



Global Freedom Network (GFN)

Africa



Opening Statements

**Appreciate the key global leadership of the
21Wilberforce**

**We are delighted that Africa was chosen for this pilot
project which will be replicated across other regions of
the world.**

Opening Statements

We have heard them share the vision, objectives and expected outcomes of the GFN.

Africa like many regions is a hotbed of religious tension and intolerance leading to violence, killings and displacement of communities. The GFN is a fresh opportunity to address these challenges

Opening Statements (Contd.)

What we want to do now is to share:

- **What we do in Africa**
- **What we are doing and**
- **What are the next steps?**

First Steps

Sensitization

We started with sensitization of our people using the last AABMF congress in Cameroon to kickstart the awareness program.

Stakeholder Engagement

We went on to engage critical stakeholders and resource persons for their buy in.

Consultations

We held meetings in small groups, individual consultation and resource persons(those who will bring technical support to the project). The consultative meetings are still ongoing.

First steps (contd.)

Core Team

We raised a core team in the interim to coordinate the GFN activities in Africa and they have been meeting.

Capacity Building

We have held several technical, planning and capacity building meetings with the team and the 21Wilberforce office in the US to enable the team here commence in full swing the activities of the GFN particularly recruitment of active personnel and development of same. This involves setting up the structures at the regional and country levels.

Collaborations

Let me say here that we are conscious of the project being a Baptist driven vision and yet are even more conscious not to drive it with the known Baptist structures because the vision intends that non-Baptist actors will play critical roles too. This is to win and escalate confidence across all participants.

First steps (Contd.)

Collaborations (Contd.)

Yet, we are working closely with the AABF structure led by General Secretary Elias but not openly driving it with the AABF structure. Our relationship is collaborative.



What exactly do we do?

Intelligence & Analyses

To provide actionable and customized intelligence, and analysis from Africa to support informed policy/action by governments, external authorities and local faith communities in Africa.

Knowledge & Training

We will provide knowledge and training to address potential threats, while providing systems and procedures to respond to these threats.

Concrete action steps to achieve our goals

- We will be working directly with policy/decision makers and stakeholders as they frame their issues and decision support elements.
- Work from both top - down and bottom - up transforming information or data into actionable tools for all knowledge users.
- We will create and use information or incident reporting templates and procedures.

Concrete action steps to achieve our goals (Contd.)

- Provide early warning to religious freedom threats for primary knowledge users as well as external actors and organizations.
- We will also be engaged in capacity building activities where we will provide threatened communities with training and resources to strengthen preparation and resilience.
- We will also be “meeting needs”. Here we mean helping “match” requested needs with required resources and services. It means we will “work together” on any proffered solution and needs. The relationship will be collaborative.



WHO ARE THESE WHO WILL NEED AND USE OUR RESOURCES?

- 1. Global Network leaders**
- 2. National Stakeholders**
- 3. External decision makers**
- 4. Local and International policy and government clients**

These groups of persons will be fed with strategic information that will enable them to make decisions that influence action and intervention. Our part at the regional level is to verify and resolve issues within the structure and reach out to the global structure when necessary.

THE AFRICAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COUNCIL

Recall that I have mentioned that we have had a core team that has started the work prior to this launch. The African Religious Freedom Council will be constituted. Those in the council include:

- **21Wilberforce Ambassador for Africa**
- **AABF Representative**
- **President/ General Secretary of Baptist Convention and Unions in Africa or their representative(A representative is preferable)**
- **Representative of Baptist Women in Africa**
- **Representative of Baptist Men in Africa**
- **Representative of Baptist Youth in Africa**



THE AFRICAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM COUNCIL (CONTD.)

- Representative of the Rights advocacy community
- Representative of the legal profession
- Political leader in the Executive
- Political leader from the Parliament
- A global human right expert
- The 21Wilberforce Timothy fellows(Two persons)
- GFN coordinating team in Africa
- Representative of Pastors and Religious leaders



5-MAN COUNTRY TEAMS

Once we are done constituting the Africa Religious Freedom Council, we will move on to constitute the Country Teams with a start from countries with known religious freedom Infractions. The five-man country teams shall include:

- **A country coordinator**
- **Representative of the Convention/Union**
- **Three others who can be pastors, church leaders, lawyers, rights advocates, political leaders.**

There have been suggestions that the country's working team number be increased. This can be considered when all the structures come on stream and the gap and need is evident.



TRAINING PROGRAMS

Train The Trainers

Once these teams are set up, we will commence training on information gathering, reporting and other essential tools that will be useful for network teams.

- ❖ Training will be provided to network members who are open to training others
- ❖ Training will be done in batches and will be virtual for the first set of trainers
- ❖ We will host strategy sessions and we have here the Oxford University on board to provide training support



SO WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

1. Any one who is passionate about the protection and promotion of Religious Freedom across Africa. You don't have to be in the council to be involved.
2. Denominational leaders, pastors, church leaders and other church members at all levels.
3. Lawyers, Rights advocates, media practitioners etc
4. Political Leaders
 - ❖ Executive
 - ❖ Legislature(key)
 - ❖ Judiciary



SO WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED? (Contd.)

5. Researchers and those in the academia
6. Young people(Emerging leaders) desiring to chart a new career path in Religious freedom advocacy.
7. Community leaders at the lowest level(Rural communities)
8. Traditional and natural Leaders
9. Community people - Traders, Artisans, etc



HOW DO YOU ENLIST?

Prior to the constitution of the Africa Council and Country Teams, we have put up a platform to accommodate all those (irrespective of country) who are interested to join the project.



WHO DO YOU CONTACT?

Temitope Akinola

Network Coordinator (Africa ACTs)

temitopeakinola@gmail.com

Oladapo Ipadeola

Senior Network Coordinator (Africa ACTs)

ipadeola@gmail.com

Dawari George

21Wilberforce Ambassador for Africa and Lead, GFN Project Africa

dawari.george@yahoo.com



WHO DO YOU CONTACT? (Contd.)

Trenton Martin

Advocacy and Training Coordinator.

21Wilberforceilberforce

tmartine@21wilberforce.org

John Gongwer

Executive Director, 21Wilberforce

jgongwer@21wilberforce.org



WHO DO YOU CONTACT? (Contd.)



Or you can join our **Africa General Whatsapp Platform**
through **Moses Odeghe (+234-8063568537)**

He will add you once you reach him and you will be asked to provide
some information about yourself and your area of interest.

Thank You For Listening!

Dr. Dawari George
Lead, GFN, Africa.