



Welcome to
**Zaina Foundation's
NEWSLETTER**
- April - June, 2024 -

Here's a preview of what you'll find in this newsletter:

i.

Internet Freedom Initiative:

Discover our internet fellowship program that aims at advocating for internet freedom as we are gearing up towards local and presidential elections in 2024 and 2025 respectively.

ii.

Policy Advocacy Updates:

We delve into policy reforms that impact digital rights and inclusion in Tanzania. We are advocating for the freedom of media by pushing for the amendment of the Media Service Act (2016).

iii.

Community Outreach Events:

Advocating to end online gender-based violence (OGBV) in Tanzania, we utilize Digital Rights Clubs in primary schools, secondary schools, and universities to educate students on how to combat OGBV.

iv.

Awards:

Be informed about the recognition of Zaina Foundation's excellence and dedication to promote digital rights in Tanzania.

v.

Partner Collaborations:

Learn about our collaborations with like-minded organizations to amplify our impact in promoting digital rights.

vi.

Fund raising:

Join us in making a difference. Through making a donation, we can build a more inclusive and equitable digital future for all. Send email to info@zainafoundationtz.org



1. ACTIVITIES

i. Internet Freedom Training for Women in Tanzania

Zaina Foundation organized a comprehensive internet shutdown training from April 4th to 5th, 2024 for 20 internet shutdown fellows, comprising 20 women.

These women were selected from various regions of Tanzania and represented diverse professions associated with freedom of expression work, including women journalists from different media outlets and women working in human rights based civil society organizations. The training equipped the participants with essential tools and knowledge related to internet shutdowns and digital rights.

Through a series of interactive sessions, workshops, and presentations, the fellows gained practical insights into internet shutdown scenarios, monitoring, documentation, reporting, and awareness-raising techniques. Moreover, they were introduced to the legal framework regulating freedom of speech in Tanzania, the Data Protection Act No. 11 of 2022 and the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations 2020 enhancing their understanding of digital rights advocacy.

Following internet shutdown training, fellows initiated a social media advocacy campaign to promote internet freedom and highlight its importance as Tanzania gears up for its national elections. Since May 2024, they have used social media, blogs, and websites to share information and educate various groups, including girls, women, boys, men, human rights defenders, government officials, policymakers, and the general public, on internet shutdowns and digital rights. The campaign strategically uses hashtags like **#DigitalRightstz**, **#Keepiton**, and **#BeOnline** to enhance reach and engagement.

As of May 2024, the social media advocacy campaign has effectively raised public awareness about the dangers of internet shutdowns and the importance of maintaining internet freedom. It has achieved a widespread reach, engaging 44,045 people across X, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn platforms, showing active approval of our campaign. Additionally, 4,966 people have seen or been exposed to the campaign's content. The campaign also reached 843 individuals through blogs and websites posts.





ii. Media Policy Advocacy Meeting

Focusing on policy reforms related to freedom of expression, press freedom, and digital rights, Zaina Foundation organized a media policy advocacy meeting on May 2nd, 2024 in Dar es Salaam region to commemorate the 31st World Press Freedom Day. The meeting drew participation from 19 individuals, including journalists, legal experts, and policy analysts, with a notable representation of 15 females and 4 males.

The meeting empowered participants with insights into recent amendments to the Media Services Act (Act No. 5 of 2016), passed by the Tanzanian parliament in June 2023. Participants collaborated to analyze and identify critical sections for reform, drawing from recommendations by the East African Court of Justice. Participants engaged in group discussions to highlight key issues and impacts on freedom of expression and press freedom in Tanzania. The meeting concluded with presentations from participant groups, outlining recommendations for key reforms to the Media Services Act. These recommendations have been shared with the Government to advocate for a friendly working environment for journalists in Tanzania.

