

African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)

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OUR MISSION

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

OUR GOALS

- ◆ Build the leadership and organizational capacity of the community
- ◆ Advance public policies to increase opportunities and support for immigrant and refugee integration
- ◆ Ensure that African immigrant and refugees have an active role in multiple civic arenas
- ◆ Promote community development and access to social services
- ◆ Serve as a viable model of African Unity and Empowerment

Historic Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) bill leaves the Senate, on to the House

In a historic vote of 68-32, the US Senate passed bill S.744 on June 27, 2013 that would strengthen the United States-Mexico border and create a Registered Provisional Immigrant Status with a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the country. Now with bipartisan support, the bill moves to the House where members of the Congressional Black Caucus and its broad constituency are concerned that the Senate bill is missing one important component: Diversity Visa Program. The Diversity Visa Program allots 55,000 Green Cards annually for individuals applying abroad from underrepresented countries in the United States. It's one of the few options for Africans to come to the US as legal immigrants. In recent years, 49% of diversity visa beneficiaries came from African countries. This program is essential for not only the future flow of Black immigrants to the US, but for other minority immigrant groups as well. We call on and strongly urge members of the Congressional Black Caucus to fight for inclusion of Diversity Visa Program in any comprehensive immigration reform bill! Contact your representative today and tell them to make sure diversity visas are not eliminated.

[Call your representative](#)

Keep the petition alive by adding your name and pass it on to your friends and family.

[Add Your Name](#)

Deepening solidarity Between Africa and US

In the wake of President Obama's diplomatic trip to Africa, a group of Africa-based activists visited UAO to learn about our work, policy issues and challenges African immigrants and refugees face in Chicago. The delegation, representing several countries in Africa, visited Chicago to share ideas and deepen solidarity as a part of a new US-Africa Network. Wanting more information on the network? [Visit their blog, today!](#)

Community Events:**African/Caribbean International Festival of Life**

July 4th-July 7th
12:00pm-10:00pm
Union Park
1501 W. Randolph
Tickets: \$15/\$20

Festival of Health and Awareness

July 4th-July 7th
Union Park
1501 W. Randolph
Tickets: \$15/\$20

Ghana Fest

Saturday, July 27th
10:00am-11:00pm
Washington Park
\$10, free under 13

Igbo Fest

Saturday, July 27th
Warren Park,
6601 N. Western Ave
Admission: Free

2nd Annual African Community Picnic!

Saturday, August 3rd
1:00pm-4:00pm
37th & State, Chicago, IL
RSVP

Do you have events going on in your community? Let us know by emailing:
events@uniteafricans.org

Proverb of the Month

"Where there are many, nothing goes wrong."
~Swahili proverb

Share Your Story

We all have stories about how we, each in our own way, enrich our communities.

Tell us how you GIVE BACK to YOUR COMMUNITY...

You could be featured in the next issue of African Advocate! Email: editor@uniteafricans.org

Immigration Corner: Adjustment of Status

The formal process of changing a nonimmigrant/ temporary immigrant status to a permanent status (green card) is referred to as Adjustment of Status. In our latest CAN TV episode, we discuss why and how to transition from refugee and asylee statuses and key legal requirements for adjusting. Looking for other UAO videos? Visit the CAN TV section on our website!



[ClicktoWatch](#)

African Voices, Episode 19: Advice for Obtaining Healthcare

- Top news stories from Chicago and the African continent;
- Upcoming events;
- Advice Box: Healthcare for Cabdrivers
- Recipe: Fraga Moçambicana (Chicken Mozambique)



If you would like to contribute news, events, issues, interviews or music to our podcast, email us: podcasts@uniteafricans.org or call: (312) 949 9980 between 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri. To support our work through donations, [click here!](#)

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Advocacy ~ Unity ~ Empowerment

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