

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



As 2024 draws closer, we give thanks to God for these 40 years of the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN). We thank Him for the many blessings bestowed on AFJN and our organization members, partners, chapters, and friends. We are grateful to the generous sponsors of our 40th Anniversary celebrations, especially the Ujamaa sponsors who enabled so many of us to come together to celebrate in person and online. We also took time this year to reflect on the amazing people whose sacrifice have empowered AFJN, including AFJN's 2023 Faith and Justice Awardee, Sr. Maura Browne, SNDdeN, AFJN's founding fathers (the Missionaries of Africa, the Spiritans and the Society of African Missions) and AFJN's very active Board under the dynamic leadership of its current executive. As you can see from this bulletin, we have only been able to achieve this much by the grace of God and with your support. May God bless you during this Season and in the coming year.

Donations



Membership



As we look at the challenges and exciting opportunities that lie ahead for Africa in 2024, we remain committed to sharing the gift of ourselves with those among us who need it the most as our mission demands. In the spirit of Ubuntu therefore, we look forward to doing more to empower women in Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda, to embolden vulnerable communities to fight back multinational land grabbing in Cameroon and Ghana, and to expand AFJN's Just Governance campaign in other parts of the continent including the Sahel Region, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Once again, a big thank you for your unwavering commitment and unconditional love. We look forward to seeing you in 2024. Happy New Year.

## Past Events

### AFJN 40th Anniversary - Huge Success



AFJN would like to thank everyone who participated to make the 40th Anniversary Celebration a huge success! AFJN is especially grateful to the Ujamaa sponsors, the [Comboni Missionaries](#) and the [Society of the Holy Child Jesus](#), who, through their very generous support, enabled many to participate in the Celebration Banquet and Award Ceremony. We also thank Jemima Andan, Chair of the 40th Anniversary Committee, and Sr. Margaret Doyle, SHCJ, Chair of the Development Committee for their leadership in organizing this event. AFJN thanks the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Alie Kabba, and Sr. Maura Browne, SNDdeN, 2023 AFJN Faith and Justice Award Recipient, for her years of service and dedication. AFJN would also like to thank all of the panelists, speakers, volunteers, and participants who celebrated

with us in-person and online, especially for your prayers, well wishes, and financial support. May God bless the work we have done together and may it continue for His glory for many more years to come!

Please watch and share the video links below, consider subscribing to our [YouTube Channel](#) @AfricaFaithandJusticeNetwork (and like our videos), and share our event page [www.afjn.org/celebrate-40](http://www.afjn.org/celebrate-40).



The AFJN Faith and Justice Award Ceremony Honoring

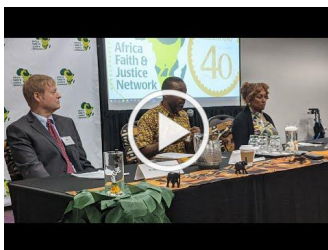
**Sr. Maura Browne, SNDdeN**



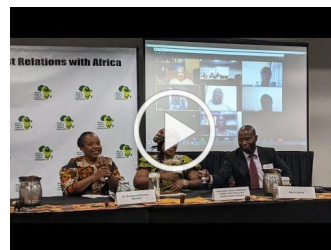
"Africa and US Foreign Policy: Priorities, Challenges and Opportunities in a Multipolar World" Keynote by Dr. Alie Kabba



Opening Ritual and "AFJN at 40 - A Conversation with AFJN Elders"



"US - Africa Relations: Opportunities and Challenges"



"Highlights from the Field - Transforming Lives and Hearts"



AFJN 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Holy Eucharist



Launch of the Capital Campaign for the Africa House



Reflection on the 40th Anniversary of AFJN by Fr. Aniedi Okure, OP

## AFJN Exhibits at LCWR 2023 Assembly



Dr. Rogers, Ms. Arleen Peterson, AFJN Board Member, and Sr. Nkechi Iwuoha, PHJC, AFJN Board Chair exhibited at the [Leadership Conference of Women Religious](#) 2023 Assembly on August 8-11, 2023 in Dallas, Texas. Several women religious congregations mentioned during the exhibit that they did not know about AFJN or our mission and were enthusiastic to learn more.

