



Justice in Africa- On Whose Terms?
2010 Spring Conference; Washington, DC

LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

Whether you will be lobbying with us on Capitol Hill on April 19, 2010 or whether you will be heading home, you have an important role to play in advocating for just U.S. policies toward the people of Africa

Included in this packet are the specific ASKS for the AFJN lobby day. There are very timely asks and we encourage you to stick to them as much as possible. If you are not visiting your Senators or member of Congress, you may still use these asks to write to your elected officials, to call them, or to visit them in their district office. Use the resource "Making a Difference Back Home" to engage with your elected officials within your community. Remember, face-to-face contact is always the most influential way of addressing Senators and Representatives in Congress.

In your meetings on the Hill tomorrow, be sure to ask:

- 1. Co-sponsor the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA)**
- 2. Take action in support of free and fair elections, particularly in Rwanda**

Helpful Hints and Tips for Successful Lobbying:

- **You have nothing to worry about!** Just by showing up and demonstrating your concern to your elected officials you've already helped increase attention on these issues. ***Remember, they work for you!*** Most staffers are very friendly and will take your concerns to heart.
- **Stay on message.** The power of coalition advocacy is that we are delivering the same message, thereby increasing the strength of our voice and concerns. Feel free to give it a personal touch based on your own knowledge and experience, but keep focused
- **Respect their time.** Staff in Congress are very busy, often meeting with a variety of people on many different issues each day. Be concise and specific in your conversation and request. Keep it short and simple and be direct in your asks.
- **Leave them materials.** Don't forget to hand them the leave-behind materials before you leave the office. This ensures that they do not forget your requests
- **Thank them.** Be sure to ask for the staffer's business card before you leave. Send them a short thank-you email when you get home just to remind them of your visit and your asks.