GIVE
JUSTICE
PEACE
DIGNITY
A VOICE
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Where there is injustice, there is resistance. Resistance takes different forms: from individuals breaking cultural norms by refusing to submit to unjust customs, to larger movements bringing down oppressive dictators by challenging prevailing state systems which may seem impossible to change.

In 2019, we witnessed Africans rise for Justice, Peace, and Dignity, and persist in the unfinished business of their liberation struggles. As we advance towards the true liberation of all African people, Africans Rising continues to support, enable, connect, and amplify the struggles of grassroots movements on the continent and within the Diaspora.

This year we stood in solidarity with Africans and activists that have been targeted and attacked for raising their voices against social injustices. We supported the Sudanese uprising for civilian rule and an end to military violence in the country. In Senegal, we marched with anti-corruption protesters holding their political leadership to account. We united our voices to the call for justice for activists in Zimbabwe and young mobilisers in Mozambique, and we remained vigilant as demonstrators in The Gambia demanded accountability from their president and his administration.

Until every African rises, we will focus on reclaiming our collective dignity and address the injustices perpetrated against Africans everywhere. We will continue to stand up for the struggles of our people in the years to come. Our movement is built on the premise of identifying localised hot spots, and building individual, organisational, national, and regional capacity to confront challenges.
Your support and engagement has been critical to our growth as we come closer to our vision of Africa-wide solidarity. This year we have strengthened our advocacy work for feminist leadership through events like our mission to empower women at the center of conflict in Cameroon. Our series of Invisible Giants celebrations has recognised the women working tirelessly for positive change in their communities. We supported artists and their creative efforts to campaign for human rights through our Artistic Activism programs. With our second Activists in Residence training, we have helped activists defend their movements, applying their work through digital and civic spaces. This year, we also launched our Individual Giving campaign to support our movement growth plan of being fully self funded in the next 10 years. We brought together leaders and thinkers with events like our South Africa retreat supporting Pan-African solidarity.

Most importantly, we launched #ThePeoplesCampaign to ensure that all of our members can contribute their ideas and voices to the development of the #AfricaWeWant through events such as our regional convenings. Thank you for being a part of Africans Rising. We look forward to your continued support as our movement grows in the new year. Our work is about you, it’s about us, it’s about Africa!

Africanly,
Muhammed Lamin Saidykhan & Coumba Toure
Movement Coordinators
It has been an honour to be of service to members of Africans Rising. It was a year of intense reflection, learning, and growth. As members of the Coordinating Collective, we thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to support the leadership of Africans Rising to achieve their annual objectives.

It is clear that the task at hand is daunting, but we are encouraged by the passion and commitment of our colleagues, the Ambassadors, Leadership, foot-soldiers of the movement, and more importantly the people of Africa. As we, peoples of Africa, continue to be disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, bad governance, racism, and a global economic order that puts too much wealth in the hands of a few while leaving the vast majority to wallow in lack, we are called upon now more than ever to push for greater solidarity among ourselves.

The way to meaningful progress for us, we say, is that we work together under the umbrella of a Pan-African movement to make justice, peace, and dignity a reality for us all. None of us can afford to sit and do nothing at this critical moment. Africans Rising, as a Pan-African movement of people and movements, with its founding charter, the Kilimanjaro Declaration, commits to take the frontline in this cause and is rightly placed to serve as this umbrella movement.

We therefore call upon all Africans, citizens and descendants, and all individuals of goodwill and understanding, to join us as we work to establish justice, build peace, and secure dignity for all. The collective camaraderie and quest to see our continent fulfill its potential only means Africans will continue to rise beyond and above our imaginations! We personally invite you to join us in this movement because your voice, your support, your participation, and your presence is needed in our movement to make human rights a reality in Africa.

As we move into the new year, let 2020 be our year of excellence in word and in deed!
Aluta Continua!

AFRICANS RISING
COORDINATING COLLECTIVE
Africans Rising promoted alliance building for women’s rights movements in Cameroon and Senegal, leading to a key win of the Senegalese government announcing a law to criminalise rape.

For our May 25th mobilisation on “Africans Not for Sale, Stop Slavery and Human Trafficking!”, we planned more than 10 activities and our members organised hundreds of actions in 56 countries across the continent and in the diaspora. The mobilisation engaged 1.2 million Twitter followers and increased media coverage on slavery and human trafficking across the continent from May to October.
Africans Rising for Justice, Peace, and Dignity implements its work under the following five pillars:

1. Expanding civic and political space
2. Women’s rights and freedom for all societies
3. Promoting good governance, ending corruption & impunities
4. Promoting equity and dignity
5. Promoting climate and environmental justice

Africans Rising implements its pillars through five programmatic approaches which underpin all activities:

- Advocacy
- Knowledge Curation
- Leadership Development
- Alliance Building
- Strategic Convening

This annual report highlights Africans Rising’s activities implemented under the focus areas and programmatic approaches.
ADVOCACY
Africans Rising was invited by ActionAid and partners to participate in a two-day meeting which was a space created to hold governments accountable for the slow ratification, implementation, and reporting of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance ahead of the AU summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Africans Rising contributed in this session and coordinated the drafting of the communiqué presented to AU after the CSO pre-summit meeting.

