

# NETWORK OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

## NANHRI

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## NANHRI signs Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union Commission

To ensure structured engagements with the African Union Commission and effectively pursue the implementation of project 2016 on human rights in Africa, NANHRI began a journey of formalizing its partnership with the AUC that culminated into the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the 8th, March 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The partnership between the AUC and NANHRI is significant in human rights protection and the building of a human rights culture in Africa and presents numerous opportunities for complementary and multi-layered enforcement mechanisms.

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are key allies in championing the

agenda of democracy, good governance and human rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) and other relevant human rights instruments. Their mandate allows them monitor state parties compliance, give advisories and hold states' accountable on their human rights obligations and realization.

NANHRI will leverage on this cooperation in ensuring increased acceleration towards greater integration between the national and regional human rights systems in Africa and consolidating human rights knowledge within the broader purview of democratic governance based on knowledge generated, important experiences and lessons learnt .



*The Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between NANHRI and the Africa Union Commission*

## Message from the Executive Director



The preservation of human rights and freedoms continues to be the greatest issue of our time globally and particularly in Africa. Promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms stands at the heart of the work of NANHRI since establishment and becoming fully operational in the year 2007.

In 2016, NANHRI will increasingly engage with the regional and international

human rights mechanisms and hold States accountable to foster the realization of human rights in the continent and guarantee the citizens fundamental rights and freedoms.

The Network will strive to provide platforms for NHRIs and stakeholders in the human rights field to share best practices and lessons learned so as to build their capacity to effectively protect and pro-

mote human rights in the continent.

We look forward to your support to enable us promote human rights in Africa.

Yours Sincerely,

**Gilbert Sebihogo**

Executive Director NANHRI

## Film and Book Launch: Lessons and Experiences of Torture prevention from African NHRIs

“...All forms of exploitation and degradation of man, particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited...”

Article 5, African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions and the Association for the prevention of torture hosted a side event on the 22nd March 2016 in Geneva

Switzerland to launch a film and book highlighting the good practices and experiences of African NHRIs on torture prevention. The book can be accessed at [http://](http://www.apt.ch/en/resources/preventing-torture-in-africa-lessons-and-experiences-from-national-human-rights-institutions/)

[www.apt.ch/en/resources/preventing-torture-in-africa-lessons-and-experiences-from-national-human-rights-institutions/](http://www.apt.ch/en/resources/preventing-torture-in-africa-lessons-and-experiences-from-national-human-rights-institutions/)



A Side Event Organized by NANHRI and APT to Launch the Book and Film on Lessons and Experiences on Torture Prevention from African NHRIs, 22nd March 2016, Palais des Nations, Geneva

## Making the Rights of Persons with Disabilities a Reality

Together with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), NANHRI launched a guide on monitoring the implementation of the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the 23rd March 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland at the margins of the ICC 29 Annual Meeting.

This guide was developed through consultations with National Human Rights Institutions and civil society organizations.

*“Nothing for us without us”*  
A common saying from the rights of people with disability campaigns

## Participation in the African Regional Seminar on sexual orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Rights

In light of the adoption of Resolution 275 in May 2015 by the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights on the protection of LGBT rights as well as its broad mandate to promote and protect the rights guaranteed by the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, a Regional Seminar on finding practical solutions for addressing violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression was organized under the commis-

sions auspices with the support of AU member states and African NHRIs in Johannesburg, South Africa. The proposed seminar provided African region with an opportunity to reflect on these challenges as they manifest themselves in the continent and to provide solutions to address them.

NANHRI organized a side event to introduce the proposed project “Building the Capacity of African NHRIs to Engage with and protect the Rights of Lesbians, Gay, Bisex-

ual and Transgender / Gender Non-Conforming (LGBT / GNC) Communities” at the margins of the seminar. The side event provided an opportunity to gauge the institutional capacities and willingness of NHRIs to participate in the project and the barriers hindering effective participation. The Secretariat is continuing to engage with interested NHRIs in order to implement the project. The first phase will entail development of tool kit to train NHRIs staff on SOGIE issues.

The seminar provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on emerging challenges in the continent.



