

**Pan African Women of Faith (PAW)
Pan African Women's Ecumenical Empowerment Network (PAWEEN)**

PRESENT

Global Faith Voices of Women of Africa and of African Descent:

*Nutrition, Food Security, Economic Empowerment, Just-Peace, and the
Importance of the U.S. Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act*

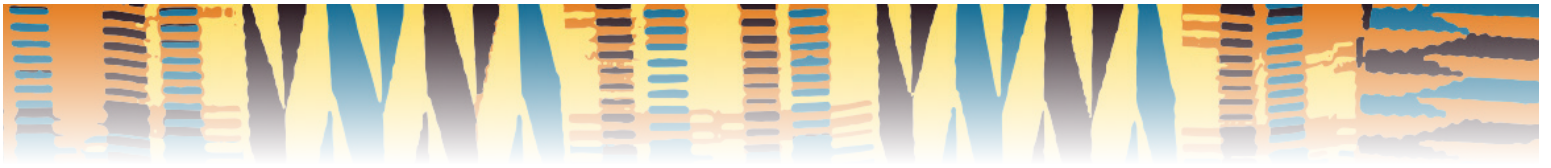
September 6, 2022 / 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (ET)

REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AT
Paw-Paween.eventbrite.com

NOTE: SPANISH, FRENCH, AND PORTUGUESE INTERPRETER SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

We, women of faith who are African and of African descent, are called to action at a Sankofa (a season of looking back and forward) moment of Ubuntu (humanity). This moment calls for boldness of faith, joy, peace, love, Biblical and theological reflection as well as persistent courage that our foremothers and forefathers brought to bear and empowers us for this moment and for our children. We are troubled by the experiences of the past and present that have dared to marginalize and reject our presence and voices. Therefore, we are called to action to deepen our historic resolve to change this narrative. We reclaim a narrative of healing, hope, and justice called by our ancestors. We are determined to foster a Pan African Women of Faith advocacy and unity movement of faith that uplifts and builds up Africans and African descended people in a sustainable world of love, justice, and peace.





Bread for the World USA (Bread) is a collective Christian voice urging the nation’s decision-makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Our values inform our advocacy to change policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist.

At Bread, we center our work around **seven organizational values.**

- **Faith.** Our faith in Christ compels us to love our neighbors near and far and is the foundation for our hope, story, mission, and values.
- **Human flourishing.** We believe that every human being, created in the image of God, has inherent dignity that affords opportunities to access enough nutritious food for good health and to thrive in relationship with God, self, neighbor, and the environment.
- **Justice.** We seek to establish effective systems, structures, and policies that alleviate hunger, affirm equality, and advance equity among all human beings.
- **Courage and prophetic voice.** In a spirit of wisdom and love, we will be bold in articulating and pursuing our vision of a world without hunger.
- **Nonpartisanship.** We believe that effective and sustainable public policies are made when, in good faith, we employ a civil and bipartisan approach to develop and implement laws and programs to achieve our mission.
- **Collaboration.** We believe in working alongside and building community with a diversity of churches, interfaith communities, institutions, and individuals, including people experiencing hunger, to achieve our mission.
- **Impact.** We strive for excellence in our work and hold ourselves and our nation’s leaders accountable in the pursuit of public policies that render measurable results and meaningful change for people affected by hunger.

Driven by our values, Bread’s policy initiatives focus on how nutrition, equity, and climate adaptation can help end hunger



globally and in the United States. There is alarming data from recent reports on nutrition, equity, and climate change, and of how their intersections impact women of Africa and of African descent. Bread and its members and partners continue to work to make sure no one is left behind.

Impact of Malnutrition

The 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)¹ report emphasizes the worsening impacts of the major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition: conflict, climate change, economic shocks, and widening inequalities. Hunger affects growing numbers of people—as many as 828 million people in 2021, or up to 10.5 percent of the global population.

While significant progress has been made against child malnutrition in recent decades, it remains an enormous and unnecessary tragedy. It causes the preventable deaths of between 2 million and 3 million young children every year. Those who survive are at high risk of suffering from irreversible lifelong health problems and developmental delays, a condition known as stunting. Nearly 150 million children under 5 are affected by stunting. Another group of 45 million children under 5 suffer from acute malnutrition, sometimes called wasting since affected children weigh far too little for their height. This is an immediately life-threatening condition.

