



2025

TAWLA 35^{YEARS} SYMPOSIUM NEWSLETTER

Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) proudly commemorated 35 years of impactful work in advancing the rights of women and girls through a vibrant two-day Women Symposium. Held under the theme "**A Symposium Examining Issues and Trends in Women's and Girl's Rights**". The symposium brought together diverse stakeholders to reflect on progress, challenges, and opportunities for strengthening access to justice, gender equality, and human rights in Tanzania.



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WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Supporters,

It is with great pride and joy that we welcome you to this special edition of the **TAWLA 35 Years Women Symposium** Newsletter, a commemorative publication capturing highlights, voices, and key moments from our two-day national symposium themed **"A Symposium Examining Issues and Trends in Women's and Girl's Rights."**

"TAWLA's 35-year journey is a testament to our unwavering commitment to legal empowerment, justice for women, and the protection of the girl child. We look to the future with renewed strength, knowing that the voices in this room will shape a more just Tanzania."

This newsletter brings you reflections from powerful panel discussions, inspiring remarks from our esteemed speakers and partners, and the collective vision that emerged as we celebrated over three decades of advancing women's and girls' rights in Tanzania.

Through this edition, we honour the foundation laid by TAWLA's founders, spotlight the current efforts shaping legal and policy reform, and share the experiences of women from across the country who are leading change in their communities.

We invite you to journey through these pages with us, celebrating the progress made, confronting the challenges that persist, and envisioning the future we are working to create: one where justice and equality are a reality for all.

Adv. Tike Mwambipile

Executive Director - TAWLA



While addressing participants at the TAWLA 35 Years Women Symposium, the Guest of Honor delivered powerful remarks urging continued collective action in the advancement of justice and equality.

He commended TAWLA for its long-standing contribution to legal empowerment and called on the association to strengthen strategies that encourage more women lawyers to join the organization.

He emphasized that expanding membership would further support the provision of legal education and aid to women and children across Tanzania.

The Guest of Honor also acknowledged the significant strides made by the Government of Tanzania in promoting women's leadership, including the increased appointment of women Judges to the High Court and Court of Appeal, as well as the elevation of women to key decision-making roles within government institutions.

In a strong message to the wider public, he encouraged men to take responsibility for managing family affairs, especially around land and inheritance, while they are still alive. This, he noted, would help prevent the legal disputes that often disadvantage women and children in the absence of clear arrangements.

His remarks reinforced the importance of inclusive justice and the critical role that legal professionals, institutions, and families play in securing a more equitable future for all.

Dr. Dotto Mashaka Biteko

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy of the United Republic of Tanzania



SESSION 1: HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

TOPIC 1: ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL THROUGH LEGAL EMPOWERMENT

The symposium opened with an insightful presentation on the **history and evolution of human rights and access to justice in Tanzania**. The session highlighted the transformative role of legal aid in addressing legal issues faced by indigent communities and underscored the need to invest in legal literacy and paralegal support to ensure justice is accessible to all.



Panelists sharing their experiences and expertise on access to justice for all through legal empowerment.



SESSION 2: WOMEN LAND RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

TOPIC 2: FROM CUSTOMS TO CONSTITUTION: WOMEN LAND RIGHTS

Experts examined the intersection of gender, land ownership, and economic empowerment. Key discussions included how cultural norms and investment trends impact women's access to land and the importance of securing legal land ownership to promote economic autonomy for women.

Key Highlights:

- Risks posed by foreign and local investments to women's land security.
- The urgency of harmonizing customary practices with constitutional guarantees.



Panel discussion on women land rights and economic empowerment



SESSION 3: THE ROLE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN REDUCING NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs)

TOPIC 3: HEALTHY DIETS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

This session unpacked the alarming rise in NCDs in Tanzania and explored the legal and policy tools available to promote healthy living. Panelists called for stronger regulatory frameworks, including mandatory food labeling, and greater investment in public awareness to reduce risk factors.



