



**CONSTRUCTIVE AND  
OBJECTIVE ENGAGEMENT  
WITH THE GOVERNMENT:  
AN ASSET FOR SUCCESSFUL  
REALIZATION OF HRDS' GOALS**

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**THRDC'S BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER JANUARY –JUNE 2022**

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# Editorial



I am happy to introduce to you our Bi-annual newsletter from January – June 2022. It has been an exciting year as the Coalition is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary which was marked on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022 with the theme “*10 years of THRDC: A foundation for recognition and protection of HRDs’ Rights in Tanzania.*” Apart from celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it is a year which we are finalizing our 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic plan and revamping our strategies to spearhead the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan starting in 2023 to 2027.

This newsletter is aiming to shed some light on various activities undertaken by THRDC as part of commemorating 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and as part of carrying out the Coalition’s vision; striving to ensure a better working environment and smooth operations of Tanzania’s HRDs.

I greatly appreciate invaluable support and continued cooperation we have been receiving from various stakeholders including our members, partners, and government officials for the past six months of 2022. We have always enjoyed working as a team and cherished whenever we reached a milestone while working together to cope with the challenges, we have been facing in the course of our duties.

Through your support, the Coalition has managed to implement several activities for the past six months including commemorating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with **H: E Samia Suluhu Hassan - The President of United Republic of Tanzania as the Guest of Honor** and the first African President to attend Human Rights Defenders event.

The first six months of 2022 will remain memorable as THRDC continued to monitor UPR recommendations progress as one of the human rights mechanism and advocacy strategy to improve human rights situation in the country. Tanzania, in its final submissions March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022, THRDC was able to make its submission in Geneva and Tanzania increased the number of accepted recommendations from 108 to 187.

Also the Coalition is collaborating with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MOCLA) to finalize the National Human Rights Action Plan II (NHRAP II) which is yet to be finalized since 2018. Apart from that, the Coalition has continued engaging with development partners; the Parliament, Judiciary, the Government and other state apparatus for recognition of HRDs, reform and enactment of laws, frameworks, plans and policies related to HRDs.

THRDC continues to build capacities of the Human Rights Defenders so that they can better serve the society through the civil society sector. We are always striving to establish and maintain good will and mutual understanding with all our stakeholders. Through our various initiatives, we have been able to empower, protect, respect, recognize and reach out to many Human Rights Defenders in the country.

**We are currently developing our 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic Plan, looking forward to engaging further and working together in the future for the well-being of the Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania.**

*Kindly enjoy your reading!*

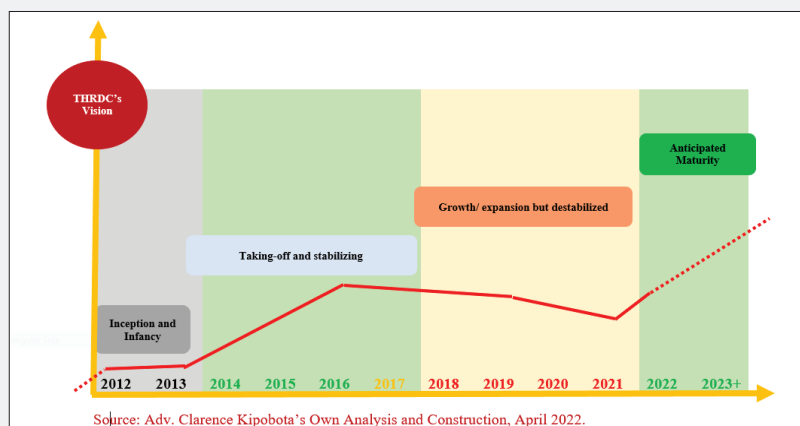
**Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa**  
*National Coordinator -THRDC*

# COMMEMORATION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION

This year, THRDC celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary together with the Human Rights Defenders’ Day on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. This year’s theme is “*10 years of THRDC: A foundation for recognition and protection of HRDs’ Rights in Tanzania.*”

Recognizing the role played by the Coalition in promoting and protecting human rights in the country, **The President of United Republic of Tanzania H: E Samia Suluhu Hassan** officiated the commemoration of THRDC’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary being the first President in Africa to attend a Human Rights Defenders’ event. The event was attended by several representatives from the Government authorities of both mainland and Zanzibar; 400 HRDs, regional and international human rights institutions including the President of African Court Lady Justice Imani Aboud; human rights organizations, judicial officers, National human rights institutions, lawyers, academicians, development partners, journalists, members of private sectors and experts of human rights.

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, THRDC took stock of the work of the Coalition for the past ten years including assessing the situation and the development of the work of HRDs in Tanzania. Also, this memorable day continues to emphasize strong relationship between HRDs and the government through building defenders’-friendly alliances and adopting concrete measures to promote and protect human rights actors in Tanzania.



*A graph depicting a successful 10-years journey of Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition from 10 Years Evaluation Report*

## *President Samia breaks record as first sitting President to attend HRDs' events in Africa*

It was an exciting moment on May 13, 2022, as THRDC marked its ten years with the President gracing the event. In her speech, the THRDC Board Chairperson retired Judge Honorable Joaquine De Mello gave an overview of the organization on how it began with 14 members and its growth to over 200 members stressing that it was indeed gratifying to celebrate the 10 years of THRDC with the first female President and an ardent advocate of human rights.

In her keynote speech, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania her excellence Samia Suluhu thanked the Coalition for the invitation adding.

*“You have earned trust from the government, no wonder you have grown to this level. There is no institution that doesn't want human rights. We are very pleased to have people who can support us in protecting human rights. You still have so much to do, organize yourself, the government is there to support you,” said the President*



*The President of the United Republic of Tanzania Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan addressing the audience and public during the commemoration of THRDC 10th Anniversary on May 13, 2022.*

She used the occasion to remind all CSOs to ensure that they take heed of the Tanzanian context in terms of traditional customs and culture as they promote and protect human rights. The President reminded CSOs and especially THRDC to create public awareness on the Constitution to enable citizens to understand their rights and responsibilities.





*The President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan with the Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, Chairperson of the THRC Board of Directors Retired Judge Joaquine De Mello along with representatives from Regional and International human rights institutions in a joint photo immediately after her speech on May 13, 2022.*

## *Government urged to enact special law to protect Human Rights Defenders*

The government of Tanzania has been called upon to enact a special law that will protect Human Rights Defenders. THRC National Coordinator Advocate Onesmo Olengurumwa made the call in Dar es Salaam on May 13 while concluding his speech before the President of the URT her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan.

*“We request a law or policy that recognizes Human Rights Defenders. We as Human Rights Defenders face, a lot of challenges and we have no legal protection. We face a lot of challenges including working permits, sometimes being branded as the opposition of the government and this has been restricting our work. In 2020, we faced a lot of challenges, one being freezing of our Bank accounts.” said the National Coordinator.*



*THRDC National Coordinator Advocate Onesmo Olungurumwa presenting his speech before the President of the United Republic of Tanzania Her. Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan and the public during the celebration of THRDC's 10TH Anniversary on 13th May 2022.*



Hassan Shire made a similar call, the Chairperson of Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network and Executive Director of Defend Defenders said we are supportive of the protection of human rights defenders and civic space. ***“I hope Tanzania will adopt a law to protect human rights defenders. The bill is a zero cost, but it will be legitimate because the law says human rights defenders are legitimate,”*** he said.

