AFJN eBulletin

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

As we usher in the Christmas Season and prepare to gather round the table with our families, we pause to reflect on that which we are thankful for. In this last quarter of 2022, AFJN is thankful for the privilege and honor to work with dedicated and supportive members, Board of Directors, staff and our partners in our advocacy work for Africa.

In October, a new AFJN Board of Directors Executive was elected. Sr. Nkechi Iwuoha, PHJC, chairs the new executive. During this period, AFJN has organized several advocacy events and meetings in Washington DC and in Africa reflecting the many developments happening on the continent. In anticipation of the Secretary of State's and Papal scheduled visits to Africa, AFJN participated in several advocacy activities, shedding light on the burning issues affecting the region. We also held timely discussions about the recent elections in Kenya, the upcoming election in Nigeria, and the need for a UN Security Council Reform in preparation for the upcoming US-Africa Leaders Summit in December. Our diaspora outreach initiative has also yielded several high-level meetings with key US Government officials including the United States Mission to Africa Union to discuss “Perspectives on How The African Diaspora can partner with the African Union” and with the U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone on ‘Tolerance, Human Rights, Peaceful Co-Existence for all in Sierra Leone’.

As the world prepared to converge in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt for COP27, I was privileged to join several faith leaders from North America, Europe and Africa in Nairobi to participate in the “Convocation on Climate and Hunger” event sponsored by Bread for the World. We unveiled our joint faith-based statement “Faithful Voice on Hunger and Climate Change” to highlight the negative effects of a warming climate. Furthermore, we are continuing our work on just governance with workshops in Ghana and our Women Empowerment Project with several advocacy activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, and Tanzania.

Finally, as we prepare for a busy December month, I am looking forward to participating in the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit Civil Society Forum in December that will provide a platform for engagement between senior government representatives and civil society. Thank you for all your prayers and financial support.

US-Africa Advocacy

AFJN Invited to Official CSO Forum by United States Government

AFJN’s Executive Director, Dr. Steven Nabieu Rogers has been invited by the US Government to the session “Amplifying Marginalized Voices” as part of the Civil Society Forum (CSO) “Inclusive Partnerships to Advance Agenda 2063” hosted at the United States Institute for Peace in December.
AFJN Participated in Meeting with United States Mission to the African Union

On November 2, Dr. Rogers participated in "Perspectives on How the African Diaspora can Partner with the African Union" which was a conversation with US Mission to the African Union Public Affairs Officer Heather Joy Thompson. It was moderated by Mel Foote, President of the Constituency for Africa and was held at the Bureau of African Affairs.

AFJN Exe. Director, Co-drafter of Faith-Based Statement Ahead of COP27

Dr. Rogers was invited to co-draft the faith-based statement "A Faithful Voice on Hunger and Climate Justice" issued ahead of the COP27 gathering in Egypt. The statement was published during the "Convocation on Climate and Hunger" in Nairobi, Kenya. Bread for the Word sponsored AFJN's participation in this event. Media coverage of the event included Christian Today's article "Christians Meeting in Nairobi Call for Climate Change Promises to be Fulfilled" ahead of the COP27 meetings in Egypt. Learn more here.

Dr. Rogers Invited to a Conversation on Sierra Leone with Ambassador David Reimer

On October 6, Dr. Rogers was invited to "A Conversation with Ambassador David Reimer Tolerance, Human Rights, Peaceful Co-Existence for all In Sierra Leone and the Diaspora" at the National Democratic Institute. During the event, "issues on governance, accountability, human rights, gender/women’s empowerment, and the significance of the Sierra Leone diaspora to socio-economic and political developments in Sierra Leone" were discussed.
Virtual Call to Action on World Humanitarian Day - Global Crisis Relief

On August 18, AFJN participated in “Call on President Biden to be a Humanitarian on World Humanitarian Day” that was cosponsored by AFJN, CODEPINK, Action Corps, Demand Progress, PeaceAction, American Friends Service Committee, and Partnerships for Trauma Recovery. Read more here.