## US Advocacy

### Factsheet

As co-chair of the Africa Advocacy Network for Africa Accountability Working Group, AFJN Policy Analyst Jacques Bahati is helping to draft a fact sheet addressing the illicit financial flows from Africa. The fact sheet will have comprehensive policy, education, and advocacy plans aimed at raising awareness to end this detrimental issue facing Africa. This initiative was under the leadership of the African Justice Network.



## AFJN Joins 131 Organizations and Leaders Calling for TPS of the DRC

On November 9, AFJN was one of 131 organizations and leaders who joined the Catholic Legal Immigration Services (CLINIC) in sending a letter to President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and Secretary Mayorkas calling for them "to designate the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) [due to the] escalating armed conflicts [that] have further aggravated a dire humanitarian crisis". [Read the full letter here.](#)

## Rosemont College Education Awareness

On November 8, AFJN Policy Analyst Jacques Bahati addressed students of Rosemont College's International Business Class as part of AFJN's awareness campaign to build support for sanctions in the DRC as an advocacy tool. This was made possible through Sr. Margaret Doyle, SHCJ, AFJN Board of Directors' Development Chair.

## AFJN Urges Biden Administration to Implement Global Water Security Action Plan

On November 2, Dr. Rogers, AFJN Board Member Fr. Ebuka Mbanude, and Bahati met with Senator Chris Van Hollen and urged the Biden Administration to implement the 2022 White House Global Water Security Action Plan. Investing in water security in Sub-Saharan Africa can restore the United States (US) position as the leading partner of Africa, while enhancing US national security interests. [Read Bahati's article here.](#)



## AFJN's Contributions to the UN's Peacebuilding Commission's Ministerial Meeting

In September, AFJN submitted comments to the United Nations (UN) Peacebuilding Commission's Ministerial Meeting "Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9A New Agenda for Peace". The comments addressed several action areas including: UN Security Council (UNSC) Reform (Action 8); African Priorities and Accountability (Actions 2,3,4,8); Evaluation of UN Peacekeeping Efforts in Africa (Actions 8,9,10) and Disproportionate Climate Impact on African Nations (Action 6). AFJN stressed African priorities and accountability, called for an evaluation of UN peacekeeping efforts in Africa, and advocated for the acknowledgement of the disproportionate climate impact on African nations on human-induced climate change. [Read AFJN's full submission here.](#)



## Promoting Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



On August 9, AFJN led an interfaith-coalition meeting with the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of African Affairs on peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Among the many issues discussed included the role of the United States in supporting institutional reforms especially the judiciary and the army; Reforms that can advance peace in the eastern region of the DRC vis-à-vis Rwanda's involvement; and The UN Experts reports S/2023/431 and S/2022/967 on the DRC published respectively in June and December 2023.

These reports highlight the gravity of the war in the eastern part of the DRC and its interplay with the fight against Islamist terrorism. This Faith-based organization-led meeting was organized in collaboration with the US The State Department Outreach Office to meet with Amy Holman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Africa where the coalition submitted a formal letter with recommendations. Following the meeting AFJN was informed of measures taken by the State Department which included [sanctions against individuals](#) and the Secretary of State [had a call](#) with

## Engaging Young African Leaders at the Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit



On August 1, AFJN's Policy Analyst Jacques Bahati participated in the [Young African Leaders Initiative](#) Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit Exhibition held in Washington DC to showcase AFJN's work in Africa to the continent's young leaders. This summit which attracted 700 young African fellows provided a platform for AFJN to showcase our US-African policy program and an opportunity for future engagement with these young leaders. Sixty fellows signed up.

## Fostering Post-Election Peace in Sierra Leone

On July 21 Dr. Rogers attended a post-election peace discussion on Sierra Leone which included representatives from the State Department, the National Democratic Institute and civil society groups. Ways to foster peace in Sierra Leone and minimize potential post-election violence were discussed.

## Building Coalition Support for Congressional Support for African Torture Survivors



On July 20, Dr. Rogers met with Andrea Barron, Advocacy and Outreach Program Manager for Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) International to discuss possible areas of collaboration on in advocacy especially pertaining to African survivors of torture.

## Just Governance

### Cameroon

#### AFJN Chapter Established

The AFJN Cameroon, a semi-autonomous, Chapter is official and will continue AFJN's work on anticorruption activities and other justice-and-peace projects rooted in catholic social teaching in the region. The Chapter, is headed by Madam Massa Ferancide (former Justice and Peace Coordinator of the Dioceses of Baffousam).



