



Mlinzi wa **HAKI**

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Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Visits LHRC, Commends her Good Work

H.E Peter Eriksson, the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation has on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, paid a courtesy visit to the Legal and Human Rights Centre. The visit aimed at learning the work done by LHRC especially in enhancing access to justice through Legal Aid provision.

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- Haki TV is the LHRC's online platform to share videos on legal and human rights education through YouTube. Haki TV strives to promote the LHRC's mission of empowering the public on laws and human rights.
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Word from the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,
Welcome to another issue of our Mlinzi wa Haki (Human Rights Guardian) newsletter, with this one compiling stories on activities and interventions that LHRC conducted from January to June 2019.

Within this short period we have been able to successfully launch our new six years strategic plan 2019 - 2025, thanks to the Swedish Embassy, Norwegian Embassy and Ford Foundation who expressed their commitment to supporting the strategy in the earliest stage enabling us to sit back and plan for the future of human rights in Tanzania. Our six-year strategic plan has five main strategic objectives whose implementation will foster the attainment of our vision which is to attain a Just and Equitable Society.

In this period we have also been able to continue with our good cause of protecting and promoting human rights in Tanzania through engaging duty bearers including parliamentarians, judiciary and members of the executive pillar for policies and laws reforms. We have continued with civic engagement for awareness on laws and human rights for the public to be aware of their rights and exercise accountability measures whenever their rights are jeopardized and/or violated.

In this reporting period, LHRC convened a number of community and national dialogues to gather public opinion on issues concerning constitutional reforms in the country.

We've continued with CSO's engagement for meaningful reforms and community engagement.

Exceptionally, I wish to extend my gratitude to the US Department of State for recognizing my efforts by awarding me with the International Women of Courage Award. The award has been a motivation to me, LHRC and other human rights activists towards the improvement of Human Rights in Tanzania.

I encourage you to read and share your comments with us. Thank you.

**Anna Henga,
Executive Director**



■ Sweden Signs New Agreement with LHRC to Continue Improving the State of Human Rights in Tanzania

On January 23, 2019, the Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania signed a cooperation agreement with Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) covering the period 2019-2021, within LHRC's strategic plan 2019-2024. The agreement was officially signed by the Ambassador Anders Sjöberg and LHRC's Executive Director Ms Anna Henga at the office of LHRC in Dar es Salaam.

Sweden's contribution will support LHRC in deepening the understanding and respect for human rights among both rights holders and duty bearers; improving the rule of law, protecting civic space, and supporting legal reforms; promoting socio-economic and environmental compliance, accountability and justice; improving the legal and policy frameworks that specifically protect the rights of women, children and people living with disabilities; and improving LHRC's own effectiveness in delivering its mandate.

“

“This is a new phase in a longstanding cooperation between Embassy of Sweden and LHRC. It builds on our shared belief in human rights. The rights of everyone to live in dignity, freedom, equality, justice and peace, whoever they are and wherever they live” said Anders Sjöberg, the Ambassador of Sweden.

The support covers all aspects of LHRC's work which ensures it is the organization's own identified priorities are supported. The Swedish Ambassador stressed that “For all to be able to enjoy their human rights it is important to focus on individuals that have added challenges or are being structurally discriminated.”

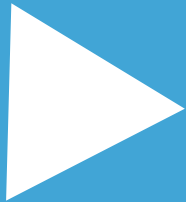


Swedish Ambassador in Tanzania, H.E. Anders Sjöberg (r) and LHRC's Executive Director, Ms Anna Henga (l) displays the LHRC's Strategic Plan 2019-2025 after it was officially launched during the grant signing event at LHRC's HQ office in Dar es Salaam.

Ms Anna Henga, Executive Director of LHRC stated that:

"The long-standing cooperation has brought about a lot of positive changes in the society including improved access to justice particularly for the marginalised. It has increased the awareness of human rights among members of the general public and duty bearers. Also, it has enhanced advocacy for reforms for human rights sensitive laws and policies, just to mention a few".

Total funding provided: 36 M SEK for LHRC Operational Plan 2019-2021.



