

Message from AFJN's Executive Director Dr. Steven Nabieu Rogers



As summer begins, we are hard at work at the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) preparing for our 40th Anniversary Celebrations as we continue our important work with the people of Africa. We continue to work with the US Administration, Members of Congress, African leaders, and our partners to ensure that African countries have access to life saving resources through the reauthorization of PEPFAR. We highlighted China's growing influence in Africa and how the US may become a force for greater good by organically engaging Africa as equal partners through concrete development projects. AFJN cosponsored a roundtable discussion with members of the Sierra Leone Diaspora ahead of the elections that provided an opportunity for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State to hear their hopes and concerns. We held several important webinars featuring the work of Catholic Sisters in advocacy around ending Human Trafficking, and several authors who have written works on conflicts in Africa and the role of missionaries in shaping Africa's history. I encourage you to read below and share the work we have been able to accomplish together.

Donations



Membership



I also ask that you pray and discern sponsorship for our 40th Anniversary Celebration, we are only able to accomplish this by the grace of God and with your support. I pray that God bless you.

AFJN 40th Anniversary - October 13 & 14, 2023

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Africa Faith and Justice Network in 1983, AFJN will be holding a two-day event that will highlight our history, showcase the rich diversity and culture of the African peoples, and their many wonderful accomplishments. Registration is required to attend the two days of events near Washington, DC. AFJN has created a webpage that lists all the opportunities to participate in this momentous occasion. For up-to-date information, please check the AFJN website.

AFJN thanks the Board of Director's 40th Anniversary and Development Committees for their assistance in planning this event. The occasion will feature a keynote speech with a reception, a round table discussion on our history, a panel discussion featuring Africans on the continent who worked with



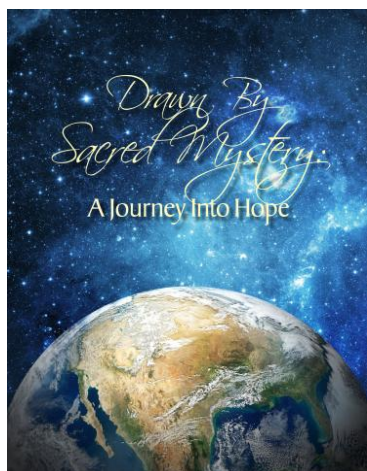
AFJN and were trained by AFJN in our focus campaigns, US policy experts, and will conclude with a dinner and silent auction. Please RSVP today and help spread the word! Space is limited!



**DONATE TO THE
SILENT AUCTION**

Visit our 40th Anniversary
Webpage for More Information

Upcoming Events



AFJN to Exhibit at LCWR 2023 Assembly

August 8-11, 2023

Thanks to AFJN Board Chair Sr. Nkechi Iwuoha, PHJC and the [Leadership Conference of Women Religious](#) (LCWR), AFJN will be exhibiting during the LCWR 2023 Assembly on August 8-11, 2023 in Dallas, Texas. If you or members of your organization will be in attendance please stop by the AFJN table and meet Dr. Rogers and AFJN Board Member, Ms. Arleen Peterson. To learn more [please visit the LCWR event webpage](#).

2023 Mission Cooperation Plan

August 5, 6, 19, and 20, 2023

AFJN is participating in the [Archdiocese of Chicago's](#) 2023 Mission Cooperation Plan. On August 5 and 6, Dr. Rogers will be speaking at [Holy Family Parish in Inverness, Illinois](#) and on August 19 and 20 Sr. Iwuoha will be speaking at [St. Patrick Parish in Lake Forest, Illinois](#). All are welcome.



Archdiocese
of Chicago

US Advocacy

Reauthorization of PEPFAR



On June 22, 2023, AFJN was one of over 44 faith-based organizational signers to [Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns' \(Maryknoll\) letter](#) to the Members of Congress encouraging the reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) before the end of FY2023 (September 30, 2023). While there have been great advances in improving the quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS, it is important that countries continue to have access to these life saving resources, especially countries who normally would not be able to access them. Read [AFJN's Press Statement](#) and the [Letter to Congress here](#).

Presentation to 352nd Civil Affairs Command at Fort Meade



On June 3rd, Dr. Rogers made a presentation on the Rising Influence of China in Africa to senior Civil Affairs military officers assigned to 352nd Civil Affairs Command at Fort Meade. This unit is attached to U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and “partner with communities around the world on how to increase stability, enable local governments”. In his presentation, Dr. Rogers stressed the need to improve the quality of life for civilians by engaging local partners in areas such as water, agriculture, health, and education as

the best means of ‘countering’ China.