According to the Food Research and Action Center, 21.7 percent of African American households typically headed by women are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity, as compared to 7.1 percent of white households in the United States.

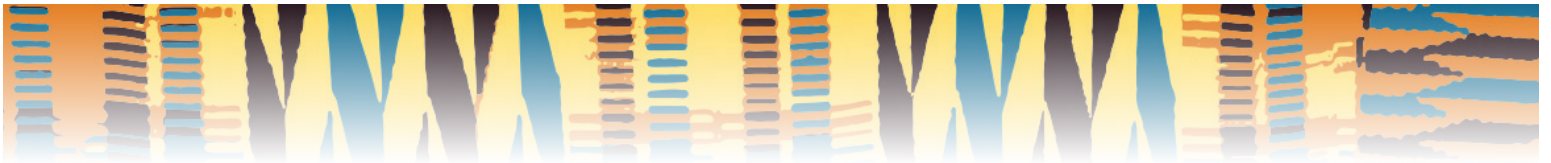
Impact of Economic Insecurity on Food Security

A joint United Nations Women and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report, “Government responses to COVID-19: Lessons on gender equality for a world in turmoil,” indicates that emergency preparedness requires gender-aware responses to reduce burdens of care work, violence, and economic insecurity on women.

COVID-19 has taken a disproportionate toll on women’s jobs and livelihoods. For example, in 2020, globally, women lost more than 64 million jobs—a 5 percent loss, compared to a 3.9 percent loss for men. This large-scale loss of income, inflation, and limited access to social protection triggered a rise in food insecurity among women.

According to a Center for American Progress report “The Basic Facts About Women in Poverty,” African American women represent 22.3 percent of women in poverty but only 12.8 percent of all women in the U.S population.

¹ FAO (2022). The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (A joint annual report by the FAO, WFP, IFAD, UNICEF, and WHO) <https://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/2022/en/>



Gender differences in job loss were significant. Data from high-frequency phone surveys in 40 countries collected by the World Bank shows that 36 percent of women reported losing or stopping work during the pandemic compared to 28 percent of men.

The gender gap in the global prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity—which had grown in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic—widened even further from 2020 to 2021 for women and particularly women in Africa and of African descent.

There are 571 million women in their reproductive years who are affected by anemia during pregnancy. There has been an alarming increase in anemia among women in rural settings, in poorer households, and among those who have received no formal education. Low- and lower-middle-income economies where large numbers of women of African descent reside, bear the greatest burden of stunting, wasting, low birth weight, and anemia.

Impact of the War in Ukraine

Russia and Ukraine are two of the world's largest producers and exporters of staple cereals, which are the mainstay of the diet of lower-income families around the world. According to the 2022 Global Food Crisis Report, Russia's invasion and the ongoing war has already disrupted supply chains, raising the prices of food and fertilizer and reducing access to these necessities. At the same time, accelerating climate change is causing more frequent and extreme climate-linked disasters that also disrupt supply chains, especially in under-resourced countries.

The 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report numbers show persistent regional disparities in food insecurity, with Africa bearing the heaviest burden. One in five people in Africa (20.2 percent of the population) was facing hunger in 2021, with women disproportionately impacted.

According to the SOFI report, the focus of global food security efforts should be the reduction of the cost of nutritious foods and increasing the availability and affordability of healthy diets, making sure to leave no one behind.

The Bread for the World-supported **Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act**, which has been sponsored in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, addresses some of the nutritional needs of women and children, especially those in Africa and of African descent who have historically been and continue to be disproportionately impacted.

Bread for the World supports the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act. It promotes sustainable nutrition that enables economic resilience and addresses some adverse social policy impacts articulated by the leaders of the Pan African Women of Faith (PAW) and Pan African Women's Ecumenical Empowerment Network (PAWEEN). If it becomes law, it would:

- Increase the effectiveness of U.S. government nutrition programs by making them more integrated and coordinated.
- Impact the nutrition of tens of millions of women and young children globally.
- Make nutrition an even higher priority for the U.S. government, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

- Establish a five-year strategy to support countries in implementing their plans to prevent and treat malnutrition.
- Require nutrition strategies to include elements that past experience has proven essential to lasting progress, such as setting goals, identifying targets to help measure progress, ensuring coordination with countries' own plans, and collecting data to learn from and use to continually improve.
- Focus on high-impact nutrition programs during the "1,000 days," the critical human nutrition window between pregnancy and age 2. These include prenatal vitamins, support to breastfeeding, vitamin A supplementation, and life-saving treatment for severely malnourished children.
- Require USAID to report to Congress annually on progress made toward preventing and treating malnutrition globally. This will improve accountability and transparency on the use of taxpayer dollars and the impact of U.S. government global nutrition investments.
- Convene a Leadership Council at USAID with high-level representatives from various parts of the Agency. The Council will be responsible for ensuring that the strategy is implemented effectively and cohesively and that nutrition remains a high priority for USAID.





