

# NEWSREEL WORLD

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Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

**Alanna Leslie:**

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today we're talking about Dominica, the USA and India.

But first...

Online abuse is a serious problem across the world but it's a particular problem in Tanzania.

But now, a new generation of young activists has emerged to champion digital rights and combat online abuse.

Here's Charles Kombe in Dar es Salaam with more on this story

**Charles Kombe:** Digital abuse is a significant concern in Tanzania. Teenagers are especially affected.

According to a UNICEF report spanning six African countries, including Tanzania, around 9% of children aged 16 – 17 have experienced online abuse.

Agness Masait is a second-year student at the University of Dar es Salaam.

**Agness Masait:** I remember that I was sent a pornography video and a penis pictures by a foreign man, oh my God, I was very confused and I didn't like it for sure. It affected me mentally, in short.

**Charles Kombe:** And Julieth Peter, a college student at Dar es Salaam Institute of Journalism, says she has seen many youth facing online abuse.

**Julieth Peter:** Once I was on TikTok and I saw this girl between 16 – 17 just living her life, posting her stuff on TikTok like day to day; and just started getting this mass hatred of people just hating her. So, it just affected her mentally to the point that she had to delete her TikTok account.



**Charles Kombe:** Despite the challenges, some youths are actively combatting online abuse through digital rights advocacy.

“Dig It With Imani,” founded by digital rights activist Imani Henrick, educates people to ensure a safer online space for all. But despite all her work Imani says it’s still a big problem.

**Imani Henrick:** Online abuse is still coming up with the development of a lot of social media platforms and digital platforms but also messenger apps.

And, according to many reports, women are highly affected by this. When it comes to numbers, women more experience online abuse in Tanzania compared to men. So I can say we still have to do more and much effort to make sure we combat this.

**Goodluck Paul:** It tends to make youth feel inferior especially when they are online, when they are actually exploring things in the internet.

**Charles Kombe:** Youth advocates like Goodluck Paul are also working to address the negative impact of online abuse on Tanzanian youth.

**Goodluck Paul:** It actually make youth get some psychological effects, you know, when you abuse them online. Youth should be educated on how to elude from this online abuse and how to report them.

The other thing is that education should be given to those who can do online abuse because some of people do without knowing that it’s illegal and not healthy for other people.

**Charles Kombe:** He too thinks much more needs to be done.

**Goodluck Paul:** There should be strengthening of cyber security and, you know, the authorities should be following up and taking actions to the cases that are reported.

**Charles Kombe:** The ultimate goal is to rid the country of online abuse and create a safe digital space for everyone.

Charles Kombe, Newsreel World, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

**ALANNA:** Thanks Charles



**ALANNA:**

Conservationists are calling for urgent action to prevent the extinction of the mountain chicken frog.

The frogs are the largest frog species in the Caribbean but scientists say there are only 21 left alive in the wild.

They were once common across the region but now can only be found on the island of Dominica. Their numbers have been hit by a combination of infectious disease, habitat loss, climate change and pollution.

Andrew Cunningham from the Zoological Society in London says the frogs face “imminent extinction” and their fate “sends us a very clear warning about the dangers facing wildlife on Earth today.”

**ALANNA:**

Retail analysts estimate that consumers in the USA will spend over 12 billion dollars on Halloween this year.

That includes around 3 and half billion on sweets and candy.

Another 4 billion will go on costumes with Spiderman predicted to be the most popular outfit for children when they’re out “trick or treating”

**ALANNA:**

A quick blast there of “End of the Line” by Australian punk band Civic.

It’s taken from their second album Taken by Force which they recorded in one week, at a friend’s house in a remote village a hundred kilometres from Melbourne.

The album has received rave reviews and they’ve been tipped by many critics as a “band to watch”



**ALANNA:**

Now, 15 year old Maleesha Kharwa is a model and influencer whose face has been on the cover of numerous fashion magazines.

But her rise to the top hasn't been easy. She was born in Bandra - a slum town on the outskirts of India's biggest city, Mumbai, where the prospects for young people are often bleak.

Ayushi Shah has been speaking to Maleesha about her remarkable rise to fame.

**Ayushi Shah:** It's a warm, humid evening as I walk towards Maleesha's new home in Mumbai. The aroma of street food and the sounds of local residents haggling with vendors fill the air.

Having grown up in poverty, Maleesha always dreamt of making it big. Today, at the age of 15, Maleesha is an influential teenager and a rising star on the internet.

**Maleesha Kharwa:** I have 300,000 followers on my Instagram and I do photoshoots, and I post on Instagram and people get inspired by me and that makes me very happy.

**Ayushi Shah:** Maleesha's story began when American actor Robert Hoffman wandered these vibrant streets and met Maleesha and her family. He shared videos of their wonderful interactions on social media.

**Robert Hoffman:** How do we get to our house? You can go?

**Ayushi Shah:** Maleesha's infectious happiness served as a stark contrast to the harsh realities of her upbringing. There were days when the family could not afford dinner, and her father would borrow money just to feed Maleesha and her brother.

**Maleesha Kharwa:** But now I am happy that those days are gone and now every day that we eat we have breakfast, lunch, dinner, properly.

**Ayushi Shah:** Recognizing the transformative power of the internet, Robert Hoffman, who is now Maleesha's manager, spearheaded a "GoFundMe"-campaign to fuel Maleesha's dreams.

**Maleesha Kharwa:** Many people donated money. And after that I got a house on rent, where I'm living now. And that makes me proud that I believed in myself and my manager helped me so much.



**Ayushi Shah:** Maleesha's heart remains rooted in her humble background. She still goes to the same small government school in India despite now having funds to afford private schooling.

**Maleesha Kharwa:** Since my childhood I'm studying in that school. And that school also helped us a lot and I think that yes, private schools are also very nice, they're excellent, but I think my school is excellent and I have no better school than it.

**Ayushi Shah:** Maleesha recalls an incident from when she was six years old. They barely had any money but she promised her friends that she would take them to a fancy restaurant someday. So when Maleesha earned enough money, she took them all out to a five-star hotel in Mumbai - something the other kids had never done before.

**Maleesha Kharwa:** We had so much fun, not one time, two, three times I took them and we had so much fun and I was happy that, yes, I made my promise.

**Ayushi Shah:** What message do you have for people your age who are working hard to achieve their dreams?

**Maleesha Kharwa:** Never give up because your dreams matter. And believe in yourself.

**Ayushi Shah:** As the sun sets over the lively city, Maleesha's journey shines brightly as a symbol of hope and unwavering determination.

This is Ayushi Shah reporting for Newsreel World from Mumbai, India.

**ALANNA:** Thanks Ayushi.

That's all for today. I'll be back on the 11th of November. Speak to you soon - bye!