Panel discussion on the role of law and human rights in reducing non-communicable diseases through healthy diet and physical activity



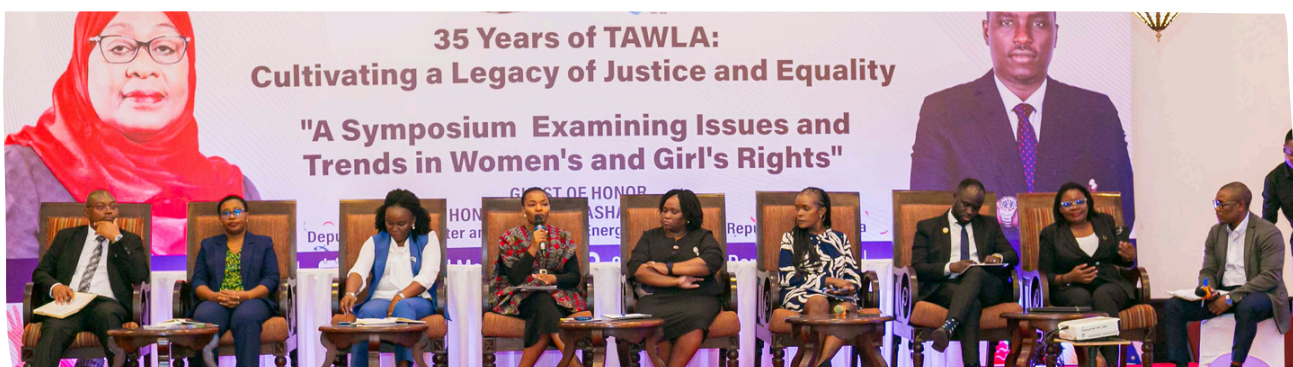
SESSION 4: COMBATING CHILD PREGNANCY THROUGH LEGAL AND POLICY REFORMS

TOPIC 4: THE RIGHTS OF THE GIRL CHILD IN TANZANIA

This powerful session centered on urgent reforms to tackle child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and barriers to school re-entry. Discussions emphasized the importance of amending outdated laws and implementing child-centered policies.

Key highlights:

- Outdated Marriage Act of 1971
- School Re-entry Guidelines
- Legal Protection from Sexual Violence



Panel discussion on the role of legal and policy reforms in combating teen pregnancy.

TAWLA 2025 AWARDS

As part of the celebration, Hon. Dr. Doto Biteko presented special recognition awards to distinguished advocates:

- Adv. Dr. Victoria Lihiru – Outstanding Legal Scholar for Gender Equality
- Adv. Elizabeth Minde – Advocate for Women’s Empowerment
- Adv. Shamshad Rehmatullah – Change Maker with Rural Impact
- Adv. Jessie Mnguto – Pro Bono Champion
- Adv. Penina Manyanki – Community Catalyst for Change



Hon. Dr. Doto Biteko presenting an award of Community Catalyst for Change to Adv. Penina Manyanki who has



Hon. Dr. Doto Biteko presenting an award of Outstanding Legal Scholar for Gender Equality to Adv. Dr. Victoria Lihiru

APPRECIATION AWARDS

During the event, the TAWLA Board of Directors Chairperson, Adv. Suzanne Ndomba-Doran took a moment to express heartfelt appreciation to the Guest of Honor for his unwavering support and commitment to advancing women's rights and access to justice. In recognition of his valuable contribution and continued collaboration with TAWLA, she presented him with a special award of appreciation. The award symbolizes gratitude for his role in championing gender equality and creating an enabling environment for legal empowerment in Tanzania.

The TAWLA Chairperson also presented a special award to our development partner, Equality Now, in recognition of their generous sponsorship and unwavering support for our symposium. The award symbolizes our deep appreciation for their continued partnership and shared commitment to advancing gender equality and justice for women and girls in Tanzania.



Adv. Suzanne Ndomba-Doran
presenting an appreciation award to
Hon. Dr. Dotto Biteko



Adv. Suzanne Ndomba-Doran
presenting an appreciation award to
Jean Paul from Equality Now

TAWLA 2025 STORY BOOK

TAWLA marked a historic moment with the launch of its Story Book, a compelling reflection of 35 years dedicated to advancing women's rights through legal aid, advocacy, and transformative community action.

Unveiled by Hon. Dr. Dotto Biteko, the publication honors the organization's legacy while serving as a guiding light for the future. It stands as both a tribute to the courageous journey of those who came before and an inspiration for the continued fight for justice and gender equality in Tanzania.



Hon. Dr. Dotto Biteko launching the TAWLA Story Book

PICTORIAL



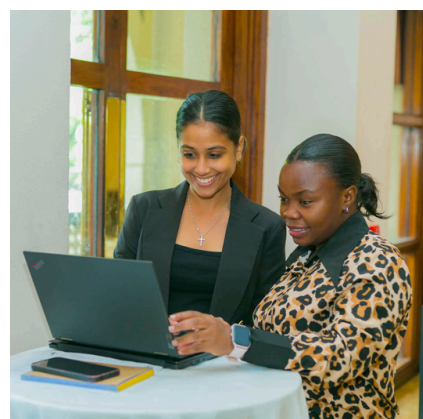
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LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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