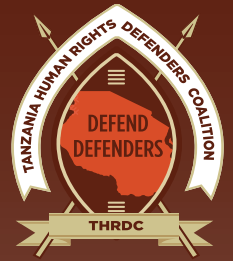


Newsletter

JULY 2026 SPECIAL EDITION



THRDC 15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



RE-THINKING THE FUTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN TANZANIA

Partnership • Protection • Constitutionalism • Sustainable Financing



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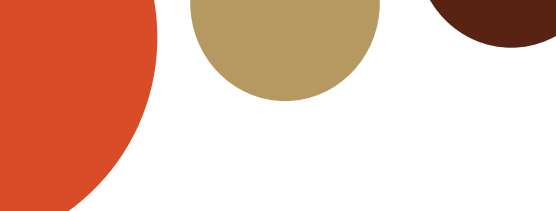
A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR



Dear Members, Partners, Friends and Supporters,

Human rights protection goes beyond responding to violations; it requires strong institutions, accountable governance, active citizen participation, and sustainable investments that safeguard civic space and human dignity. THRDC remains committed to building a resilient human rights movement capable of meeting current and future challenges.

The events held on **23–24 July 2026** marked an important step towards this vision. THRDC brought together Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), government leaders, civil society organizations, development partners, diplomats, academics, and private sector representatives to discuss the future of human rights protection in Tanzania. These engagements shared a common goal: strengthening the foundations of a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable human rights sector.



Our journey began by investing in those who stand closest to communities. HRDs working at the grassroots level are often the first to receive reports of abuse, accompany survivors in seeking justice, and mobilise communities around issues affecting children, women and other vulnerable groups. By strengthening their knowledge of child rights protection, juvenile justice, monitoring, documentation and evidence-based advocacy, we are strengthening the first line of defence for human rights in Tanzania. This investment goes beyond building individual skills; it contributes to stronger protection systems capable of preventing violations, improving accountability and ensuring that no child is left behind.

The following day, on the 24th of July, our attention turned to one of the defining challenges confronting civil society across Africa and beyond: the shrinking financial space for organisations working to promote human rights, democratic governance, rule of law and access to justice. The National Dialogue demonstrated that financial sustainability is no longer merely an organisational concern. It has become a governance issue, a development issue and, ultimately, a human rights issue. When organisations are unable to sustain legal aid, civic education, gender equality, public interest advocacy and community outreach

programmes, it is the most vulnerable members of society who bear the greatest cost.

These conversations culminated in THRDC's **15th Annual General Meeting (AGM)**, attended by members, partners, and the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, **H.E. Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi**. His participation reaffirmed the importance of dialogue, constitutionalism, justice, and collaboration between government and civil society in advancing national development and protecting human rights. His recognition of the important contribution made by HRDs and civil society organisations to national development signalled a shared understanding that protecting human rights and promoting democratic governance are responsibilities that belong to all of us.

A key outcome of the AGM was the launch of two strategic initiatives: the **Tanzania Human Rights Grants Facility (THRGF)** and the **Watetezi House and Resource Centre Fundraising Campaign**. These initiatives aim to strengthen institutional resilience by expanding funding opportunities for grassroots organizations and establishing a permanent hub for learning, coordination, innovation, and support for HRDs. These initiatives represent

a strategic shift towards building locally owned, sustainable institutions capable of supporting Human Rights Defenders regardless of changes in the global funding landscape. The Grants Facility will expand opportunities for grassroots organisations to access financial resources, while Watetezi House will establish a permanent home for learning, innovation, coordination, emergency support and collaboration within Tanzania's human rights movement. Together, they embody our belief that protecting human rights requires investment not only in programmes, but also in the institutions that make those programmes possible.

The central message from all of our engagements was clear: the future of Tanzania's human rights movement depends on collaboration, innovation, and sustainable institutions. THRDC remains dedicated to promoting grassroots leadership, evidence-based advocacy, cross-sector partnerships, and constitutional dialogue while upholding the values of human dignity, accountability, inclusion, participation, and the rule of law.

On behalf of THRDC, I extend sincere appreciation to all members, partners, government institutions, development partners, diplomatic missions, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, and citizens whose support continues to advance our shared vision of a just, democratic, and inclusive Tanzania. Together, we will continue to defend defenders, strengthen institutions, and promote lasting human rights protections for all..