#### AFJN Mobile Court Delivers Vital Records for Cameroonian Children

Over 310 undocumented Cameroonian children registered their births through an AFJN-organized mobile court made possible with support from the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities. Local partners led by AFJN Cameroon-Chapter Coordinator Massa Ferrancide raised awareness in Fosset and Kouotamo and other towns and parishes in Oyomabang on the importance of registering births with civil authorities. Lack of awareness of laws and procedures to obtain vital records renders many Cameroonian children stateless. Religious practices among Muslim citizens also often delay registration, thus posing a significant barrier. As





a result, children are often in conflict with the law, unable to take public exams, and deprived of other "lifelong protections" to exercise their rights. AFJN's intervention through the mobile court procedures and awareness raising has ensured fair payment and protected parents from extortion as they independently navigate the complex court process.



In December, at the Decentralized Territorial Office of Foubot, AFJN hosted a training on how to ensure children will obtain birth certificates within the statute of limitation at no-cost to the parent. This proactive training attracted council members, mayoral councilors, neighborhood chiefs, and health center leadership. In collaboration with the Territorial Authority, AFJN helped launch the first Strategic Monitoring Committee (SMC) for three (Foubot City, Rural Foubot and Foubot Mangoum) local jurisdictions within Foubot, in West Cameroon. Participants are currently working on strategies to establish these SMCs in their local communities.

## Ghana



### Preventing Land Grabbing in Ghana's Volta Region

AFJN's land grabbing awareness campaign in Breweniase was featured in the July 7, 2023 article "We sold our destiny" by Mary Anane-Amponsah and Linda Sah in *The Daily Graphic*, local Ghanaian paper and *Graphic Online* (and also in *The Ghanaian Times*). [Read the article here.](#)

In August, 2023, AFJN raised the tempo on land grabbing awareness by visiting over ten communities in Ghana's Volta Region. Ghana is a hotspot for predatory large-scale land acquisition that has impoverished rural Ghanaians. Dr. Rogers and Bahati traveled to Ghanaian communities impacted by land grabbing which has led to chemical pollution of farmland and water source, food insecurity, community displacements and conflicts. Our community engagements featured in several media outlets including Ghana's main television and newspaper networks. The event began with traditional ceremonies of the Feast of the Ewe Festival in Anshama followed by the First Gbedzemele Ceremony, a ceremony of a council of local leaders and their people in Ashama. The team also engaged the traditional leaders in the Ewe, Kanuwloe, Gbagbavinu and Adaklu communities among others. Christopher Galenkui, Elected Assembly member, Adaklu promised to share this knowledge with all eight of his communities.



This project is made possible by funding from the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities, Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ and Sisters of the Holy Cross.

## Liberia

### Fighting Corruption in Liberia

On July 27, AFJN met with the Most Rev. Tony Bishop Borwah on commissioning a study to look at corruption in the school system of the diocese of Gbarnga as part of AFJN's Just Governance Project. The bishop has appointed a high level team of religious and parishioners to partner with AFJN to implement the project. There is much enthusiasm for the replication of AFJN's Cameroon anti-corruption campaign in Liberia.



## Women Empowerment Project

AFJN Women's Empowerment Program worked on two major issues in three countries: working actively educating and advocating against child and early marriage and domestic servitude in Ghana and Nigeria, and in tackling the root causes of child migration and trafficking in Northern Uganda.

In August, Sr. Eucharika Madueke, SNDdeN, AFJN Women Empowerment Coordinator, and Rev. Aniedi Okure, OP spoke at an Online Seminar for Women Religious August 2023 on the very relevant to the work of AFJN on "The Canonical Place and Role of Women Religious in the Church and in the Society".

### Ghana



### Youth Workshop on Role of Youth in Ending Early Child Marriage

In December, AFJN held a workshop on "The Role of the Youth to End Early Child Marriage" at the Catholic Guest house in Tamale Ghana where 50 youth advocates and volunteers from different fields came together. This was part of a continuation of the earlier workshops where Tamale youth were encouraged to take the lead to end early child marriage. The workshop covered a review of AFJN Tamale 2022 trainings, medical complications that result from child marriage, the rights of the girl child, the psychological impact of early child marriage and domestic servitude, and how to report abuses. The workshop was co-facilitated by a medical practitioner from the Tamale Teaching Hospital, a representative from the Commission on Human Rights and Administration and Sr. Rejoice.