Pan African Women of Faith (PAW) and Pan African Women's Ecumenical Empowerment Network (PAWEEN) Support Investment in Sustainable Nutrition, Economic, and Just-Peace Policies

Every \$1 invested in global nutrition creates \$16 in economic returns due to decreased healthcare costs and increased economic productivity.² The importance of legislative measures on global nutrition and food security, such as the Bread-supported Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, was emphasized during consultations and conversations with leaders in the Pan African Women of Faith (PAW) and Pan African Women's Ecumenical Empowerment Network (PAWEEN). PAW and PAWEEN serve as a platform of academic study, spiritual reflection, and advocacy action with and for African women and women of African descent in all regions of the world.

Since the earliest Biblical accounts in Genesis, women of African descent have played a critical role in shaping the Judeo-Christian faith. From Biblical women such as Hagar and Zipporah to the modern ecumenical movement, Pan-African women have and continue to be a pivotal presence in the churches and their communities.

Therefore, PAW/PAWEEN aims to gather and make visible the stories of Pan African women, too often neglected in ecumenical and church history, to positively inform and nurture female leadership capacity development now and in the future

Through the listening sessions with the PAW/PAWEEN leaders, as reported below, we learn about the North American economic perspective, the Caribbean historical perspective, the Brazilian political and religious perspective, the Portuguese and French perspective on the collaborative framework of the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, the African perspective on the causes and solutions of hunger, and the British perspective on the advocacy role of the Churches.

The candid dialogues inform us of how the everyday and long-term impacts of

food insecurity, malnutrition, economic insecurity, racial inequity, and war are tied to the livelihoods of women of Africa and of African descent.

The voices and perspectives of the women leaders, admonish us that time is of the essence to address the inequities they and their communities face. Policies such as the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act play important roles in implementing solutions.

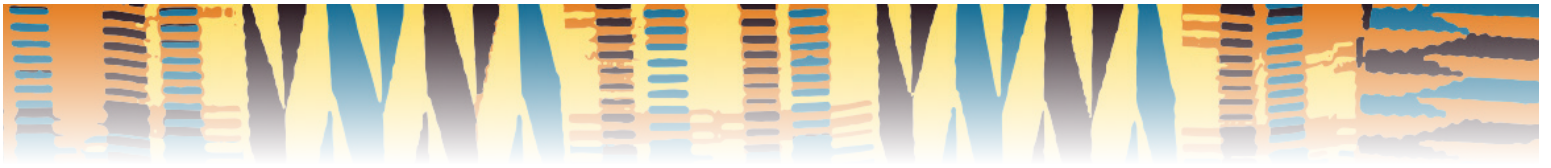
There is enormous wealth in the United States of America, with 25-30% of the world's wealth, even though the U.S. represents only 4.2% of the world population. However, the U.S. Census Bureau identifies a contrasting reality for the 41 million blacks living in the U.S., making up 13.4% of the population. Whites make up 76.3% of the approximate 331,893,745 of the U.S. population.

Every \$1 invested in global nutrition creates \$16 in economic returns due to decreased healthcare costs and increased economic productivity.

Source: IFPRI (2016). Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030.

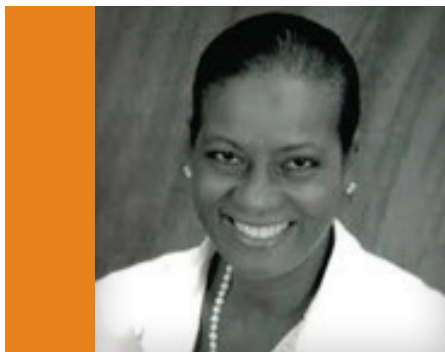


2 International Food Policy Research Institute (2016). Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030.



The North American Economic Perspective

by Ms. Carmela McKeller,
Different Spirit Student
Advocacy and RKS Law (USA)



Due to lack of access to food security, economic stability, and equitable education, debt and poverty disproportionately impact blacks in the U.S., with 19.5% of blacks living in poverty, compared to 8.2% of whites living in poverty. An analysis of the racial economic dynamics reveals the median household income in the U.S. for white people was \$73,105 (\$5,854 above the national median), while the number for Black people was \$46,005 (\$27,100 below the national median).