The Ambassador of Sweden in Tanzania, H.E. Anders Sjöberg (r) chats with legal aid clients during his visit to the clinic



■ Norway Reaffirms Commitment to Support Human Rights in Tanzania, Signs Six Years Grant with LHRC

On April 16, 2019, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania entered into an agreement with the Legal and Human Rights Centre to support LHRC's six years strategic plan, 2019 - 2024. The signing ceremony took place at the LHRC's headquarters in Dar es Salaam, where Ambassador Elisabeth Jacobsen and the LHRC's Executive Director Ms Anna Henga signed an agreement worth a total of (include the amount of grant)

Norway has been a longstanding partner to LHRC since 2004, its renewed support aims at continued support on human rights and good governance in Tanzania.

Legal and Human Rights being a leading human rights advocacy organization in Tanzania has responded to recent human rights developments by developing a six years strategic plan, 2019 - 2024 aiming at increasing understanding and respect for human rights among rights holders and duty bearers; advocacy for improvement of rule of law, civic space, democracy, constitutional and legal reforms;

promotion of socio-economic and environmental compliance, accountability and justice as well as improvement of the legal and policy frameworks governing specific rights of women, children and People with Disabilities (PWDs).

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Ms Anna Henga noted that "Norway is a great partner to Tanzania. The government of Norway recognizes Tanzania as one of her 10 partner countries for long term development. Norway supports Tanzania's goal to become a middle-income country with priorities in the private sector development, renewable energy, and petroleum management, increased revenue mobilization through improved fiscal and financial management, and environment and climate change.

The cooperation between LHRC and Royal Norwegian Embassy has positively contributed to increased respect for human rights and the rule of law among both rights holders and duty bearers in Tanzania”.

On her side, the Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania H.E Elisabeth Jacobsen noted that Human Rights has been and still is Norway’s area of focus, hence Norway’s support to LHRC aims at ensuring the promotion of human rights in Tanzania. H.E Ambassador Jacobsen insisted on the need for Tanzanians to stand for human rights given the deteriorating trend on freedom of expression.

Both LHRC and Royal Norwegian Embassy expressed their concerns over the deteriorating human rights situation in Tanzania despite the positive developments. LHRC and Norway made a call to the Government, stakeholders and all Tanzanians to jointly work towards the protection and human rights in Tanzania.

Total funding provided: NOK 18,300,000 for LHRC Operational Plan 2019-2021.



H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen, Ambassador of Norway in Tanzania (r) with Anna Henga sign grant agreement documents at the LHRC’s HQ office in Dar es Salaam



“Freedom of expression is under pressure in many places in the world. We must stand up for freedom of expression, not because we agree with all views that are expressed, but because freedom of expression is the foundation, on which all other democratic freedoms rest”. said, H.E Jacobsen.



■ Anna Henga Receives International Women of Courage Award

Ann Henga, a renowned Tanzanian human rights activist and the Executive Director of Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has been awarded the International Women of Courage Award 2019 by the US Department of State. Anna Henga was named among 10 women of courage for her significant work in protection and promotion of human rights in Tanzania.

Anna received the accolade on March 7, 2019 at the US Department of State in Washington DC in a reception gala hosted by the US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and officiated by the US First Lady, Melania Trump. According to the US Department of State, Anna was shortlisted among 10 international women of courage following her outstanding efforts in advocating for human rights in Tanzania as well as her influential role in publicly voicing concern over the direction of democratic governance through adverse legislative and constitutional actions in the country.

Other honorees of the award are from Bangladesh, Burma, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Ireland, Montenegro, Peru and Sri Lanka. Established in 2007, IWOC honours women around the world who have demonstrated exceptional courage, strength, and leadership in acting to bring positive change to their societies, often at great personal risk and sacrifice.

To date, under the IWOC program, the U.S. Department of State has recognized over 120 women from more than 65 countries. All awardees have a track record of advocating for the protection of human rights, promoting the advancement of the status of women, and fostered peace and government transparency around the world.