As you read this special edition, I invite you to view these events not as isolated activities, but as chapters in a broader story of transformation. Together, they illustrate how capacity building leads to stronger institutions, how dialogue inspires innovation, how partnerships generate trust and how sustainable financing creates opportunities for lasting impact. They also remind us that protecting human rights is a shared national responsibility, one that demands courage, collaboration and long-term vision.

Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa

National Coordinator

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders
Coalition (THRDC)

Investing in those closest to vulnerable communities – Strengthening Grassroots Capacity to Advance Children’s Rights and Child-Centred Justice –

Effective child protection begins at the community level, where teachers, social welfare officers, paralegals, community leaders and HRDs are often the first to identify and respond to risks facing children. Recognising this reality, the Coalition, with support from Save the Children, convened a national

capacity-building programme on 23 July 2026, bringing together 90 Human Rights Defenders, Women Human Rights Defenders, child-rights advocates and representatives of grassroots civil society organisations from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.



The training focused on strengthening participants’ knowledge and skills in **Human Rights Monitoring, ethical documentation, child-centred justice, referral mechanisms and evidence-based advocacy**. Participants explored

how credible documentation serves as the foundation for accountability, legal remedies and policy reform, while enabling timely interventions to protect vulnerable children.

A key theme of the programme was **child-centred justice**. Dr. Veronica Buchi of the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law emphasised that all responses involving children must prioritise their best interests, dignity,

confidentiality, rehabilitation and protection. She highlighted that justice for children extends beyond legal processes and requires coordinated social, psychological and institutional support.



Adv. Paul Kisabo further strengthened participants' understanding of the legal framework for child protection by presenting national and international laws, policies and standards that guide the promotion and protection of children's rights in Tanzania.

THRDC National Coordinator Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa introduced participants to THRDC's human rights monitoring cycle and the practical application of the "5Ws and 1H" methodology, equipping them with skills to collect, verify and analyse evidence, conduct risk assessments and link documented violations to national, regional and international human rights standards.

Building on this, Adv. Halima Sonda, THRDC's Director of Programmes and Operations, demonstrated how verified evidence can be transformed into strategic advocacy. She encouraged organisations to identify patterns behind individual cases in order to influence policy reforms and strengthen child protection systems. The programme also highlighted the importance of effective referral mechanisms, with Dr. Zachayo Shigongo of the Institute of Social Work stressing that meaningful protection depends on strong coordination among institutions to ensure survivors receive timely legal, medical, psychosocial and social welfare support.



The participation of organisations from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar enriched discussions through the exchange of experiences from diverse legal, institutional and community contexts. Participants identified practical ways to improve documentation, reporting, coordination and joint advocacy efforts while reinforcing collaboration in advancing children's rights.

When the training concluded, participants committed to applying the knowledge gained within their organisations by strengthening monitoring systems, mentoring colleagues and promoting evidence-based approaches to

child protection. The program's success will ultimately be measured through stronger documentation, more effective referrals, improved advocacy and better protection outcomes for children.

Beyond the training, participants reaffirmed a broad vision: if Tanzania is to build a future where human rights are respected, protected and upheld by all, investment in children must begin today. Protecting children from violence, abuse and neglect is essential, but equally important is providing them with human rights education from an early age. By nurturing awareness, dignity, responsibility and respect for human rights from infancy, society lays the foundation for a generation that embraces justice, equality and respect for the rights of others.

“When grassroots defenders are equipped with the right knowledge, skills and partnerships, documentation becomes protection, evidence becomes accountability and community action becomes lasting justice for children. A society that invests in children's protection and human rights education today is investing in a future where human rights are respected by everyone.”

Rethinking the Future of Human Rights Funding

The momentum generated by the Child Rights and Juvenile Justice Training naturally carried into the second major engagement of THRDC's July programme. Having strengthened the capacity of Human Rights Defenders to protect vulnerable communities, the Coalition turned its attention to

a broader question confronting civil society across Tanzania and the African continent: **How can human rights organisations continue protecting rights and delivering essential services in an increasingly constrained financial environment?**



“Rethinking the Future of Human Rights Funding in Tanzania”

This question formed the basis of a high-level National Dialogue convened by THRDC under the theme: ***“The Shrinking Financial Space and its Implications on the Rule of Law and Access to Justice: Rethinking the Future of Human Rights Funding in Tanzania.”***

Bringing together more than 250 representatives from Government, civil society organisations, development

partners, diplomatic missions, academia, legal institutions and the private sector, the dialogue provided a timely platform for examining one of the most pressing challenges facing Tanzania's civic space. More importantly, it reframed the conversation from one about organisational survival to one about protecting justice, democratic governance and the rights of ordinary citizens.