*The Chairperson of Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network Mr. Hassan Shire during his remarks on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022.*





*The Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr. Damas Ndumbaro addressing the audience during the commemoration of THRDC's 10th Anniversary on 13th May 2022*

## ***THRDC awards URT President for her role to promote HRs***

During the commemoration of THRDC 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Coalition gave an award to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for playing a key role to promote human rights in Tanzania. President Samia became the first female President in Tanzania upon her inauguration on March 19, 2021. THRDC National Coordinator, Advocate Onesmo Olungurumwa, said human rights defenders had prepared a special article on President Samia's contribution in the promotion of human rights.



*Her. Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan receiving an Award from THRDC Board Chair Retired Judge Joaquine De Mello for her contribution to protecting and upholding human rights and the rule of law within one year in office.*

*“Your work in human rights promotion and protection is enormous and visible throughout Tanzania and around the world. THRDC has prepared special article detailing your contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights for a period of one year,” said **Olengurumwa**.*

On her part, THRDC Board Chair, Hon. De Mello said, *“We have given this award to President Samia appreciating and recognizing the great work you do by ensuring that human rights defenders carry out their duties with confidence and appropriateness,”* said Judge De Mello.

## ***The African Court stresses on HRDs Cooperation with the Government***

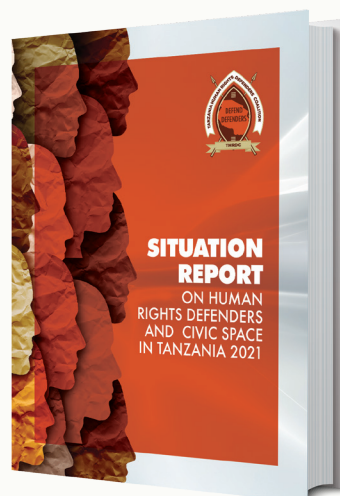
The President of the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights was among the special guest of THRDC 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022. In speech, Justice Iman About suggested two take away of the special event such as strategic approach to cooperation with government and to appreciate achievements made over the past ten years and project the mission of the Coalition in the next decade. In her speech she said that;

*“I have personally noted some important landmark pointers that suggest strongly that the Coalition is set to amplify its institutional impact in Tanzania and the rest of Africa. Firstly, I find it unavoidable to raise the Coalition’s strategic approach to cooperation with government. Again, allow me to repeat that civil society organizations should not operate in the spirit of blind enemies of government. The Coalition’s consistent and relentless openness to engage constructively and objectively with government is an asset for successful realization of its goals in the next decade.”* **Said the Lady Justice Imani**

## ***President Samia launches a Situation Report on Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space in Tanzania 2021***

Celebrating THRDC 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary will remain memorable to the Coalition. THRDC has been publishing Situation Report on Human Rights Defenders for the past ten years. This year, THRDC has published the ninth report detailing the

situation of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and Civic Space in Tanzania launched by the President of United Republic of Tanzania on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. The report has six chapters examining laws and policies which provide for the recognition and protection of HRDs at the national, regional and international level; strategic cases, cases against HRDs and documents various incidents on violations committed against HRDs. The reports go further to analyze the situation of civic space of and CSOs in Tanzania based on the various indicators.



*H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan proudly displaying to the public the launched 10 years evaluation report of the Coalition and a Report on Her Contribution to human rights; On her right is the Chairperson of THRC Board, Rtd. Jdg. Joaquinne De Mello.*



## *Sweden calls for open dialogue between State and the citizens*

The Swedish envoy to Tanzania Madam Sandra Diesel has emphasized the need for the country to embark into an open dialogue between the State and citizens saying it is key if the gap between the State and its citizens is to be bridged.

The envoy made her remarks during the commemoration where among other things he observed that THRDC has recorded notable resilience over the years adding that its engagement in the UPR is recommendable as the government has accepted the highest recommendations in history.



*“We observe an increase in collaboration between the government and CSOs. Sweden supports this move of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. We support democracy wherever it can thrive. Sweden wants to assist in any way”, said the envoy.*

*Madam Sandra Diesel, Swedish envoy to Tanzania giving her remarks during the 10th anniversary commemoration of THRDC*

## *The African Court emphasizes on HRDs Cooperation with the Government*

The President of the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights was among the special guest of THRDC 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022. In speech, Justice Iman Aboud suggested two take away of the special event such as strategic approach to cooperation with government and to appreciate achievements made over the past ten years and project the mission of the Coalition in the next decade. In her speech she said that;



*“I have personally noted some important landmark pointers that suggest strongly that the Coalition is set to amplify its institutional impact in Tanzania and the rest of Africa. Firstly, I find it unavoidable to raise the Coalition’s strategic approach to cooperation with government. Again, allow me to repeat that civil society organizations should not operate in the spirit of blind enemies of government. The Coalition’s consistent and relentless openness to engage constructively and objectively with government is an asset for successful realization of its goals in the next decade.”*  
**Said the Lady Justice Imani.**

## ***MoCLA reiterates its commitment to maintaining collaboration with THRDC***

The Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs (MoCLA) has reiterated its commitment to receive THRDC’s work plan and to see how they can incorporate it in the government plan. MoCLA Permanent Secretary Mary Makondo made the commitment during her opening remarks during the 10 years commemoration since the inception of the THRDC. She

commended the organization for its five years plan on human rights, urging it to ensure that human rights reach all the way to rural areas. On another note, the Permanent Secretary applauded the latter for a commendable job on the Universal Periodic Review saying for the first time, the country had taken heed of 187 recommendations that involved various groups inclusive of human rights defenders.



*“The government has taken heed over the need to protect Human Rights Defenders. The Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs will continue working with the Coalition to enhance human rights promotion and protection to serve our people. We, have been working together in universal periodic review process, we are currently working together to finalize the second National Human Rights Action and we will continue supporting your initiatives.”*said Makondo.



***Figure 1 The President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan with the Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, Chairperson of the THRDC Board of Directors Retired Judge Joaquine De Mello along with THRDC Secretariat in a joint photo immediately after her speech on May 13, 2022***



# THRDC CONTINUES TO MONITOR UPR IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS IN TANZANIA

The Universal Periodical Review (UPR) is a State-driven process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The ultimate aim of the mechanism is to improve human rights in all countries and address human rights violations. As an umbrella organization, THRDC in collaboration with partners continues monitoring and documenting the implementation progress of recommendations.