■ LHRC's Legal Aid Clinic Makes a List of 30 Access to Justice Solutions in the World

Thank you to the 30 projects selected as World Justice Challenge Finalists:



On April 29 to May 2, 2019, LHRC joined stakeholders working on access to justice from all over the world in the World Justice Forum that took place in The Hague, Netherlands to showcase her Legal Aid Clinic initiative. LHRC's Legal Aid Clinic was shortlisted by the World Justice Project (WJP) among 30 creative solutions that strive to accelerate access to justice in the world. Legal Aid Clinic entered into the WJP's World Justice Challenge 2019, as one of the best solutions competing with more than 250 other access to justice initiatives from all over the world.

More about Legal Aid Clinic

In Tanzania, Legal Aid Clinic strives to facilitate access to justice through the provision of free legal aid services to the underprivileged population; including but not limited to court representation, legal empowerment, strategic litigation, reconciliation, counselling and advocacy for reforms of laws and policies as well as the change of practices.

The Legal Aid Clinic helps more than 15,000 Tanzanians annually to directly access legal redress. Indirectly, that is through media, word of mouth and Information, Education and Communication Materials, Legal Aid Clinic has empow-

ered nearly a quarter of Tanzania's population.

The initiative has also been making use of evidence gathered from clients to push for law reforms and enactment of new laws to protect and promote human rights as well as enhance access to justice in Tanzania. Laws enacted as a result of Legal Aid provision include The Legal Aid Act, 2017, Microfinance Act 2018, the Law of the Child 2009, the Village Land Act No 5 of 1999, Special Sexual Provision Act of 1998 just to mention a few. In all these, LHRC made use of cases reported at its Legal Aid clinic to champion advocacy for reform and enactment of the said laws.

Moreover, Legal Aid initiative has led to the improvement of the justice system in so many ways, LHRC in collaboration with other actors campaigned for the establishment of the Police Gender, Children and People with Disabilities Desk to help women, children and PWDs to easily access justice especially when they encounter gender-based violence. This is because most GBV cases reported at the Clinic were a result of police not paying attention to the sensitivity of GBV cases leading to most women and children

being deprived of their rights.

Through Police Gender desk now women, children and PWDs can easily access justice although still there is a lot to be done for improvement.

Similarly, LHRC has been engaging the judiciary to share some of the challenges as presented by clients including expensive court fees, delay in receiving judgments and issues related to corruption by some of the judicial officers. Some of these challenges have been well addressed by the judiciary.

About the World Justice Challenge

The World Justice Challenge 2019: Access to Justice Solutions is a competition to identify, recognize, and promote good practices and successful solutions to improve access to justice.

Tanzania Court Nullifies the Role of the District Executive Directors to Act as Returning Officers During Elections

The High Court of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam has on May 10, 2019, declared null and void provisions 7 and 7A of the National Elections Act (Cap.343 R.E. 2010). Prior to the judgment, these provisions allowed the District Executive Directors to be returning officers during elections-

contrary to Article 74 (14) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania which prohibits persons concerned with conducts of elections to join any political party.

In 2018, Bob Chacha Wangwe filed a constitutional case No. 6 of 2018 at the High Court of Tanzania challenging the constitutionality of the said provisions. Legal and Human Rights Centre in collaboration with other actors initiated the move and provided technical support to the applicant aiming at the promotion of democracy in Tanzania. Most of District Executive Directors had unsuccessfully contested in various political positions before their appointment to office.

East African Court Directs Tanzania to Amend Media Services Act, 2016

The East African Court of Justice has on March 28, 2019, made a ruling that the Media Services Act, 2016 is in contradiction to section 6(d), 7(2) and 8 (1) (c) of the East African Treaty.

According to the East African Court of Justice, sections 7 (3) (a) (b) (c) (f) (g) (h) (i) and (j), 13, 19, 20, 21, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 50, 54, 52, 53, 58, and 59 of the Media Services Act, 2016 violate section 6(d), 7(2) and 8 (1) (c) of the East African Treaty and the government of the United Republic of Tanzania has been directed to take necessary measure to bring the Act into compliance.

Media Council of Tanzania, Legal and Human Rights Centre and Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition filed a petition early in January 2017 challenging restrictive sections of the Media Services Act, 2016.

