

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

This year, we are excited to announce that AFJN will be celebrating 40 years of advocacy, capacity building and transformative education in Africa. But we did not get here all by ourselves. We are grateful to you (our members, coalition partners, the people of Africa, and donors). You have led the way. As we celebrate and reflect on this remarkable achievement, we thank you for your immeasurable generosity over the past four decades. We began 2023 by challenging ourselves to deepen our partnerships while branching out to work with more communities in service to the people of Africa. In addition to our advocacy work in Washington DC, we are focused on tackling the rising threat of human trafficking, early marriage and domestic servitude in Nigeria and Ghana, while fighting corruption in Cameroon and Liberia and multinational land grabbing in Ghana. We are excited to have more members in our fold, including Ms. Arleen Peterson and Rev. Fr. Ebuka Mbanude, who have already proven to be great additions to our Board. While I am eager about the work ahead, I invite you to read what we have accomplished together in the 2022 End of Year Report: Activity Highlights & Updates. May God bless you.


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[Membership](#)


2022 End of Year Report: Activity Highlights & Updates



**2022 End of Year Report
Activity Highlights & Updates**

*"It is you O Lord who have accomplished all we have done."
(Isaiah 26:12)*



The Africa Faith and Justice Network is so grateful to our organizational and individual members, grantors, and donors for your prayers and financial support.



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[Read AFJN's "2022 End of Year Report: Activity Highlights & Updates" here](#)

Upcoming Events

Tackling Human Trafficking in Africa: Catholic Sisters Share Successful Advocacy Strategies

This virtual event features four Catholic sisters, trained in the Africa Faith and Justice Network's Women Empowerment Project advocacy workshops, who are utilizing their advocacy skills to end human trafficking in their communities.

SPEAKERS

- DR. MARY KELLY BROWNE, DPM, MPH**
Director of Communications, The Secretariat of the Association of Religion in Uganda
- MR. MARY ROSE BARNABAS KIMUNA, LITURGY**
Vocation Director and Child Protection Officer
Uganda Sisters of Saint Francis Nyanza
- MR. JULIET FERREIRA, OLA**
Pastor Rights Lawyer and Peace Activist
- MR. KAYALA LISA, BSC**
Director, Catholic Anti-Slavery
- FR. ANKED OKURE, OP**
General Promoter of Justice and Peace
Bishop's Office

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

11:00 am - 12:00 pm ET (US and Canada)
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Africa)
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Europe)
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm (Asia)
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Australia)

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT
WWW.AFJN.ORG

SPONSORS



Tackling Human Trafficking in Africa: Catholic Sisters Share Successful Advocacy Strategies April 5, 2023 | 11:00 am EST (US/Canada)

AFJN, the Dominicans for Justice and Peace, and Talitha Kum Africa invite you to "Tackling Human Trafficking in Africa: Catholic Sisters Share Successful Advocacy Strategies" a virtual event featuring four Catholic sisters, trained in AFJN Women Empowerment Project advocacy workshops, who are utilizing their advocacy skills to end human trafficking in their communities. To learn more and register [click here](#).



Ecumenical Advocacy Days - Swords into Plowshares

April 25-27, 2023 Virtual Event

Join AFJN for the Africa Track at Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2023 for a virtual conference to worship, educate, and advocate for the innovative and courageous policies needed to realize God's promise of peace. Ecumenical Advocacy Days is an annual gathering of Christian advocates and activists. We worship, delve deeply into the pressing issues of the day, and lift our voices by speaking truth to power on Capitol Hill. For more information [click here](#).



Save the Date! AFJN 40th Anniversary Celebration Events

October 13 & 14, 2023

2023 marks the 40th Anniversary of AFJN's founding in 1983. Please mark your calendars and join us for two-days of hybrid events in October 2023. Stay tuned for more information.

US Advocacy

US-Kenya Strategic Investment Trade Partnership

AFJN was part of a coalition that met with Assistant United States Trade Representative Hamilton on the US-Kenya Strategic Investment Trade Partnership among other topics relevant to US-Africa policy.

UN Water Conference 2023

AFJN participated in an interfaith networking event ahead of the UN Water Conference 2023 on Thursday, March 16, 2023 that was organized by Ecumenical Water Solution. As the climate changes, access to reliable sources of potable water continue to be a major issue.

International Women's Day



Read the article ["On International Women's Day AFJN Stands with African Women" here](#).

View the "AFJN Women Leaders Changing Structures of Oppression in Images" webpage featuring [photos of women leaders here](#).

Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

As the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to grow, so too does AFJN's peacekeeping and outreach efforts in the US and around the world.

Why the World Should Not Forget the War in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Read AFJN Policy Analyst Jacques Bahati's article "[Why the World Should Not Forget the War in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)" that highlights roles of foreign interference, bad governance, impunity, poverty, legal criminal networks of untouchables, and ethnic tensions in the conflict.