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, white men earn \$1,115 weekly, \$58,000 annually, and black men \$828 weekly and \$43,000 annually. White women earn \$929 weekly and \$48,300 annually, while black women earn \$779 weekly, resulting in \$40,500 annually. Additionally, one-third of black households are headed by black women.³ The economic outlook for black women reflects a “Double Wage Gap.” According to Econ-

omist Michelle Holder, “This is wage inequality by race and gender in a nutshell. I estimate this double gender-and-race wage gap costs black women workers approximately \$50 billion in involuntarily forfeited earnings, a large and recurring annual loss to the black community.”

As it relates to college education, in 2021, whites made up 41.9% of college attendees as compared to 36% blacks. When it comes to debt, black college graduates owe an average of \$25,000 more in student loan debt than white college graduates. Four years after graduation, 48% of black students owe an average of 12.5% more than they borrowed. Black student borrowers are the most likely to struggle financially due to student loan debt, with 29% making monthly payments of \$350 or more. Black and African American bachelor’s degree holders have an average of \$52,000 in student loan debt. 40% of black graduates have student loan debt from graduate school while 22% of white college graduates have graduate school debt. Over 50% of black student borrowers report their net worth is less than they owe in student loan debt.⁴

Poverty and its relationship with hunger

Columbia University’s Center on Poverty and Social Policy reports that there were

3.4 million more children in poverty in February 2022 than there were in December of 2021. This directly correlates with the expiration of the American Rescue Plan’s expanded Child Tax Credit monthly payments. On a micro level, in states like North Carolina, we see research that indicates that in the period from 2013—2017, 1.5 million North Carolinians were supported in their movement out of poverty by government assistance.⁵

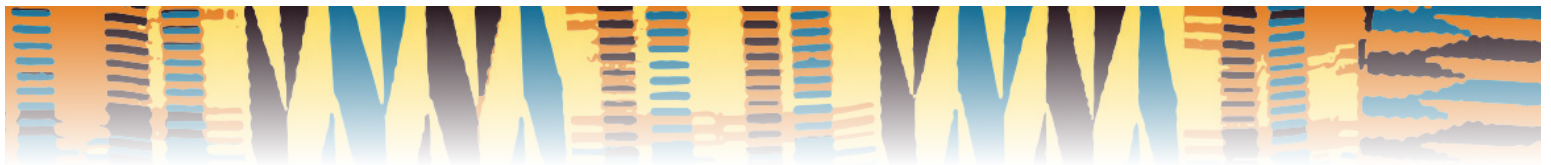
There are policies that have a direct impact on our ability to reduce the number of people in poverty specifically in the areas of:

- Family Planning
- Nutrition Assistance, including the eradication of punitive policies related to access to food security
- Income Disparity/Inequities
- Education & Student Debt
- Voting Rights

Proposed solution

The U.S. Government through its laws, legislation, and policies, can change the course of poverty in the U.S. and the world. We, through our advocacy, get to steer the direction of that change.

3 Pew Research Center
4 Education Data Initiative - Research Center
5 Center on Budget & Policy Priorities



The Caribbean Historical Perspective

by Rev. Everdith Landrau,
Presbyterian Church USA
(Puerto Rico)



The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms that “. . . all doctrines, policies, and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust.”

While we can speak and create a list of all the areas in which Pan-African women are being disproportionately and adversely impacted, we must first address the denial of the prevalent racism that exists in the Caribbean—and I will concentrate on the archipelago of Borikén (Puerto Rico). It represents a

block for the fulfillment of any goals and or objectives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 as well as of all fundamental Human Rights.

Colonialism and white supremacy and the harm they caused require us to reassess our society. The voices of People of Color (POC) have been suppressed for centuries. This is now shifting globally. More and more POCs are speaking up and advocating for themselves (ourselves).