The youth shared their grievances about the not-so-smooth running of CHRAJ in their duties and the bureaucracy associated with reporting issues. They made strategic recommendations of CHRAJ in their information dissemination to ensure that more youths and victims are aware of the toll free number. The youth identified their roles and came up several points including the role models for the younger generation in advocacy and sensitization against early child marriage, how to influence laws, make good use of social media; and to support the younger ones with economic empowerment skills. Thirty participants from the workshop have already participated in the community engagement. AFJN continues to build more youth advocates in the northern region of Ghana where victims of forced child marriage are eager to go back to school. Communities benefiting from AFJN's sensitization are also coming together to support these young girls to go back to school.





In November, several Roman Catholic Schools (1240 pupils and teachers) participated in two sessions of Awareness Creation on Human Trafficking. This event was in partnership with Talitha Kum Ghana.

Also in November, about 600 of the students along with the teachers of the JMJ School also participated in a sensitization discussion on trafficking.

## Kenya

### Workshop Preparation

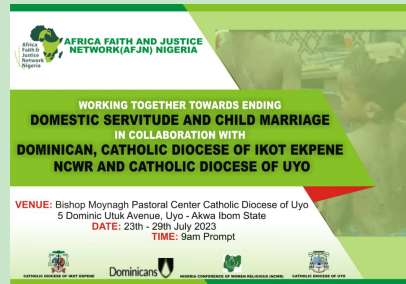
In August Sr. Eucharía visited Kenya to meet with sisters in preparation for advocacy workshops that will be held in April 2024 on ending child trafficking.

## Nigeria



### Akwa-Ibom State

In July, AFJN Women Empowerment Coordinator, Sr. Eucharía, together with the AFJN-Nigeria (AFJN-N), Dominicans, National Conference of Women Religious, Catholic Diocese of Uyo and Catholic Diocese of Ikot Ekpene held workshops on "Working Together Towards Ending Domestic Servitude and Child Marriage" in Uyo and Ikot Otu, Akwa-Ibom. Despite several challenges that included high cost of fuel, limited transportation, heavy rains, police and army roadblocks and other security situations the workshops attracted a diverse group of participants. Opening remarks were given by the Diocesan Bishop, and other speakers included AFJN Consultant, Fr. Aniedi Okure, OP; a representative from National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP); Professor Adeniyi, and a lawyer from FemLe Federal Government Association. Victims of early marriage shared emotional stories of their plight, evoking tears from many participants. Workshop participants immediately visited several communities afterwards to raise awareness. One community with over 80 members was so excited that they made a commitment to never send a child out of the community. They also requested that the group ask the government to stop the illegal hotels that are in the community bringing about moral decay. Watch a short video montage of the workshop by [AFJN-Nigeria here](#).



The workshops were also featured on Planet 101.1 FM radio broadcast and covered by by The Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation's [AKBC News watch it at 14:10 here](#). A radio broadcast, Planet 101.1 FM, also covered the workshop.





## Akwa-Ibom Radio Program

In August, Sr. Dr. Stella, Business Professor at the Federal University in Uyo, Sr. Comfort, a Head Teacher, and Fr. Okure appeared on *Memories 90.9 FM*, a radio program in Akwa-Ibom State.



In September, AFJN-N team visited the Ikot Osukpong community in Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area to address domestic servitude and child marriage. The sisters received a warm reception and the community actively participated. They are now poised to educate, empower, and advocate for an end to domestic servitude and child marriage in Akwa Ibom State.



Christian Nkanyi, a member of the AFJN-N team reflected that the Oyubia community chief's recognition of the serious nature of domestic servitude "demonstrate[d] the community's determination to protect its members, especially the vulnerable. Together, we are paving the way for a brighter future, one free from exploitation and injustice" during the return visit to the community where 85 individuals participated in the gathering. Christian also reported that the chief requested a written letter be sent to all the churches and schools in the community declaring this fight to be on every family's agenda.



In October, the AFJN-N WEP team held a school awareness campaign "Catch Them Young" school exposure program in Uyo. Rev. Sr. Stella Usen spoke to students on issues relating to Domestic Servitude and Child Marriage during the "Catch Them Young" School Exposure program. [Read the AFJN-N report here.](#)



## AFJN-Nigeria Documentary Video on Early and Child Marriage

This video was made by AFJN-Nigeria to raise awareness of the realities of early and child marriage in Nigeria. Watch it on [AFJN-Nigeria's YouTube Channel here.](#)

## Plateau State



On July 19th in Jos Nigeria AFJN held a youth program with 60 Muslim and 60 Christian youths on early and child marriage and domestic servitude that included the creation of a support group for female victims of early marriage most of whom are Muslims.