Human Rights Report 2018: Sexual Violence against Children on the Rise, Civil and Political Rights still in Jeopardy

Legal and Human Rights has on May 14, 2019, launched the Tanzania Human Rights Report 2018 depicting the situation of human rights in the country. The 2018 report is themed “Sexual Violence: A Threat to Child Rights and Welfare in Tanzania” because of the increased number of reported incidences of sexual violence against children. The report suggests that from January to June 2018 a total of 6,376 incidents of violence were reported; 1648 more com

Apart from violence against children, the report has also recorded yet deteriorating trends on civil and political rights in Tanzania. Continued legal and extra-legal measures threatening right to freedom of expression; right to equality before the law and effective remedy; right to liberty and personal security; right to freedom from torture; right to freedom of assembly; right to freedom of association as well as right to participate in governance are among is-



pared to the same period in 2017.

Incidents of rape and sodomy against children have tremendously increased from 759 incidents in a mid-2017 to 2,365 in mid-2018. LHRC's media survey unveiled that 91% of reported VAC incidents were of sexual violence, while 9% were physical and psychological violence. According to the report, lack of proper care and parental guidance, household poverty, witchcraft-beliefs; low awareness about child rights and family disintegration among other reasons triggers sexual violence against children.

sues affecting civic space in Tanzania. Moreover, the report highlights the trends on rights of other vulnerable groups including Women, Elderly, PWDs and People Living with HIV/AIDS. The report suggests that economic violence, physical and psychological violence, sexual violence, marital sodomy and sexual corruption are among the key issues affecting women's rights. While rights of PWDs were challenged by the inadequate budget allocated to address issues affecting PWDs; income poverty; physical barriers leading to inaccessibility of services; lack of employment opportunities and social stigma.

Activists in a joint call for protection of women in Kigoma

In May 2019, LHRC spearheaded a joint CSO's campaign to call for protection and promotion of women rights in Kigoma following reported incidents of rape against women in the region known as Teleza. Purportedly, reports of organized crimes against women in Kigoma have been there since 2016 whereby women particularly those who live without men in their homes, have been at risk of having their homes broken into by unknown men and then being raped or, if they resist, face violent retaliation.

The reports on Teleza came into CSO's attention early in May 2019 after researchers from Twaweza were hinted on the matter during their fieldwork in Kigoma and responsively responded to the matter. LHRC in collaboration with Twaweza, Tamasha, Change Tanzania, the Centre for Strategic Litigation and Jamii Forums conducted fact-finding in Kigoma to unveil the truth behind the matter and in the cause, they were able to identify and document over 45 stories/incidents of torture and traumatization of women dating back to 2016.

On May 8, 2019, the coalition issued recommendations to the central government and authorities in Kigoma to take



One of victims of Teleza in Kigoma, tells her story to members of the press during a press conference

appropriate measures against perpetrators of Teleza.

In response, Kigoma Regional Commissioner's Office initiated the special operation to investigate on the matter where suspects were arrested and some were charged as perpetrators. On the other hand, the campaign by CSO's against Teleza contributed to bringing the matter into the national agenda leading to mixed reactions by both rights holders and duty bearers.

Teleza is an alias for the series of rape and violent incidences against women in Mwanga Kusini Ward in Kigoma. The perpetrators of the incidents were said to have their bodies covered in oil or grease or a slippery substance of some kind, making them difficult to catch. This is where the name Teleza comes from.



LHRC's Executive Director, Anna Henga (l) speaks to a victim of Teleza in Kigoma

LHRC Launches Human Rights Clubs in Various Schools and Academic Institutions

LHRC has successfully managed to establish twelve (12) human rights clubs with a total of 548 students in Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Lindi and Mbeya in a period between January and June of 2019.

Through human rights clubs, LHRC aims to reach the youth and expand their knowledge of human rights. LHRC believes that adequate knowledge of human rights will enable the youth to become more responsible citizens and push against various abuses of human rights in their respective communities and the society at large.

The clubs are entirely student-led with teachers providing general guidance and LHRC providing technical support and human rights education.