Congo Peace Vigil: A Global Call for Peace in the Congo

On December 30, AFJN cosponsored "Congo Peace Vigil: A Global Call for Peace in the Congo" with: African Great Lakes Action Network, Andrée Blouin Cultural Center, Center for Research on the Congo-Kinshasa, Common Cause UK/DRC, Congo Democratic Initiatives, Congo Love, Congolese Action Youth Platform (CAYP), Friends of the Congo, Geno-Cost, Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance, HMG NETWORK, iHeartAfrica, NoMore, The United Methodist Church — General Board of Church and Society, World Conference of Mayors, and Yole! Africa. [To watch the event click here](#)



Just Governance

Ghana



Maintaining the People's Sovereignty Over Seeds

Since 2014, AFJN has been educating the people in Ghana about the dangers of agro-colonialism (a new form of colonization by foreign multinationals and agents of non-African countries who are taking over Africa's agriculture sector). Read Bahati's article about how seeds play a key role in this issue [here](#).

Women Empowerment Project



Working Together to End Child and Early Marriage in Ghana and Nigeria

In October 2022, AFJN Women Empowerment Project received a three-year grant from the Conrad Hilton Foundation (Sisters Initiative) to build the capacity of sisters and the local communities towards ending child and early marriage and domestic servitude in Ghana and Nigeria. Read AFJN Women Empowerment Coordinator's, Sr. Eucharua Madueke, SNDdeN, [article here](#).

Ghana - Northern Region



Workshop on the Rights of the Girl Child

November 23-25, 2022

AFJN led a workshop addressing the rights of the child and early child marriage with over sixty participants, including religious women and men, priests, the Christian Mothers Association, the Catholic Youth Association, Counsellors, the Department of Social Welfare, Department of Police and NGOs engaged on this topic with other problems facing today's young people. [Read the article](#) in the *Africa Province Newsletter* (pg 4).

Media Interest in Advocacy Efforts

Since AFJN's workshop in November 2022, our sisters in Ghana and their partners continue to have fruitful engagements with various communities and chiefs in Tamale. The impact is being noticed by the media who have published several articles including:

- Abdulai Majeed's "Africa Faith and Justice Network engages Bogkurugu Community on how to end child marriages" article in *Diamond FM* on January 11, 2023
- *Radio Tamale's* article "Child marriage fades out in Diare community as AFJN continuously increase awareness" on February 20, 2023
- Martina Bugri's "Girls who were married off want to return to school" in *MyJoyOnline* on March 17, 2023
- Martina Bugri's "Africa Faith & Justice Network Succeeds In Winning Early Marriage Victims Back Into School" article in *Radio Tamale* on March 18, 2023
- Eric Kombat's "Forced Marriage Girls Vows To Go Back To School" article in *DailyGuideNetwork* on March 20, 2023
- Mutaka Mohammed's "'We want to return to school'- Victims of Early Child Marriage" article in *Diamond FM* on March 25, 2023



ZAA TV Ghana Covered Workshop on Ending Early Child Marriage

On January 13, 2023, ZAA TV Ghana covered AFJN Women Empowerment Project on ending child marriage (starts at 6:15) [Watch it here](#).



ZAA TV Ghana - Children Want to Return to School

On March 20, 2023, ZAA TV Ghana covered AFJN Women Empowerment Project's success that girls do want to return to school (starts at 4:30) [Watch it here](#).



AFJN-Nigeria Workshop on Violence in Our Homes

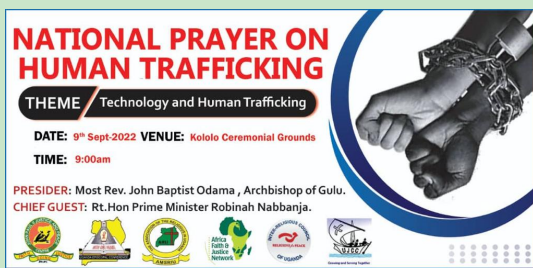
On December 10-14 2022, AFJN with AFJN-Nigeria, and Dominicans for Justice and Peace held a workshop "A Workshop on Violence in Our Homes: Tackling the Rising Incidents of Spousal Murders & Abuse of Domestic Servants" and issued a press release following the event that addressed the alarming escalation of violence, spousal murders, and the inhumane treatment of house helpers. The sisters called out the "war on the integrity and wholeness of the family" and the "blatant violation with impunity, of the rights and dignity of house helpers especially the girlchild". Read the [full press release](#) and watch a [video slideshow](#) of the workshop.



AFJN Featured in *The Guardian - Nigeria*

On February 17, 2023, Lawrence Njoku's "Domestic violence: Groups urge govt to address hunger, poverty" article in *The Guardian - Nigeria* covered AFJN's workshop on ending violence in our homes. [Read the article here.](#)

Uganda**



National Prayer on Human Trafficking **

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

**November 2022 eBulletin Correction - the "National Prayer on Human Trafficking" was held in Uganda not Nigeria.

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.

Welcome New Board Members!



