



What is Africa Faith & Justice Network, and what has it accomplished?

Our Mission: The Africa Faith and Justice Network, inspired by the Gospel and informed by Catholic Social Teaching, seeks to educate and advocate for just relations with Africa and to work in partnership with African peoples as they engage in the struggle for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

We are the only faith-based, pan-African organization currently advocating for Africa in Washington. Africa Faith & Justice Network is supported by 25 religious communities which represent thousands of individuals working for Africa in the U.S. and abroad. Our small staff carries on the work of justice AFJN has done for 34 years.

AFJN Lifts African Voices with the Empowerment Project

Started by AFJN and continued in partnership with the African Bishops and The Catholic University of America's Institute for Policy Research, this educational program applies Catholic Social Teaching principles of the common good, human solidarity, and basics of economic justice and accountability to empower grassroots leadership and governance in Africa. In the past year, AFJN has launched a project targeting African women religious, providing them the education and tools they need to advocate on behalf of the people they serve. **Outside assistance is important, but only Africans themselves can tackle local problems, hold their leaders accountable, and fight corruption and poverty.** So what is our role?

- AFJN organizes workshops with diverse groups of people to learn and bring advocacy skills back to their communities.
- Participants identify local issues and go through extensive sessions on how to organize, advocate, and make things happen.
- AFJN motivates the trained participants to go forth and change their communities from the GRASSROOTS UP!

AFJN has completed numerous successful workshops on the African continent since beginning the Empowerment Project in 2013. The Women's Empowerment Project has already seen great responses in Ghana and Nigeria since launching in 2016, and we are expanding to Tanzania within the next couple months.

AFJN Stops Dangerous African Land Grabs

It is evident that foreign investors are not coming to Africa to help address food shortages on the African continent or for the primary benefit of Africans. The potential short-term gain from large-scale farming is not worth the long-term impact on food security, physical security, culture, or the ecological system. **The people who live on that land are often lied to, pushed out, and left homeless and jobless without access to life-giving farmland and water sources. When a large majority of Africans survive by small-scale farming, land ownership is a life or death issue.** Whereas 1 hectare of land (about 2.4 acres) costs an estimated \$16,000 in the United States, foreign investors grab it in Africa for as little as \$1 per hectare per year as was the case in Cameroon and Ghana with the U.S. company Herakles Farms. AFJN's awareness and prevention action plan includes:

- Naming, shaming, and stopping foreign companies who perpetrate land grabs.
- Educating village chiefs (male and female), local government, and the general public in the Volta Region of Ghana and beyond to keep farmers informed of their rights and the consequences of land grabs.
- Using media such as TV and radio to reach a wider audience and start a dialogue among families and communities.

These programs are just some of what AFJN does!

Find out more at www.afjn.org

The struggle for justice is not over: We need you! Africa needs us! We need Africa!