

Message from AFJN's (New) Executive Director

Summer is in full swing and so is all the activity at the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN). Finishing up my third month as AFJN's new Executive Director, I've come to appreciate the hard work and dedication of AFJN's staff, Board, and supporters. And more importantly, the mission of this great organization. There is much passion and team effort that goes on behind-the-scenes that allows AFJN to operate with very minimal staff.

Sr. Eucharika was back on the continent in several countries for the Women's Empowerment Project. AFJN completed the multi-year Africa Church Together Against Corruption Project and has a summary report to share. Advocacy here in Washington on several critical issues affecting Africa have happened. None of these would have been possible without the generous prayers and support of our organizational and individual members, donors, and grantors. Know that we are ever thankful for your support.

The challenges that Africa continues to face despite the enormous resources her citizens bring to the table makes AFJN's work more urgent and relevant today in Washington DC and in Africa. I am therefore excited to be in my new role, my new home, and I have some exciting plans in the work for new research and strategic engagement opportunities.



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AFJN Website Gets an Upgrade

Thanks to a generous grant from the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, AFJN was able to update the look of our new website. The new website launched in June 2022! Pages are still under construction and will roll out over the coming months. Email lydia@afjn.org with questions, comments, or broken links. Check out the new [AFJN website](https://www.afjn.org) today!



African Church Together Against Corruption



ACT Project Summary Report

The African Church Together Against Corruption Project was a three-year project to mobilize Church leaders from Christian and Muslim communities to fight corruption and promote just governance in Cameroon, Liberia, and Ghana. Learn about the highlights of the project in our [Summary Report](#) featured on the [ACT Project webpage](#).

The project was funded by the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities with matching grants from Holy Cross Sisters, Missionaries of Africa, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Base Communities, Society of African Missions, and Xavierian Missionaries.

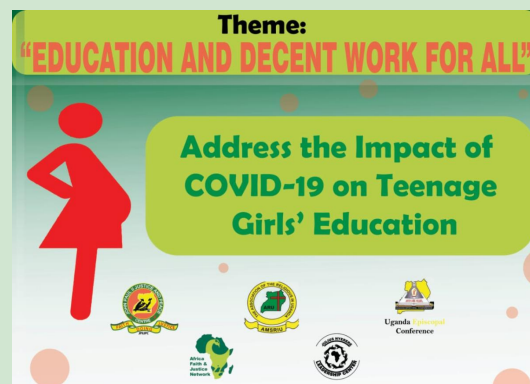
Women's Empowerment Project

Uganda

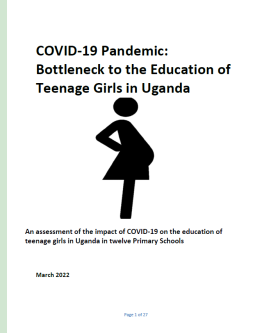
Education and Decent Work for All

On April 26-30, 2022 the "Education and Decent Work For All" workshop was held in Kampala, Uganda. The purpose of this workshop was to "address the impact of COVID-19 on teenage girls' education." Ahead of the workshop, research was commissioned by AFJN, on the real impact of COVID-19 on girls and was presented to the participants during the events.

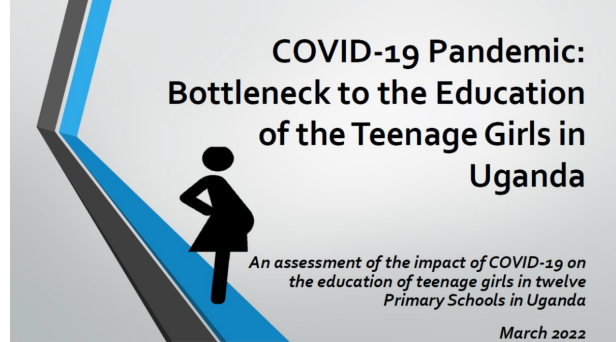
The event was co-sponsored by Africa Faith and Justice Network, Africa Faith and Justice Network - Uganda, John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre, The Association of the Religious in Uganda, Julius Nyerere Leadership Center, and the Uganda Episcopal Conference.



Commissioned Research

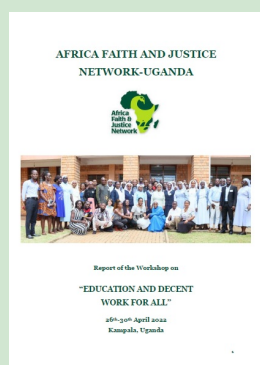


Read the March 2022 report "[COVID-19 Pandemic: Bottleneck to the Education of Teenage Girls in Uganda](#)" commissioned by the AFJN's Women Empowerment Project for the April Workshops [here](#).



Review the PowerPoint presentation "[COVID-19 Pandemic: Bottleneck to the Education of Teenage Girls in Uganda](#)" of the findings of the March 2022 report presented during the April workshop [here](#).

Workshop Evaluation and Summary Report



Read [AFJN-Uganda's evaluation report](#) of the "Education and Decent Work for All" workshops [here](#). This report was written by the AFJN-Uganda team following the workshops.