Link: <https://timesmajira.co.tz/wadau-sekta-ya-habari-waomba-vifungu-vya-sheria-kurekebishwa/>

iii. Digital Rights Club Meeting

In the efforts to end online gender-based violence (OGBV) in Tanzania, Zaina Foundation organized a digital rights club session at Kondo Secondary School, where 68 students aged 12-18 were equipped with knowledge and skills to recognize and address OGBV. The students were empowered with tools and information about available support systems to protect themselves and respond effectively if they encounter OGBV. This initiative aims to create a safer online environment for young people including girls, fostering awareness and resilience against digital threats.

2. AWARDS:

Zaina Foundation received the Award as the best NGO of the year 2023/2024. This award comes after great performance and good relations with other stakeholders around Tanzania. Zaina Foundation received this award from **Phide Entertainment and Tour Arusha**.



3. DIGITAL SECURITY AWARENESS:

In this quarter we conducted two security training for women in Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar. Women Journalists face surveillance, Abduction and Online Gender Based Violence from colleagues, Authorities and community. Zaina Foundation continues to capacitate women journalists on safety and security ahead of elections in Tanzania.





4. PARTNER COLLABORATIONS

On March 11th, the Zaina Foundation had the opportunity to participate in a meeting with women's representatives regarding the enhancement of the permanent voter register, held at Mlimani City Hall, Dar es Salaam. Organized by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the theme of the meeting was "Registering to Vote is the Foundation of a Good Election." During this meeting, we were informed about the preparations for improving the voters' register, including the relevant laws and guidelines, as well as the upgrades to the voters registration system. Zaina Foundation commends the commission for introducing a digital system (OVRs) designed to facilitate the updating of personal information and the changing of polling stations for voters. This initiative will help reduce the time needed to access services at registration centers and simplify the process of updating information for women's groups.

5. FUND RAISING

Zaina Foundation embarked on the fundraising initiative to ensure its sustainability.

We welcome our friends for supporting our mission and vision. If you're interested send us an email to info@zainafoundationtz.org to arrange a meeting with our team.

6. UPCOMINGS

i. Digital Security Workshops:

Stay tuned for digital Security workshops aimed at at risk women with essential skills to navigate the digital landscape safely and effectively. These workshops will cover topics such as email security, online safety, mobile safety, and so much more. The foundation empowers vulnerable groups in Security skills and tools practice. TArget groups include marginalized women in rural areas, women journalists, activists, women in politics, women with disabilities, youth etc.

ii. Policy Reform/Formation Meetings:

Stay updated as we engage in advocating for policy reforms focusing on the Media Service Act No. 5 of 2016 (as amended in 2023) where we have shared our recommendations to the Government for the amendment of some sections so as to enhance the safety and security of journalists in Tanzania.

iii. Community Outreach Events:

Keep an eye out for our upcoming digital rights club initiative in primary schools, secondary schools, and universities to address OGBV.

iv. Civic and Voters Education:

Zaina Foundation has been accredited by Independence National Electoral Commission in Tanzania to provide voters education and civic education in order to expand democracy to marginalized women in upcoming elections in Tanzania. ZF plans to raise awareness all over Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar in order to have inclusion in upcoming elections in Tanzania.

v. Partnerships and Collaborations:

Stay updated as we collaborate with like-minded organizations, both locally and globally. We believe in the power of combining our expertise and resources to amplify our impact towards promoting digital rights and inclusion.

Our partners:

- » Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) - Dar es Salaam
- » Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) - Zanzibar
- » Tanzania Women Human Rights Defenders (TWHRD)
- » Women in Law & Development in Africa (WiLDAF) - Tanzania
- » Action for Rural Women (ARUWE) - Pwani
- » Tanzania Editors Forum
- » Union Tanzania Press Club
- » Media Convergence
- » Internet Society Tanzania Chapter
- » Dunia Salama Foundation
- » Internet Governance Tanzania Working Group
- » Tanzania Digital Rights Coalition

ZAINA FOUNDATION



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Dar es Salaam - Tanzania

