



Mlinzi wa **HAKI**



SEPTEMBER 2023

www.humanrights.or.tz

lhrc@humanrights.or.tz

+255 22 2773038/48

Dear esteemed readers

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



We invite you to explore this newsletter to stay updated on LHRC's ongoing initiatives and to gain a deeper understanding of the important work being undertaken within our organisation.

Regards,

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

With support from our devoted staff and developmental partners, including the Embassies of Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, LHRC is delighted to welcome you to our September 2023 Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

LHRC dedicated the month of September 2023 to the field visit to legal assistants in Kahama, Shinyanga Region.

In September, LHRC launched a book during International Democracy Day 2023, titled *Thirty Years of Multiparty Democracy in Tanzania 1992-2022*, which reflects on the Challenges and Opportunities, the book has been prepared with the aim of examining the historical background of the reintroduction of multi-party democracy in Tanzania in 1992.

The book examines the constitutional, legal, institutional, and practical issues relating to the reintroduction, implementation, and experimentation of multiparty democracy in the country since 1992.

Also, it discusses the progress made in strengthening and deepening multiparty democracy in Tanzania and the inherent opportunities and challenges that surfaced during the implementation and experimentation of multiparty democracy up to 2022, when Tanzania celebrates thirty years of multiparty democracy.

The book documents the lessons learned, challenges, and the inherent prospects, each specific Chapter in the book makes both general and specific recommendations geared towards further strengthening and deepening multiparty democratic institutions and culture in Tanzania.



LHRC's Anna Henga tours Kahama as part of the centre's commitment to providing legal assistance

On September 1, 2023, the Executive Director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Anna Henga, undertook a noteworthy visit to Kahama, Shinyanga. Her purpose was to actively engage with and observe the progress of LHRC's legal assistants in providing essential legal aid services to local communities.

This hands-on approach exemplified LHRC's commitment to its mission and highlighted the profound dedication of the legal assistants working tirelessly to champion justice.

Henga's visit was a unique opportunity to gauge the impact of LHRC's initiatives and gain a deep and personal understanding of the challenges faced by the communities they serve. It emphasised the organisation's dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of those who rely on legal assistance.



During her visit, the director had the chance to connect with the legal team, delving into the cases they were currently handling. This engagement allowed her to witness firsthand the challenges and complexities encountered by the legal assistants while fulfilling their duties. It also provided a platform for dialogue, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose among the team.

LHRC's commitment to the betterment of their legal assistants and the communities they serve is evident in their ongoing efforts. Regularly organised meetings with legal aid assistants aim to enhance their working conditions, fortify communication channels, and establish a supportive and efficient framework for delivering legal services.

These measures not only improve the quality of legal aid provided but also contribute to the well-being and professional development of the legal assistants, ensuring their ability to continue championing justice effectively.



LHRC joins others in celebrating International Democracy Day

In the spirit of international solidarity, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) recently joined forces with fellow human rights advocates to commemorate International Democracy Day, which is observed annually on September 15.

This significant day, established through a UN General Assembly resolution in 2007, encourages governments worldwide to fortify and uphold the principles of democracy.

LHRC marked this occasion on September 15 with a remarkable event hosted at the prestigious Johari Rotana Hotel in Dar es Salaam. The Executive Director of LHRC, Dr Anna Henga, inaugurated the conference, which gathered numerous esteemed human rights stakeholders.

International Democracy Day is a global platform for acknowledging and celebrating the principles of democracy and human rights.



On this day, various events, including symposiums, are convened to assess the state of human rights in different regions.

Democracy, as highlighted during the event, serves as a compelling expression of the advancement of human rights. It's not solely about elections, although they undoubtedly constitute a pivotal aspect of democracy.

The Chairman of the Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD), while addressing the attendees, emphasised that a significant proportion of Tanzanians aspire to live in a true democracy, with an overwhelming 86% of them desiring a system where citizens can actively participate in decision-making processes.

LHRC remains steadfast in its commitment to cooperating with diverse stakeholders to enhance and bolster the country's democratic environment. This commitment reflects LHRC's enduring dedication to promoting human rights and democratic values.

Furthermore, during the Democracy Day event, LHRC unveiled a remarkable publication titled *Thirty Years of Multiparty Democracy in Tanzania 1992-2022*.



The book offers a comprehensive overview of the state of democracy in Tanzania, particularly at the inception of the multi-party system in 1992.

It meticulously traces the journey of democratic development, highlighting the notable achievements, confronting the challenges faced, and presenting the opportunities that have moulded Tanzania's democratic landscape over the past three decades.

This publication is a valuable resource, providing profound insights into the evolution of democracy in Tanzania and contributing to a deeper understanding of the nation's political history. It is a testament to LHRC's commitment to transparency, accountability, and the relentless pursuit of democratic ideals.

In sum, LHRC's observance of International Democracy Day and the launch of its comprehensive book underscore the organisation's unwavering dedication to human rights, democracy, and the well-being of the Tanzanian people.

It is a powerful reminder of the importance of a participatory, accountable, and inclusive democracy in shaping a just and equitable society.