THRDC members and Human Rights Defenders attentively follow the panel discussion on the impact of shrinking financial resources on gender equality, women's rights and juvenile justice

Beyond a Funding Crisis

Through out the discussions, participants agreed that shrinking financial space should not be viewed simply as a reduction in donor support. Instead, they described it as a structural challenge with far-reaching implications for governance, investment , bussiness Environment, the rule of law and democratic participation. Civil society organisations play a critical role in providing legal aid, monitoring human rights, conducting civic education,

advocating for policy reform and supporting vulnerable communities. When these organisations face financial uncertainty, the effects extend well beyond institutional budgets they are felt in courtrooms where vulnerable people lose legal representation, in communities where civic education programmes are reduced, and in diminished oversight that weakens accountability and public trust.



Mr. Zacharia Faustine pledging during Watetezi House Fundraising Campaign

Participants recognised that demand for these services continues to grow, particularly among women, children, Human Rights Defenders and marginalised communities. Yet many organisations are being forced to scale

back operations because available resources are increasingly insufficient to meet expanding needs. The dialogue therefore challenged stakeholders to rethink how the human rights sector is financed and sustained.

Financing Justice Is Investing in Peace and Sustainable Development

The first panel discussion explored the relationship between financing, democratic governance and access to justice. **Theme: Shrinking**

Financial Space and its Implications on the Rule of Law and Access to Justice. Moderated by **Mr. Clemence Mwombeki**, the panel brought

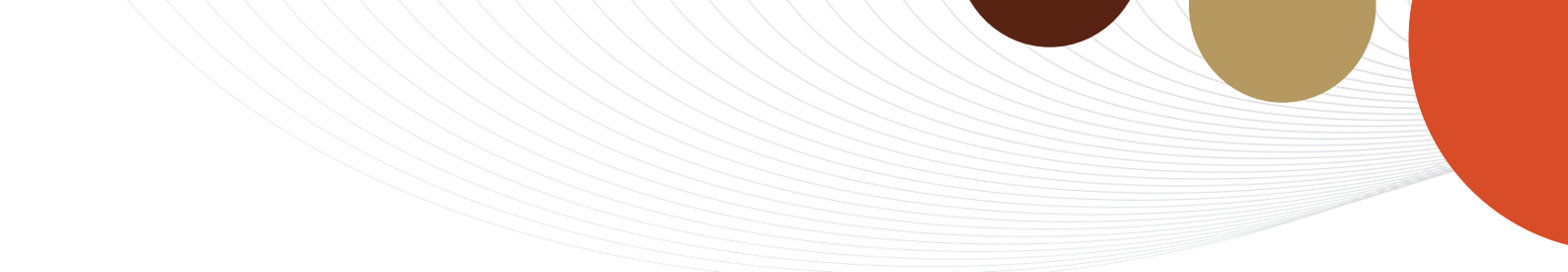


together experienced leaders from across Tanzania's civil society sector, including representatives from THRDC, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Zanzibar Youth Organization (ZAFAYCO) and WAJIBU Institute. Rather than focusing solely on The Implications of Financial Challenges

on rule of law, democracy and access to justice, panelists examined how sustainable financing strengthens democratic institutions by enabling organisations to remain present within communities, hold public institutions accountable and empower citizens to claim their rights.



Panel discussion: Pictured from left to right are Mr. Abdalla Abeid, Adv. Deogratius Bwire, Mr. Clemence Mwombeki, Adv. Halima Sonda and Ms. Christina Kapama



A strong consensus emerged that civil society financing should no longer rely predominantly on a single source of support. Instead, participants advocated for a diversified financing ecosystem that combines continued partnership with development partners, stronger domestic philanthropy, responsible

private-sector engagement, institutional innovation and improved organisational governance. Such an approach, they argued, would strengthen the resilience and independence of civil society while reducing vulnerability to fluctuations in international development assistance.

“Investing in civil society is not simply supporting organisations; it is investing in justice, accountability and democratic resilience.”

This principle captured the essence of the dialogue: sustainable financing is not an end in itself, but a means of ensuring that citizens continue to enjoy access to justice, information and meaningful participation in public life.

