

## Foreword

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the world's premiere human rights instrument. Its opening paragraph stands as a powerful affirmation of the principles that lie at the heart of the modern human rights system: I wish to re-state it thus; '*Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.*' However, after all, is said and done the grim reality is, that some portion of the population is a victim of torture, human trafficking, starvation, injustice, discrimination or other human rights abuses.

Given this grand UDHR statement, I am delighted to welcome this inaugural and special issue of the human rights journal: *Haki Journal of Human Rights*. This Journal is majorly dedicated to exploring the ever-alive subject matter of human rights: to respect, protection and fulfil. I hasten to add from the onset that, this journal will find its rightful space in filling the informational void; where a cross-section of human rights defenders, human rights educators and enthusiasts in academia will share a common platform to expound the human rights discourse.

It is gratifying to note that the human rights content and materials in this journal, will be of paramount importance to the development of human rights work in our country, region and beyond. Above all, it will illuminate and inspire pedagogical ideas in human rights education and training in our learning institutions and within the civic space.

Equally, I am confident that critical and strategic professionals such as; law enforcement personnel, judicial officials, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders and workers amongst others, will find the content of this journal useful in raising awareness in their organizations, government agencies and within the sphere under which they work. This is all in the spirit and letter of entrenching the human rights principles and standards in our society.

As the flagship national human rights institution, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) will offer its unequivocal support to the *Haki Journal of Human Rights*. The Commission will endeavor to work towards a society that enjoys human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, all the time. In furtherance of its core mandate, KNCHR will proactively share

its insights in this human rights Journal; being cognizant of its cardinal role and accountability in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms through policy, law and practice. The iconic champion of human rights, Nelson Mandela (1910- 2013) once echoed;

I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

It is my belief that the *Haki Journal of Human Rights* will find its rightful place and space in enhancing the ideals and tenets of human rights compliance.

Finally, and in a very special way; I wish to thank the technical and editorial team behind the production of this inaugural issue. Their input and hard work is evident in this publication which, is immensely readable and contains easy-to-understand human rights information arranged in a thorough and understandable format. Well done to you all. We look forward to more.

Dr. Bernard Mogesa, PhD, CPM  
Secretary to the Commission/ Chief Executive Officer