Diaspora Roundtable Ahead of Sierra Leone Elections with the Deputy Assistant Secretary

On May 24, 2023, AFJN, the Healey International Relief Foundation, and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) cosponsored “[A Diaspora Roundtable with Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Heath Ahead of the Sierra Leone Elections.](#)” This virtual event provided prominent Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora (professionals, civil society and religious leaders, etc.) the opportunity to express their viewpoints, concerns and hopes to DAS Heath ahead of his visit to the country. The event was co-moderated by Dr. Rogers and Ms. Josephine Garnem, Board Member of the Healey International Relief Foundation with a Welcome by Dr. Christopher Fumonyoh from NDI. [Learn more here.](#)

World Bank/IMF Civil Society Forum Spring Meetings



From April 11-14, 2023 Dr. Rogers, attended the IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, DC. During the meetings he attended multiple Civil Society Organization side events pertaining to Africa, using the time to network with other organizations for possible future collaboration. With the threat of global recession looming, the possibility of funding cuts to Africa is a strong reality, which would further exacerbate those who are already vulnerable. Read AFJN’s April 14, 2023 press release “[Funding Gap Projected to Undercut Sub-Saharan African Growth Says IMF Report](#)” that talks about the IMF report findings.

Transparency a Must in US and Kenya Strategic

Investment Trade Partnership Process

AFJN signed on to Public Citizen's "US-Kenya STIP (Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership) Transparency" April 2023 coalition letter to US and Kenyan Trade Ministers that calls "for a transparent and participatory process" that would uplift "the most vulnerable." AFJN also was part of a coalition that met with Assistant US Trade Representative Hamilton on the US-Kenya Strategic Investment Trade Partnership among other topics. For this agreement to have any hope of addressing the needs of people in both countries, faith, development, human rights, and other civil society organizations called for a transparent and participatory process.

Sign on Letter to Vice President Harris - Restore Land to Maasai



The screenshot shows a website with a navigation bar containing links for 'About', 'Issues', 'Action', 'Resources', 'News', and 'Maryknoll @ UN'. Below the navigation bar is a sub-header 'Harris: Advocate for the Maasai in Tanzania'. The main heading is 'Tell VP Harris: Advocate for the Maasai in Tanzania'. The text on the page includes: 'Right now, a delegation of Maasai pastoralists from Tanzania are meeting with Church and government leaders in Europe to ask for support in protecting their ancestral lands from trophy hunting and tourism. Under the pretext of conservation, the government of Tanzania is pushing Indigenous Maasai pastoralists from their land where their cattle graze and their families live. We covered some instances of the governmental privation in News Notes articles, and Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Director Susan Gunn joined some of the delegation virtually. Pastoralists in Tanzania delivered a letter detailing their struggle to U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris when she visited Tanzania in April 2023. Send your own letter to Vice President Harris now.' Below this is a letter template starting with 'Dear Vice President Harris,' followed by a paragraph: 'Thank you for your March visit to Tanzania in support of democracy. As a person of faith, I believe that an important aspect of a just society is the protection of the rights of Indigenous minorities. Right now, the Tanzanian government is involved in the systematic seizure of Indigenous people's land. We urge you to help end the situation and restore land to the Maasai peoples.' To the right of the text is an image of two Maasai people in a field with the text 'Maasai fighting for their lives in Tanzania' and 'Support them and share their story!'.

AFJN signed on to the Maryknoll's letter to Vice President Harris about the forced expulsion of the Indigenous Masai from their tribal lands. [To learn more and to sign on click here.](#)

Just Governance

Cameroon

AFJN is expanding our network through the establishment of the Africa Faith and Justice Cameroon (AFJNC), which will be incorporated in Cameroon. This expansion aims to enhance our social justice efforts, building upon the foundations laid during our pilot project in 2016.

Our ongoing work to combat corruption in the vital record system of Western Cameroon is yielding positive results. Through collaborative partnerships and engagement with authorities, significant progress has been made. We are currently preparing for an upcoming mobile court, where cases involving 274 children whose parents failed to obtain their birth certificates will be heard by judges. However, these cases represent only a fraction of the many children facing the challenge of proving their citizenship through a costly and time-consuming legal process. Unfortunately, this process creates an unfair advantage for those who can afford bribes, resulting in quick and effortless resolutions.

Our mission remains focused on ensuring equal accessibility for all and raising awareness about the importance of obtaining birth certificates shortly after birth. This

proactive approach is vital in preventing and effectively combating corruption in the issuance of vital records.