Coalition Letter to Congressional Leadership - Support ENABLERS Act

On August 9, AFJN was one of over twenty organizations and individuals that sent a letter to Congressional Leadership in support of the Establishing New Authorities for Businesses Laundering and Enabling Risks to Security (ENABLERS) Act as amended. Read the full letter here and Press Statement here.

Letter to US Secretary of State on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On August 8, AFJN sent a letter to the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken ahead of his visit to Africa. The letter urged frank discussions on issues including: Rwanda’s violations of DRC’s territorial integrity, bad governance in the DRC, and reasons why the UN peacekeepers should leave. Read the full letter here and Press Release here.

AFJN Welcomes New Board Slate

In October 2022, AFJN’s Board of Directors appointed a new Board Slate: Chair Sr. Nkachi Iwuoha, PHJC; Vice-Chair Sr. Maura Browne, SNDdeN; Secretary, Rev. William Christy, CSSP; and Treasurer, Ms. Jemima Andan. Please join AFJN in thanking our Executive Committee for their service and commitment to AFJN and the mission. To read their biographies, click here. Read the Press Release here.

AFJN would also like to thank the outgoing Executive Committee for their years of service: Sr. Florence Deacon, OSF as AFJN Board Chair, Rev. Christy as Board Vice-Chair, Ms. Faustine Wabwire as Board Secretary, and Mr. Al Gbi Toe, Sr. as Board Treasurer.

Just Governance
Industrial Farming Threatens Access to Water in Ghana

In August, while working on our Just Governance program, AFJN learned about the pollution of two streams in Kelorkpo. These streams are vital to the livelihoods of three local communities. AFJN has been working with the local people on gathering information and assisting the community in ways that they can engage the company to take accountability for their actions. Read the full article here.

Agro-Colonialism Awareness and Responsible Investment

In August, Jacques Bahati continued our field activities in Nyatikpo, Aborkope, and Gbagbavuinu. During the visits, the locals identified multinational corporations that were engaged in land grabbing. Since 2014, AFJN has been educating Ghanaians about the dangers of agro-colonialism to ensure that Ghanaians remain food secure. Read the full article here.

Ghana: A Chinese Fish Farm Project Turned Into a Nightmare

A fish farming pond owned my a multinational corporation caused flood that destroyed crops in the nearby farmland. After the community demanded compensation, the corporation left without remedying the issue or providing compensation. Read Jacques Bahati's account here.
Women Empowerment Project
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Advocacy on the Environment and Human Rights in the DRC

In August, over 50 participants from government and civil society participated in our workshops on care for creation and human rights. A variety of speakers participated including: a journalist shared research, a plastics recycler of building materials, the former Minister of Human Rights (who told the group how AFJN brought two DRC government opposition together to have a dialogue) and a United Nations representative on Eco-Justice. They recognized the mutual responsibility to care for creation and also acknowledged that plastics are not produced by the Congolese. The program was broadcast on Radio Maria Kinshasa.

Kenya

Sr. Eucharia Madueke’s Reflections on the Kenya Hilton Convening

AFJN's Sr. Eucharia Madueke, SNDdeN spoke on a panel about her advocacy training work coordinating the AFJN Women Empowerment Project in Africa. The multi-day event, which took place from October 26-28, 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, brought hundreds of Catholic sisters from around the globe together to share and reflect on their experiences, challenges, and triumphs. Every year hundreds of the Conrad Hilton Foundation Grantees gather together to share their experiences and learn from one another during these convenings. Read more here.

Tanzania
Women Empowerment Tanzania

In August, the Women Empowerment Project was in Tanzania for advocacy skills training workshops. The event received wide media coverage (in the local language). The group of 22 sisters and 33 young people visited a staff representative for the Ministry of Youth and Development who listened attentively to the advocacy letter, taking notes to share with the Representative. The workshop participants were grateful to be welcomed in the Office of the Ministry and to visit the capital city of Dodoma. Live coverage of the Mass, Radio Maria Tanzania Facebook coverage part I. Radio Maria Tanzania Facebook coverage part II.