When Funding Declines, the Most Vulnerable Pay the Highest Price

The second panel shifted attention from institutions to people. Moderated by Dr. Rose Reuben Director of Tanzania Media Women Association, discussions examined the human consequences of shrinking financial space, particularly for women, children and marginalised communities. Representatives from the Legal Services Facility (LSF), Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), Tanzania Child Rights Forum and Zanzibar Child Rights Forum highlighted how reductions in funding directly affect legal aid services, protection programmes and advocacy initiatives that support

those facing the greatest barriers to justice.

Participants warned that without sustainable investment, inequalities are likely to deepen. Survivors of gender-based violence may struggle to obtain legal representation, children requiring specialised protection services may face delayed interventions, and communities living in remote areas may lose access to civic education and legal awareness programmes. These realities demonstrate that shrinking financial space is not an abstract policy issue it has tangible consequences for people's daily lives.



From Dialogue to Solutions

The National Dialogue concluded with a shared commitment to move beyond traditional funding approaches and embrace more innovative and resilient financing models. Participants called upon Government to continue fostering an enabling legal and policy environment that supports independent civic action while encouraging greater collaboration between public institutions and civil society. Development partners were encouraged to complement project funding with longer-term institutional support that enables organisations to adapt during periods of transition. Civil society organisations themselves recognised the need to strengthen internal governance, diversify income sources, invest in innovation and build stronger partnerships with philanthropy, the private sector and local communities.

For THRDC, the dialogue marked an important turning point. It reinforced the Coalition's conviction that the sustainability of the human rights movement cannot depend solely on external funding. Instead, it requires stronger institutions, broader partnerships and locally driven solutions that place ownership of the human rights agenda firmly in the hands of Tanzanians.

As participants departed the dialogue, there was a clear sense that the conversation should not end in the conference hall. The ideas generated during the discussions would soon be translated into practical action during the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting, where THRDC would unveil two landmark initiatives designed to strengthen the long-term sustainability of Tanzania's human rights movement.

Voices of Partisanship, Government, Development Partners, CSOs, and Private sector



In her welcoming remarks, THRDC Board Chair Pili Mtambalike underscored that sustainable national development depends on national unity, social cohesion, justice and genuine reconciliation. She called for an inclusive national reconciliation

process that meaningfully addresses citizens' grievances, rebuilds trust and leaves no group behind. She further emphasised that Government institutions, civil society and citizens all share responsibility for healing the nation and safeguarding Tanzania's

peace and unity. Drawing on Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's message, she reinforced the inseparable relationship between peace, justice, freedom and equality as fundamental pillars of a united and democratic Tanzania



Speaking on behalf of Human Rights Defenders and CSO Executive Directors, **THRDC National Coordinator Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa** presented five key recommendations to **H.E. Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi, Vice**

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, during THRDC's 15th Annual General Meeting:

- a) Protection of Human Rights Defenders – THRDC** called for a safe and enabling environment for HRDs and urged the Government to expedite a **National Policy on the Recognition and Protection of Human Rights Defenders**.
- b) Public Security and Accountability** – Concerns were raised over abductions and enforced disappearances, with calls for prompt and transparent investigations, accountability, and stronger international commitments against torture and enforced disappearance.
- c) National Reconciliation and a New Constitution** – THRDC called for an inclusive reconciliation process following the 2025 General Election, linked to constitutional and electoral reforms and stronger rule-of-law institutions.
- d) Sustainable Human Rights Financing** – The Coalition advocated for domestic resource mobilisation, private-sector engagement, innovation and stronger CSR initiatives, highlighting the Tanzania Human Rights Grants Facility as an important step towards sustainability.

- e) **Partnership for National Development** – THRDC reaffirmed the importance of stronger collaboration between Government, civil society and the private sector in advancing human rights, democratic governance and sustainable national development.

Together, the five recommendations positioned the AGM as an important platform for constructive policy engagement between Government and Tanzania's human rights move



European Union Representative

The European Union (EU) Representative underscored the importance of a strong and resilient civil society in advancing human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and access to justice. She noted that continued partnership and sustainable support for local organizations are essential to enabling Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to effectively serve communities and contribute to Tanzania's democratic and development agenda. The EU-supported SCATZ initiative, she said, reflects the Union's commitment to strengthening civic space and enhancing access to justice.



The Representative further emphasized the importance of working in partnership to address growing global pressures on human rights and democratic values. She challenged participants to reflect on the fundamental role of human rights and the rule of law, asking: “Where would our societies and institutions be without human rights and the rule of law?” Her remarks highlighted the need for collective action in safeguarding these principles for present and future generations.

