to the European Union in Tanzania.*





# Joseph Oleshangay receives the 2023 Weimar Human Rights Award for Advocacy on Maasai Rights in Tanzania.

Human Right Defender, Joseph Oleshangay was named the winner of 2023 Weimar Human Rights Award for his efforts in advocating for the rights of the Maasai community in Tanzania, including their fight against forced relocation by the government.

The award, given by the human rights organization Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker, was given on December 10, 2023, in Germany.

LHRC congratulates Mr Oleshangay, a dedicated human rights defender and a fearless lawyer, for this recognition of his tireless promotion and defending of human rights in Tanzania.



*Joseph Oleshangay is in the middle with Massai attire during the Weimar Human Rights Award in Germany.*



# Dr. Anna Henga Commends the Swedish and Norwegian embassies in Tanzania for Outstanding Commitment to Human Rights.

On December 12, 2023, Dr. Anna Henga, Executive Director of LHRC, recognized the Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania for its exceptional commitment to various crucial areas, including human rights, democracy, gender equality, education, economic development, environment, and climate.

Dr. Henga acknowledged their efforts by presenting an award and certificate as a token of appreciation. The Ambassador of Sweden, Hon. Charlotta Ozaki-Maicas, who received the award and certificate on behalf of the embassy.



The Embassy of Norway in Tanzania received the award and certificate from Dr. Anna Henga.



Dr.Henga also recognized the Embassy of Norway in Tanzania for its exceptional commitment to various crucial areas, including climate change, environment, culture, energy, human rights, governance, and regional development in Africa.



*The Ambassador of Sweden, Hon. Charlotta Ozaki-Maicas, received the award and certificate on behalf of the embassy from Dr. Anna Henga.*

# Our development partners



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN



Norwegian Embassy



EMBASSY OF FINLAND



**Ambasáid na hÉireann**  
Embassy of Ireland





**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

---