Ghana

Workshop

AFJN will be in Ghana from August 23 to September 5, focusing on combating the threat of agro-colonialism. Land conflicts resulting from agro-colonialism have the potential to cause unrest as foreign investors lease land without proper due diligence. This is the case in the community of Chief (Togbe) Ameka in Adidome, Ghana's Volta Region where we will go, among other places, to have a first hand account of what is going on. We will partner with the Adaklu District to promote responsible investments and protect indigenous seeds, the environment, and water sources.

Women Empowerment Project

Ghana - Tamale

Workshop on the Ending Early and Child Marriage



In May, AFJN held advocacy training workshops on ending early and child marriage. On May 5, as part of the workshop, the sisters made an advocacy visit to the Chief of Yendi. They met with Yena of Yendi, a powerful leader, and his elders. The results of the local leaders was very powerful. A king of the area volunteered to be an Ambassador to ending early and child marriage. The group also prepared to meet with the Chief Imam and his college of Imams including the Regional Chief Imam and other Imams in the Central Mosque Tamale.

In Accra, the group visited one major superior to ask for her sisters participation. The group also planned an advocacy visit with both the National Gender Minister and Education Minister but they were not in Accra at the time of the scheduled visit.

Bicycles for Girls to Go to School



Following AFJN's advocacy training workshops around girls' education, a generous donor decided to purchase bicycles for the girls to make it easier for them to go to school. In many rural areas, access to schools are limited or not even possible on foot. Read AFJN-Ghana's article "[AFJN-Ghana and Boukurugu Community Girls Women Empowerment support](#)" at the [AFJN-Ghana website](#).

Nigeria

AFJN-Nigeria Workshop on Violence in Our Homes



On April 29, 2023, "Which Way Nigeria" was held in Jos, Nigeria. This one-day workshop featured talks on the girl child, human trafficking, and domestic servitude in the country.



AFRICA FAITH AND JUSTICE NETWORK NIGERIA(AFJN)



PRESENTS

A ONE DAY WORKSHOP

THEME: WHICH WAY NIGERIA



FEATURES:

- THE GIRL CHILD
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

DATE:

SATURDAY
29TH
APRIL 2023

TIME:

9AM
PROMT

VENUE:

JOS MUSEUM
HALL, JOS



Youth Trainings and Meetings



March 26 and June 3, 2023, Africa Faith and Justice Network Nigeria organized a day workshop for the youth of Sacred Heart Parish, Airport and St. Kizito Parish, Kuje, both in Abuja, to galvanize the energy of the youth and empower them to work together to end domestic servitude and human trafficking and to educate and sensitize them. Read Sr. Teresa Anyabuikwe, SNDdeN's article "[Youth in Abuja Nigeria say "No" to Domestic Servitude and Child Trafficking](#)" [here](#).

On June 17, the sisters and youth had a follow-up meeting with additional mentorship, strategizing and training.

To learn more about these programs visit our [Women's Empowerment page](#). This project is made possible by a large grant from the Conrad Hilton Foundation, Dominican Sisters of Peace Shalom Fund, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Base Communities, Missionaries of Africa, and AFJN organizational and individual members.

Spring AFJN Board Meeting



In May AFJN's Board of Directors held the spring meetings where they reviewed the Strategic Plan, selected a 40th Anniversary Committee and welcomed new Board Members.

AFJN Says Farewell to Board Member Al Gbi Toe, Sr.



Join AFJN in Prayer

May the God of our African ancestors welcome you home and grant you peaceful rest. We love you Papa Toe! We know your spirit lives on with the AFJN organization. May you intercede for our motherland. Go in peace till we meet again.

Amen!



On May 21, 2023, AFJN lost a beloved friend, Mr. Al Gbi Toe, Sr. (Toe Blamo Gbi). Mr. Toe was a tireless advocate for spreading the word and engaging Africans in the US. He was young at heart and had a great love of God and others that was manifested in everything he did. Since 2019, Mr. Toe served on AFJN's Board of Directors in several capacities: Board Treasurer from (May 2021-2022); Finance Committee Chair (2021-Present), and served on the Development Committee (December 2019-Present) specializing in diaspora outreach initiatives. On June 30-July 1, members of AFJN's staff and board attended Mr. Toe's wake and funeral.

[Read more about the extraordinary life of Mr. Toe here.](#)

AFJN Welcomes New Organizational Members



Organizational Member

[Good Shephard Parish, in Wayland, MA](#) became an organizational member. Please join us as we welcome and thank them for their support. Visit their [website here](#).