As could be expected, this has encountered great resistance. In the case of the archipelago of Borikén, the denial is strong and blatant. Afro descendants are blamed for creating “national division”. Dr. Maria Elba Torres from the University of Puerto Rico, in Río Piedras, expressed it well: “There are those who claim that to speak about afro descendancy is to provoke national division when in reality it perpetuates what began with the Spanish Conquest. The Afro-descendant did not create the division, it was created by the conditions in which Africans arrived in the Américas.”⁶

Interestingly, this type of blaming arises whenever Afro descendants and Indig-

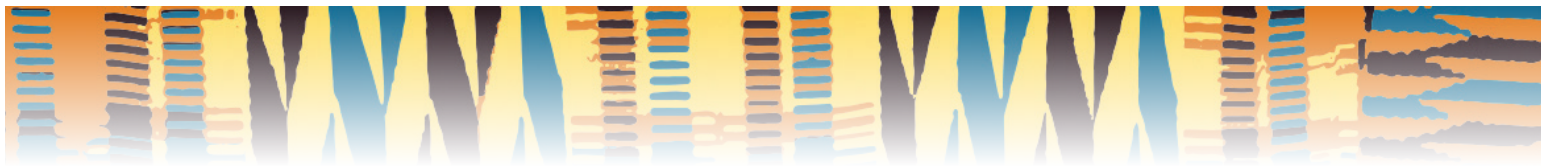
enous Peoples speak about their version of history. This reality perpetrates decades of inequity and inequality for Pan-African women in the Caribbean. Therefore, the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, gives heed to the need to support Afro descendant women to close the gaps of inequity in areas that include: health and health care disparities, lack of social and political leadership opportunities, reproductive health rights violations, environmental racism, hunger, and food insecurity. The reality of ethno-racial inequalities among Pan African women in the Caribbean continues to undermine their livelihood, access, and basic human rights.

Recommendation

The impact of eurocentric and androcentric ideals that persist are devastating to the livelihood of our sisters and their families. These ideals and many other forms of gender-based discrimination continue to negatively impact Black women in the Caribbean and reinforce our need to advocate and create spaces for dialogue and transformation at all levels of society.⁷

6 La afrodescendencia en Puerto Rico, un tema de absoluta vigencia. <https://www.uprrp.edu/2018/10/la-afrodescendencia-en-puerto-rico-un-tema-de-absoluta-vigencia/>

7 Afrodescendent women in Latin America and the Caribbean Debts of equality, 2018. United Nations Publications. https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44387/1/S1800725_en.pdf



The Brazilian Political and Religious Perspective

by Professor Vanessa Maria Gomes Barboza, Rede de Mulheres Negras Evangélicas (Brazil) and Profa. Selenir Corrêa Gonçalves Kronbauer, Grupo Identidade da Faculdades EST - Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil/IECLB Qualquer dúvida estarei a disposição (Brazil)



From a regional perspective—countries with an authoritarian, ultra-conservative government tend to trigger conflicts. Oftentimes, conflicts involving the military can cause or result in civil wars. Societal growth tends to be predominantly in conservative and fundamentalist evangelical churches linked to strong political representation in the government. The current global migration crisis worsened by COVID 19 includes austerity policies that negatively impact livelihoods and economic opportunities for migrants in Latin America which is approximately 2.5% of the Latin American population. With over 276 million people faced with acute food insecurity, deepening inequality and poverty highlights the importance of resis-

tance movements that address housing, women's rights, the LGBTQI+ population, climate issues, and sexual and reproductive rights of women.

The Brazilian context includes:

- **Political and ideological polarization.** This includes hate speech, religious intolerance, and theocracy. This culminates in attacks on religions of African and indigenous origins. There is also dissemination of false information against the progressive agendas.
- **The presidential government's Neo-fascist liberalism.** This has caused setbacks in the areas of education (fall in schooling levels), health (health of the black population, obstetric violence, and food insecurity), and territoriality (expropriation of quilombola, indigenous and family farming lands).
- **Deepening social inequalities.** About 54% of the Brazilian population declares itself to be of African descent, thus Brazil is considered the second largest black population outside Africa. 49% of the Brazilian population lives on up to 1 ½ minimum wage—US\$360 dollars per month. 33 million people earn up to 1 minimum wage per month (\$US 250), that is, about \$6 dollars a day. We currently have the 4th worst unemployment rate in the world (13% unemployment rate), with around 12 million unemployed. These inequalities are especially prevalent for the black population and women.
- **A Climate crisis.** Events that are compounding the climate crisis include deforestation and mining, persecution of Forest Peoples (indigenous, riverine, and quilombola people), non-compliance with environmental protection legislation, and lack of environmental education programs and preservation of fauna and flora.
- **Problematic public policies for the Brazilian black population.** The underreporting of the color/race in public health and social assistance services in Brazil makes it difficult to control the quality of public policies for the Afro-descendant population with their specificities.
- **There are blossoming social movements and resistance networks.** These include feminists, anti-racists, indigenists, peasants, and ecologists/environmentalists. Some examples are Network of Black Evangelical Women, Movement of Evangelical Women in Brazil, CONIC, Koinonia, Grupo Identidade da Faculdades EST, Aliança de Batista, Coordination Ecumencia of Service, and Evangelicals for Gender Equality.

