



LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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LAUNCH OF THE TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2022

-Press Release-

On Wednesday, 12th April 2023, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) launched its Tanzania Human Rights Report 2022. The report is LHRC's 21st since 2002 and highlights the situation of human rights in Tanzania, both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, touching on the positives and the negatives that transpired throughout the year. It has been prepared in collaboration with the Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO).

The report is the outcome of LHRC's assessment of human rights situation in Tanzania in line domestic, regional, and international human rights standards, including human rights conventions ratified by Tanzania and the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977. This was made possible through use of at least eight sources of data, including a human rights survey conducted in 20 regions of Mainland Tanzania and LHRC's human rights monitoring and legal aid programmes. Secondary data included reports, speeches, and statements by government and non-government actors and institutions. LHRC's media survey also provided an important data source for this report, enabling triangulation of data, and laying a foundation for further research.

The 2022 edition of annual human rights report touches on some key issues around the three generations of human rights, namely: the civil and political rights; economic, social, and cultural rights; and collective rights. There are chapters for each of these three generations and additional chapters on introduction, covering report preparation, objectives, methodology, and situation overview; rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly; human rights mechanisms available at domestic, regional, and international levels and their role in human rights protection; status of implementation of recommendations made in previous reports; and conclusion and recommendations. There are

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eight chapters in total, except for the Zanzibar part, which has seven chapters.

Some of the new additions in the report include issues of sexual violence against children in religious settings, cyber violence against women and girls, social protection, and Tanzania's 2021 UPR process outcome. The theme for the 2022 human rights report is "The Journey of Criminal Justice Reforms to Safeguard Human Rights" considering the calls, discussions, and steps relating to criminal justice reform in the past year.

The report highlights both the positives and negatives that transpired in the year 2022 and is the outcome of LHRC's and ZAFAYCO's assessments of key issues and Tanzania's compliance with its human rights obligations, conducted using international, regional, and domestic human rights standards as yardsticks.

Key issues highlighted in the report include intimate partner homicide (IPH); press freedom; economic violence against women; criminal justice; violence against the elderly; mental health; violence against children; political participation; quality education and health services; economic empowerment of women, youth, and persons with disabilities; and corruption, embezzlement, accountability and development, in relation to human rights.

Like it was the case in 2021, in the year 2022 the most reported and documented human rights issues were violations of civil and political rights, including freedom from violence. Different forms of violence against women, children, PWDs, and the elderly were the most reported issues and incidents. These contributed to intimate partner homicides, witchcraft-motivated killings, denial of property and inheritance rights, and physical and psychological harm. Criminal justice issues were also widely reported, debated, and discussed as many accused persons continue to languish in prisons because of deficiencies in the criminal justice system. Right to education was also on the spotlight in 2022, with stakeholders raising concerns over quality of education, greatly affected by budgetary constraints and unsatisfactory learning and teaching environment, especially in public schools.

Other key human rights issues for the year 2022 included violations of rights of journalists, mob violence, witchcraft-motivated killings, violations of fair trial rights (especially due to lengthy pre-trial detention), human and child trafficking, child neglect, child labour and exploitation, child marriage, privacy and personal security, FGM, and violations of property and inheritance rights of women (including widows).

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In terms of victims of human rights violations, children constituted the majority of victims of reported and documented incidents of human rights violations (47%), followed by women (33%), elderly (10%), men (6%) and PWDs (4%). Five most violated rights were right to life, freedom from violence, right to equality before the law, right to liberty and personal security, and right to education. Ten regions to watch in terms of human rights issues and violations are Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Singida, Katavi, Geita, Mwanza, Njombe, Mara, and Kigoma.

Based on the assessment of human rights issues vis-à-vis international human rights standards, LHRC observed that the overall situation of human rights slightly improved in 2022 compared to the previous year of 2021. This was mainly attributed to the positives in promotion and protection of civil and political rights, including lifting of bans on media outlets, plans of lifting of ban political rallies, and plans to reform the criminal justice system. Other positives included the adoption of the new Wage Order of 2022, replacing the Wage Order of 2013, and introduction of the universal health coverage (UHC) bill. These positives have implications on fundamental rights such as right to equality before the law; right to liberty and personal security; freedoms of expression, assembly and association; and right to work.



Dr. Anna Henga (Advocate)

Executive Director, Legal and Human Rights Centre

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