With this system, the human rights club also serves as a means for the students to learn leadership and its challenges.

In strengthening existing and newly established human rights clubs, LHRC has modified and made some crucial documents for clubs operation including; Human Rights Clubs Program-Terms of Reference (brief about human rights clubs), Model Human Rights Clubs constitutions for primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities, Simplified Model Annual work-plan for all human rights clubs, human rights clubs members' register, and debate competition framework for secondary schools human rights clubs. By these developed tools, LHRC will have full control of the human rights clubs operations, data and progress.





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and promotion
of Human Rights?

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5th Step: Enter the reference number.(1234)
6th Step: Enter the amount you want to pay.
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8th Step: Enter 1 to confirm the transaction



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5th Step: Enter the reference number.(1234)
6th Step: Enter the amount you want to pay.
7th Step: Enter your "PIN" to confirm.

For a Just and Equitable Society



African Child Day 2019: 'Bunge la Watoto' Allows Children to Speak for their Rights

Legal and Human Rights Centre continues to empower children on their rights including the right to expression so that they can speak up against violence whenever they are intimidated or face a violation. On June 15, 2019, LHRC organized a model children parliament 'Bunge la Watoto' where children from various regions of Tanzania gathered to discuss on their rights.

During the children's parliament session that took place in Dar es Salaam, children discussed various issues that affect their well-being and issued recommendations to the government, stakeholders, and community. Issues discussed centered around challenges facing children including early marriage, teen pregnancy, violence against children and poor and/or lack of family care leading to the discharge of children from their families to the streets.



Also, children made use of the platform to call for the government's intensified awareness creation to the general public on the rights of children. Improvement of social services for children to enjoy their rights to education, health, and clean water. Improvement of legal and policy framework as well as influencing positive practices for the protection and promotion of children is another call made by children. Apart from the government, children urged the members of the community, in general, to safeguard the wellbeing of children.

Before that, LHRC had conducted students essay writing competition on children's rights and the top three winners were empowered to participate in the children's parliament and take over leadership positions. The first place winner took over the office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), the second took over the office of the Kisarawe District Council, and the third took over the office of LHRC Executive Director.



The three winners of essay writing competition are Hollo Marco from Mkula Secondary School in Simiyu (first place); Happy George from Sovi Secondary School in Njombe (second place) and Angel Hatibu from Yakini Secondary School in Arusha (third place).

Commemoration of the African Child Day 2019, was a reminder to every community member to play her/his role to protect children from any form of violence. Tanzania Human Rights Report 2018 depicts escalating violence especially sexual violence against children which hinders children from enjoying their basic rights. According to the report, in most cases, the perpetrators of violence against children are close relatives to children. This deters the possibility for children to acquire legal redress because many cases are resolved at the family level.

Legal and Human Rights Centre is striving to create a just and equitable society; a society where children will enjoy their rights. To attain that, LHRC will continue with the implementation of the objective 4 of her strategic plan 2019-2024 aiming at improving the legal and policy frameworks governing specific rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities.

The Day of the African Child is celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991 when it was first initiated by the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU). The day honors those who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976. It also raises awareness of the continuing need for improvement of the education provided to African children. The theme for 2019 is "Children are the Foundation for a Sustainable Nation: Protect Them, Support Them and Allow Them to Develop."



1st photo: First winner of Essay Competition speaks during Bunge la Watoto.

2nd: Winners of Essay Competition in a group photo

Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Visits LHRC

-----From page 1

Speaking during his visit, Minister Eriksson said; *"We (Sweden) are working to promote human rights and democracy in different areas of the world. This organization (LHRC) is a good example of an institution that creates the possibilities for people that are poor to enjoy their rights".*

On her side, the Executive Director for Legal and Human Rights Centre, Ms. Anna Henga thanked the Minister and the Embassy of Sweden for continued support to LHRC in promoting human rights in Tanzania.

"We thank H.E Minister for visiting us and we are grateful for the support we have been receiving from the Swedish Government. They (Swedish Government) have been supporting us for more than 16 years now. And we have been able to achieve a lot through their support" - said Anna Henga.