Irish Rule of Law International visits LHRC's legal aid clinic in Kinondoni

On the 5th of September 2023, a significant and fruitful event took place as Sean McHale, the Director of Programmes at Irish Rule of Law International, paid a courtesy visit to the LHRC Legal Aid Clinic located in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

This visit marked an important milestone in fostering collaboration and cooperation between these two esteemed organisations with a shared commitment to advancing the rule of law and access to justice.

Advocate Fulgence Massawe, LHRC's director of advocacy and reforms, orchestrated the partnership meeting. Advocate Massawe's leadership and dedication have driven LHRC's mission to promote human rights, justice, and legal empowerment.

During the visit, Sean McHale had the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the LHRC Legal Aid Clinic's various units, which play a pivotal role in delivering legal assistance and support to individuals in need.



Sean McHale, the Director of Programmes at Irish Rule of Law International, exchanged conversations with Advocate Fulgence Massawe, Director of Advocacy and Reforms at LHRC.



This exposure allowed McHale to witness firsthand the critical work being carried out by LHRC in addressing legal challenges faced by vulnerable populations, including issues related to human rights, social justice, and legal advocacy.

This meeting was a significant step towards strengthening the collaboration between Irish Rule of Law International and LHRC's Legal Aid Clinic. Such partnerships are crucial in promoting the rule of law, protecting human rights, and ensuring access to justice for all.

By working together, these organisations can amplify their impact, share knowledge and resources, and ultimately create a more just and equitable society.

The visit of Sean McHale and the discussions that transpired during this meeting demonstrates the commitment of Irish Rule of Law International and LHRC to making a positive difference in the lives of those who rely on their services and support. It is a testament to the power of international collaboration in advancing the cause of justice and human rights.



Advocate Rose Nyatega, Legal Officer-In-Charge of the Kinondoni Clinic on the left, speaking to Sean McHale (right), the Director of Programmes at Irish Rule of Law International.



LHRC empowers social welfare officers, launches National Guidelines at the 2023 conference in Dodoma

On September 6, 2023, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) participated in the 2023 Social Welfare Officers Conference in Dodoma.

During the conference, which was inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Dotto Biteko, not only was it inaugurated, but he also launched the National Guidelines for the Operation, Management, and Coordination of Marriage Conflict Resolution Councils.

LHRC prepared these guidelines in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Children, and People with Disabilities.

The implementation of these guidelines will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government (TAMISEMI) and the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs.



LHRC program officers during the launching of Launches National Guidelines at the 2023 Conference in Dodoma. In the middle is Advocate Hidaya Haonga, Dodoma Branch Office Coordinator and on the left is Raymond Kanegene, LHRC's Senior Programme Officer, Advocacy and Reforms.



LHRC is a human rights advocate that has been working closely with social welfare officers nationwide to ensure their active involvement in combating all forms of violence against various groups.

Executive Director of LHRC, Dr. Anna Henga, also participated in the conference.

The conference was attended by various government officials, social development stakeholders, and Social Welfare Officers from different regions in mainland Tanzania.

The 2023 Social Welfare Officers Conference, held in Dodoma, was themed Upbringing, Growth, and Mental Health is Our Collective Responsibility - Let's All Take Responsibility.

LHRC made a significant contribution by providing a wide array of publications to both stakeholders and Welfare Officers during the launch of the Marriage Conflict Resolution Guide in Dodoma.



These publications covered crucial topics such as Child Law, Child Custody, Marriage Conflict Resolution Tribunals, and Gender-Based Violence in Dodoma.

The distribution of over 500 copies of these publications served a crucial purpose: to educate and enlighten individuals on various legal issues and human rights.

The initiative aimed to empower stakeholders and Welfare Officers with the knowledge and resources to promote and protect human rights and justice within marriage conflict resolution.

It underscores the commitment of the Legal and Human Rights Centre to fostering a society where legal awareness and human rights are at the forefront of efforts to address important issues like child welfare, gender-based violence, and marriage conflict resolution.



LHRC extends legal aid and support to Arusha Central Prison inmates

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) office in Arusha conducted a legal aid outreach program at the Arusha Central Prison from September 7 to September 13, 2023.

Activities included listening to prisoners and detainees, providing legal advice on their cases, preparing grounds for appeals for prisoners, and representing some prisoners and detainees.

In the picture are legal officers from the LHRC Arusha office and Senior Prison Superintendent Felix Morris Samson at the prison.



LHRC program officers with the Arusha police officers.





LHRC visits Human Rights Clubs in Dar es Salaam

On 19th September 2023, Legal and Human Rights Centre paid a visit to two (2) Human Rights Clubs, which are found at Azania and Jangwani Secondary School in Dar es Salaam, Mr. Ally Seif Ramadhani (a Youth Program Officer from LHRC), moderated a student's-led 'Anti-Death Penalty' Dialogue.

The dialogue aimed at discussing issues related to the implementation of the Death Penalty and the movement towards abolishing that irrevocable, inhuman, and degrading punishment in Tanzania.

The students who are part of the Children and Adolescent Youth in Tanzania have expressed their opinions and views on implementing the death penalty in the country. At the same time, the majority recommended the abolition of the death penalty because it is a punishment that violates International Human Rights Standards.

These dialogues come forward as a part of LHRC's initiative towards the Commemoration of the World Day Against Death Penalty, which is usually commemorated every 10th of October.



Ally Seif Program Officer - Human Rights Monitors and Human Rights Clubs with students from Azania Secondary School.



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