Byegarazo Innocent INNOCENT, Africa Faith and Justice Network - Uganda Youth Coordinator and works at the John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre's Department of Administration, provides a video reflection about his experience of the April 26-30, 2022 workshops. Watch the [YouTube video](#).

Nigeria

Tackling Drug Use, Ritual Killings, and Cultism in Nigeria: Fashioning a Better Future with Our Youths

A Campaign Against Drug Abuse, Human Trafficking, and Early Marriage



On May 17-19, 2022 "Tackling Drug Use, Ritual Killings, and Cultism in Nigeria: Fashioning a Better Future with Our Youths" workshop was held in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. The event was sponsored by AFJN, AFJN-Nigeria, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, and Caritas Nigeria and featured in local media outlets.



On July 16-18, 2022, AFJN and AFJN-Nigeria co-sponsored a workshop called "A Campaign Against Drug Abuse, Human Trafficking, and Early Marriage" in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. Read the article [here](#).

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.

US - Africa Advocacy

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Recent policy initiatives include Hill meetings on the Democratic Republic of the Congo's growing instability with the offices of Senators Booker, Vanhollen, Rubio, and Kaine and Congresswoman Jacobs.

Recycling IMF Special Drawing Rights

AFJN also participated in meetings around International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights recycling with Senators Scott and Boozman.

US Commission on International Religious Freedom

On June 22, 2022, AFJN was one of a handful of Catholic organizations invited to give a briefing on the state of Nigeria to [White House Commissioner Stephen Schneck](#), US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Press Statement on Owo Town, Nigeria Church Massacre

On June 6, 2022, AFJN issued a press statement "[Owo Church Massacre: Nigerian government must guarantee freedom of religion as enshrined in the Constitution](#)" calling for action to stop the growing insecurity that many Nigerians are facing. Read the [full statement here](#).

We wish to be in communion with you and associate ourselves with your ministry during your upcoming visit to the African continent. Ahead of your trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Sudan from July 2-7, 2022, we, the undersigned faith-based and civil society organizations from different continents, in solidarity with our African brothers and sisters, write to call your attention to some of the ongoing challenges confronting the continent.

These challenges have led to endless political instability and much suffering, poverty, war, and death. We ask that you address these problems in your message to citizens of the host countries, to African political leaders, and to all people of good will worldwide. Let the affected people know that we are not indifferent to their suffering and that we do not wish to be complicit through our silence.

Letter to Pope Francis Ahead of Visit to Africa

Prior to the cancellation of the Papal Visit to Africa in July, AFJN and several other organizations sent a letter to Pope Francis. The letter was featured in an Aci Africa article ["Faith-based Leaders Specify Five Challenges in Africa They Want Pope Francis to 'mention'"](#). [Read the letter](#). Read the [article](#).

News and Events

Office News



AFJN Welcomes, Steven Nabieu Rogers, PhD as New Executive Director

After an extensive search by AFJN's Board of Directors Search Committee, Dr. Steven Nabieu Rogers began his position as Executive Director on May 1, 2022. Originally from Sierra Leone, Dr. Rogers has been working and teaching in the US and Africa. A practicing Catholic, Dr. Rogers has experience both in academia and the corporate world. AFJN is excited for the new vision that Dr. Rogers is bringing to AFJN. Read the [Press Release here](#). Read his [biography here](#).



AFJN Welcomes, Garrett Wright as AFJN's Summer Intern

Garrett Wright is current studying Law and Public Policy at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. He is expecting to graduate with his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2023 with a concentration in International Conflict Prevention. Read his [full biography here](#).

Learn more about AFJN's Internship Program [here](#).

AFJN Says Goodbye and Thanks!

Several Former AFJN Board Members have passed away in recent months. Please join AFJN in remembering them in our prayers, in thanksgiving for their service to AFJN and the people of Africa.



On May 25, 2022, Dr. Rogers, AFJN Executive Director released a video about the importance of Africa Liberation Day and its significance.

[Watch the video here!](#)



On May 26, 2022, AFJN Steven Rogers, was on the panel for the webinar "Africa Liberation Week: The Impact of COVID-19 on African Countries" webinar. [Click here](#) for more.



In honor of Juneteenth, AFJN Exe. Director wrote an article ["Juneteenth: A Time for Reflection and Celebration"](#). [Click here](#) to read the article.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2022: Africa Track

In 2022, AFJN's Jacques Bahati lead the Africa Track for "Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2022: Fierce Urgency Advancing Civil and Human Rights." [Click here](#) to learn more about each workshop.



"Voting Rights and the Advancement of Democracy in Pan African Communities"

[Click here](#) to watch the webinar.



"The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon and the Plight of Cameroonian Migrants"

[Click here](#) to watch the webinar.

"Addressing Nigeria's Shrinking Civic Space: A Proactive Holistic Response"



[Click here](#) to watch the webinar.



"Illicit Financial Flows Undermine Democracy and Human Dignity"

[Click here](#) to watch the webinar.

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