Recommendation

The empowerment of women through advocacy and citizenship education is a way to facilitate and expand social policies and access to basic rights.



The Portuguese Perspective on the Collaborative Framework of the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act S2956

Este projeto de lei estabelece programas e orienta a Agência dos EUA para o Desenvolvimento Internacional (USAID) a realizar atividades para prevenir e tratar a desnutrição globalmente.

Em coordenação com agências federais relevantes, doadores bilaterais e multilaterais, países parceiros e outras partes interessadas, a USAID pode ampliar programas para prevenir e tratar a desnutrição globalmente. Isso inclui o foco em intervenções para as populações mais suscetíveis à desnutrição grave (por exemplo,

mulheres grávidas e lactantes e crianças com meno de cinco anos de idade).

A USAID deve selecionar países com base em indicadores específicos relacionados à desnutrição para fins de direcionamento de programas de prevenção e tratamento da desnutrição e atualizar a seleção dentro de cinco anos. Para apoiar esses programas, a USAID deve alavancar recursos adicionais do setor privado em países prioritários, inclusive considerando oportunidades dentro da estrutura de impacto da Corporação Fi-

nanceira de Desenvolvimento para apoiar melhores resultados de nutrição.

A USAID deve fornecer ao Congresso um plano de implementação e relatórios anuais sobre seus programas de prevenção e tratamento da desnutrição.

O projeto de lei também estabelece o Conselho de Liderança Nutricional, composto por vários escritórios e escritórios da USAID, para coordenar as atividades da agência para prevenir e tratar a desnutrição.

As disposições do projeto terminam sete anos após sua promulgação.

The French Perspective on the Collaborative Framework of the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act S2956



Ce projet de loi définit des programmes et ordonne autrement à l'Agence américaine pour le développement international (USAID) de mener des activités de prévention et de traitement de la malnutrition à l'échelle mondiale.

En coordination avec les agences fédérales compétentes, les donateurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux, les pays partenaires et d'autres parties prenantes, l'USAID peut intensifier les programmes de prévention et de traitement de la malnutrition à l'échelle mondiale. Cela implique de se concentrer sur les interventions destinées aux populations les

plus susceptibles de souffrir de malnutrition sévère (par exemple, les femmes enceintes et allaitantes et les enfants de moins de cinq ans).

L'USAID doit sélectionner les pays sur la base d'indicateurs spécifiques liés à la malnutrition dans le but de cibler les programmes de prévention et de traitement de la malnutrition et mettre à jour la sélection dans les cinq ans. Pour soutenir ces programmes, l'USAID doit mobiliser des ressources supplémentaires du secteur privé dans les pays prioritaires, notamment en examinant les opportunités dans le cadre d'impact

de la Development Finance Corporation pour soutenir l'amélioration des résultats nutritionnels.

L'USAID doit fournir au Congrès un plan de mise en œuvre et des rapports annuels concernant ses programmes de prévention et de traitement de la malnutrition.

Le projet de loi établit également le Nutrition Leadership Council, composé de divers bureaux et bureaux de l'USAID, pour coordonner les activités de l'agence pour prévenir et traiter la malnutrition.

Les dispositions du projet de loi expirent sept ans après sa promulgation.



The African Perspective on the Causations and Solutions to Hunger

by Reverend Oluremi Ogunsola, The Church of the Lord Worldwide (Nigeria)



The causes of hunger in the continent include:

Wars and Conflicts. These are very prevalent factors and are primary causes of hunger in the continent. There are many inter/intra tribal/ethnic wars ravaging the continent. The result of the wars include loss of life or secure livelihoods for women and children. When the producers of food and agricultural produce are eliminated, the result is reduced or zero produce.