Sweden has since 2001 been greatly supporting LHRC and the ties between the two have brought positive changes in Tanzania.

H.E. Peter Eriksson stayed in Tanzania for three days starting from May 19, 2019, engaging in talks with the Government and other recipients of Sweden supports. His visit aimed at contemplating the way forward regarding the renewal of bilateral cooperation between Tanzania and Sweden given that the development cooperation between the two countries is coming to an end by December 2019.

Center for Reproductive Rights and LHRC Challenge Expulsion and Exclusion of Pregnant School Girls in Tanzania

On June 17, 2019 the Center for Reproductive Rights and the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) filed a Complaint before the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child challenging the expulsion and exclusion of pregnant girls from public schools in Tanzania. The Complaint was filed on behalf of female students in Tanzania and alleges violations of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other international and regional human rights instruments ratified by the country.

“Forcing girls to undergo pregnancy tests against their will, expelling them from schools if found to be pregnant, and denying re-entry after childbirth infringes on their right to education and equality and non-discrimination,” said Evelyne Opondo, Senior Regional Director for Africa at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Tanzania has a long history of implementing discriminatory practices against pregnant schoolgirls. In June 2017, Tanzania’s President John Magufuli sparked outrage from local and regional human rights groups by declaring that students who become pregnant should not be allowed to finish their studies after giving birth.

“While both boy and girl students may face interruptions to their schooling, girls disproportionately bear the harshest consequences under the Tanzanian law. Pregnant school girls have a right to education and should be supported to stay in schools” said Fulgence Massawe, Director of Advocacy and Reforms at the Legal and Human Rights Centre.

On June 16, 2019, on the Day of the African Child, the world reflected on the unique challenges that children face throughout the continent. Today, we take action to hold the Tanzanian government accountable for violating the rights of adolescent girls and the continual rise of teen pregnancies in Tanzania. The 2015-2016 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey found that one in four women aged 15 to 19 are mothers. Schools often lack comprehensive sexuality education, with students reporting that they do not have the information they need to prevent pregnancy. Many of these girls became pregnant as a result of rape. Currently, there is no national sexuality education curriculum in mainland Tanzania.

On September 2012, Legal and Human Rights Centre, together with the National Organisation for Legal Assistance, filed a petition in the High Court of Tanzania against the Minister of Education and Vocational Training and the Attorney General of Tanzania on behalf of school girls in Tanzania, alleging that forced pregnancy testing in schools and the enforcement of the provisions of the 2002 Education (Expulsion and Exclusion of Pupils from Schools) Regulation, as far it is used to expel pregnant students from school, violated the provisions of the Constitution of Tanzania, in particular, Article 13 of the Constitution which guarantees the right to equality and non-discrimination. In August 2017, nearly five years after the petitioners first filed the case, the High Court dismissed the petitioners’ case on all counts.

In 2013, the Center for Reproductive Rights released *Forced Out: Mandatory Pregnancy Testing and the Expulsion of Pregnant Students in Tanzanian Schools*, a publication which documented that school officials in Tanzania were mandatorily expelling pregnant girls from schools. The same publication pointed out that annually, an estimated 8,000 female students dropped out of school due to pregnancy. Mandatory pregnancy testing is a serious infringement of girls’ rights to privacy and autonomy.

Strengthening working relations with the government

As part of strengthening mutual working relations with the government and other stakeholders, LHRC in June 2019 conducted courtesy visits to four ministries including the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, The Ministry of Health, Gender, Women and Children and the Ministry of Information, Sports, Arts and Culture all in Dodoma. The visits aimed at revitalizing the good working relations between LHRC and the government.

During the visits, the LHRC team introduced to the ministries the new strategic direction 2019 – 2024 and call for collaboration for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. In their party, the hosts were very excited by the move and insisted to join efforts with LHRC for necessary improvements.

Permanent Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs
MG. Jacob Kingu receives Tanzania Human Rights Report from the LHRC's Executive Director, Anna Henga during LHRC's courtesy visit to his office.



