



2022 Newsletter

Dear Friends

We hope that 2022 was a positive year for you and your families. As we embark upon a new year and new learning, we would love to share with you a few highlights from our last year.

2022 was a fruitful year of both program delivery and professional growth for Inherit Your Rights. Thanks to the generous support & collaboration of our donors, partner organisations, and local government, **we reached 13,194 individuals!**

Awareness

2,823 men, 5,039 women, 162 leaders, and 4,702 school children attended our trainings.

Access

137 clients received free legal aid services.

Action

261 school children, youth and women completed our Community Advisor Program.



Gender Project: Impact in the Community

One of the highlights of our awareness work this year was the Gender Project that we ran across three districts of the Arusha region, training over 3,000 men, women, youth and leaders on the importance of gender equality, and how it can strengthen families and whole communities.

Male engagement in advocacy for women's rights was the main focus of this project, and we were encouraged by the responses of many to the training and group counselling we provided. We saw more wills being written to protect the inheritance rights of wives and daughters, and we were able bring just resolution to land and matrimonial disputes. Our monitoring team also recorded improved family communications and fairer treatment towards women in the home, and crucially more children becoming better protected against abuse.

We are delighted that this project has had such a positive and transformative impact on communities in need, and we are hoping to expand the project to other regions of Arusha in 2023.



Legal Fellowship Program

2022 excitedly saw the re-launch of our Legal Fellowship Program, a three-year program through which we support new law graduates in their post-graduate qualification process, with the end goal of building up a strong professional body of lawyers committed to human rights in Tanzania.

We are pleased to introduce our new Fellow, Gift Lazaro Laizer, a passionate advocate for social justice, who has already contributed significantly to the team since starting in September. In his 1st year as legal fellow, Gift has joined our Community Legal Training team; next year, we will provide him with full sponsorship to complete the Legal Practice Course at the Law School of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam; and in year 3, Gift will return to our office to join our Legal Aid team, providing free legal advice and representation to marginalised women and girls.

We would love to be able to take on another Legal Fellow in 2023. The cost of the Fellowship is \$5,000 per year – if you would like to support this program, please get in touch: inherityourright@gmail.com.

Girls' Empowerment

Undoubtedly, the highlight of our school program in 2022 was December's celebrations for the 107 girls from Arusha Girls' High School who successfully completed our Community Advisor Program (CAP) with flying colors!

Our CAP has two curricula – one for women's rights (16 topics), and the other for children's rights (9 topics). The latter teaches children their legal rights, and how to protect and defend themselves and others from abuse. At the end of the program, participants sit examinations to test their understanding of the curriculum.

Among these 107 girls, the top score in our exams was 98%, 33 girls scored above 90% and 62 girls above 75%. This brings home to us the great importance of teaching young girls about their legal rights, to have future women equipped and able to protect themselves against injustice.

Victory in Court

We couldn't end this newsletter without sharing one of our victories from the courtroom in 2022! Stella, a young Maasai girl, was given to a man at the age of 15 and lived for 7 years under the presumption of marriage on his family's land, suffering a violent and mentally abusive relationship. Then ejected from the home she had built with this man, she and her son were left destitute.

With the support of Inherit Your Rights' counsellor and legal aid attorney, Stella took her case to the Marriage Reconciliation Board in her district, which had already received IYR training on fair dispute resolution. However, Stella's husband refused to reconcile, and so IYR supported Stella in taking her case to the Arusha Urban Primary Court for further legal recourse.

Despite the lack of a legal marriage, and crucially that customary law denies women the right to own clan land, by proving that Stella had materially contributed to the building of the couple's home, and that the child was a product of their relationship, Stella was awarded 3 acres of land, custody of her son and the father instructed to provide child maintenance. Extraordinary - in fact, our lawyers cannot believe it, and say it's a miraculous result! This is a rare judgment for a woman who was not legally married, and when clan land is involved, and even more amazingly, the case only took 3 months to close.

Stella has now executed the judgment, sold the land she was awarded, and has started a business to support herself and her son.

This year's successes and growth would not have been possible without the continued support, financial and otherwise, from our donors and partners. We are extremely grateful – thank you all.

Our team is committed to **making women's rights known, respected and protected in Tanzania**, leading to the eradication of gender-based injustice currently suffered by so many. We greatly appreciate your support in making this vision a reality, and we hope that you will continue to partner with us in 2023.

Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead.


Katie Windridge & Winnefrida Manyanga

[Donate Now](#)

Follow Us



Inherit Your Rights is a registered Non-Governmental Organisation in Tanzania and in the USA.

Share on social 

Visit our website 