



The Tanganyika Law Society

The Bar Association Of Tanzania Mainland

Human Rights, Good Governance, Access to Justice and Strategic Litigation Committee - Terms of Reference

Type:

Standing Committee – Advisory to the Governing Council

Mandate:

The Committee is responsible to the Governing Council and shall advise the Council in all matters relating to the Human Rights, Good Governance, Access to Justice and Strategic Litigation

Responsibilities Relating to Human Rights, Good Governance and Strategic Litigation:

- i. To advice on the programs that promote respect for, the protection of, development and attainment of human rights and a culture of human rights;
- ii. To conduct awareness raising programs to the public on human rights issues;
- iii. To recommend to Council when the Society should intervene, protest and condemn acts of human rights abuse in Tanzania or internationally;
- iv. To recommend to Council litigation on public interest cases involving violations of human rights and other related matters;
- v. On behalf of the Society to liaise with the International Bar Association and other human rights organizations to foster respect for, and awareness of human rights;
- vi. To advice the operation of an information/ resource center and disseminate public education relating to human rights and good governance issues;
- vii. To advise Council on an appropriate role for the Society on matters pertaining to Human rights protection in the establishment of or monitoring the performance of national and international human rights institutions;
- viii. On behalf of the Society to liaise with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance and other Human Right defender's organization and strategize on matters relating to protection of human rights;
- ix. To make follow ups and document all issues of violations of human rights and good governance;

- x. To monitor on rule of law, human rights, good governance, access to justice and advice the Governing Council accordingly; and
- xi. To handle the Society litigation/cases.

Responsibilities Relating to Access to Justice:

- i. To set standards for approval of applications for legal aid assistance;
- ii. To maintain networks with other legal assistance bodies;
- iii. To keep under review the criteria for legal assistance and make the necessary recommendations on policy to Council;
- iv. To advise and direct on matters pertaining to legal aid provision for the expansion of the legal aid provision countrywide;
- v. To advise on Policy issues and direct the development of policies relating to legal aid plights; and
- vi. To propose new programs that will ensure access to justice.

Composition of the committee

- There shall be seven (7) members of the Committee as appointed by the Governing Council
- The Committee shall be assisted by Secretary from the TLS Secretariat
- The Committee may co-opt the support of a member of the Society with particular expertise to assist them and that person shall be a member of the Committee *pro-tem*
- Tenure of the Committee members shall be the same as the tenure of the Governing Council provided that the Governing Council shall have the mandate to change the member(s) of the Committee as deem fit.

Committee Chair/Vice Chair

- The Committee Chair shall be appointed by the Council
- The Vice Chair shall be elected at the first meeting of the Committee.

Procedures and Work Product

- Quorum for the committee shall consist of at three (3) members.
- The Committee shall operate in accordance with TLS Policies and Council's Directives as prescribed from time to time.

- The Committee shall have a right to review these Terms of Reference and may recommend changes to Council from time to time.
- Meetings can be held in person, teleconference, or virtually, depending on the availability and location of the members.
- The Committee shall treat all discussions, documents, and proceedings with strict confidentiality.
- The Committee shall maintain signed minutes of its meetings.
- Committee members shall make serious commitment to participate actively in committee work.
- Committee shall stay informed by the Secretary about committee matters and shall prepare themselves well in advance for meetings.
- Committee members shall build a collegial working relationship that contributes to consensus.
- The secretary of the committee shall maintain minutes of all the committee meetings.

Reporting

- The Committee is advisory to the Council and reports all its matters to the Council.
- The Chair of the Committee may communicate urgent matters of concern directly to the President or the Executive Director.
- The Committee may make recommendations for policy changes to the Council and undertake specific tasks assigned by Council to the Committee.
- To prepare and approve the Committee's Quarterly and Annual reports before being submitted to the Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting respectively.

Staff support/ Secretary: Public Protection Officer.