Supporting Organizational Member

Thanks to the late Mr. Toe, Sr., the Knights of St. John International in Newark, NJ joined AFJN as supporting organizational members.

AFJN Welcomes New Senior Fellow



Fr. Barwendé Médard Sané, SJ

Fr. Barwendé Médard Sané is a Jesuit priest from Burkina Faso, West Africa who interned with AFJN in 2013. In 2023, Fr. Sané received a Doctorate in Education from the University of San Francisco (USF) in California where he has also been working at the USF Institute for Nonviolence and Social Justice. [Read his biography here](#).

Calling All Interns!



AFJN Internships

AFJN offers students the opportunity to work with AFJN staff in our offices in Washington, DC. Student interns learn about US-Africa policy, African culture, and gain first-hand experience in research and writing, communication software, and networking. Learn more about [AFJN's Internship Program and apply online here](#).

AFJN One Step Closer to ECOSOC Status at the UN



In June, AFJN received a letter that the "Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its 2023 Resumed Session, held on 15 to 23 May and 5 June 2023 decided to recommend special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to your organization." The final step is for "the Economic and Social Council [to] consider and take action on the Committee's recommendations" in July 2023. [Learn more here](#).

Renewal of Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade Membership

AFJN renewed our membership in the Public-Private Alliance for



Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA). This year the PPA is expanding its scope to include cobalt and critical minerals and other Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (CAHRA) to support responsible minerals sourcing efforts globally while maintaining its commitment to the GLR.

Candid Gold Seal of Transparency 2023



AFJN earned the Gold Transparency Seal 2023 for Candid.

To learn more about these seals [click here](#).

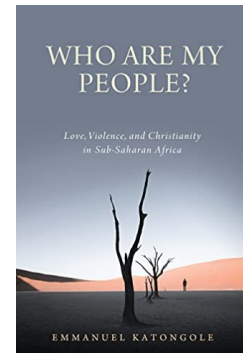
Grants

- Grant from the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus WATO Fund
- Grant from the Renaissance Charitable Foundation
- Grant from Sisters of the Holy Cross, Holy Cross Heritage Partners funding Program

Past Events

Video from "Book Discussion on Who Are My People? Love, Violence, and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa"

On June 29, 2023, AFJN cohosted a ["Book Discussion on Who Are My People? Love, Violence, and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa"](#). To learn more about the speakers and to watch the [video visit the event page](#).



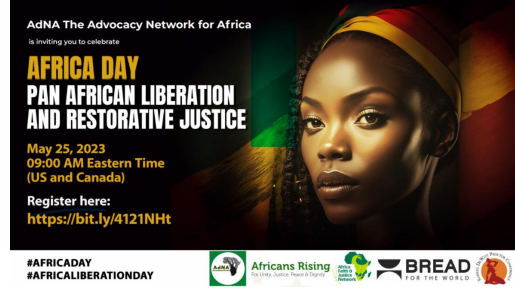
Video from "Unveiling Truth and Inspiring Change: Survivors Uncensored"

On June 5, 2023 AFJN cosponsored ["Unveiling Truth and Inspiring Change: Survivors Uncensored"](#). The brown bag hybrid event aimed to highlight the untold stories of Rwandan genocide survivors, promote peace in the region, and call out supporters of dictatorial regimes in the West. Watch the video on our [event page here](#).



Africa Day: Pan African Liberation and Restorative Justice

On May 25, Dr. Rogers was a panelist for "Africa Day: Pan African Liberation and Restorative Justice" as part of Africa Liberation Week. The event was cosponsored by AFJN, Advocacy Network for Africa, Africans Rising For Unity, Justice, Peace & Dignity, Bread for the World, and Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference.



Video from "Tackling Human Trafficking in Africa"

Video from the April 5, 2023, "Tackling Human Trafficking in Africa" event featuring four African Catholic Sisters, trained in AFJN Women Empowerment Project advocacy workshops, is available. [Visit the event webpage and watch the video here.](#)



Sr. Eucharica Participated in Georgetown Event

In April 2023, Sr. Eucharica Madueke, SNDdeN, AFJN Women Empowerment Coordinator, was invited to make a presentation at Georgetown University's Women of Faith Program where she shared her experiences utilizing culturally appropriate advocacy strategies to selected African Sisters.



