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# TAMWAnites Konnnect

## VISION

A peaceful Tanzania society which respects human rights from a gender perspective.

## MISSION

To advocate for women and children's rights for cultural, policy and legal changes/transformations in the society through the use of media.

# TAMWA



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## Why are women human rights violations looked at differently?

Human rights are universally accepted rights that aim to protect human dignity and security. They were devised by the United Nations after World War II to put mechanisms in place that would protect all people from inhumane treatment. The original document that contains the fundamental framework for identifying human rights is called the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. The civil and political rights brought forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are clearly spelled out. For example, it is clear that one cannot be incarcerated because of her political beliefs, or one cannot be denied due to the process of law. It is the social rights that remain fuzzy and have been subject to reinterpretation and clarification over the past fifty years. And not surprisingly, women's rights largely fall into the category of social rights. Social rights are less clear because they are often shrouded by "culture". (Women's World 2 decades).

### Violation of women's human rights.

Women's human rights abuses largely go unpunished because there is no documentation of such violations available, or because the violations are improperly documented. Improper documentation can lead to the misinterpretation and misclassification of a violation. For example, rape can be, and has been, misconstrued as a violation of a woman's or her family's honor, and not as a human rights abuse. When violations are misunderstood the core of the problem is not addressed and the violation happens again with little or no recourse. And, women continue to suffer in silence. Moreover all abused women tend to misjudge themselves, they are too ashamed to state what happened. In most cases even the families tend to judge and are ashamed of them instead of supporting them. This trend of affairs can be corrected by giving them

full support, and by making sure every rape case is documented. TAMWA's contribution towards this is bearing fruit, as some cases are now reported in courts of law.

## **Determinant Factors.**

In many parts of the world, Tanzania included, despite sophisticated laws and legal systems, women's human rights are violated daily. While many countries have passed progressive legislation concerning women's rights, few of these reforms have had a positive impact on the legal reality of women. For women's status in society to improve the formal law needs to be fully implemented and women must be empowered to enforce their entitlements.

- Social factors such as lack of education for women and girls affect their abilities to familiarize with and understand legal proceedings.
- The spread of information about women's rights in the partner countries of international development cooperation usually faces certain challenges, topics such as the human rights of women are not well reported since they do not attract as large audiences and readers as other topics do. Therefore reports about women's issues in daily newspapers or radio stations are dominated by stereotypes and sensationalism, which in turn reinforce discriminatory perceptions and attitudes towards women's human rights.
- However, the media has a singular, invaluable advantage, especially the mass media such as radio, television or magazines; they can easily reach large parts and different groups of the population. Not only do media outlets reflect the predominant values and attitudes of a society, they also shape them. In doing so, the media can raise awareness about women's rights as well as promote equality between men and women. In some cases, they initiate public debates on certain issues. These debates may serve as a robust starting point to lobby for the promotion of women's rights, which should trigger legal reforms.

## **Women's Human Rights Activists**

Over the past 20 years, women's human rights have been pushing for change. They are demanding that mechanisms be put in place to accurately analyze and address the gender dimensions of women's human rights. They have helped bring life to international treaties, declarations, conventions, tribunals, and programs of action, and they have organized conferences, campaigns and strategies

to help bring the issue of women's human rights to the fore in human rights discourse.

Such pressure has helped create gender-specific international legal instruments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the appointment of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women by the UN Commission on Human Rights. (ISIS)

Relaying experiences of brutal rapes and torture is extremely difficult and painful. Women are often blamed for the sexual violence they experience. They are ostracized by their communities and shunned by their families. As a result, many women simply do not come forward but prefer to suffer in silence. These experiences are the same throughout the world. What then is the way forward? The Tanzania Media Association (TAMWA) is doing a tremendous job by using Media Campaigns to Promote Women's Rights in Tanzania. Such efforts would have been quite effective if women media practitioners were engaged in more research so that there is plenty of material available to work on the elimination of the abuse of women's human rights in Tanzania. However, TAMWA is planning to put on the agenda topical debates to ignite thoughts, ways and means to promote women empowerment in word and deed. Women communicators should refrain from, subscribing to magazines that stereotype women, participate in their own debasement, and encourage women to consume from distorted images.

When documenting women's experiences, women victims must feel the process of documentation is for them – that is a part of the process of obtaining the justice they deserve. Unfortunately, documentation of rape and other violations during war often is misused by governments to gain political advantage or is used as sensationalist news by the media. As a result, women feel exploited and humiliated and few women feel comfortable coming forward with their experiences.

It is important for women to be aware of these risks and to develop appropriate strategies to avoid them without compromising the process of documentation and the use of information to achieve justice for the victims.

