



REPORT

2022

DRL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

VENUE: NASHERA HOTEL, DODOMA - TANZANIA

DATE: 23RD - 26TH APRIL 2022

ORGANIZERS - ZAINA FOUNDATION AND PIN



Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
1.1 About DRL Advocacy Workshop	3
2.0 Workshop Proceedings	4
Session 1 - Remarks from Zaina Foundation	4
Sub session: Welcoming remarks from PIN Representative	5
Sub session: Opening remarks from Zaina Foundation	5
Session 2: Overview of Digital Rights in Africa	5

1.0 Introduction

On 23rd - 26th April 2022 Zaina Foundation in collaboration with Paradigm Initiative conducted a DRL Advocacy Workshop to the lawmakers in Nashera hotel, Dodoma - Tanzania. The workshop aimed to create more digital rights awareness to the lawmakers and other stakeholders. Further, the workshop highlighted the legal gap available in our legal frameworks which are regulating digital rights particularly on EPOCA Regulations of 2020 and the absence of data protection law and its importance. Therefore, a total of 67 participants were reached, 35 being females and 27 males.

1.1 About DRL Advocacy Workshop

In 2020/2021 Paradigm Initiative (PIN) after assessing the state of digital rights in Africa discovered that there is a challenge of little or no understanding of digital rights among policy and law makers in African countries. Therefore, in order to provide solutions to these challenges, PIN secured a fund through the US state department on Democracy, Human Rights & Labour (DRL) to increase awareness through workshops to the said group. This project aims at ensuring expansion of digital rights to legislator's, policy makers and other stakeholders in the African continent. This will help the improvement of both legal and institutional frameworks in the continent. This project targeted various countries in Africa including Tanzania.

The objective of the DRL Advocacy Workshop

- Expanding the reach and deepening content of digital rights training workshops with legislators and policy makers across the continent
- Expanding the reach and deepening the content of our digital rights workshops across Africa

With the above explanation, this is why Paradigm Initiative (PIN) contracted Zaina Foundation as a country host to implement this project in Tanzania. On April 23rd - 26th, 2022 DRL Advocacy Workshop was conducted in Nashera Hotel, Dodoma Tanzania for lawmakers (MP's), government officials, academia and CSO's.

2.0 Workshop Proceedings

The workshop was a four days' workshop for lawmakers in Tanzania. It was conducted through various sessions including an overview of digital rights in Africa, the legal framework of digital rights at International, regional and national level, analysis of the Electronic and Postal Communication Act (Online Content) Regulations 2020, recommendations, Internet Freedom bill, Data protection bill, Online Gender Violence (OGBV), Digital Security master class as well as the recommendations.

Session 1 - Remarks from Zaina Foundation

This session was conducted by a representative from Zaina Foundation who appreciated the participants for responding positively and attended the workshop. Further, she gave a brief description about the Zaina Foundation organization.

She said “Zaina Foundation is a non-government organization which was registered in 2019 with the aim of promoting digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania. The organization is empowering women in technology. When we deal with digital rights we mean Freedom of expression, rights to privacy and freedom of association and assembly. Therefore, Zaina Foundation is doing this through capacity building, policy reform and advocacy. However, the organization has done various activities including capacity building on digital security and digital literacy to various stakeholders including marginalized women, journalists, lawyers etc localization of digital content”. Additionally, she mentioned various hashtags - #KeepItOnTz #DigitalRightstz #NetRight.



Figure 1: Ms. Zaituni Njovu presenting to the participants during DRL Workshop in Dodoma.

Questions form participants

Ekai - You have said that Zaina Foundation is empowering women in technology, why women?:
Answer- Yes Zaina Foundation is empowering women in technology. Currently, we have 30 Million users in Tanzania but out of this population only 18% are women. This may be due to various reasons including little understanding, economic instability of women etc this is why Zaina Foundation is registered in order to empower women in technology. This is done through digital literacy awareness.

Maiko Salali from Foundation for Disabilities Hope- PWD are left behind in many things including in the digital sector. What are the strategies that Zaina Foundation is doing to include/ involve PWD groups particularly women in its interventions?

Answer - Zaina Foundation is promoting digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania. Our priority is no one should be left behind in digital technology. Therefore, we normally involve PWD's in our interventions. However, we are now trying to secure funds for a project which involves PWD only. Further, we are working with SHIVYAWATA and other PWD groups in Dar and other parts of Tanzania.

After this session all participants were invited to introduce themselves.

Sub session: Welcoming remarks from PIN Representative

A representative from Paradigm Initiative (PIN) gave a brief introduction of what PIN is and its objectives. In his speech he said that PIN is a digital rights organization founded in Nigeria in 2007. The organization is dealing much in digital rights and digital inclusion. He added that there are massive opportunities available in technology (online). How do we empower and include people in all parts of Africa through technology? Are we digitally inclusive? So this is why PIN was founded. PIN has offices in almost all African countries. For East Africa PIN has an office in Nairobi. In Tanzania, we are working with our partner Zaina Foundation in various digital projects including DRL, Coalition for digital rights and inclusion which advocates for the policy reform especially amendment of EPOCA. As for the DRL Advocacy workshop, PIN is expanding the reach and deepening content of digital rights training workshops with legislators and policy makers across the continent. We believe that African problems will be solved by Africans likewise Tanzanians problems will be solved by Tanzanians. So PIN will provide support like gathering you people here, provide expertise etc. Therefore, in finalizing his remarks he welcomed all participants and urged them to learn as much as possible because every opportunity is a learning opportunity. So learn and be active. Ahsanteni sana and God bless you.

Sub session: Opening remarks from Zaina Foundation - Madam Herieth Mkaanga

In this session, Zaina Foundation board chairperson gave her remarks. In her remarks she thanked all the participants for agreeing to attend and participate in the DRL Advocacy workshop. However, she said that currently we have three basic needs which are food, shelter, and clothes. But due to technological advancement she thought we should add the internet to our basic human needs. Further, she officially invited all participants to enter in the boat of advocating and promoting digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania. She added that Zaina Foundation is expecting all participants to be ambassadors when they see any violation of these rights. We expect you to stand tall and speak up for rights. She advised young people as she saw many youth faces in the room to use the technology/ digital rights wisely for their benefits. She concluded by inviting all the participants to the boat of promoting and respecting digital rights for sustainable development. Karibuni sana.

Session 2: Overview of Digital Rights in Africa.

This session aimed to provide participants with an overview of digital rights in Africa. The participants were also informed on digital rights violations and the enabling legal framework of digital rights at international level and regional level.

So the facilitator elaborated to the participants on what are the digital rights and contextualization in Africa to include accessibility, affordability and internet penetration. In his presentation the facilitator spoke about digital rights violations in Africa and enabling legal frameworks at international and regional level.

Initially the facilitator threw a question to participants: What are the digital rights?

- Are they human rights online? - No, because we are not online all the time. Sometimes use the
- Are they Internet freedom?
- Are they human rights in the digital age?
- How best we can conceive digital rights? Is it the rights of citizens? and the rights of governance officials? Rights freedom of press?

Therefore, in concluding this part the facilitator said digital rights are part of human rights and human rights belong to everyone.