Land Grabbing. This is the forceful removal of original owners from their farm/homeland. This also disproportionately displaces people, who are mainly pro-

ducers of agricultural products. This will also lead to insufficiency in the production of food and create a food insecure environment.

Religious intolerance. The inability to understand the factors of tolerance in various religious beliefs has also brought about conflicts in some parts of the continent.

Population growth. Governments are not doing enough in planning, especially in terms of economic development. Population growth without accurate planning has also brought about a shortage of food on the continent.

Exclusion of women. The deprivation of women from taking active roles in the economic building of society takes for granted the substantial role women play in society as managers of the home even with meager resources.

Xenophobia. This is a threat to the personal security and food security of Africans in and out of the continent that warrants a continental strategy.

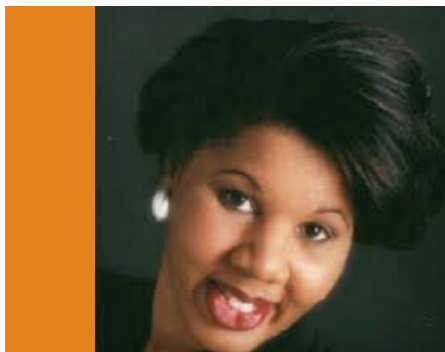
Solutions

- As mothers, teachers, nurses, and counselors, women should be accorded leadership roles that allow them to bring to bear their talents and skills to facilitate a peaceful home, community, and economy.
- It is time for women especially black women to arise and save the world with our motherly roles and instincts and protect generations, which we are blessed to produce.
- Governments should lead with truth and concern for the welfare of their citizens and welcome accountability.
- The availability of food, health, education, and access to technology will put hunger at the barest minimum.



Great Britain's Perspective on the Advocacy Role of the Churches

by Rev. Dr. Dionne Gravesande,
Christian Aid (London)



The growth of African and Caribbean churches—often in the UK are referred to as Black Majority Churches (BMCs)—has been a significant development in the British social and religious landscape. Today, these church communities are making enormous contributions to social and community cohesion, welfare provision, education and mentoring, crime reduction programmes and volunteering, music, and culture. They are often seen as the most cohesive section of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities. Their growth and contribution to the spiritual,

religious, and social life of the nation is worthy of recognition. While many are increasingly becoming more involved in community engagement and politics, there is a growing realization that more needs to be done to effectively serve the church and the wider community.

The **2015 Black Church Political Manifesto for Action** was the first time we produced a document to mobilise and inspire the Black Church constituency. The ambition is to fully engage with the wider community, particularly women groups on socio-political issues in the hope that, like the men and women of Issachar, we will better 'understand the times and know what we must do to be 'salt and light' in our communities. As activists, campaigners, and people of faith, we are committed to understanding the issues that affect our communities and seek to represent these to government, media, policymakers, and key stakeholders.

Why a UK Manifesto for action?

Ethnic minorities now make up 13.8 percent of the electorate in Britain. People of African and Caribbean heritage make up a significant proportion of this group. With such a high number of Christians among Black communities, the BMC in Britain is set to have a significant say in who wins elections. Voter registration among the Black community has historically been poor, which means the political power of BAME constituency remains untapped. Hence, the manifesto forms part of an attempt to mobilise people in the churches and the wider community so that their voices are heard by political leaders on issues of community, education, policing and criminal justice, mental health, humanitarian aid, and food security.

Political engagement is not optional, rather, it is a mandatory part of the Christian faith as responsible citizens in accordance with biblical teaching.

Bread for the World* Coordinating Committee



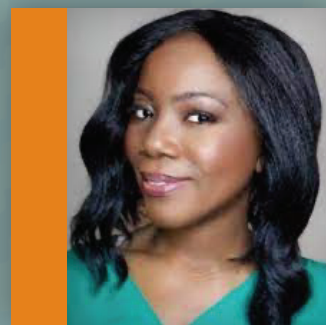
Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith,
Bread for the World (USA)



Ms. Florence French Fagan,
Bread for the World (USA)



Ms. Michele Learner,
Bread for the World (USA)



Ms. Abiola Afolayan,
Bread for the World (USA)

*Not to be confused with Bread for the World in Germany. Many community members will be familiar with the German group's work in international ecumenical contexts.

Visit www.bread.org to learn more about the Global
Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act.