## **Bibliography**

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### Marie Memouna Shaba

We have made great strides in the political and civil rights struggles in the last 30 years demanding that we vote, then we vote for women and today we want 50-50. But the energy that we put in these demands made us relagate the economic, social and cultural rigts in the periphery . Therefore we have not been able influence gender transformation where it hurts most.

After many years of fighting for the political and civil rights and having failed to convince my fellow activists to address economic, social and cultural rights I decided to now devote my time and with Allahs' grace fulfil one of my longest dream! Start a commercial Radio Station which will be community based.

I already knew I was entering a no woman zone and as a known woman activist with no track record of doing buziness on top of it at 67 years of age when you are supposed to be in Siberia it was going to be tough. But I told myself don't give up before you start; life begins at 67 girl! Talk to me and you will know what happened.....

By Saphia Ngalapi

## White Ribbon Day- 2016

The WRATZ Day is normally commemorated on March 15th every year, but this year the event was postponed for 16th March to give room for another important Government event that took place on March 15th and involved a number of the invited guests including the Guest of Honour.



During that day; different reports for the situation of maternal issues are raised from different speakers. For examples various research activities in the country show that over the last 20 years maternal related deaths have been decreasing through with slow pace from 529 deaths out of 100,000 live births in 1996 to 432 deaths for every 100,000 live births in 2012. One of the United Nations report show that the maternal deaths have further gone down to 410 out of 100,000 live births in 2014, which is equivalent to 7,500 deaths per year.

"While in Dar es salaam during the last three years between 2013 and 2015 the number of women who delivered increased from 108,054 in 2013 to 134,838 in 2014 and slightly dropped to 111,015 in 2015 which is an average of 9,831 women per month, which is quite high. Likewise, the number of maternal related deaths has gone down over the period whereby in 2013 for every 100,000 live births they experienced 110.1 maternal deaths, in 2014 the number went down to 94.9 deaths and further reduced to 79.3 in 2015. This trend indicate that in Dar es Salaam region the number of maternal related deaths is decreasing despite the growth in number of women giving birth". According to Dar es Salaam Region Commission Hon. Makonda,

The motto of the commemorations this year was "Zero Tolerance to Maternal Deaths, Be Accountable", and the Guest of Honour the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, HE Samia Suluhu Hassan she Inaugurate the campaign of "Zero Tolerance to Maternal Deaths, Be Accountable". Let's hope that this campaign will end up maternal death to the country.



# 2016 LIFE TIME ACHIEVER JOURNALISM AWARD

## VETERAN ROSE HAJI MWALIMU

By Gladness Hemedi Munuo



**Rose Haji Mwalimu**

She is a journalist and seasoned broadcaster, who has advocated tirelessly for women and children's rights as well as access to information and freedom for expression. She is a renowned human rights, activist, who is a great inspiration to the new, mid-career and upcoming journalists. Those who have passed through her hands, attest to the fact that she is a good facilitator and mentor who is endowed with brilliant persuasion skills. Her co-workers admit she is a hard worker who is passionate and resilient. She does not give up easily on anything however trying. She is an iron lady! Founder and chairperson of International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT), an association established in 1990 with the mission of promoting rights and gender issues to women in broadcasting, she has added value to the industry.

Employed by the then Radio Tanzania Dar es Salaam (RTD) for almost 16 years, where she was reporter, editor and even producer of different programs, she began to work as a journalist after being awarded a Masters degree in Mass Communication from the former Soviet Union Countries. She managed to attend various short and long courses on the same field which accorded her immense knowledge and different skills to her credit.

Thereafter she became Country Director for Media Institute of Southern Africa Tanzania Chapter (MISA-TAN), where she was in the fore front in leading all activism processes including constitutional changes, policy and other laws which stood in the way of human rights attainment in the media.

The winner is none other than Madam Rose Haji Mwalimu, who majestically secured the 2016 EJAT award in the category of LIFE TIME ACHIEVER JOURNALISTIC AWARD (LAJA) in Tanzania. Rose Haji Mwalimu is also one among twelve (12) founder members of Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA). Currently she is an employee of UNESCO-Tanzania as an expert of Community FM Radio Stations in Tanzania.

# TAMWA in Women in news training

By Beatrice Bandawe

January this year I got the opportunity to participate in Media Management course, started in Johannesburg, South Africa and be conclude in Harare, Zimbabwe in May.

The course focused on increasing the representation of women in senior leadership whereby participants were introduced to basic management principles, marketing and promotion, financial management, human resource management, strategic planning and governance, the theoretical principles are presented in the context of print and online media.

40 senior women journalists from Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana, Zambia, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania participated. Seven journalists came from Tanzania and out of them were TAMWA members, I and Leah Mushi from Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC).

The Media in news course aims at equipping high-potential media women with strategies, skills and support networks they need to excel in their career.



