

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

Dear Reader,

Congressman Bobby L. Rush in his keynote address at the 7th Annual Chicago African Summit and Resource Fair spoke about his work in shaping U.S.- Africa trade relations, strengthening business ties, and stressed the importance of maintaining the Diversity Visa Program in the comprehensive immigration reform bill (CIR).

UAO would like to thank our panelists who provided in-depth perspectives on key policies that affect the African immigrant and refugee community, our resource fair participants, Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies for allowing us to use the space, [Yassa African Restaurant](#) for lunch, and you for being there!

If you missed the summit;

Immigration Reform discussions continue...

The comprehensive immigration bill moves to the Senate floor after approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 21st. And the vote on this could happen in just a matter of weeks. The fight for a reform that benefits our communities is far from over. To find out more, join these discussions:

Sunday, June 30, 2013,
Trinity United Church of Christ @ 2:30 p.m.
400 West 95th Street, Chicago, IL 60628. (773) 962-5650

Sunday - June 9th,
Friendship United Methodist Church, Bolingbrook, IL

[Learn more](#)

Report on African Cabdrivers Health Study

Taxicab drivers are exposed to a variety of occupational hazards, which includes stress, long sedentary work hours and violence that likely create health problems. Yet we know very little of the health-related needs of taxicab drivers in general and African taxicab drivers specifically. Against this backdrop, the UAO, with support from BlueCross BlueShield Foundation of Illinois, conducted a health survey among Chicago's African taxicab drivers to assess their health needs, including insurance coverage and health services use.

Findings from the survey indicate that African taxicab drivers have significant health-related needs. Specifically, half of the respondents' annual earnings were at or below the federal poverty level, and 66% had no health insurance. Furthermore, a third of participants had not been to a doctor in over a year; 1 in 5 respondents did not know if they had diabetes or high blood pressure; two-thirds did not know about community health centers; 71% use emergency rooms, hospitals or other safety net health providers as their usual source of care; [Read more](#)

Community Events

ECAC Annual Capital Campaign Dinner

Saturday, June 8th @6:30pm
DANK Haus German-American Cultural Center
4740 N. Western , Chicago, IL

Ugandan Matyrs Day

Saturday, June 8th at 6:00pm
St Hubert Catholic Church
729 Grand Canyon Street
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

2nd Annual Flag Day

Thursday, June 13th
11:00am-2:30pm
Daley Center- Chicago

ICIRR "Out of Many, One-Pluribus Unum" Benefit and Celebration

Thursday, June 20th
The Museum of Broadcast Communications
360 N State St.
Chicago, IL 60654

Leadership Workshop - "Building a Common Cause"

Saturday, June 29th
9:00am-1:00pm
IIT Tower Building, floor 6
10 W. 35th St. Chicago, IL

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Forum

Sunday, June 30th
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Trinity United Church of Christ Sanctuary
400 West 95th Street (the corner of 95th & Eggleston)
Chicago, IL 60628
[\(773\) 962-5650](tel:(773)962-5650)

Building Common Cause

The challenge to leadership is growing. And it is critical for successful leaders, and organizations to be skilled in building partnerships inside and outside their organizations. Working together in partnerships and collaborative relationships are important for leveraging resources, building power, and achieving meaningful change.

As a part of our on-going Leadership Development Program, UAO will host a training on Building a Common Cause. This workshop is FREE and OPEN to the public!

Saturday, June 29th
IIT Tower Building, Floor 6
10 W. 35th Street
Chicago, IL 60616

[Click TO RSVP](#)

U.S. Citizenship: Admission for Naturalization

Are you ready to Naturalize?

An applicant for naturalization must be at least 18 years old and must establish that he or she has Been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence at the time of filing the naturalization application.

Applicants must have their green cards for five years, or three years in married to a U.S. citizen, in order to naturalize-though the applicant may file his or her application up to 90 days before reaching the five-year (or three) continuous residence period.

Apply for citizenship now by attending our [FREE Citizenship Workshop](#) on Saturday, June 22nd from 9:00 am - 11:00 am at Truman College (Student Cafeteria), 1145 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640.

ECAC hosts Annual Benefit

On Saturday, June 8th, the Ethiopian Community Association of Greater Chicago will host its annual capital campaign dinner under the theme, "Celebrating the past and building the future". The event will be held at the DANK Haus German American Cultural Center - 4740 N. Western Avenue in Chicago at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$100 each. [Read more](#)

125th Anniversary of Ugandan Martyrs day

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Martyrs Day in commemoration of the 22 Uganda Catholic Martyrs who were murdered in 1886. In Uganda, the day was a culmination of several days of trekking, sacrifice, prayer and meditation by pilgrims to the Catholic shrine that was built at the spot where St. Charles Kalooli Lwanga was burnt.

In Chicago, the Ugandan community is marking this day with a special event on June 8th at St Hubert Catholic Church, 729 Grand Canyon Street, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169. [Learn more](#)

World Refugee Day in Chicago

Since 2002, Chicago has commemorated World Refugee Day by organizing events that honor the lives of refugees, give a voice to their stories, and raise awareness of the millions of refugees in the world who have been forced to flee their homes. These events have included workshops, conferences, lunches, street parades, downtown rallies, guest speakers, as well as diverse multi-cultural performances by members of the Chicago refugee community.

WRD Chicago 2013 will be celebrated on Saturday, June 22nd, at Foster Street beach soccer fields. Stay tuned for updates about the event - We hope you will join us! [Learn more](#)

ONE Africa Petition Needs Your Name

Imagine if the government of the United States decided that it would set up a Bureau of Arctic Affairs to deal with foreign relations with Greenland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Russia and Alaska, even though Alaska is part of the United States. Doesn't that sound absurd? However, the United States government continues to draw a distinction between North Africa and the rest of Africa. This distinction is based on false labels and outdated racist categorization with no empirical validity. The artificial distinction between North Africa and the rest of Africa could be perceived as a balkanization scheme, which negatively impacts US foreign policy relations throughout the entire continent of Africa.

[Add Your Name Here](#)

African Voices

African Voices: Episode 18!

- Top news stories from Chicago and the African continent
- Upcoming Events
- Advice Box: Applying for a Green Card under Refugee/Asylee status
- Tajine aux Crevette (Algerian)
- Contribute news, events, issues, interviews or music to podcast:

Email: podcasts@uniteafricans.org Call: (312)-949-9980
Monday-Friday (9am-5pm)



[Click to Subscribe](#)

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Proverb of the Month

When there is peace in the country, the chief does not carry a shield.

~Ugandan 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

United African Organization

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Advocacy ~ Unity ~ Empowerment