[AFJN-Nigeria](#) created a jingle in August "Which Way Nigeria" to [end early and childhood marriage here.](#)



## Rehabilitated Survivor Starts Shoe Business

One of the rehabilitated girls in Jos, has started a shoe business thanks to the generous support from the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur that was earmarked for rehabilitating survivors.



## Enugu State

Even though rainy season made the roads muddy and difficult to maneuver, Sisters still visited the Alulu Community in Nike in August. Sisters met with Igwe Odezligbo III of Nike who shared that 90% of cases that come to his palace center around domestic violence. He expressed his gratitude for the sisters coming to his community to raise awareness and promised to arrange a meeting for the sisters to meet with his people. In addition, he also gave contact information to other traditional leaders in the state. He also sent a representative to offer kola nut ceremony to the sisters to welcome them in their community.



Sr. Eucharia met with the Sisters of Nkanu. She will be talking to them about AFJN and the need to engage in advocacy as many poor families continue to be exploited.

During these meetings it became evident of how little people know of the impact of early and child marriage and domestic servitude. With this new knowledge they have a strong zeal to work together to end these practices. Communities and individuals are recognizing the negative impact of these practices and are calling for more engagement and education. NGOs and government ministries see AFJN as a credible organization and a conduit bringing them together for unified action on behalf of justice.



From November 11th-18th AFJN-N sisters were featured on *Coal City FM 92.9 Enugu* in collaboration with the Women and Child Justice Initiative. They spoke on issues around domestic servitude and early child marriage.



## Ebonyi State

In August, Sr. Eucharia with Barrista Amaka, Sr. Theresa and a representative of NAPTI traveled to Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. This was the first time the Women Empowerment Project held events in the state. Over 1,000 women participated in the talk on ending domestic servitude and child marriage. The women were very grateful learning more about these and other issues of violence against women and children. The participants pledged to be part of the fight against these crimes.



## AFJN-N Day of the Child

In August, AFJN-N held an event to reach out to the children who are potential victims of domestic servitude. The sisters (members of AFJN-N) held a gathering with children at a local school to discuss these issues impacting the youth and children.



**ADVOCACY WEBINAR IN COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**ENGAGING YOUTHS IN ADVOCATING AGAINST EARLY MARRIAGE, CHILD LABOUR AND DOMESTIC SERVITUDE**

**MODERATOR**

- Rev. Fr. Aniedi Okure OP, United Nations
- Rev. Sr. Prisca Great MMM, Medical Missionaries of Mary
- Rev. Sr. Eucharia Maduako, SNDGB, AFJN - Washington DC, United State of America
- Barrister Amaka Rodigwe, AFJN - Nigeria
- Mr. Bonny Rex Obich, Social Justice Activist

**25 NOV | 4 - 6 P.M. | ZOOM**

**REGISTER TO JOIN NOW**  
<https://forms.gle/waQ53WQW4yy3k8HJ8>  
[www.afjn.org.ng](http://www.afjn.org.ng) | +234 703 0434 514

## International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Webinar for Youth

On November 25, AFJN-N held the "Engaging Youths in Advocating Against Early Child marriage, Child Labour and Domestic Servitude" webinar for youth. The webinar discussed: How to advocate and amplify their voices on issues on early and child marriage & domestic servitude; The social and health implication of early and child marriage; The legal implication of early marriage and domestic servitude; and How to use social media in advocacy and to influence change.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO END CHILD AND EARLY MARRIAGE AND DOMESTIC SERVITUDE IN NIGERIA**

**SPEAKERS**

- Rev. Fr. Aniedi Okure OP, United Nations
- Barr. Chidiebere Oruruo-Ifudu, NAPITIP Enugu Zonal Command
- Sr. Pauline Chioma Ogbonnaya, OP Rome
- Mr. Peter Ewah Ikechukwu, Ebonyi State

DATE	TIME	PLACE
13th Dec. 2023	4:00 PM	ZOOM

## International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Webinar for Youth

On December 13, AFJN-N held the "Working Together to End Child and Early Marriage and Domestic Servitude in Nigeria" webinar for women religious across Nigeria. Over 100 women religious registered for the event. Speakers included: Fr. Okure, Barr. Chidiebere Oruruo-Ifudu, Sr. Pauline Chioma Ogbonnaya, and Mr. Peter Ewah Ikechukwu.