The LHRC's Executive Director in a photo with Dr. John Jingu, Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (3rd from left) and other officials for the Ministry during her visit to the ministry.



Minister of Constitution and Legal Affairs, Balozi Dr. Augustine Mahiga (c) pose for a photo at his office with a team from LHRC

How Anna Henga is Empowering and Inspiring Girls

In June 2019, the LHRC's Executive Director, Anna Henga launched a special program titled the Female Students Mentorship Program. The program aims at reaching out to young girls in secondary schools and universities and empowering the group on issues of human rights, gender equality, and leadership. The program also encourages and inspires young girls to take a leadership role in accelerating positive changes in their communities.



More than 500 girls from four universities and six secondary schools have been empowered through the program. Four universities reached so far include the Muslims University of Morogoro – MUM, Sokoine University of Agriculture – SUA, Morogoro Campus, St. John's University – Dodoma and St. Augustine University – Mwanza. Six schools include Pamba Secondary in Mwanza as well as Kilwa Secondary School, Dodomezi Secondary School, Islamic Secondary School, Maramba Secondary School and Mpunyule Secondary School all from Kilwa District in Lindi Region.

When I was chatting with girls during this mentorship program, they were confidently opening up about so many things that rarely come up in the normal con-

versations. I realized that girls need more of these types of programs. They need encouragement, they need safe and free space to talk about issues affecting their lives," said Anna Henga (when asked by the LHRC's Public Relations and Communication team to give her assessment of the program).

The program is part of Anna Henga's give back to the society following her recognition by the US Department of State as among 10 International Women of Courage 2019. Youth empowerment is a fundamental part of the LHRC's new six-year Strategic Plan 2019-2024.



The LHRC's Executive Director, Anna Henga in a photo with students at Kilwa Secondary School in Kilwa, Lindi region; Pamba Secondary School in Mwanza and St. Johns University in Dodoma

Media Gatekeepers Admit Increased Self-Censorship in Media

In a cause to support civic space in Tanzania, Legal and Human Rights Centre organised a discussion with editors in Tanzania to ponder about the situation of press freedom and freedom of expression in Tanzania. In a meeting that took place in Dar es Salaam on February 15, 2019 gathering 23 participants from various media outlets, editors raised concerns over mounting pressure against press freedom in the country.

In their presentations, lawyers from LHRC, Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) highlighted causes of shrinking media space in Tanzania including enactment and enforcement of restrictive laws; impunity and double standards exercised by authorities especially in regulating media and threats against media and sources of information that leads to fear of unknown among journalists and sources of information.

In response, media gatekeepers admitted to be suffering the consequences of shrinking civic space which has led to extreme censorship of information. Editors mentioned arbitrary punishments, threats and torture against members of the press to be curtailing the watchdog role of media hence limiting their freedom to search for and report the truth for public interest. Fear of unknown among sources of information especially in the government authorities is another mentioned challenge to be pulling back journalists efforts to conduct investigative journalism.

"I think it is clear to everyone, not only to us (editors) that the pressure to control media is at its peak in Tanzania, sometimes even our own reporters do not understand what is going on because of the increased censorship in media. There is too much censorship in our media houses because of intimidations and arbitrary punish-

ments from media and content regulators" - said one of participants (editors) during the meeting.

In the same development, editors complained to be suffering from media owner's syndrome, where they tend to work for survival instead of serving public interests.

"We all here admit that media landscape has changed a lot in Tanzania, the question of shrinking civic space is the causative agent of all this. Unfortunately the pressure from public to fight back the nightmare is not enough hence the media choose to cope with the situation for survival" - commented another editor.

Moving forward, participants of the meeting agreed to devise collaborative strategies to further endeavours to support civic space in Tanzania. One of proposed action plan include continuous trainings to members of the press to enhance their ability to navigate in the situation.

Background on Shrinking Civic Space in Tanzania

The root cause of the outcry over shrinking civic space in Tanzania is traced from the most competitive elections in October 2015 where it raised national and international community concerns in protecting civic space due to passing of the Cyber Crimes Act, 2015 which was practically worse to dissent expressions. From 2015 a series of pieces of legislation followed and tighten other civic platforms which resulted to the shrinking of civic space. These laws include, the Media Services Act, 2016, Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Act of 2003, Access to Information, 2016, Statistics Act (Amendments) 2018, the Online Contents Regulations, 2017.

