

# Zaina Foundation's JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

“PROMOTING DIGITAL RIGHTS IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT”



## Highlights

- The state of Digital Rights and Inclusion in Tanzania
- Expansion of Digital Rights Clubs
- Tools for Human Rights Defenders
- Fact Checking, Artificial Intelligence, Misinformation and Disinformation
- Tanzania Elections Updates
- ZF @ FIFAfrica, Senegal and Global Gathering, Portugal
- Partnerships & Collaborations

## News

### 1. The state of Digital Rights and Inclusion in Tanzania

Throughout July, 2024 Zaina Foundation continues to champion on defending, promoting and protecting the Digital Rights and Inclusion in Tanzania. Various stakeholders in Tanzania have engaged in ongoing discussions regarding the regulations and accessibility of online platforms, particularly focusing on Twitter.

This debate has drawn participation from political leaders, government officials, religious leaders, influential figures, and citizens, expressing concerns over X's (previously known as Twitter) decision to permit adult content on its platform. These concerns stem from both moral considerations about potential negative impacts on children's upbringing and societal behavior, as well as worries regarding the implications for freedom of expression.

The discussions have centered on restricting access to X within Tanzania due to apprehensions that it disseminates content perceived as illegal as per national laws where on the other hand, this raises issues about the infringement on freedom of expression. This dilemma underscores the continuous struggle between upholding freedom of expression and managing online content in alignment with national laws.

The prospect of restricting X has also been addressed by 20 Internet Shutdown Fellows (ISF) from 8 regions of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, sparked debate from civil society organizations and activists. Internet Shutdown Fellows voiced their concerns stating that, “banning “X” would restrict access to information, political updates, social and economic insights, and international news, all of which are essential for informed decision-making and public engagement”. Access to information is a constitutional right for citizens in Tanzania. In response, ISF along with other stakeholders coordinates advocacy meetings with the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to advocate for freedom of online expressions in Tanzania. With this engagement, we are looking forward to the TCRA's decisions and actions that will undoubtedly shape the country's digital landscape and impact citizens' online freedom.

## 2. Expansion of Digital Rights Clubs

As advocates for digital rights and inclusion, we recognize the critical importance of raising awareness about digital safety among young people, including primary and secondary school students, as well as university students. Zaina Foundation is committed to expanding its Digital Rights Clubs initiative to more schools across Tanzania, thereby equipping a larger number of young people and adolescents with the knowledge and skills necessary for responsible internet use, leveraging creativity to maximize engagement of young people.

- On July 25, 2024, we conducted a session on the importance of internet and internet safety at Pwani Primary School in Dar es salaam region. We empowered 50 young people aged between 13 and 17 with the knowledge necessary for responsible internet use including understanding privacy, identifying online risks, and practicing ethical behavior online. Moreover, we emphasized the role of parents in keeping children's online experiences positive and safe by emphasizing the children to use the internet under the guidance of the parents or guardians. All these are the efforts to ensure that children enjoy the positive impacts of the internet while staying safe online. Through this initiative Zaina Foundation envisions to cultivate future generations who will promote and advocate for digital rights and inclusivity in the digital spaces.



## 3. Tools for Human Rights Defenders - Ahead to Elections in Tanzania

- Tanzania is heading to election, ZF priority safety and privacy of Human Rights Defenders in this country by collaborating with technologists including tools' team from around the globe to support HRDs to remain connected and enjoy freedom of online expression without violating rights of others during elections. ZF is open for partnership with tool teams to provide support on circumvention technology, network detections and measurement, and relevant guides. Send us email to [info@zainafoundationtz.org](mailto:info@zainafoundationtz.org)

## 4. Fact Checking, Artificial Intelligence, information and Disinformation

- On June 25 to 26, 2024 Zaina Foundation participated in a fact check training which was organized and conducted by Nukta Lab located in Dar es Salaam region. The aim of the training was to equip journalists with knowledge and skills on appropriate use of media, addressing misinformation and disinformation and fact-checking as we prepare for the local and presidential elections in 2024 and 2025 respectively. Zaina Foundation contributed to the knowledge and skills in aspects of multimedia, addressing misinformation and disinformation, verification of media such as images, finding data online as well as Artificial Intelligence (AI). With this knowledge and skills, ZF is in position to enhance journalists and activists in areas of Misinformation, Disinformation, Fact Checking and Artificial Intelligence ahead to the Presidential elections in Tanzania.

## 5. Tanzania Elections Updates

- Tanzania is heading to its democratic election in 2025 under Independent Electoral Commission of Tanzania (INEC) an independent governmental Authority which supervises election processes throughout the country by making sure all eligible citizens are registered in the permanent voters registry by using Biometric Voters Registration (BVR) system. The inaugural of BVR commenced on July 20, 2024 in Kigoma region where the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania Hon. Kassim Majaliwa paid a courtesy as Guest of honor to citizens of Kigoma and other parts of Tanzania.

- Zaina Foundation is among 152 CSOs accredited by INEC to provide Voters Education during Voters Registration in Tanzania. Official hashtag for these educational activities is #Demokrasiatz.

## 6. Zaina Foundation at FIFAfrica, Senegal and Global Gathering, Portugal

- Zaina Foundation will participate and host sessions during Forum of Internet Freedom in Africa in Senegal from 25-27 September, 2024. It is confirmed that ZF in collaboration with Localisation Lab, CIPESA and other Partners will host a pre-session titled Decolonizing Internet & Access for All. This session expects to foster inclusivity of underrepresented languages in the internet including Swahili and Francophone.
- Also, Zaina Foundation will participate in TCU Global Gathering in Estoril, Portugal to collaborate and network with the greater digital rights community and create meaningful connections with tool's team, technologists, policy activists, digital security trainers, activists and other relevant stakeholders.

## 7. Partnerships & Collaborations

- On July 12, 2024, Zaina Foundation participated in a stakeholders meeting organized by Plan International in Dar es Salaam region. The meeting involved Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working to protect the rights of women, children and people with disabilities (PWDs) in Tanzania. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the current challenges that NGOs face in implementing their work and explore opportunities for meaningful partnerships as well as collaborative solutions. This meeting provided a valuable opportunity for NGOs to share their experiences focusing on enhancing the protection and support for these vulnerable communities.

- Zaina Foundation participated in the National Women's Conference on the Collection of Opinions for the National Development Vision 2050 at Tanzania Gender Networking Program (TGNP) grounds in Dar es Salaam region. This conference was held on July 12, 2024, bringing together women stakeholders across different sectors to enhance their understanding and galvanize their engagement in contributing valuable insights towards the National Development Vision 2050. This conference aimed to ensure an inclusive approach to shaping the future of Tanzania by integrating the perspectives and expertise of women across different fields.

XX. We love partnerships and Zaina Foundation is open for collaborations with like-minded organizations from around the world. Interested partners may send us email to [info@zainafoundationtz.org](mailto:info@zainafoundationtz.org)

We appreciate our partners & supporters for supporting our course!



# KIKAO KAZI KATI YA TUME NA ASASI ZA KIRAIA ZILIZOPATA KIBALI CHA KUTOA ELIMU YA MPIGA KURA



**ZAINA**  
**FOUNDATION**

*Feel Free to Contact*

 +255 754 503 551

 [info@zainafoundationtz.org](mailto:info@zainafoundationtz.org)

 Dar es salaam - Tanzania

 +255 754 503 551