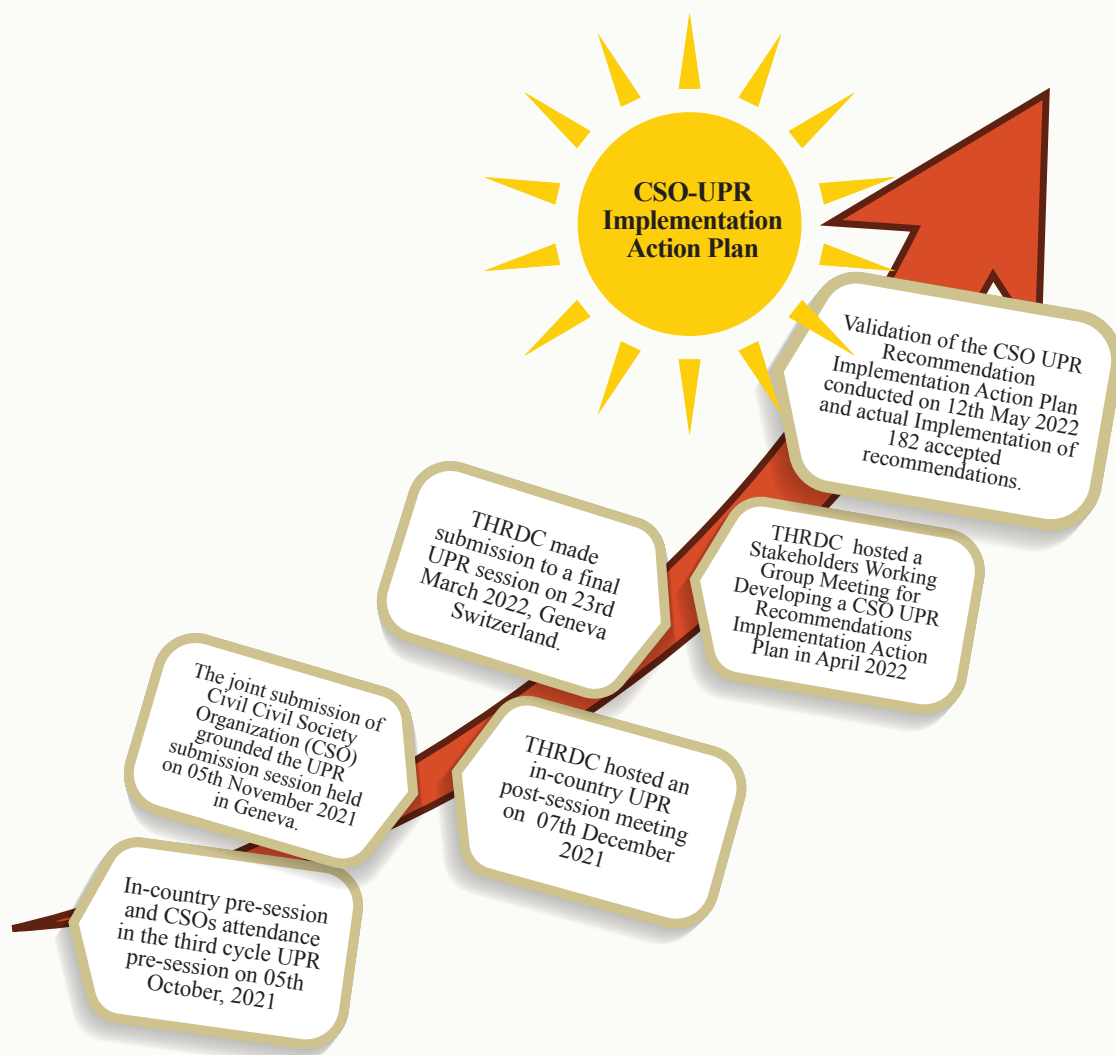
The third UPR session for Tanzania was held on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2021. In preparation for the session, THRDC collaborated with the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC), and Save the Children to coordinate development of a joint CSO submission to the November session. Prior to the actual session, THRDC hosted an in-country pre-session on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2021. The pre-session provided CSO representatives with an opportunity to engage delegates from 13 embassies based in Dar es Salaam.

On November 5, 2021, the UN human rights council hosted the actual UPR 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle for the United Republic of Tanzania in Geneva Switzerland. At the session, Tanzania received a total of 252 recommendations from various member states. A draft UPR Working Group report issued on 09<sup>th</sup> November 2021 revealed that out of a total of 252 recommendations received, Tanzania accepted 108 (43%), deferred 12 (4.8%), and noted/rejected 132 (52%). The number of accepted recommendations decreased from 70% in 2011, 58% in 2016 to 43% in 2021.

Nevertheless, the Tanzania was then given opportunity to further review the recommendations for a final reply. This provided CSOs with opportunity to push for the government's acceptance of more recommendations.

In November 2021, THRDC facilitated a UPR in-country post-session meeting which was held in Dar es Salaam. The meeting brought together 37 civil society representatives from across the Coalition's nine zonal divisions. The meeting reviewed the recommendations particularly those noted and rejected and came up with a list of grounds as to why the government should consider accepting more recommendations. The list was then submitted to the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs for consideration.

This year, 2022, THRDC continued to monitor UPR recommendation progress to the government of Tanzania as one of the human rights mechanism and advocacy strategy to improve human rights situation in the country.



## ***THRDC beefs up efforts to improve human rights situation through final UPR submission in Geneva.***

On March 23 2022, a final UPR session on the United Republic of Tanzania took place in Geneva Switzerland. At the session, Tanzania gave its final position regarding the recommendations. This time there was a positive development whereby the country increased the number of accepted recommendations from 108 to 187 (20 being partially accepted), while noted recommendations decreased from 132 to 65. Accepted recommendations included recommendations on freedom of expression.

***“We have accepted all recommendations to amend of the Media Service Act of 2016 and other laws in order to enhance freedom of expression and right to information. Efforts to further promote protection of right to information, includes reinstating of 9 Televisions which had been suspended as well as reduction of their registrations fees. Further, newspapers licenses which have been revoked they have been re-issued regarding that they will comply with country media laws” Hon. George Simbachawene***

Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa, the THRDC National Coordinator was able to participate in this session with support of and in collaboration with Defend Defenders. Adv. Olengurumwa delivered a submission at the session.



*Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa at the March UPR Session in Geneva Switzerland (Above) and the Joint Statement delivered by THRDC and Defend Defenders (on the right)*



**DEFENDDEFENDERS**  
East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project



**UN Human Rights Council - 49<sup>th</sup> regular session**  
**Item 6: UPR outcome of the United Republic of Tanzania**  
**Oral statement- 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

*Delivered by:*  
**Adv. Onesmo K. Olengurumwa, National Coordinator, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)**

**Mr. President,**  
We acknowledge the Tanzanian government's engagement with the UPR process and its high level of cooperation with civil society and human rights defenders (HRDs) ahead of and during its third review. We are eager to continue working TOGETHER for follow up to all recommendations received and implementation of the 187 accepted (including 20 partially). We applaud that the government just accepted initially noted recommendations. We encourage the government to reconsider its position on the 67 recommendations it noted.

We appreciate and welcome human rights improvements since President Samia Suluhu assumed office, one year ago, as well as her good will, and that of the President of Zanzibar, Honourable Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, to uphold human rights and democracy in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. We call on them to maintain and extend the same will to other areas pertaining to human rights and the rule of law.