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In a period of 2016 and 2017, the media have suffered arbitrary punishments including harsh fines because of what has been popularly termed as broadcasting or publishing seditious information. Members of the press have been victims of threats, intimidations, detentions and even torture leading to disappearance and deaths. Physical attacks on media houses and ban of media outlets have triggered fear among media leading to extremely censorship.

Tanzania Human Rights Report 2018

depicts worsening state of media freedom and expression in the country due to arbitrary actions by regulatory authorities and threats to journalists.

The report by the Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2019 depicts expansion of the free expression crackdown in 2018, affecting traditional news sources as well as social and online media in Tanzania. In the report, Tanzania scored 7 out of 16 in freedom of expression and belief.



Tanzania Should Ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture

On June 26, every year the world commemorates the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The day was selected by the United Nations to speak out against the crime of torture and honor and support victims and survivors throughout the world. This day was selected by the United Nations for two major reasons:

first, 26 June 1945 is when the United Nations Charter was signed; and the second reason is the fact that the same date in the year 1987, the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT) came into effect. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the day has been declared a public holiday in honor of the victims of torture.

Tanzania is part of the many major international instruments on the protection of human rights. It is the duty of every country to protect its people as required by the convention; that states should take effective measures to prevent torture in any territory under their jurisdiction, and states are forbidden from transporting people to any country where there is the reason to believe they will be tortured.

The UNCAT is ratified by almost all countries in Africa except four which are Angola, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. However, Angola and Sudan have signed the convention but have not yet ratified; Tanzania and Zimbabwe have neither signed nor ratified. Another interesting fact about UNCAT is that there are only 30 states in the world that have not ratified this convention as of this June 2019. Most of these states are the small island states in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

In Tanzania, torture is clearly prohibited under national laws but not criminalized. Article 13(6)(e) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 prohibits any kind of torture. Section 55(1) and (2) of the Criminal Procedure Act 1985 prohibits torture of any person under restraint and further section 27 of the Evidence Act, 1967 provides that any evidence obtained by way of torture is inadmissible.

Moreover, Tanzania is one of the few countries in Africa that have not ratified the UN Convention against Torture (CAT) which prevents the country from having to meet international standards and obligations in this area. Tanzania's failure to sign and ratify this convention sends a very bad message to the international community.

Failure of Tanzania to ratify the convention does not mean Tanzania has been heaven free from torture. We have experienced the number of incidents of torture including the ones that occurred during the anti-poaching operation commonly known as operation tokomeza and that of illegal immigrants. There are so many incidents of tortures in Tanzania documented and

undocumented. Most of these tortures are carried in police stations and some other areas while the victims are under the state agencies and under restraint.

There is no justification for Tanzania not ratifying UNCAT. It is time now to raise voice for the convention to be ratified and eventually be part of the laws of Tanzania.

New amendments to the Statistics Act 2018 revives hopes of free expression

LHRC has successfully documented a result on positive amendment of the Statistics Act which was amended in 2018 with major introduction of section 24A, 24B and 37(4). These provisions were highly condemned by LHRC due to its negative effects to the freedom of expression in Tanzania. These provisions were deleted and substituted with provisions which suppose positive progress on the freedom of expression as opposed to section 24A and 24B

- The positive amendments have enabled media, CSOs or any other person to conduct desk review, research and survey by accessing and analyzing official statistics sources and finally publishing the report without authorization from NBS as opposed to the 2018 amendments.
- The law also provides an opportunity for any person to collect and disseminate statistical information without requirement of getting authorization from the NBS. The law provides an enabling environment for research institutions, CSOs, Media and Academia to operate without restriction. Hence the amendments reduced bureaucracy and double authorization as was in 2018.
- The amendments assure the expansion of knowledge to Tanzania society since individuals and organizations will be encouraged to conduct and communicate findings of researches which are evidenced by statistical information.

Photo Stories











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