



NANHRI NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Africa has made commendable advances in human rights promotion and protection. National Human Rights Institutions have become more effective with more people turning to them to seek justice.

This year as Africa through the African Union commemorates the year of human rights with a particular focus on the rights of women, I call upon all NHRI's to address issues on women rights within their various areas of mandate. The major issues facing women in Africa range from access to education, sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, early marriage and right to inherit.

It is my sincere hope that our member NHRI's will be vigilant in making Africa a safe haven for the women. Let us be the voice of the oppressed and not relent until we ensure that the rights of women are observed.

We look forward to being part of your fight to ensure that women rights in Africa are observed.

SECRETARIAT NEWS

SOGIE TOOLKIT VALIDATION WORKSHOP

NANHRI hosted representatives from 5 African NHRI's for a validation workshop on the Sexual Orientation and gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Rights Toolkit.



The workshop brought together 18 participants from Malawi, Ghana, Uganda, South Africa, Kenya NHRI's, SOGIE reference group and NANHRI

The SOGIE workshop introduced the participants to Yogyakarta Principles, Universality and Non-Discrimination. Other key areas that were covered in the workshop include right to health and privacy, economic and social rights

DIHR/ NANHRI KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

NANHRI secretariat had the opportunity to host the kick-off workshop for the capacity building NHRI's project that took place on 24th to 26th May 2016. The workshop was set to build a common understanding of the project and the division of roles and responsibilities between DIHR and NANHRI in three tracks which include; Blended learning, re-grants and organizational development.



The workshop provided a platform for NANHRI and DIHR representatives to agree on issues ranging from the LFA, the annual action plan, the responsibilities of applicants and co-applicants, the administrative set up, the project budget, and rules for implementing the project, allocation of human resources, project tasks, and budget.

The Danish Institute for Human Rights was represented by Ann Lisbeth Ingerslev (Head of Finance and Administration), Kristine Yigen (Programme Manager), Mads Gottlieb (Project Adviser) and Katrina Palad (Project Economist).

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

UGHRC COMMEMORATES AFRICAN PRETRIAL DETENTION DAY

In commemoration of the Pre-trial Detention Day of 25th April, the Uganda Human Rights Commission conducted an extensive three days (23rd, 24th, 25th) civic education awareness campaign through community Barazas (community gatherings), radio talk shows and radio spot messages to mark the day.



With over 80% penetration of radio in Uganda, the choice of Radio talk shows was a perfect media to create public awareness on the of Ugandans owned a radio and could be reached through this medium. Through talk shows, the plight of pre-trial detainees. RC conducted a total of 27 live phone-in radio talk shows on 15 radio stations country wide. The talk shows were conducted in various commonly used languages which included; English, Luganda, Lusoga, Runyankore/Rukiga, Runyoro/Rutoro, Ateso, Kumam, Kupsabiny, Lumasaaba, Lugbara, Kakwa, Alur, Madi and Nga'Karimojong.

The topics discussed included:- the concept of human rights, the right to personal liberty, the right to freedom from torture, rights of suspects during and after arrest, duties of law enforcement officers, the duties and responsibilities of citizens and the Luanda Guidelines.

SOGIE RIGHTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), the Justice Department and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation held a three-day seminar on finding practical solutions for addressing violence and discrimination against persons based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE). The seminar focused primarily on implementing Resolution 275, which was adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in 2014.

The resolution condemns violence and other human rights violations against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community, as well as attacks by states against people on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

TAKING THE ZHRC TO THE PEOPLE

By: Shadrick William (swilliam@zhrc.org.zw)

Zimbabweans have applauded the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC)'s initiative of embarking on a series of outreach programmes in order to create visibility and improve awareness of its operations.



This came out of a series of outreaches under the Project titled, "Taking the ZHRC to the people", which were carried out in various parts of the country by the Commission from April to June 2016. The Project was supported by Civil Society partners.

The Commission came from the outreach programmes richer as issues that emerged during the engagement will be useful in ensuring that it discharges its duty of protecting, promoting and enforcing human rights in a fearless, effective and professional manner in line with the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Act, Chapter 10:30.

Concerns raised by the public included the need for more human rights education and awareness campaigns by the

ZHRC, alleged human rights violations by the police,



unfair labour practices by employers, high health delivery user fees and the continued detention of mothers over failure to meet hospital or service provider bills. Zimbabweans also appealed for an end to political violence and for the Commission to expand its services, particularly to remote rural areas.