However, to make recent progressive developments sustainable, we call for comprehensive legal reforms, including the completion of the new constitution-making process. This includes facilitating amendments to legal provisions affecting civil society organisations' (CSOs) and HRDs' operations, including: the Media Services Act, the Statistic Act, the Cybercrimes Act, the Access to Information Act, the Political Parties Act, the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations, Amendments to the NGO Act, and the Basic Rights and Duties Enforcement Act (BRADÉA). In this regard, we regret that the government noted recommendations that are in line with Tanzania's constitutional and international obligations, offered by states from all regional groups.

**Mr. President,**  
We call for quick amendment to the BRADÉA, Section 4, which prevents CSOs and HRDs and splintered individuals from filing cases on behalf of victims of human rights violations, including vulnerable groups, and limits their duty to promote and protect human rights through the judiciary. Additionally, more should be done to ensure that more offenses are bailable and to leave discretion to the courts to decide on bail.

We strongly advise the government to halt the current plan to evict 70,000 indigenous Maasai from their ancestral land in Ngorongoro Division and the plan to take village land amounting to 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> in Lololondo Division of Ngorongoro District. We call for wider community consultations to include human rights-based approaches in any government plan regarding disputed areas, most importantly to allow free operations of HRDs in Ngorongoro.

**Mr. President,**  
We welcome Tanzania's recent announcement towards the possibility of reversing the decision to withdraw the declaration made under Article 34(6) of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights Protocol. We call on the government to speed up the process to allow citizens and HRDs to access the Court, which is situated in their country.

Finally, we encourage the government to ratify additional international instruments, such as the Convention Against Torture, and we recommend the establishment of an independent oversight body to ensure and promote accountability in law enforcement organs, including the Tanzania Police Force.

**Thank you for your attention.**

*THRDC National Coordinator Advocate Onesmo Olengurumwa (third from left) with the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs Hon. George Simbachawene, Ambassador Hoyce Temu-Permanent Representative, Tanzania Mission to the UN in Geneva with other delegates' during the final UPR session on the United Republic of Tanzania.*







## ***Post Session Stakeholders Working Group Meeting for Developing a CSO UPR Recommendations Implementation Action Plan.***

In April 2022, THRDC collaborated with the Legal and Human Rights Center to hold a two day working group meeting for developing a civil society action plan for the implementation of the final accepted UPR recommendations. The two-day meeting was held in Morogoro and brought together representatives from 45 CSOs, the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs and the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance



*Presentations and Group Discussions during the Working Group Meeting*

The working group meeting reviewed the UPR session outcome report and its addendum. This was followed by filling the CSOs UPR Recommendations Implementation Plan Matrix on areas of: identifying accepted, partially accepted, and noted recommendations; identifying regional/international mechanisms which have given similar recommendations, as well as corresponding SDGs.

## ***CSO-UPR Recommendations Implementation Plan: A new hope for improved human rights situation in Tanzania.***



*The Guest of Honor, Hon. Dr. Damas Ndumbaro- Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MoCLA) in the middle posing with other delegates from the Ministry, THRDC secretariat, development partners and representative from the CSOs during stakeholders' meeting for validation of the CSO UPR Recommendations Action Plan.*

On April 12 2022, THRDC hosted a stakeholders' meeting for validation of the CSO UPR Recommendations Action Plan. The meeting brought together representatives from 120 CSOs, Government officials from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar including the Registrar of NGOs (Zanzibar), Registrar of NGOs (Mainland), Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance, Director of Good Governance (Zanzibar), and Director of Human Rights (Mainland). The meeting was officiated by Hon. Damas Ndumbaro, Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs.



*From left is Hon. Dr. Damas Ndumbaro- Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MoCLA), Advocate Onesmo Olengurumwa- THRDC National Coordinator, Hon. Mary Makondo -Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and Hon. Rtd J. Joaquine De Mello THRDC Board Chair during stakeholders' meeting for validation of the CSO UPR Recommendations Action Plan.*

## **THRDC TEAMS UP WITH MINISTRY OF CONSTITUTION AND LEGAL AFFIARS TO FINALISE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN**

Following the resolution passed by an engagement meeting with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MOCLA) to collaborate in finalizing the National Human Rights Action Plan II (NHRAP II) on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022; THRDC in collaboration with Ministry conducted the Civil Society Organization (CSOs) consultation meeting on the National Human Rights Action Plan as an opportunity for the consultative committee of the proposed Plan to present before stakeholders for feedback and recommendations. This shapes the plan reflecting on overarching needs and priorities of majority of people in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

THRDC continues to collaborate with relevant stakeholders including the ministry, other state apparatus and the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) to enhance human rights promotion and protection in the country. NHRAPII sets a platform for a comprehensive approach for human rights promotion and protection. It demonstrates Tanzania's commitment to its international human rights obligations and the desire of the Government to improve the respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights in Tanzania.



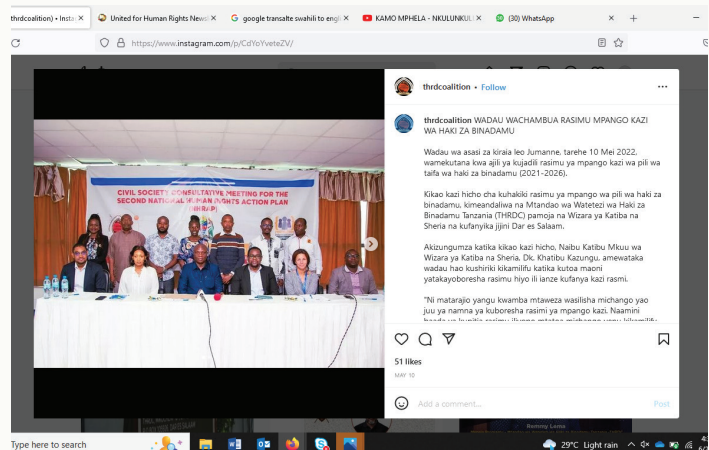


*THRDC Board Chair Retired Judge Hon. Joaquine De'Mello handling THRDC's publications to the Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Hon. George Simbachawene in Dodoma during the visit whereby the two parties agreed to collaborate in finalizing the National Human Rights Action Plan. This meeting was held in the Ministers Office on 07th March 2022.*

The ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders has incorporated the UPR recommendations and Five Years National Development Plan III (FYNDPIII) and consultative meeting the CSOs adds value to the plan to make it comprehensive. This activity was carried on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 with an objective to make the necessary inputs into the draft National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP 2022-2027) reflecting on overarching needs and priorities of majority of people in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar in line with the Five Years National Development Plan III.

Participants of this stakeholder's consultative meeting included Members of the Tanzania Human Rights Defender's Coalition (THRDC), Representatives from the government of Tanzania, human rights organizations, experts of Human Rights in Tanzania, National Human Rights Institutions, Lawyers, Academician, CSOs and development partners.

*Deputy Principle Secretary of the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Hon. Dr. Khatibu Kazungu in the middle posing with THRDC secretariat and board members and Ms. Nivin Anderson from Sweden (second from right) during NHRAPII –stakeholders consultative meeting on 10th May 2022.*



# DIALOGUE ON HRDS PROTECTION: “AN INCLINATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PROTECTION FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS”

As part of commemoration of the Coalition 10th Anniversary, THRDC organized a dialogue on issues affecting human rights promotion and protection in Tanzania titled: “An Inclination of Human Rights Defenders Protection for the past 10” held on 11th May 2022.