Fr. Ebuka Mbanude
Washington, DC

Rev. Fr. Ebuka Mbanude

Ordained a priest of Jesus Christ on June 15, 2019, by Archbishop Wilton Gregory, Rev. Ebuka serves as a parochial vicar at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Landover Hills, MD. [Read his full biography here.](#)



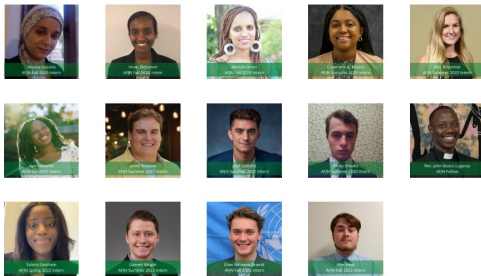
Arleen N. Peterson
Plymouth, IN

Ms. Arleen Peterson

Ms. Peterson is nonprofit leader and community organizer with over 20 years of experience. She holds degrees from Indiana University (BA '94) and Ball State University (MA '97) and she is parenting her son, Myles Peterson. [Read her full biography here.](#)

Calling All Interns!

Meet AFJN's Past 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.](#)

Grants (December 2022-March 2023)

- Grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- Grant from Dominican Sisters of Peace Shalom Fund
- Grant from Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ
- Grant from the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities
- Grant from Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Past Events



NAIMUN LX - Pan Africa Event at Georgetown University

On February 17, 2023, AFJN Executive Director, Dr. Steven Nabieu Rogers addressed a team of youth delegates of the Pan African Forum of the Georgetown Model of The United Nations Conference (NAIMUN LX) on the realities of international relations and the role of the youth as they relate to Africa and the work of AFJN during the conference.



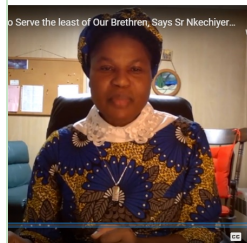
Crisis in the Congo: Voices From The Frontlines

On March 21, 2023, AFJN and Friends of the Congo held the "Crisis in the Congo: Voices from the Frontlines" webinar featuring Justine Masika and Pascal Mugaruka from Eastern DRC. They provided firsthand accounts of the atrocities,



displacement and occupation being carried out by the Rwanda-backed M23 militia. [Watch it here.](#)

AFJN in the News



AFJN Board Chair Interviewed on *African Catholic Voices*

On March 21, 2023 Sr. Nkechi Iwuoha, PHJC was [interviewed on *African Catholic Voices*](#), a service by the Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network, about her vocation of service and ministry to the least of the brethren, as a missionary who has worked in three continents, and her current leadership roles in the Catholic Church in the US.



AFJN Sr. Eucharua Quoted in *Global Sisters Report*

On March 13, 2023, Isabelle Izika quoted Sr. Eucharua in her article "[Language of advocacy strengthens African sisters' efforts to improve society](#)" in *Global Sisters Report*.



AFJN Mentioned in Anti-Trafficking Article in *Global Sisters Report*

On February 6, 2023, AFJN was mentioned in Gail DeGeorge's "[Prayer, information, action to help stop human trafficking](#)" article in *Global Sisters Report* about the role of Catholic sisters in combatting human trafficking.



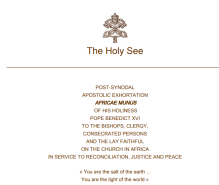
Dr. Rogers Quoted in *National Catholic Reporter*

On February 2, 2023, Dr. Rogers was quoted in Michael Sean Winters' "[Pope Francis doesn't hold back in condemning exploitation in Congo](#)" article in *National Catholic Reporter* on the Pope's visit to Africa.



Dr. Rogers' Article Featured in *SiERRAEYE Digital Magazine*

On January 29, 2023, AFJN Executive Director, Dr. Steven Nabieu Rogers' article "[Will 2023 Be The Defining Moment for Sustaining Democracy in Africa](#)" was featured in the "maiden edition" of *Sierra Eye Digital Magazine* that was posted on Twitter @sierraeyesalone.



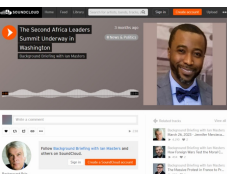
Press Statement: The African Legacy of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

On January 1, 2023 AFJN issued a press statement discussing the [legacy of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI](#) that highlighted the importance of the Second Synodal Assembly for Africa and Pope Benedict's *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Africae Munus* that called out the exploitation of Africa's resources.

Nigerian Workshop on Domestic Violence Featured in *Agenzia Fides*



On December 19 2022, *Agencia Fides* covered the press release issued following the Women Empowerment Workshop in "AFRICA/NIGERIA - Need to put an end to the escalation of domestic violence against women and children."



Dr. Rogers Interviewed on *Background Briefing with Ian Masters*

Dr. Rogers was interviewed on *Background Briefing with Ian Masters* on December 14 about the US - Africa Leaders Summit. [Listen to the interview here.](#)



AFJN Event on US-Africa Leaders Summit Mentioned in *The Final Call*

On December 13, 2022, Brian E Muhammad's "[African groups discuss goals ahead of U.S.-Africa summit](#)" article in *The Final Call* mentions an AFJN co-sponsored event.



Sr. Eucharia Quoted in *Religion Unplugged*

On December 9, 2022, Sr. Eucharia was quoted in Ekpali Saint's "[Despite Attacks, US Removes Nigeria From Religious Freedom Watch List](#)" article in *Religion Unplugged*.

Support AFJN in These Ways

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