Participants engaging during the African Regional Seminar on SOGIE in Johannesburg, South Africa



## Uganda Human Rights Commission Staff trained on Elections Observation

30 Staff of the Uganda Human Rights Commission were trained on the monitoring of human rights and fair general

elections. The Training of Trainers (TOT) focused on human

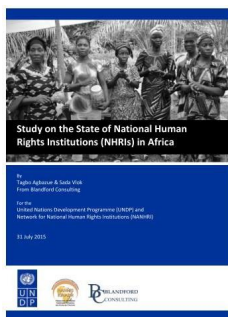
rights and elections, the legal and institutional frameworks for elections, election administration, election observation and evaluation of election process and the role of NHRIs in elections.

Their enhanced capacity and commitment to improve the monitoring by the Commission was demonstrated by the development of checklists for pre and post-electoral activities in readiness for the 2016 general elections.

“The training enabled discussion by everyone and good for measuring understanding of the concepts learnt” A participant from the Training



A section of Uganda Human Rights Staff during a Training Session on Elections Monitoring and Observation in Kampala, Uganda



A cover photo of the publication on the State of Africa NHRIs

## Assessment of the State of Africa National Human Rights Institutions finalized

The Report captures the findings of a baseline study on the state of NHRIs in Africa. The final Report validated by NANHRI Members focuses on 6 keys areas - establishment and oversight, independence, financing, capacity, stake-

holder engagement, and rights-based service delivery and development.

Most importantly, the Study provides practical recommendations to improve their institutional and programmatic

areas to be implemented by NHRIs, and also with collaboration with other relevant actors particularly the state, civil society organizations and NANHRI.

## The Network develops a Resource Mobilization Strategy

The Resource Mobilization Strategy developed by the Secretariat and adopted by the Steering Committee will pro-

vide a structured approach to guide the resource mobilization efforts for the Network’s programmes.

This is expected to support efforts to improve the Network’s resource base.

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance: Sensitizing Government Officials on National Human Rights Action Plan

In an effort to promote human rights in the country, the Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has recently sensitized 327 government officials on the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). The officials, who were mostly heads of departments in local government authorities (LGAs) from nine regions of Tanzania Mainland received the training in three separate workshops which were conducted at zonal level from 4th - 5th January, 2016.

The training sought to

strengthen participants' knowledge on human rights and good governance issues, inculcate the sense of Human Rights-Based Approach to Development (HRBA), and promote understanding of the National Human Rights Action Plan with a view of mainstreaming it into activities of LGAs to facilitate smooth implementation of the NHRAP.

This project has also enhanced the capacity of 60 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which apart from implementing the NHRAP as per their respective mandates, also assist CHRAGG

in monitoring implementation of the Action Plan by the government.

A comprehensive evaluation of the project is expected to be conducted by June 2016 to measure achievements and challenges encountered during the implementation period.

*Participants of NHRAP training for local government officials in a group photo with training facilitators from CHRAGG during the workshop held recently in Mbeya City, Southern highlands.*



### The National Human Rights Council of Morocco: Workshop on the Arab Strategy for Human Rights

On January 20th and 21st, the CNDH participated to a dialogue workshop on the Arab strategy for Human Rights, organized in Cairo by the League of Arab States and the

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the presence of the Arab Organization for Human Rights and numerous National Institutions for Human Rights

(NHRIs) and NGOs from several countries. The activity aimed at reinforcing coordination and cooperation in protecting Human Rights in the Arab region.

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*The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) is a membership organization for African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) registered as a legal entity under laws of the Republic of Kenya. NANHRI's mission is to support, through national, sub-regional, regional and international cooperation, the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs to more effectively undertake their mandate of human rights promotion, protection, monitoring and advocacy. Its vision is a continent with effective NHRIs, contributing to an enhanced human rights culture and justice for every African. NANHRI encourages and supports the establishment of strong and independent NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles.*

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## **NANHRI Secretariat recruits a Programme Officer**

The Secretariat received a boost following recruitment of a Programme Officer to support the programmes' section.

The new Officer, Gilford Kimathi Kithure joined the Secretariat in mid-March.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Disaster Management and International Diplomacy and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Project Planning and Management.

He previously worked as a Programme Officer at Youth Agenda and the Centre for Multi-Party Democracy (CMD Kenya) – national NGOs operating within Kenya.