She also commended the dedication and tireless efforts of HRDs, recognizing their critical role in promoting justice, accountability, and the protection of fundamental freedoms. The occasion also provided an opportunity for

her to bid farewell to partners and stakeholders as she concluded her diplomatic assignment in Tanzania, marking her final week in the country as the EU Ambassador. She expressed gratitude for the cooperation and partnerships built over the years and reaffirmed the EU’s continued commitment to supporting human rights, democracy, and inclusive development in Tanzania.

“I have had the privilege of working with many of you, and as this marks my last formal engagement before my departure, I wish to sincerely thank you all,” she concluded.

Deputy Minister– Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs

In her remarks, **Hon. Zainab Katimba** recognised THRDC as an important stakeholder in Tanzania’s human rights and justice sector, highlighting the value of its continued engagement with Government, civil society, HRDs and other national actors. She commended the Coalition for creating platforms that bring diverse stakeholders together to discuss human rights, justice and national development.



Her message underscored the importance of **constructive Government/HRDs cooperation**, particularly in strengthening the rule of law, promoting access to justice and ensuring that citizens understand and enjoy their rights. This is consistent with her Ministry's wider emphasis on strengthening the rule of law and improving access to justice.

"THRDC has an important role in connecting Human Rights Defenders, civil society and Government, and

in contributing to stronger human rights protection, access to justice and national development."

She particularly congratulated the Coalition for working closely with the Government in the **development of Tanzania's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report**, demonstrating the value of meaningful Government civil society partnership in fulfilling the country's national and international human rights commitments.

Private Sector Representative

The Private Sector perspective presented by **Mr Gasper Mdee Head Of Programs at Tanzania Private Sector Foundation** reinforced the need to move beyond viewing human rights financing as the sole responsibility of development partners. Businesses can play a strategic role in strengthening civil society through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), strategic investments, innovation, and partnerships with credible Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). He particularly encouraged companies to allocate a meaningful share of their CSR resources to initiatives that promote human rights, access to justice, and community development. The representative also congratulated THRDC for becoming an important bridge between the private sector and CSOs, fostering collaboration

for sustainable development and social progress.

He emphasized that good governance, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law are essential for creating



a conducive business environment, noting that businesses are more likely to flourish where institutions are strong, accountability is upheld, and citizens' rights are protected. He further expressed the private sector's commitment to working closely with THRDC to safeguard the rights and

legitimate interests of the business community and investors, recognizing that respect for human rights, legal certainty, and a predictable regulatory environment are key drivers of economic growth, investment, and sustainable development.

Constitutional Reform: A Call to Continue the Struggle for a People's Constitution

In his keynote address at THRDC's 15th Annual General Meeting, **H.E. Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania**, commended THRDC's contribution to human rights, legal aid, civic education, and the promotion of the rule of law. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to protecting Human Rights Defenders, ensuring an enabling environment for civil society, and strengthening collaboration with non-state actors in pursuit of sustainable national development. Emphasizing that justice, constitutionalism, peace, and citizen participation are mutually reinforcing pillars of inclusive development, he called for continued Government-CSO dialogue, stronger support for civil society sustainability and Watetezi House, enhanced partnerships with development partners and the private sector, and renewed commitment to criminal

justice reform, national reconciliation, and a New Constitution founded on broad national consensus.



A call to demand for the New Constitution

A central message of the Vice President's address was a call for Tanzanians to continue the struggle for a new Constitution founded on the aspirations, consensus and interests of all citizens. He encouraged citizens, civil society organisations and other stakeholders not to abandon this important national agenda, but to

continue pursuing constitutional reform through peaceful, inclusive and participatory processes. He emphasised that the quest for a new Constitution is not merely a political exercise, but a national endeavour aimed at strengthening democracy, accountability, justice and citizen participation.



A group photo of THRDC partners with the guest of honor

The Vice President further stressed that a legitimate Constitution must reflect the voices of the people and provide a strong foundation for protecting rights, promoting good governance and ensuring equal opportunities for all Tanzanians. According to him, constitutional reform remains essential for building a future founded on the rule of law, public trust and

meaningful citizen participation. His message resonated strongly with participants, reinforcing the belief that constitutional reform remains a shared national responsibility and an important pathway towards strengthening democratic governance, protecting human rights, promoting accountability and building a just, peaceful and inclusive Tanzania.