This grounded defenders day message and recommendations to set an agenda and vision for the future. The dialogue provided an opportunity to celebrate how, the dignity of human rights defenders has been uplifted, human suffering prevented and the foundations for a more secure environment for HRDs put in place.



*Advocate Nkasori Sarakikya-Director of Human Rights at the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MOCLA) (second from right), Advocate Onesmo Olengurumwa-THRDC National Coordinator, Hon. Rtd. J. Joaquine De Mello and Hon. Rtd J. Robert Makaramba posing in a group photo with THRDC Zonal Coordinators during the dialogue on HRDs protection on 11th May 2022.*

The dialogue took a stock development of human rights defenders (HRDs) rights in Tanzania, discussing challenges affecting HRDs in the country. It gave an opportunity to a thematic discussion on interactions between the government and civil society & human rights defenders, based on concrete and practical experience from 10 years of THRDC operation. This grounded THRDC recommendations to relevant stakeholders in human rights promotion and protection.

# THRDC TRAINS 50 HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND BEST PRACTICES IN NGO REGULATION IN ZANZIBAR

THRDC-Zanzibar with support from the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) conducted a two days training session on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for 50 Zanzibar CSO representatives as part of efforts to expand civic space for their sustainable operations. In the session participants were trained on issues including: human rights monitoring, reporting and documentation; international norms and best practices on civic space protection; as well as challenges facing civic space in Zanzibar. Following the topics participants identified priority areas for advocacy and developed a strategic plan with specific actions for widening civic space in Zanzibar.



*Participants of the Civic Space training in Zanzibar posing in a group photo on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.*





Some of the participants of the Civic Space training contribution and sharing experience on efforts to expand civic space for their sustainable operations. THRDC with affiliate organizations are working closely with Registrar of NGO Zanzibar to improve the working environment of civil society organization in the isles.

## *Zanzibar CSOs identifies 4 HRD priority areas for widening civic space in Isles.*

### **PRIORITY #1.** Freedom of assembly

1. Analyze the laws and recommend areas for reform
2. Advocacy to all relevant stakeholders' e.g registrar's office, police, PO-Regional Administration, ZEC etc.)

### **PRIORITY #2.** Freedom of participation and non-discrimination

1. Advocacy to relevant authorities for recognition and inclusion, and more collaboration with state actors e.g the revolutionary council.
2. Public awareness raising
3. Review/report on civic participations in decision making process
4. Strengthen CSO collaboration with the government.
5. Capacity building to CSOs

### **PRIORITY #3.** Freedom of expression

1. Capacity building trainings
2. Advocacy for amendment of all laws curtailing freedom of expression.

### **PRIORITY #4.** Joint HRD action against the severe shrinking of civic space.

1. Joint advocacy for policy reforms to create an enabling and friendly environment for HRDs work.
2. Public awareness raising campaign on HRDs work for public support.
3. Promoting CSO unity through networks and coalitions.
4. Joint action plans for effective implementation of CSOs/NGOs work.

*Four (4) identified priority areas for widening civic space in Isles.*



Following the civic space training conducted in March 2022, THRD hosted a follow-up meeting on **May 26<sup>th</sup> 2022** in Zanzibar. The meeting brought together 16 (10 men and 6 women) CSO representatives from Unguja and Pemba aimed at discussing the action plan, gathering updates on implementation of the actions, adding more CSOs to commit to implementing the actions, and agreeing on implementation follow-up mechanism. The positive response from the participants shows promising implementation of the action plan. The Coalition will continue collaborating with other stakeholder to widen civic space in the isles to an enabling environment of CSOs operation.



*Participants contribution on the identified 4 priority areas to widen Civic Space in Zanzibar and gathering updates on implementation of the action. The Coalition continues to work closely with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to improve the working environment of civil society organization in the isles.*

# IWD 2022: THRDC STEALS THE SHOW AS IT MARKS IWD WITH ACCOLADES TO FEMALE RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Every year on 8th March the world marks the International Women's Day where women's social, economic, cultural and political achievements are celebrated globally.

Like in other parts of the world, gender inequality underpins many problems which disproportionately affect women & girls including women HRDs. Despite of all these challenges, Tanzania has had prominent women who have influenced change at various level in the community. These veteran WHRDs did not only defend women's rights but also, saw the need to promote and defend human rights in general. Celebrating IWD2022, THRDC organized a dinner gala on March 8 in Dar es Salaam to reflect the journey of WHRDs in the field of human rights by taking stock of what they did to make Tanzania where it stands today in the area of human rights. The event brought together about 45 prominent women HRDs in Tanzania and invited development partners.



*THRDC Secretariat posing with high table delegates from left is THRDC Board Chairperson retired Justice Joaquine De Mello, Canadian embassy representative Sandra Rossiter, Dr. Hellen Kijo Bissimba former Executive Director for the LHRC holding her award as an Emeritus Human Rights Defender, Advocate Onesmo Olenyumwa - THRDC National Coordinator and Hon. Nyanda Shuli, a Commissioner from CHRAGG.*



Throughout the Dinner Gala, Dr. Hellen Kijo Bisimba, Justa Mwaituka, Jamila Juma and Dr. Mary Rusimbi, inspired women HRDs where they shared their own past experiences with each revealing untold stories of their journeys towards defending human rights. Their stories equipped women HRDs with the right skills and knowledge on how to navigate challenges in their work, but also served as motivation for pursuing human rights defending with zeal and vigor.

THRDC used this platform to recognize and award Dr. Hellen Kijo Bisimba as relentless and dedicated human rights defender. In her speech during the ceremony, THRDC Board Chairperson and retired Justice Joaquin De Mello, paid tribute to THRDC for the award saying *“People should never wait for someone to die before they honor them for their good job”*.



**In an immediate rejoinder,** Dr. Bissimba said it was quite an honor to receive the award while calling upon rights defenders to speak without fear and in unison saying doing so would leave them safe unlike speaking in isolation.

In her opening remarks Miss Sandra Rossiter the Counsellor of Political, Economic and Public Affairs section at the Embassy of Canada made the commitment during the dinner Gala as part of the commemoration of the International Women’s Day conducted by the Coalition.

*“We recognize all human rights defenders who protect human rights all over the world and the organizations they represent. We recognize the need for civic space and an enabling safe environment for human rights defenders and protecting them from harm. It is our conviction that all human rights defenders have the rights to freedom of expression, of assembly,”* **said Rossiter.**

She said Canada is aware that women human rights defenders may be targeted for or exposed to specific violence including online and digital content for instance social media and ICT platforms. She continued;



*“There are higher risks of sexual and gender based violence and intimidation. Women human rights defenders may be subjected to gender stereotypes stigmatized by faith based groups, families and communities who consider their jobs threatening. I admire those who work as human rights defenders and women who work in that area and especially to honor Dr. Bisimba,” she said Sandra*

*Dr. Helen Kijo Bissimba (Centre) in a flamboyant mood after she received her award. Flanking her in buoyant mood are Rose Sarwatt (1<sup>st</sup> left) an Executive Director for the Tanzanian Widows’ Association and Justa Mwaituka,*



*KIWOHEDE Executive Director and recipient of the US Embassy Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice Award in Tanzania in 2004.*



Former LHRC staff members who worked under Dr. Bisimba hand over a present during the day.(From left) Rose Ngunangwa, Onesmo Olengurumwa, Utti Mwanga’mba, and Gloria Mafole.