## Uganda



## Tackling Child Trafficking in Kampala

In September, Sr. Eucharia and Dr. Rogers travelled to Karamojong for sensitization trainings on Ending child trafficking, child slavery, and forced and unsafe migration of underage children particularly young girls in Soroti and Karamojong in Northern Uganda. Karamojong land is the supplier of children that are sold in Soroti and trafficked to Kampala. They visited Katwe Katenda zone and Katwe Base Zone Karamajong communities in Kampala, including a one-room school where kids who were taken off the streets were rehabilitated until they were 14 before they were sent to a proper school. During the tour of the Karamajong communities in Kampala, there was much suffering (cameras are not allowed). Many little children who were also malnourished walked miles unchaperoned to attend schools. The group engaged the existing network of sisters and partnered with other groups like the Pope John Paul II Justice and Peace Center, Women and Equal Opportunity Desk, and the Comboni Sisters for the sensitization.

The sensitization and advocacy training programs had over 126 participants



representing over 12 communities, where families have sold their children into slavery, in Karamojong. The goal was to educate representatives on the rights of the child as well as establishing community advocacy core groups in these communities. The town hall meetings in the rural communities brought over 600 participants from communities in the Lokopo county. The group also met with over 50 traditional leaders at the Akriket Shrine, where elders in Karamojong meet and invoke their gods over issues affecting their land, and the Karamojong Katwe community in Kampala which included owners of a temporary shelter where Karamojong trafficked children sleep, the local leaders of this community, and the area council leaders. The team also met with the Karamojong members of the parliament and seven other government offices where we delivered advocacy letters. In addition the team also held radio programs and trained rescue children for drama media to reach a wider audience. Since our program, the metropolitan police together with our Ugandan partners over 60 children have been rescued and transported back home and 15 Karamojong perpetrators have been arrested.

### Karamoja Children Advocate Against Child Trafficking



### AFJN-Uganda Launches Website



AFJN-Uganda launched a website:  
<https://afjnug.org/>

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, Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, Missionaries of Africa, and AFJN organizational and individual members.

## News and Events



### New Organizational Member Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace!

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace is a new AFJN Organizational Member. Please join AFJN in welcoming these sisters to AFJN. We are excited to be working with them in the future and encourage everyone to visit their website to learn more about their community here: <https://csjp.org/>.



### New Office Manager! Welcome Kelly Maltagliati

This August AFJN has been blessed to have Kelly Maltagliati, an Ignatian Corps Volunteer, as our new Office Manager. Kelly could not have come at a better time, with the preparations for our 40th anniversary in full swing. She has been a huge asset and we hope that you will join us in welcoming and thanking her. [Read her biography here.](#)

## Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

On August 17 Srs. Melody and Susan from the [Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace](#) met with AFJN to explore future partnership and/or collaboration especially with our work in Africa. This meeting was a follow-up to initial conversations started during LCWR.

## Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Pledge \$40K to AFJN Capital Campaign

During AFJN's 40th Anniversary Celebration, AFJN Board Chair, Sr. Nkechi Iwuoha, PHJC announced that her Congregation pledged \$40,000 towards the Africa House capital campaign during the launch of the campaign. These funds would be distributed over a 3 year period. Please join AFJN in thanking the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ for their very generous pledge.



## Catholic Leaders Circle Convening

Dr. Rogers participated in the [Catholic Leaders Circle](#) where leaders of national Catholic organizations, initiatives, and institutes across the US meet quarterly to share in-depth knowledge. This meeting placed special emphasis on with a special focus on the Catholic Church's working document *Instrumentum laboris* and the theology behind this shift to greater accountability - necessary reforms of the Church in light of Vatican II.

## AFJN Part of ECOSOC Status at the UN

AFJN has now acquired a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Since acquiring this status, AFJN has submitted key policy recommendations for global peace (see above). [Read the letter here.](#)



Dear NGO Representative,  
8 August 2023

**Subject: Follow-up to the decision of the Economic and Social Council**

I am pleased to inform you that on 25 July 2023, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to grant special consultative status to your organization, **Africa Faith and Justice Network**. Please accept our heartfelt congratulations.