The National Anti-Slavery Day is an annual occasion to commemorate the abolition of slavery while remembering the victims of the illicit slave trade and those who fought against it. Africans Rising used this occasion to highlight modern-day human trafficking and slavery that is currently ailing the African people across the continent and the Diaspora. We invited two guests, Ms. Fatou Jagne from The Gambia, who was herself a victim of slavery in Kuwait, and Mr. Soumaguel Oyahit from the Mali Association to share experiences with our broader network. We were also able to table our plans for Africa Day and seek partnerships to ensure we have a strong footing towards the event themed to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

"The People’s Campaign" was launched to put a spotlight on community challenges and triumphs throughout the African continent and all around the world. The aim of the campaign is to bring together communities across the continent and in the diaspora by mobilizing the masses to speak on issues that jeopardize the well-being of every citizen on the African continent and deprive them of their right to live a prosperous life. Inaugural activities of The People’s Campaign were: a registration drive to bring in new members to Africans Rising; regional conferences in Accra, Ghana and Kinshasa, DRC to discuss pertinent issues like youth, development, and climate change with local communities; and the creation of a new award initiative called the “Africans Rising Activist of the Year”, to recognize young grassroots organizers working for change in their communities.
AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY 2019 #25MAY
MAY 25TH MOBILISATION
Everywhere, Anywhere!

May 25th mobilization is a signature campaign where Africans Rising’s diverse membership implements various advocacy events and campaigns. This themed annual mobilization moment connects different CSO players’ work and also create the broader Pan-African solidarity for our struggles. Also, we get to reflect, have a dialogue with leaders, and celebrate our gains in the fight for true liberation of Africa. The theme of 2019 mobilization was Human Trafficking and Anti-Slavery. The 2019 mobilization occurred in 56 countries with 137 simultaneous events. This mobilisation included 49 countries in Africa. Africans Rising members raised their voices at the grassroots level and held leaders accountable to take actions and make decisions to end human trafficking and modern day slavery. The 2019 mobilisation serves as an example for collective Pan-African solidarity in actions on issues of common concern and interest. The movement has engaged regional bodies like African Union to take action by sending letters demanding an end to human trafficking and slavery post mobilisation day.
Africans Rising partnered with Divest-Invest to attend and promote our movement’s during the first edition of their Financing the Future Summit. At the sidelines of this conference, we launched our Individual Giving Campaign. Africans Rising also attended the press conference organised by Financing the Future and had the chance to speak directly with journalists and media representatives.

As a learning exchange programme for a collective of professionals, the Go Deep Open House seeks to create spaces for critical dialogue on radical inclusion while embracing different perspectives and uniting struggles as one voice. Through this programme, Africans Rising was able to forge connections with Lebanese activists advocating for the abolishment of the Kafala system and learned from the experiences of the Beirut Migrant Community Centre.
Throughout the year, Africans Rising held its Invisible Giants events to celebrate African women on the continent and in the Diaspora doing outstanding work without the usual recognition or celebratory remarks. We celebrate our Invisible Giants to recognise the women at the forefront working tirelessly for social change in their communities. In total, 27 women were celebrated in 2019 in Dakar and nationwide in various parts of Senegal. Women celebrated at the events included: Germaine Acogny, professional dancer & founder of the professional dance school École des Sables; Patricia Gomis, comedian-actor & founder of the Association Djarama; Tiné Ndoye, farmer & chairwoman of the National Rural Women Network; Hadj Fatou Dramé, community mobiliser & chairwoman of the Women’s Association of Toubab Dialaw; Mrs. Binta Sarr; Kathy Ndione; Fatou Samba; Astou Diop Diagne; Gnilane Ndiaye; Rama Thiam; Hulo Guillabert; Fatime Faye; Suzanne Badiane; Madeleine Devès Senghor; Marie Delphine Ndiaye; Safiétou Diop; Christine Agboton Johnson; Ndèye Fatou Touré; Penda Seck Diouf; Mrs Dia Balé Gueye and Penda BA. We also paid a tribute to a lost shero, Ms. Binta Sarr who passed away in 2019. Madame Sarr was an unsung hero who contributed tremendously to the movement as the former president of APROFES, a women’s association based in Kaolack working to ensure women empowerment in the field of sustainable development.
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
The Artistic Activism project was an engagement in collaboration with movement partners Global Platform Ghana and ActionAid Ghana. The project’s objective was to train and tap into the potential of young artists to use their voices against inequalities for social justice in West Africa. The project had two project coordinators, one based in Ghana and the other in Senegal. The very first induction meeting occurred in April in Dakar. Subsequently, the trainers meetings occurred in Ghana during the month of May. These meetings brought together a select group of artists from Anglophone and Francophone countries in West Africa. Out of these meetings, the groups created The West Africa Creative Action Team (WACAT) in Ghana and Senegal as the working group of implementers. The WACAT in both Ghana and Senegal have developed context-specific training curriculum on Artistic Activism and implemented key benchmarks of the program with 15 artists activists in each country.
SOLIDARITY RESIDENCY ON PEACE MEDIATION FOR CAMEROONIAN ACTIVISTS

