

Swahili transcript:

Upendo: Labda tukizungumzia hicho chama cha..hicho cha wanasheria wanawake; TAWLA, na chenyewe labda kinahusika na mambo gani? Najua ni mambo ya sheria. Na, nina rafiki yangu ambaye naye ni mwanasheria, na amekuwa akifanya kazi na hiki chama hiki, hii TAWLA. Akawa akinieleza...nikawa namuuliza siku moja hivi ni mambo gani ambayo mnafanya katika hicho chama chenu cha wanasheria wanawake? Na akawa ameniambia kwa kweli wanafanya mambo mengi sana. Lakini mambo ambayo wanafanya kwa sababu kama chama, yaani jinsi hilo shirika jinsi lilivyo kwamba yaani chama cha wanasheria wanawake Tanzania-Tanzania women law association. Kwa hiyo wao wanahusika sanasana na masuala ya wanawake; kuangalia zile haki za mwanamke ambazo mara nyingi wanawake wamekuwa ndio hivyo yaani wakidhulumiwa labda. Kwa mfano labda, mwanamke ameolewa, inatokea bahati mbaya labda yule mume wake anafariki. Utakuta mara nyingi wale ndugu upande wa mwanaume, yaani upande wa mume wake wanakuja wanamnyang'anya mali zote labda walizokuwa nazo. Labda kwa mfano walikuwa na nyumba labda; walikuwa na magari, walikuwa na vitu labda vya thamani. Utakuta wale ndugu upande wa mwanaume, mume wake yaani ambaye amefariki wanakuja wanachukua kila kitu. Yule mama ndio hivyo saa nyingine ndio wanamfukuza hata mle ndani-nenda kwenu, kazi yako hapa ilishaisha. Kwamba alishazaa watoto basi kazi yake ndio ilishaisha na mume wake amefariki. Kwa hiyo, alikuwa akinieleza kwamba amekuwa akikutana na matatizo mengi sana yanayohusu wanawake ambao wengi wao ambao walikuwa labda wameolewa na waume zao labda walifariki walikuwa wanapata matatizo kama hayo. Kwa hiyo yaani waki..wakiwa na shida kama hizo ndio huwa wanaenda katika..kwa mfano wanenda kule TAWLA, then wale wanasheria wanawasidia yaani wale wanawake kupata nini..kuweza kupata haki zao, haki zao za kimsingi. Kwa sababu kimsingi wanasema kwamba mwanamke ukishakaa na mume wako, hata kama mwingine hajaolewa ila ameishi nae tu, ile wanita-amekaa na bwana, miezi sita, yaani kisheria wanasema kwamba tayari yule anakuwa kama ni mume

wako au ni mke wako, unaona? Sasa utakuta watu walifunga na ndoa, wamezaa na watoto, lakini utakuta bado wanakuja wanawafukuza nini..

Happy: OK.

Upendo: Yaah! Kwa hiyo ina...inawasaidia sana wanawake wa jinsi hiyo ambao wanapata matatizo; na wanawake wengine ambao walikuwa labda hawajui haki zao wazitafute wapi. Kwa hiyo, ni sehemu nzuri ya wanawake wengi kukimbilia, kwa sababu saa nyingine inakuwa ni vizuri ukaongea na mwanamke mwezio. Ndi wako wanasheria wanaume, nini..lakini ile mara nyingi kile kitengo kimekuwa ni hususani kwa ajili ya masuala ya wanawake. Kwa hiyo, wanawake wengi wamekuwa wakifaidika sana na na hii na nii...wakienda kwenye hii TAWLA.

Happy: OK. Nilikuwa sijui vizuri kuhusu hilo.

Upendo: Yaah! Kwa hiyo ndio jinsi ambavyo wanafanya.

English translation:

Upendo: Let's talk about TAWLA. What are its responsibilities? I know it deals with the law. I have a friend who has been working with them. TAWLA is the short term for Tanzania Women Lawyers Association. One day I asked her some of the things they deal with. She told me a lot of things that they deal with, like women's issues, especially women who have been unjustly treated. For example, what would happen if her husband died? You might find that the relatives of her husband take by force all the wealth they had during the lifetime of her husband, without considering that the wealth belongs to the wife because they struggled together.

For example, they might take by force the house, the cars, money, or other valuable things. They might even remove her from the house she used to live in with her husband, telling her that "Your job has finished. You gave birth to children, and your husband is

dead. Go back to your parents.” My friend used to tell me about the many obstacles they face when helping these women when their husbands passed away. The majority of women in Tanzania face varying issues and challenges. Women who face such problems go to TAWLA, and women lawyers help them solve their problems legally. The law says that if a woman and man have lived together for six months, the law considers them husband and wife. This is so even if they didn’t a legal marriage. That is, they didn’t get married in the church or mosque or by the regional commissioner. So long as they lived together for six months, the woman deserves the same marriage rights as other married women. It is very sad to see other women who get marriage legally in the church and have children, and yet are still treated unjustly by her husband’s relatives.

Happy: Okay.

Upendo: Yeah! So TAWLA helps women who face problems like these, and even others who don’t know where to look for their rights on other issues. They just go and talk to these women lawyers at TAWLA. It is a good place for many women to find their rights, and it is good for women to talk with women because they understand more than male lawyers. TAWLA is a special place for women’s issues, and many women get their problems solved when they consult TAWLA.

Happy: Okay. I didn’t know about that.

Upendo: Yeah! This is how TAWLA works.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2008 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated