



HUMAN
RIGHTS

75

THEME: *Rethinking the Past, Present
and Future of the Human Rights
Journey in Tanzania*

**COMMEMORATING THE
75th ANNIVERSARY**

OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TANZANIA

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



**University of
Dar es Salaam,
School of Law
(UDSoL)**



**EAST AFRICAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
INSTITUTE**

1.0 Introduction and Background

Human rights are fundamental to the dignity and well-being of all individuals, irrespective of their nationality, race, culture, gender, religion, political or socioeconomic status. In recent times, the world has witnessed significant progress in recognizing and safeguarding human rights, including the codification of human rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Adopted on 10th December 1948, UDHR marks its 75th anniversary this year (2023). This is a historic milestone in the advancement of human rights worldwide. The UDHR remains a foundational document in promoting and safeguarding the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of every individual. Throughout this year, human rights stakeholders seek to increase knowledge on the universality and indivisibility of human rights and inspire people to create a movement of shared humanity while empowering them to fight for their rights.

To commemorate this significant occasion, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) and East African Human Rights Institute (EAHRI) in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law (UDSoL) propose a thoughtful and impactful series of events designed to reflect on the past achievements, assess current challenges, and foster a shared commitment towards the future where human rights are universally upheld. In that spirit, the three institutions are organizing a 2-day conference to take place in Dar es Salaam, November 2023. The Conference is aimed at bringing together human rights defenders, government officials, academicians, politicians, the international community, religious institutions, and civil society organizations to professionally reflect on the past, present, and future of human rights promotion and protection in Tanzania.

2.0 Objectives

The main objectives of the call for abstracts include:

- a) To promote research and analysis on the state of human rights in Tanzania through interdisciplinary publications and dialogue among academicians, human rights practitioners, civil society organizations, and policymakers.
- b) To provide a room for human rights actors to reflect the implementation of UDHR in Tanzania while highlighting emerging issues, achievement and challenges in human rights promotion and protection in Tanzania.
- c) To encourage the culture of writing and dialogues with innovative and contextualized solutions and best practices for advancing human rights in Tanzania.
- d) To publish completed draft papers as book chapters in an edited book after the conference.

3.0 Proposed Themes

The abstracts are expected to cover different themes designed to focus on specific human rights as indicated below. Thus, interested individuals or organizations are required to select a theme they want to contribute to and submit an abstract to the email addresses provided below. In total we have 9 main themes cutting across all key thematic areas of human rights and several sub-themes in each main theme. Writers are therefore encouraged to select a sub-theme of their interest from the main themes and send an abstract. Writers are only allowed to send one abstract from one sub-theme and only two abstracts from the main themes.

3.1 Criminal Justice Reforms and Human Rights Protection

This main theme may include relevant sub-themes cutting across all areas of criminal justice and human rights. Possible sub-themes may include but not limited to arrest and investigation; detention of suspects; powers and

limits of Police Officers to arrest, interrogate, search, seize and collect evidence; bail and pre-trial detention; powers of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP); trumped-up charges; independence of criminal justice institutions, criminal justice laws, bail issues, powers of arrest of Regional and District Commissioners; committal proceedings and preliminary hearing; adjudication of economic and predicate offences; plea bargaining issues; sentencing and sanctions (Mandatory Death Sentence); prison reforms; juvenile justice; probation and parole issues.

3.2 Human Rights and Technological Advancement: Opportunities and Challenges

Abstracts in this theme are expected to cover cross-cutting issues on technology and human rights. Possible topics may include but not limited to freedom of expression over the use of internet; access to information through online platforms; striking a balance between the right to privacy and freedom of expression through the internet; review of laws governing the use of online platforms, case analysis, Artificial Intelligence and its possible threats to human rights; as well as use of technological tools to limit access to information through the internet.

3.3 The Rights of Vulnerable, Marginalized and Minority Groups: Prospects and Challenges

This theme invites comments from a wide and diverse range of perspectives to provoke discussions on the protection of various aspects of the vulnerability of members of the community. Individuals are thus encouraged to submit abstracts on the rights and protection of marginalized members of the society including people with disabilities, children, and women, gender balance as well as issues related to gender-based violence. Furthermore, abstracts pertaining to the rights of different categories of migrants, including but not limited to refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons, are encouraged. Abstracts on cultural rights and the rights of pastoralists, indigenous and minority groups are also appreciated. The abstracts should highlight major milestones, difficulties, and possibilities in Tanzania's promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.