# THRDC EMPOWERS 40 NGOs ON HRDs SECURITY MANAGEMENT

As part of implementation of its strategic plan, through capacity building and empowerment outcome, THRDC is determined to enlighten its members with security tips, HRDs ethics and at the same time remind them their core activities as defenders. This goal is achieved among other things through conducting security management training thematically to HRDs groups at risk. Following the acceptance and approval of about 40 HRD NGOs from across the country applications for THRDC membership by THRDC Board of Directors and the Annual General Assembly in 2021, THRDC conducted an induction and orientation seminar to new members on HRDs security management, human rights monitoring & documentation and reporting. The training took place from 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, at Kisenga International Conference Centre, LAPF Building, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



## INDUCTION AND ORIENTATION SEMINAR TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION

VENUE: DAR ES SALAAM

DATE : 24-25 FEB, 2022

# PRESIDENT SAMIA APPRECIATES THRDC SUPPORT TO PWDs INITIATIVES

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 150 leaders of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) organizations from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar conducted a consultative meeting with the President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan. The meeting was aimed at discussing the challenges affecting PWDs in Tanzania and available opportunities to improve their welfare. THRDC actively supported 30 organization from both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar to attend this important meeting.

President Samia commended Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) including the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders coalition (THRDC) for defending PWDs rights, continuing support to the Government in improving PWDs sector, and implementing various development projects regarding PWDs welfare. THRDC works in nine thematic areas one being PWDs rights.

In her special remarks, President Samia stated that;

***“I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all development partners supporting us, some of whom are present here, UNICEF, USAID, UNFPA, WHO, UN Women, and Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition for your continuing support to the government initiatives to improve welfare of the people with disabilities” the President said.***



*A photo of THRDC member Stella Jilos,-Executive Director of the voice of Disabled Women Handling an award of Appreciation to the President of The United Republic of Tanzania Hon.Samia Suluhu Hassan in the State House Dodoma.*





Through THRDC-PWDs thematic area, the Coalition works to ensure inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in human rights system. The Coalition focuses on providing guidance on the human rights-based approach to disability, including through monitoring, documentation and reporting. The Coalition will continue working together with PWDs organizations to facilitate engagement and participation of persons with disabilities with national, regional and international human rights processes.

The Coalition continues to raise awareness, understanding and recognition of disability as a human rights issue as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

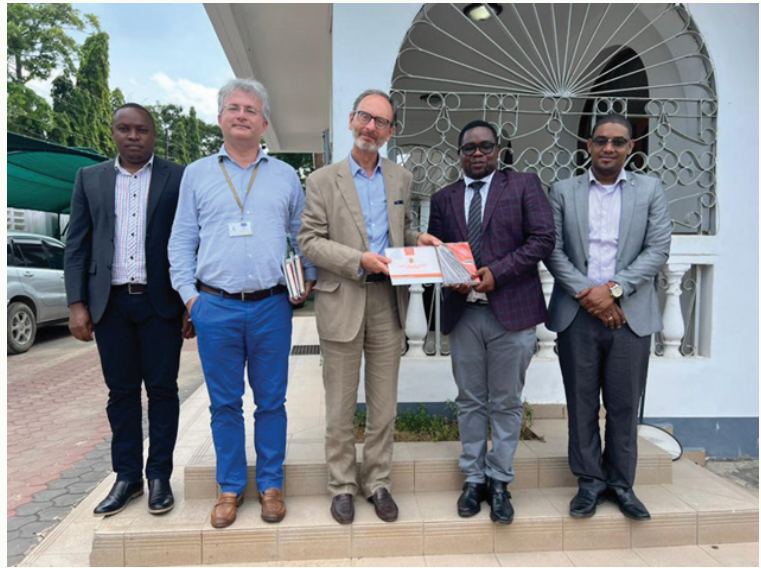
## **BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FOR ENHANCED HRDs OPERATION**

Building and strengthening the existing relationships with the development partners remain a priority to THRDC. The first term of 2022, the Coalition is delighted to receive various envoys from development partners with the aim of discussing human rights defenders situation in the country and possible areas of collaboration to ensure Human Rights Defenders operate in a safe and enabling environment.



*THRDC National Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa leading the discussion with the Ambassador Manfred Fanti- Head of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and to the EAC when he visited THRDC main office Dar es Salaam On 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. Hon. Fanti was accompanied by the head of mission Mr. Emilio Rossetti.*

*.A photo depicting European Union Ambassador to Tanzania, Ambassador Manfred FANTI, head of mission (in the middle) from left is THRDC Program Manager, Mr. Remmy Lema; Mr. Emilio Rossetti, THRDC's Coordinator Mr. Onesmo Olengurumwa, THRDC- Zanzibar's Coordinator Mr. Abdalla Abeid.*



For continued and strengthened working relationship with our development partners, on **27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition was honored to be visited by The Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania. Ambassador Anders Sjoberg accompanied by Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Development Cooperation, Sandra Diesel,

First Secretary Programme Officer for Democracy and Human Rights, Nivin Yosef, and National Programme Manager- Governance, Advocate. Nasieku Kisambu visited THRDC Offices.

Ambassador Anders Sjoberg and First Secretary Programme Officer for Democracy and Human Rights, Nivin Yosef when they visited THRDC's member's affairs department.





THRDCs National Coordinators Onesmo Olungurumwa and Abdalaah Abeid (THRDC Zanzibar Branch) exchanging ideas with the Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Development Cooperation, Sandra Diesel, First Secretary Programme Officer for Democracy and Human Rights, Nivin Yosef at THRDC headquarters –Dar es Salaam on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.



Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) was delighted to receive a visit from Embassy of the United States of America on 1st March, 2021. From left is Kristin Mencer, Political Unit Chief, Political and Economic Section and

Mr. Phil Nervij from the US Embassy, Mr. Onesmo Olungurumwa the THRDC'S National Coordinator and Ms. Nuru Maro, the THRDC'S Advocacy Officer. The visit was aimed at discussing on how to improve and strengthen cooperation between the two sides on protection and promotion of human rights in Tanzania.

US Embassy recognizes the work of HRDs and seeks to strengthen the work of human rights defenders (HRDs) in Tanzania and beyond.

*Swedish Embassy envoy visits THRDC Zanzibar Branch on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022. In the photo, its THRDC Zanzibar coordinator Abdallah Abeid in the middle together with the First Secretary Programme Officer for Democracy and Human Rights, Nivin Yosef, and National Programme Manager- Governance, Advocate. Nasieku Kisambu during their visit at Zanzibar Offices*



# **THRDC CONTINUES TO ENGAGE WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STATE APPARATUS FOR RECOGNITION OF HRDS, REFORM AND ENACTMENT OF LAWS, FRAMEWORKS, PLANS AND POLICIES RELATED TO HRDS.**

THRDC continues to engage government with the Parliament, Judiciary, the Government and other state apparatus for recognition of HRDs, reform and enactment of laws, frameworks, plans and policies related to HRDs. The first six months of 2022, the Coalition has conducted several strategic meeting with the government to influence policy and legal reform with the aim of improving the HRDs working environment to both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar to enhance the country's human rights promotion and protection.