Beatrice Bandawe (center) and Leah Mushi (right) attending the course in Johannesburg



# Why Back Street Abortionists Continue to Kill Women for Profits!

By Gaudensia Mngumi

TWO weeks back I attended a two day session to brain storm on how abortion is a killer particularly the back street abortion. It was a moment to learn from the Pathfinder International, renown gynecologists and obstetricians that more than 1,500 women died yearly in Tanzania due to illegal termination of the pregnancy. However the number can be bigger because there a many unreported ones.

Illegal abortion industry is flourishing. Quarks always think about the pursuit of profits, they careless about the women who die from botched abortions. That is why they perforate the uterus with bicycles spokes, wooden spike, cassava straws and any deadly thing that can puncture and penetrate the uterus to kill the unborn babies.

Despite that abortion is illegal , unspeakable and sometimes called hail the Satan, probably we TAMWA the champions of women and children rights can think about raising our voices to challenge 'illegal abortion industry in Tanzania,' that contributes to maternal deaths, bareness and spread of diseases.



## THE INTERNATIONAL FEMINIST ACTION MOVEMENT

By Saphia Ngalapi

The WMW is an international Feminist Action movement that connect grassroots groups, organisation and individuals working to eliminate the root causes of poverty and all forms of discrimination against women. WMW is anti-capitalist movement. WMW international secretariat is in Africa, Maputo Mozambique.

Their values and actions are directed at making political, economic and social change, centred around the globalization of solidarity; equality between women and men, among women themselves and between peoples; the respect and recognition of diversity among women; the multiplicity of our strategies; the appreciation of women's leadership; and the strength of alliances among women and with other progressive social movements.

In October 2015, three women's from Tanzania including Saphia Ngalapi participated on the WMW in Africa took place in Kenya where by more than 1000 women's from different African countries participated the forum before the match.



# Events

## By Isihaka Ibrahim

Isihaka Ibrahim is one of the staff from the Crises Resolving Centre (CRC), and recently sworn to be an Advocate of the High Court and Subordinate court thereto save for the primary court.

He is hardworking, true team builder, has natural motivation with strong analytical and problem solving skills in many corner of the legal professional, he also hold the responsibility of keeping energy levels and performance standards up and high.

His qualification and experience accompanied with the knowledge and skills acquired in practice legal professional under different law firms and crises resolving centre (CRC) lead him to make meaningful and significance contribution in Organisation.

He attending the several court session, radio and TV programmes as well as different training regarding to gender issues.

He works as volunteer of Crises Resolving Centre (CRC) as the Assistant Legal Office in the CRC legal department. Before that he worked with Epsa Credit and Financial Company as debt collector, later on he joined on several firms in Dar es Salaam as legal officer.

Crises Resolving Centre (CRC) made him to be who is he today, this is due to the fact that he finished law school and awarded post graduate in legal practice. He also experience on how to prepare legal documents, handling clients cases in the court of law.





# PERSONAL PROFILE: SUZANA CHARLES

## PERSONAL DETAILS

<b>Last Name</b>	Charles Mwaitenda	<b>Other Names</b>	Suzana
<b>Date of birth</b>		<b>Place of Birth</b>	Dar es Salaam
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<b>Nationality</b>		<b>Marital Status</b>	Single
<b>Citizenship</b>	Tanzanian	<b>Language</b>	1. English 2. Swahili

## Personal Profile

Suzana Charles Mwaitenda is TAMWA staff member who was recently sworn in as one of Advocates of Tanzania High Court.

She is an energetic, ambitious person who has developed a mature and responsible approach to any task that she undertakes or situation. As a graduate with two years of experience in provision of legal aid and attending of radio/TV programmes and different training on gender issues, she is excellent in working with others to archive a certain objective on time and with excellence.

Ms. Suzana Charles Mwaitenda is an employee for Tanzania Media Women's Association –TAMWA as Programme Officer for LSF Project .Before that she has been working with TAMWA as Volunteer for 8 months for the position as Legal Officer assistant for CRC-TAMWA.

As a volunteer she managed to acquire skills in handling legal services to client, improved skills in all legal issues, attended TV and radio programs educating the public about human rights especially women and children rights also she has experienced on how to prepare Legal Documents, and Counseling Sessions of victims of gender base violence.

TAMWA made her to be who she is today because during her staying as a volunteer she managed to finished her law school and awarded post graduate of legal practice, TAMWA makes her to be a creative and hardworking individual, who always strives to achieve the highest standard possible, at any given task. She possess excellent communication skills and she has the ability and experience to relate to a wide range of people. She enjoys learning new things and working with TAMWA, she work very well under pressure.



# Life



## RIP

1. TAMWA member Sarah Dumba passed away on 21st March, 2016
2. Tumaini Msowoya lost her husband in 18th September, 2016



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