Uganda

Workshop Evaluation and Summary Report


On November 3-7, AFJN with the John Paul II Justice and Peace Center, Association of Religious in Uganda, and the Lira Diocese, conducted a Stakeholders’ workshop and community sensitization in Lira District. This workshop highlighted the various social issues in Uganda and the impact of COVID-19 on the education of teenage girls. Click here to read the November 2022 Report.

National Prayer on Human Trafficking

On September 9, AFJN and AFJN-Uganda participated in a National Prayer on Human Trafficking event.

To learn more about these programs visit our Women's Empowerment page. This project is
News and Events

Interns

AFJN Welcomes Fall Intern, Alexander Hoyt

Alexander Hoyt, AFJN Fall Intern, is currently studying Public Management and Leadership with minors in Arts Management and Intelligence Studies at Indiana University. Read his full biography here.

Learn more about AFJN's Internship Program here.

AFJN Welcomes, Elian Romano Brandt

Elian Romano Brandt is a junior at the University of Regensburg in Bavaria, Germany, participating in American University's 2022 Fall Semester Program. He majors in political science with an emphasis on international politics and minors in public law, history and gender studies. Read his full biography here.

Learn more about AFJN's Internship Program here.

Past Events and Videos

Reforming the UN Security Council: Why it must be on the US-Africa Leaders Summit Agenda Webinar

November 29, 2022

As part of President Biden's US-Africa Leaders Summit this December, it is imperative that the agenda includes Africa's long standing call for the United Nations (UN) Security Council Reform for the US to “demonstrate [its] enduring commitment to Africa”. During this discussion we will hear whether or not these reforms should happen and what they mean for Africa. Learn more and watch the video here.

Hustler vs Dynasty: The...
Elections in Kenya and Nigeria and their Implications for Africa

On September 13th, AFJN held a panel discussion featuring prominent African experts. While elections have typically attracted violence across Africa particularly among youth, their renewed interest in free and fair democratic process across the continent in more recent times may suggest some paradigmatic shift. AFJN’s campaign against political violence and healthy democratic participation by young people continues to be an important component to our just governance program. Visit the webpage or watch the YouTube video.

End it Now: Rwanda-Democratic Republic of the Congo Crisis

On August 25, AFJN hosted a panel discussion on the ongoing Rwanda-Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Crisis. The event feature voices from the DRC who provided updates and analysis and who examined the role of the international community in the more than two decades long crisis. To learn more and watch the webinar click here.

May They Rest in Peace

Cardinal Richard Kuuia Baawobr (November 27, 2022)

Cardinal Baawobr, a Missionary of Africa priest (White Father) was an ardent supporter of the mission of AFJN. Read AFJN’s Press Statement here.

Mary C. Furlong (July 14, 1941-November 21, 2022)

Mary Furlong was a dedicated friend of AFJN. Read Fr. Rocco Puopolo, SX’s, Former AFJN Executive Director, reflections on her life here.


Rev. Douglas Grace served as Director of Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice (EAD) for more than seven years. AFJN facilitates the Africa Track for EAD. Read his obituary here.
**Sr. Eucharia Madueke Quoted in Global Sisters Report**

On November 1, AFJN's Sr. Eucharia was quoted in "Event affirms how networking and collaboration can support Catholic sisters" article featured in *Global Sisters Report*. [Learn more here.](#)

**AfricaNow! Interview with Dr. Steven Nabieu Rogers**

On November 16, 2022, Dr. Rogers was interviewed by Mwiza Munthali in AfricaNow! about his participation in the Nairobi Kenya "Convocation on Climate and Hunger", financial responsibility, grassroots solutions and more. [Listen to the podcast here.](#)

**Sr. Eucharia featured in Detroit Catholic**

On November 21, Sr. Eucharia was featured in Valentine Iwenwanne's "Nigerian nuns raise awareness on rape, violence against women" article in *Detroit Catholic*. [Learn more here.](#)

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