## ***a. THRDC Strives to Strengthen Working Relationship with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs***

THRDC conducted an engagement meeting with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MOCLA) scheduled 07<sup>th</sup> March 2022 following the appointment of new Minister Hon. George Simbachawene. The Coalition was pleased to be introduced to the ministry's new leadership of and deliberate key areas of collaboration to push forward development agenda. For the period of 10 years since its inception, the Coalition has been working with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MoCLA) in various matters defending and protecting HRDs. Amongst the resolution passed by this strategic meeting was to finalize the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAPII), collaboration in monitoring and implementation of the Universal Periodic Review and improving working environment of HRDs in the country.





*A group photo of the Hon. Minister George Simbachawene together with THRDC's Board Chair, THRDC National Coordinator and its members after their meeting at the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs in Dodoma on 07th Feb. 2022.*

*Improving the Relationship between Human Rights Defenders and the Government: The THRDC National Coordinator, Mr. Onesmo Olengurumwa exchanging ideas with Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Hon. George Simbachawene.*



***b. Zanzibar NGO's Registrar welcomes THRDC Branch in the Isles.***

On 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 THRDC Zanzibar branch with a great pleasure was visited by the registrar of civil society organizations as a first guest since the office officially started its operations in January 2022. The Registrar visited THRDC-Zanzibar Offices at Mbuyu Mnene as one of the implementation of the NGOs Act No. 6, 1995 which requires the Registrar to be aware of the existing Organizations and activities carried out by these Organizations. Both parties agreed to continue working together to improve working condition of non-governmental organizations in the isles. With resolutions from this meeting, THRDC in collaboration with the office of NGO's Zanzibar facilitated about 40 non-governmental organizations to participate in the first Zanzibar NGO's Forum held in March.



*THRDC National Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa (THRDC headquarter Dar es Salaam), THRDC Coordinator Zanzibar Branch Abdallah Abeid together with the registrar of NGOs Zanzibar.*

### ***c. THRDC Fosters Working Relations with Judiciary of Zanzibar***

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) through its Zanzibar branch (THRDC-Zanzibar), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zanzibar Judiciary to foster and improve the justice delivery system and to enhance human rights in the Zanzibar isles.

*THRDC National Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa witnessing the inking of MOU between THRDC and Zanzibar Judiciary*



The signing ceremony of MoU between THRDC and Zanzibar Judiciary was witnessed by the Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar, magistrates, the national coordinator of THRDC as well as Zanzibar's THRDC Coordinator, some of the board members of the THRDC from Zanzibar, judicial officers, THRDC officials from Tanzania mainland and in the isles, as well as reporters from different media houses in the country.

Speaking shortly after the signing in ceremony, THRDC’s Zanzibar Coordinator, Abdallah Abeid thanked the judiciary administration for seeing the importance of formalizing its cooperation with THRDC, which is aimed at helping the Zanzibari society to a greater extent.



*THRDC Zanzibar Coordinator Abdallah Abeid exchange the MOU after signing with the Acting Zanzibar Chief Justice Khamis Ramadhan Abdallah.*

This step is marking the continuation of the THRDC’s resolve to forge cooperation with various authorities to ensure that human rights are upheld as well as improvement in the services related to human rights in various parts of the country. This MoU opens a room for THRDC’s members and its partners across the country to cooperate with judiciary in Zanzibar to advance justice delivery system in this beautiful island.

#### ***d. Bridging Gap and Collaboration with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar***

In September 2021, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) registered its Branch in Zanzibar. This follows several initiatives taken by THRDC to improve the working environment of Human Rights defenders (HRDs) across Tanzania since its establishment in 2012.

It should be noted that, the operating context of Human Rights Defenders in Zanzibar differs to some extent with that of Tanzania Mainland. This due to the fact that Zanzibar has its own laws and policies that govern the operation of CSOs in Zanzibar. Also the level of understanding among HRDs, Government officials and the general public on issues affecting HRDs might be different compared to the Tanzania mainland.



Through various initiatives, THRDC have been able to empower, protect, respect, recognize and reach out to many Human Rights Defenders including Judges and Magistrates of the Judiciary of Zanzibar. The coalition has continued to engage the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar in making some changes to human rights defense, with the view to improve and strengthen the performance of human rights organization.

The following are some of event pictures detailing various engagement with officials from the government;



*The Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar, Judge Khamis Ramadhan (middle) together with the National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)- Onesmo Olungurumwa (left), and THRDC Zanzibar Coordinator Mr. Abdallah Abeid (right) when they visited his office for the purpose of discussing possible areas of cooperation including the provision of various Human Rights refresher courses to Judges and Magistrates in Zanzibar*



## THRDC ENGAGEMENT WITH MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS PUBLIC SERVICE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN ZANZIBAR.



*Introducing THRDC to the Ministry of the President's office, Constitutional and legal affairs Public Service and Good Governance in Zanzibar. Depicted the Minister of Constitutional and Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance, Hon. Haroun Ali Suleiman together with the THRDC National Coordinator (Onesmo Olungurumwa) and the THRDC Zanzibar-Coodinator Abdallah Abeid.*



*A Photo of THRDC Zanzibar Coordinator, Abdallah Abeid and THRDC Program Officer Shadida Omary together with the Permanent Secretary Hon. Seif Mwinyi and Director Mis.Zaina Daudi from the President's office Constitutional and Legal affairs Public office and Good Governance during visit at THRDC offices Zanzibar on 4<sup>th</sup> march 2022*

## THRDC ENGAGEMENT WITH ZANZIBAR PLANNING COMMISSION (ZPC)



*Introducing THRDC to Zanzibar Planning Commission (ZPC) and discussing possible areas of collaboration. In the photos from left is the Acting General Secretary of the Zanzibar Planning Commission Dr. Rahma S. Mahfoudh with the THRDC National Coordinator and Zanzibar Coordinator.*

## THRDC ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF STATE, PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR



*The National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), Onesmo Olungurumwa accompanied by the THRDC-Zanzibar Coordinator Mr. Abdallah Abeid visited the Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Departments of the Government of Zanzibar, Hon. Masoud Ali Mohammed. This is the ministry that is responsible with coordinating the affairs of civil society organizations in Zanzibar. During the meeting with the minister, THRDC expressed its commitment to collaborate with the Ministry in order to achieve specific objectives in human rights and development of the people of Zanzibar.*



## THRDC ENGAGEMENT WITH ZANZIBAR LAW SOCIETY



*A photo of THRDC Zanzibar Coordinator Mr Abdalla Abeid, President of Zanzibar Law Society (ZLS) Mr. Slim Abdullah and National Coordinator Mr. Onesmo Olegurumwa during Zanzibar Law day*

THRDC attended the commemoration of the Law Day in Zanzibar. During the event Hon. Khamis Ramadhan, Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar delivered his speech and introduced to the President of Zanzibar Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi the existing partnership between THRDC and the Judiciary of Zanzibar.