Sr. Eucharica Presentation on Women Empowerment - Child and Early Marriage and Domestic Servitude



In April 2023, Sr. Eucharica was invited to make a short presentation on her work in Ghana and Nigeria on Child and Early Marriage and Domestic Servitude. [View the presentation slides here.](#)

AFJN Meets Senior Fellow Patrick - In-Person

After several years and the pandemic, AFJN finally was able to welcome AFJN Senior Fellow Patrick Egwu to our offices. Mr. Egwu has written several articles on the success of the Women Empowerment Project. [Read his biography here.](#)



Preparing the Way for Future Collaboration

AFJN continues to look for new ways of collaboration and engagement with partner organizations and coalitions. Over the past several months, AFJN had meetings with the [Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network](#), [Vivat International](#), and the [Jesuit Conference](#).

AFJN in the News

Analysis: Next Steps for Sierra Leone's President Elect Bio



Dr. Rogers on *Voice of America's Africa 54*

On June 28, 2023, Dr. Rogers was interviewed by Esther Githui-Ewart on *Voice of America's Africa 54* "Analysis: Next Steps for Sierra Leone's President Elect Bio." [Watch it here](#).



Juneteenth - A Time to Reflect, Rejoice and Remember

On June 19, Dr. Rogers shared his reflections in an article "Juneteenth - A Time to Reflect, Rejoice and Remember." [Read it here](#).

Through Africa Faith and Justice Network, sisters fight early marriage in Ghana



Sr. Eucharria's Article Featured in *Global Sisters Report*

On June 6 2023, Sr. Eucharria's article "Through Africa Faith and Justice Network, sisters fight early marriage in Ghana" was featured in *Global Sisters Report*. [Read it here](#).



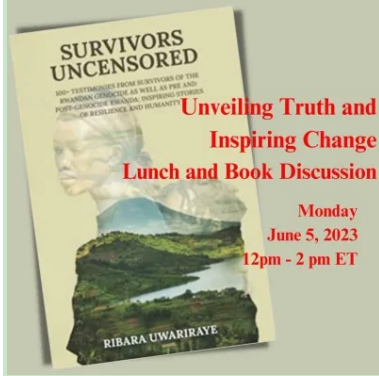
Women Empowerment Featured in *The Authority*

On May 3, 2023, AFJN's Women Empowerment Project was featured in Pwanagba Agabus's "Group sensitises Jos residents on social justice, stability" article in *The Authority*. [Read it here](#). The article was also picked up by *Info Guide Nigeria*.

AFJN Event Featured in *Toward Freedom*

On June 5, 2023, the event "Unveiling Truth and Inspiring Change" was featured in Julie Varughese's article "Survivors of Rwanda Genocide Speak Out Against U.S. Militarization of Africa, U.S./Western Complicity in

Genocide" in *Toward Freedom*. [Read it here.](#)



**Unveiling Truth and Inspiring Change
Lunch and Book Discussion**

**Monday
June 5, 2023
12pm - 2 pm ET**

SNDdeN in Ministry SOCIAL JUSTICE AND NETWORKING

The Africa Faith and Justice Network ~ Forty Years Strong!

By Sisters Maura Browne and Eucharia Madueke, SNDdeN

"When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."
Dom Helder Camara: Essential Writings

The Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) is a vital organization founded by U.S. Catholic missionaries who had served in Africa. In October 1983, they met in Baltimore, MD to reflect on the teachings of Vatican Council II, and this led them to ask such questions as, "Why do many people in Africa have no food?" and "What can we do about it?" Their consideration of these questions in light of Gospel values led to the realization that the only way to work for justice



Sisters Eucharia Madueke and Maura Browne.

would be to establish a structure for fostering just relations between the United State and Africa. Thus, AFJN was born. In October 2023, the U.S.A. based AFJN will celebrate its 40th Anniversary of advocacy for social justice in Africa. This event will take place in Washington, DC. Through virtual access to the

40 Years of AFJN Featured in *Good Works March 2023* with SNDdeN

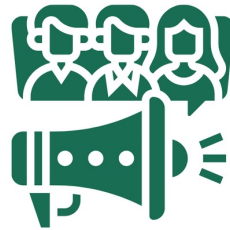
AFJN Board Vice-Chair, Sr. Maura Browne, SNDdeN with Sr. Eucharia co-authored "[The Africa Faith and Justice Network - Forth Years Strong!](#)" article featured in the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur's [Good Works March 2023](#) international publication on the history of AFJN. [Read it here \(pgs 12-15\).](#)

Support AFJN in These Ways

PRAY



ADVOCATE



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- Donate through [Facebook](#)

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