HCRRUN VISITS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF MOROCCO



On 11 April 2016, The National Council for Human Rights of Morocco (CNDH) received the delegation of the High - Commissioner for Reconciliation and the Strengthening of National Unity (HCRRUN) composed of the President of the Togo United HCRRUN and Ombudsman, Prime Rapporteur and member of HCRRUN, Second Rapporteur and Member of HCRRUN and an Agent of Foreign Affairs of the Embassy of Togo in Rabat.

This working visit was an opportunity to discuss the mechanism for monitoring and implementation of the

Strengthening and Coordinating African National Human Rights Institutions

recommendations of the Moroccan Truth Commission, the Equity and Reconciliation (IER) but also the opportunity to have more information on the progress of the work of the Togolese commission.

The delegation took this opportunity to visit the local National Training Institute for Human Rights (INFDH) under the National Human Rights Commission to inquire about the capacity-building activities that are organized for including civil society, public officials and staff of the NHRC.

Thus, the CNDH and the Togolese Commission could strengthen their ties of cooperation. Indeed, it is expected that the CNDH will from 11 to 15 July 2016 participate in a seminar organized by the HCRRUN in Togo on the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. A seminar that will focus on African experiences including that of Morocco.

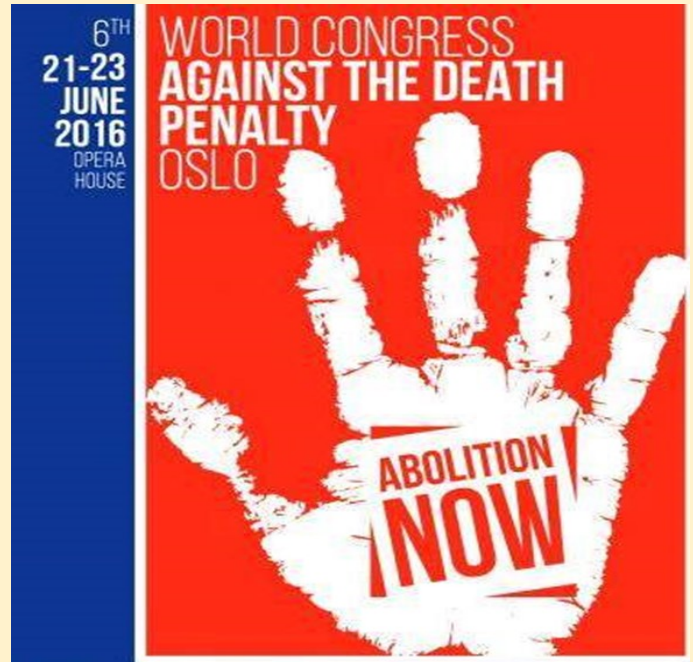
WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

**By: Miss Mesguid Fatima Zahra
(mesguidf@gmail.com)**

From 21 to 23 June 2016, the President of the CNDH, Driss El Yazami, participated in the 6th World Congress against the Death Penalty in Oslo, Norway. The Congress was held at the initiative of the organization together against the death penalty (ECPM) in partnership with the World Coalition against the death penalty.

The 6th World Congress against the death penalty is a high-level conference where several international experts and senior officials of different countries participate.

Its opening session held on 21 June 2016 was attended by UN officials, international human rights organizations of Europe. Countries represented at the conference include; Norway, the Republic of Central Africa, Palestine, Lebanon, Cambodia, France, Malaysia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Switzerland.



The final day was devoted to the role of national institutions of human rights in the abolitionist struggle. The event brought together a number of experts and representatives of several INDH including that of Morocco, Australia, Malawi, India and Nigeria to examine methods to encourage NHRI's to advocate for the fight against the death penalty.

OMBUDSMAN OF NAMIBIA APPOINTS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE



**From Left to Right: H.Mauyoma, Chief Legal Officer, D.Coetzee, Senior Legal Officer, I. Cupido, Children's Advocate & A. Haita, Senior Social Worker
NANHRI UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

Strengthening and Coordinating African National Human Rights Institutions

The office of the Ombudsman now has a Children’s advocate. Ms. I. Cupido, will work closely with other stakeholders amongst others, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Ministry of Health and Social Services and civil society organizations to ensure the rights of the Namibian child are protected and enforced. A social worker and two lawyers that form part of our Human rights division will work closely with the children’s Advocate

NANHRI UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DATE
NANHRI Exhibition at the AU Summit	Kigali, Rwanda	10 th -18 th July
Workshop on the Implementation of the CRPD	Malawi	9 th -11 th August
Pan African State Accountability Program (PASAP) – Mapping Surveys	Across NHRI’s	July - October

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