Vice President Nchimbi Reaffirms Government Commitment to the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

In his keynote address, H.E. Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi commended THRDC for its significant contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, access to justice, civic education, the rule of law, and national development. He reaffirmed

the Government's commitment to continued engagement with the Coalition and acknowledged its collaboration with public institutions, particularly initiatives that have expanded legal aid services to more than 4.1 million Tanzanians.



Responding to concerns raised by THRDC regarding the safety, recognition, and protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), Dr. Nchimbi acknowledged the seriousness of defenders expressing fear while carrying out their legitimate work. He

noted that when those entrusted with protecting the rights of others become concerned about their own security, it signals a matter that requires urgent attention. He emphasized that safeguarding the lives, security, and property of HRDs, as well as all citizens,



is not merely an act of goodwill but a constitutional responsibility of the Government.

The Vice President called upon security and law enforcement institutions to ensure the protection of Human Rights Defenders and all Tanzanians, stressing that every citizen has the constitutional right to live in peace, security, and dignity, free from fear. He further underscored that differences of opinion between Government and HRDs are both natural and expected in a democratic society. Such differences, he argued, should be addressed through constructive dialogue, mutual respect, and meaningful engagement rather than confrontation.

Dr. Nchimbi also recognized Human Rights Defenders and civil society organizations as vital partners in Tanzania's development. He highlighted their contribution to citizen empowerment, public accountability, resource mobilization, access to justice, and community development. Reaffirming the Government's commitment to collaboration, he assured participants that efforts would continue to strengthen an enabling environment in which civil society and HRDs can effectively perform their legitimate roles.

“When Human Rights Defenders, whose role is to defend the rights of others, begin by raising concerns about their own safety, then there is an issue that requires our attention.”

— **H.E. Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania**

The Vice President also acknowledged the critical role of civil society organisations in empowering communities, supporting vulnerable populations, promoting accountability and strengthening public participation. He recognised civil society as an indispensable partner in achieving inclusive and people-centred development, reaffirming the legitimacy of HRDs and civil society actors as contributors to national progress through dialogue, advocacy and democratic engagement.

Do not speak of peace without speaking of justice; justice is the foundation of peace



The address also underscored the inseparable relationship between justice and peace. The Vice President noted that lasting peace cannot be achieved solely through the absence of conflict, but through institutions that uphold fairness, equality before the law and respect for human dignity. By placing justice at the centre of national development, he reaffirmed the importance of strengthening

institutions capable of protecting rights, resolving disputes fairly and guaranteeing equal protection under the law for every citizen.

Concluding his remarks, he urged Tanzanians to remain committed to the pursuit of a Constitution that guarantees justice, strengthens democratic institutions and fosters national unity.

From Dialogue to Action

It was therefore fitting that the AGM concluded not merely with resolutions, but with decisive action. Building upon the ideas and commitments expressed throughout the week, THRDC unveiled two landmark initiatives designed to strengthen the institutional foundations of Tanzania's human rights movement: **the Tanzania Human Rights Grants Facility (THRGF)** and the **Watetezi House and Resource Centre Fundraising Campaign**.

These initiatives represented more than the launch of new programmes. They marked the beginning of a long-term strategy to ensure that Human Rights Defenders are supported by strong, independent and sustainable institutions capable of protecting rights, promoting justice and advancing democratic governance for generations to come. Across Africa and beyond, civil society organisations are operating in an increasingly complex environment characterised by changing donor priorities, growing competition for limited resources and rising expectations from the communities they serve. While Human Rights Defenders continue to respond to emerging threats and expanding demands for justice, many organisations are simultaneously navigating significant financial uncertainty. These realities

have reinforced the need to rethink traditional financing models and invest in stronger, more resilient institutions capable of sustaining human rights work over the long term.

Recognising these challenges, THRDC used its Fifteenth Annual General Meeting not only as a platform for reflection but also as an opportunity to introduce practical, forward-looking solutions.