***“Honorable President, I have partnered with the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) who have helped us conduct a ‘Need Assessment’ of the Judiciary... We have already formed a team that will collect recommendations from the citizens for possible reforms of the Judiciary” said Hon. Khamis Ramadhani.***





*PHOTO: The National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), Onesmo Olungurumwa (Left), Coordinator THRDC-Zanzibar Mr. Abdallah Abeid (Right) poses for a group photo with Zanzibar Police Commissioner, CP Mohamed H. Hassan during a visit to his office*

THRDC and the Police force in Zanzibar have agreed to continue conducting training to police officers to promote respect for Human Rights and Good Governance in the semi-autonomous islands and Tanzania in general. The two parties reached a consensus during the meeting between the THRDC National Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa with his Zanzibar counterpart, and Zanzibar Police Force Commissioner CP Mohamed H. Hassan at the Police Force Headquarters in Zanzibar.

## **Participating in human rights awareness exhibitions**

### *a. Zanzibar Annual NGOs Forum (ZANGOF) 2022*

THRDC-Zanzibar was among the organizations and event sponsor that participated in the Zanzibar Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Annual Forum. The event was held at Golden Tulip Hotel on 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and was officiated by Hon. President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the revolutionary council Dr. Hussein Ally Mwinyi.

The Annual Forum of CSO's was organized by the Zanzibar Association of Non-Governmental Organization (ANGOZA), PACSO and the Organizing Committee in collaboration with the Office of the President Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Departments in Zanzibar. The event was aimed at strengthening cooperation between Government and NGOs in Zanzibar.

The meeting was also a forum for discussion of issues that affect Human Rights Defenders/CSOs and also for networking. Through the exhibitions, THRDC raised awareness about the laws governing CSOs and how to comply with them.



*A photo of THRDC officer Advocate Nuru Maro presenting before Hon. President of Zanzibar Dr. Hussein Mwinyi and First lady Maryam H. Mwinyi when visited THRDC exhibition booth during ZANGOF*

Moreover, during Zanzibar Annual NGOs Forum (ZANGOF) 2022, THRDC together with other CSOs had the opportunity to discuss on how to strengthen partnerships between CSOs and Government for the development of Zanzibar.

### ***b. The African Child Day 16th June 2022***

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Tanzania Human Defenders Coalition (THRDC) joined other human rights stakeholders to commemorate international African Child Day in Dar es Salaam celebrated in Temeke at Mwembeyanga grounds. The commemoration proceeded with several activities conducted in Dar es Salaam. THRDC participated in exhibition and coordinated legal aid provision through its booth whereby more than 300 young women were served.



*Children from various Primary and Secondary Schools in the procession of the African Child Day Celebrations held today 16/6/2022 at Mwembeyanga Stadium in Temeke Municipality in Dar es Salaam.*

*Children from various Primary and Secondary Schools chatting about children rights with THRDC's Advocacy Officer Advocate Nuru Maro during exhibition time. Children were able to learn about right to health, education, family life, play and recreation, adequate standard of living and right to be protected from abuse and harm. Also, children learned and discussed about their developmental and age-appropriate needs that change over time as a child grows up including the need of sanitary pads supply to most disadvantaged groups.*



*Temeke District Commissioner Hon. Jokate Mwegelo at left and Inspector Blandina Ndunguru from the Gender and Children's Desk at Chang'ombe Police Station speaking at the African Child Day Celebrations held today 16/6/2022 at Mwembeyanga Stadium in Dar es Salaam.*



# LITIGATION, EMERGENCY SUPPORT AND RESCUE

Protection of Human Rights Defenders is the core objective that the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition envisions. To realize this core goal, the Coalition through its protection department provides several protection services and support to HRDs at risk such as legal, medical, short-term relocation, family support to the survivors/HRDs at risk and security measures.

Between January and June 2022, a total of sixty (55) human rights defenders were supported with relocation, medical, legal support, and other emergency support. Families at risk, individual HRDs, journalists, indigenous land human rights defenders. Further, fact finding missions and trial observations were conducted by the Coalition.

## Overall Achievements: Litigation, Emergency Support and Rescue

### LITIGATION

- 55 HRDs have been provided with legal and other emergency support
- Two cases against HRDs were withdrawn by the Director of Public Prosecutions as he had no interest to prosecute such cases more. Such HRDs were set free by the court, and they immediately resumed their role of promoting and protecting human rights in Tanzania.

### EMERGENCY SUPPORT & RESCUE

- Relocation support offered to the HRDs, no further risks were experienced by them during and after the lapse of relocation period
- Health condition for HRDs supported with medical support improved, although they have not yet actively resumed their role of defending human rights. One HRD has resumed her role of defending human rights. Continuous documentation of HRDs incidents.

### OVERALL CHALLENGES

- HRDs and journalists were maliciously obstructed from doing their job.
- Unlawful arrest, detention and threats to HRDs i.e Ngorongoro district
- Some HRDs at risk don't react on security incidents on time hence making protection interventions complicated.
- Delay of cases against HRDs as the investigation take too long to be completed and if not completed, the republic tends to withdraw the case.
- Restrictive law on Public interest cases.

# MEMBERS' AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## *Providing technical support including physical visitations to zonal coordinating units*

While building a strong CSOs movement that serves to protect HRDs and human rights in Tanzania, THRDC provides technical support to more than 200 of its members and mobilizes them. To achieve this objective, the Coalition conducts periodic physical visits to the offices of its member organizations. From February 10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022, THRDC's Head of Programs Mr. Remy Lema and Head of Members Affairs Department, Public Relations Officer Miss. Lisa Kagaruki, visited seventeenth (17) members of the coalition in the Western Zone (Katavi, Tabora and Kigoma). Physical visitation to members has been intending to bring together the Coalition and its members by understanding their organization, document their key successes and lessons, challenges faced at zonal level, identify areas for empowerment and recommend for the better and more professional working environment, Advocating the coalition's work in the region for the HRDs that are not aware of it and recruiting new human rights organizations who are interested in becoming members of THRDC.



*A group photo of THRDC staff (Remy and Lisa) together with the Board and Secretariat of Nguruka Development agency.*



*A group photo of THRDC's secretariat together with THRDC members in western zones during the zonal meeting.*

### ***Conduct a Survey on Institutional and Organizational Capacity Development to THRDC Members***

THRDC as an umbrella organization has the obligation of ensuring member organizations' capacity is improved through various interventions. Under this reporting period, THRDC engaged a consultant to conduct a survey on organizational management capacity to members. The objective of this activity was to review the Organization's managerial capacities of the selected THRDC member and empower them on the same. The activity was conducted in some of the Coalition's zones including Southern Coast Zone, Western Zone, Eastern Lake Zone, Southern Highland, East Coast Zone, Central Zone, Northern Zone Unguja and Pemba Zone

The survey was conducted to 21 members to assess the organizational management capacity and all selected members were supported to develop their SPs.



*A photo of Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) Consultancy together with some of visited members during OCA survey in Dar es Salaam and Kigoma.*





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