

Ephrahim v. Pastory (1990) — Tanzania's High Court Ruling Against Customary Law Barring Women's Land Inheritance

Gender Equality · Good practice · Tanzania

Quality score: 37/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Tanzania's High Court struck down Haya customary law barring women from selling inherited clan land, ruling it unconstitutional and contrary to CEDAW — a landmark precedent that later courts have inconsistently followed.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	1/3
Impact on gender equality	0/1
Effectiveness	0/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	0/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	0/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[High Court of Tanzania](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[Cornell Law School: Women and Justice — High Court of Tanzania](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

[Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law: Inheritance Law in Tanzania](#) — accessed 2026-09-10

Cite this — Evidoria. *Ephrahim v. Pastory (1990) — Tanzania's High Court Ruling Against Customary Law Barring Women's Land Inheritance*. Persistent ID: 759001ae-a45f-4d06-9daf-788ccbe38e64.