3.4 The Space, Role, Rights and Protection of Human Rights Defenders

This main theme may include relevant sub-themes cutting across all areas of civic space and HRDs rights. Abstracts in these areas should address and evaluate the role and contribution of HRDs in human rights protection and promotion since independence, the state of freedom of association, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. Similarly, the abstract can address public interest litigation and litigation of human rights at regional and sub-regional levels focusing on practice and procedure before human rights protection mechanisms. The abstracts may also evaluate laws and policies governing the work of HRDs and their organizations and how those laws and policies have impacted the work of HRDs in Tanzania as part of commemorating the 25 years of the UN Declaration of Human Rights Defenders of 1998. In this area of focus, presenters may as well assess the role and contribution of other actors such as the academic community, professional groups, trade unions and religious groups in setting the human rights agenda in the country before, during and after independence.

3.5 Business, Investment, and Human Rights Protection

The sub-themes should include all issues related to Business and Human Rights Protection. The papers may address issues of consumer protection against counterfeit products; globalization; social justice; assessing the impact of privatization on human rights and national sovereignty; right to natural resources (minerals, oil and gas, forestry, wildlife), protection of workers' rights, good governance and human rights, intellectual property, and challenges relating to land acquisition and use on communities. This may also include reviewing and assessing the legal and policy frameworks.

3.6 Environmental Justice and Human Rights Protection

The sub-themes should cut across all issues of environmental justice and human rights. Possible topics may include but not limited to: Climate change, Litigation and Justice movements; access to environmental rights and public participation; the role of courts in promoting environmental justice; and sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, assessing available remedies in relation to violation of environmental rights. Additionally, abstracts may also address the environmental impact of extractive industries and other related investments projects.

3.7 Political Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy

The sub-themes should include but not limited to all issues related to the rule of law, elections, governance issues, political rights, democracy etc. Interested people may write abstracts about the state of democracy in Tanzania since independence; independence of the judiciary and the parliament; separation of powers, electoral processes (free and fair election); equal participation in political and public affairs, rule of law, public participation & social inclusion, transparency, and accountability in public administration; and freedom and independence of the media.

3.8 Social-Economic Rights and Development

The sub-themes cut across all the social-economic rights, including but not limited to; education and training; water and sanitation health issues, housing; right to own properties, right to development; right to social security; decent housing, food; access to employment; and equality and social inclusion.

3.9 The State of Human Rights Education in Tanzania

Under this theme, topics should focus on analyzing aspects linked with human rights education (HRE) in Tanzania. Human rights and education have converged ever since the United Nations Charter was adopted. By signing the UN Charter, States committed themselves to cooperating with the UN to promote and achieve 'universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.' The emphasis on education gained further momentum when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted 75 years ago. It is generally accepted that HRE is fundamental to the implementation of human rights and for the creation of a society whose members are responsible as well as having the sense and culture of respect and duties towards the very society, nation, and the international community.

This call for abstract invites articles and papers which reflect on the state of the provision of human rights education (HRE) in informal sector (by NGOs, CSOs, media and other informal settings) and in formal sector

(such as primary education, secondary education and in higher education institutions). Writers should assess how education system in Tanzania integrates human rights concepts, norms, and values within the mainstream educational systems at all levels. Sub-themes may analyze the coverage of human rights in teaching curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education. This provides an opportunity to assess the role of academia, CSOs and the media (both traditional and online) in fostering the provision of human rights education in Tanzania.

Note: All abstracts should be directed to the following email addresses:
paulkisabo@thrdc.or.tz OR buchumi.veronica@udsm.ac.tz

4.0 Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstracts should be:

- a. Original and not previously published based on one's research or reflection, and theoretical or practical experience. A maximum of 400 words
- b. Submissions must adhere to the specified format and citation style (UDSoL Citation Guidelines available at <https://www.udsm.ac.tz/web/index.php/schools/sol/udsol-citation-styles>).
- c. Authors should include an abstract and author information (the name of the main theme and sub-theme, name, affiliation, contact details).
- d. Submissions should be sent to the designated email address by the specified deadline.

5.0 Review Process

All submissions will undergo a rigorous peer review process to assess their relevance, originality, rigor, and clarity. Authors will be notified about the review outcome within the stipulated time frame. No feedback will be provided to unsuccessful abstracts.

6.0 Publication

After the conference, accepted abstracts will be published as conference proceedings. Furthermore, completed draft papers will have the option of being published as book chapters in an edited book.

7.0 Timelines

- 15 August 2023** – Call for Abstracts
- 31 August 2023** – Submission Deadline
- 07 September 2023** – Notification of Acceptance
- 15 September 2023** – Confirmation of Participation
- 21 October 2023** – Submission of Draft Papers/Posters

8.0. Conclusion

This call for abstracts aims to contribute to the ongoing debate on human rights by creating a forum for in-depth conversations and knowledge sharing. We hope to achieve a greater comprehension of human rights challenges and prospects by involving experts and stakeholders from all backgrounds, thereby furthering the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide.

***For general inquiries about
this call, please contact***

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