THRDC- HUMAN RIGHTS GRANT PROJECT

— *Overall Goal* —

To enhance the availability, accessibility, and sustainability of financial resources for human rights initiatives in Tanzania through THRDC

— *Strategic Approaches* —

- a) Resource Mobilization from Traditional Development Partners and Donors
- b) Private Sector Partnerships and Philanthropic Resource Mobilization
- c) Business Development and Impact Investment Capacity Building for Grassroots HROs

Officially Launched by:

H.E. Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi
Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania

24 July 2026

**Mlimani City Conference Centre,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

The Tanzania Localized Human Rights Grants Facility Launched

Unlike traditional project-based funding, the Tanzania Human Rights Grants Facility embraces a broader vision of institutional resilience. The Overall Goal is to enhance the availability, accessibility, and sustainability of financial resources for human rights initiatives in Tanzania. Strategic Approaches;

a) Resource Mobilization from Traditional Development Partners and Donors

b) Private Sector Partnerships and Philanthropic Resource Mobilization

c) Business Development and Impact Investment Capacity Building for Grassroots HROs

For THRDC, the launch of the Facility is an investment not only in organisations but also in the values they promote: justice, accountability, democratic governance and respect for human dignity.



A commemorative group photo following the official launch of the Tanzania Human Rights Grants Facility on 24 July 2026. The facility was officially launched by Hon. Prof. Kitila Alexander Mkumbo (second from left), marking a milestone in support of human rights initiatives in Tanzania.

Watetezi House – Vice President Nchimbi Commends the Watetezi House Initiative

On Watetezi House, H.E. Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi congratulated THRDC for taking concrete steps towards establishing a permanent home for Tanzania's Human Rights Defenders. He recalled the support already extended by H.E. President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan through the provision of land and commended THRDC for demonstrating ownership by beginning to mobilise its own resources towards the initiative.

The Vice President assured THRDC that the Government would explore further opportunities to collaborate in advancing Watetezi House. He indicated that, in reporting back to the President, he would highlight both THRDC's appreciation for the land provided and the progress already made through its own fundraising efforts. His remarks reinforced an important message: Government support should be matched by institutional commitment and local ownership. By mobilising resources among its members, partners and

supporters, THRDC demonstrated that Watetezi House is not simply a request for external assistance, but a collective investment in the long-term sustainability of Tanzania's human rights movement.

Key Message:

"I congratulate you for your decision to build your headquarters. You have already begun mobilising your own resources, and we will explore ways of working together with you."

H.E. Dr. Emmanuel John Nchimbi



On his part, **Hon. Prof. Kitila Mkumbo commended THRDC for taking practical steps towards self-reliance**, noting that this aligns with Tanzania's development vision and its aspirations for **prosperity, justice, inclusivity and self-reliance**. Against a changing global financing landscape, where

traditional development assistance is declining and international partnerships are increasingly shifting towards trade and investment, he encouraged civil society organisations to diversify their resources and strengthen **locally driven financing mechanisms**.



He praised THRDC for mobilising contributions from its members and partners and demonstrated his support by personally contributing to the fundraising initiative. He further called on the private sector to invest more deliberately in civil society and the human rights sector, stressing that good governance, peace and stability are essential foundations for both national development and a thriving business environment. His central message was clear: supporting civil society is not only an investment in



human rights it is an investment in the stable, peaceful and well-governed environment upon which sustainable businesses and national development depend.

THRDC extends its heartfelt gratitude to all individuals and organisations who have supported the Watetezi House and Resource Centre Fundraising Campaign. We sincerely thank THRDC members, development partners, the business community, individual Human Rights Defenders, and government representatives whose generous financial and in-kind contributions have transformed this vision into a shared national initiative.

The remarkable commitment demonstrated through the support of 59 organisations and individuals, and the mobilisation of TZS 327 million, reflects a strong collective belief in the

importance of building sustainable institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights in Tanzania. We are especially grateful to THRDC members, whose contributions accounted for 60% of the funds raised, underscoring their ownership, dedication, and confidence in the future of the human rights movement.

Your support is not only an investment in a building, but also an investment in justice, collaboration, innovation, and the long-term resilience of Human Rights Defenders across Tanzania. Together, we are laying a strong foundation for a more inclusive, democratic, and rights-respecting society. Thank you for standing with us and for making Watetezi House a reality at this first round of resource mobilization. The doors are still open for more contributions and support.

The Road Ahead

As THRDC looks to the future, it remains committed to strengthening grassroots leadership, protecting HRDs, promoting democratic governance, and building sustainable institutions. The July 2026 engagements reaffirmed that lasting progress depends on strong

partnerships, innovation, and shared responsibility. THRDC believes that investing in justice, human rights defenders, and resilient institutions is key to securing a peaceful, democratic, and inclusive Tanzania for future generations.



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