## 2024 New Initiatives on the Sahel

The Missionaries of Africa granted AFJN support for initiatives aimed at educating the public and mobilizing individuals in West Africa as they strive to liberate themselves from both historical colonial legacies and new colonial influences, notably from France. Activities are set to commence in 2024.



## AFJN Thanks Sr. Florence for Years of Service

Sr. Florence Deacon, OSF will step down from AFJN's Board of Directors as of December 2023 as she retires. Sr. Florence has served on AFJN's Board of Directors since 2017, serving as Board Chair for two terms from May 2018 through 2022. AFJN is



## 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



grateful for the leadership and support of Sr. Florence through the years and we pray that God continues to bless her in the years to come.

[AFJN's Internship Program and apply online here.](#)



## AFJN Mourns Fr. Anthony J. (Tony) Gittins, C.S.Sp.

It is with great sadness that AFJN learned of the passing of Fr. Anthony J. (Tony) Gittins, C.S.Sp., former Board Member, on May 15, 2023. We pray that God grant Fr. Gittins eternal rest in peace. For more information about arrangements and where to send donations, please [read his obituary here.](#)

## AFJN in the News

**Alie Kabba delivers keynote address on US-Africa relations at 40th Conference of Africa Faith & Justice Network**



### 40th Keynote Address Covered in *Salone Messenger*

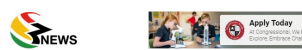
On October 16, 2023 Salu Kamuskay's article "Alie Kabba delivers keynote address on US-Africa relations at 40th Conference of Africa Faith and Justice Network" featured the address given in *Salone Messenger*. [Read it here.](#)

**Africa Faith and Justice Network marks 40 years of advancing advocacy**



### 40 Years of AFJN Featured in *National Catholic Reporter* Ahead of 40th Anniversary

On October 13, 2023 National Catholic Reporter author Aleja Hertzler-McCain wrote "Africa Faith and Justice Network marks 40 years of advancing advocacy". The article includes interview with current and past AFJN leadership and discusses the transformation of AFJN over the years. [Read it here.](#)



### AFJN Land Grabbing Awareness Featured in *3News*

**Some multinational companies allegedly grabbing lands in Ghana under the guise of investment – NGO**



On September 6, 2023, Laud Nartey's article "Some multinational companies allegedly grabbing lands in Ghana under the guise of investment – NGO" covered the recent Land Grabbing Awareness campaign held in Ghana as a part of the Africa Faith and Justice Network's (AFJN) Just Governance Project. The article referenced AFJN Executive Director, Dr. Steven Nabieou Rogers, and was featured on *3News*. [Read the full article here.](#)

**Some multinational firms engaged in land grabbing in Ghana under the guise of investment – NGO sounds alarm**



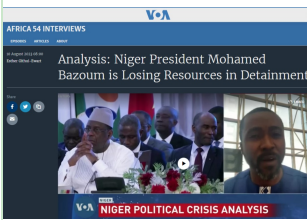
### AFJN Land Grabbing Awareness Featured in *My Joy Online*

On September 5, 2023, *My Joy Online* published, "Some multinational firms engaged in land grabbing in Ghana under the guise of investment – NGO sounds alarm", an article discussing the recent land grabbing advocacy awareness program AFJN held in Ghana. [Read the article or listen to it here.](#)



### Dr. Rogers on *Morning Rush* in *Metro TV Ghana*

On September 1, 2023, Dr. Rogers was interviewed about the Just Governance work in Ghana on *Morning Rush* broadcast by *Metro TV Ghana*. [Watch it here.](#)



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

On August 10, 2023, Dr. Rogers was interviewed by Esther Githui-Ewart on *Voice of America's Africa 54* in "Analysis: Niger President Mohamed Bazoum is Losing Resources in Detainment" program. [Watch it here.](#)



### Dr. Rogers Press Statement on Niger

On August 10th AFJN issued a press statement "ECOWAS Must Use Diplomacy Not Force to Restore Stability in the Republic of Niger" about the coup in Niger. Dr. Rogers called for dialogue and diplomacy for a quick resolution. [Read the full statement here.](#)

## Support AFJN in These Ways

### PRAY



### ADVOCATE



- [Donate online](#) with debit/credit card or your PayPal account.
- Donate through [Facebook Fundraiser](#)

Mail your donation:

Africa Faith and Justice Network  
3025 4th St NE, FL 2  
Washington, DC 20017





[Unsubscribe office@afjn.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [director@afjn.org](#) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!