Africans Rising and ActionAid Global Platforms held a five-day solidarity residency training workshop on conflict management, reconciliation, negotiation, and mediation skills for Cameroonian women peace activists. The training was held over the course of one week at ActionAid Global Platforms in Nairobi, Kenya. It brought together 16 peace-building and human rights NGO leaders from 10 regions of the Republic of Cameroon. This training provided a platform for knowledge-sharing between participating organisations. Participants appreciated the relevance and timeliness of the workshop, as well as the knowledge and skills provided. They noted the importance of convening diverse organisations and bilingual participants from different regions of Cameroon to share and learn from one another. Many noted that the solidarity residency program was useful and provided them with deep insights into human rights, mediation, and conflict management. Also, they felt equipped with knowledge and skills in mediation as this was the first time for some of them who attended such a program. In addition to using the knowledge and skills gained during the training, participants indicated that they will share the knowledge gained in their respective organisations or communities.

ACTIVISTS IN RESIDENCE II

Activists in Residence (AiR) is a residency programme that was developed as a practical response to the multiple struggles and demands on activists and other human rights defenders in their day-to-day efforts. The residency brings together activists working on a diverse range of social issues in risky environments for 10 days at MS TCDC to network and acquire technical tools that they can use to organise and mobilise more efficiently and safely. This year Africans Rising partnered with MS TCDC and The Fund for Global Human Rights for the second iteration of AiR, which hosted a cohort of nine activists from across the continent. Residency sessions were organised and led by professional trainers, guest speakers and facilitators who addressed issues of digital activism and security, defending civic space, and non-violent mobilisation strategies. In a three-month post-residency period, the activists, supported by AiR facilitators, planned and implemented actionable campaign strategies to protect digital space in their respective home countries.
Aluta Continua!
The ITUC-Africa is a member of Africans Rising. We were, therefore, invited to share our perspectives on alliance building and networking for effective trade union influence. This presented an opportunity for Africans Rising to strengthen our relationship with various trade unions from across the continent. Participants generally observed and agreed that it was time for trade unions to embrace change, unite, and reposition themselves to effectively deal with new challenges arising from transformations in the work world. There was also the call for trade unions to connect in a more deliberate manner to other citizens’ groups that are also advancing social and economic justice. From this, we learned that Africans Rising needs to position itself to engage more strategically with trade unions. The movement will benefit from the influence and sheer numbers of union memberships across the continent.

Africans Rising was invited to participate in the Global Perspective Conference where member Tobias Wanyoike represented our movement. Tobias joined leaders of national and international Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and passionate individuals working to achieve social good. Key learnings from this conference emphasised on the shrinking civic spaces and how we can overcome specific challenges in the sector to maintain or gain legitimacy with key constituents.
INAUGURATION OF THE COORDINATING COLLECTIVE
Arusha, Tanzania

Africans Rising held its very first Coordinating Collective (CC) meeting to officially inaugurate its board. During this meeting, the 13 CC members met each other face-to-face. Africans Rising’s core team introduced the CC members to the work of the movement and its future objectives. Key outcomes from this meeting included the creation of sub-committees and the formalisation of the CC code of conduct, roles, and responsibilities. There was also a decision on co-opting two elected members to the board to ensure gender balance. This now brings the CC membership to 15 diverse individuals (from the continent and the diaspora with 11 females and 4 males)

DIASPORA GATHERING
New York, USA

Africans Rising hosted a gathering with Diaspora members in Harlem, New York. This event was led by Co-Coordinator, Coumba Toure and consisted of a film screening of Kemtiyu Cheikh Anta Diop. This event engaged the Diaspora members about the work of Africans Rising and its connection to the struggles in the Diaspora. The event was attended by 30 individuals and the movement received donations towards the Individual Giving campaign. The interest in Africans Rising’s work resulted in a few youth members starting a chapter with a committee of volunteers in New York.

COORDINATING COLLECTIVE GATHERING
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Africans Rising’s Coordinating Collective (CC) members along with Core Team (CT), stakeholders, and consultants met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to review the movement’s performance over the last two years (from its inception to present), discuss opportunities for improvement, and evaluate the strategic framework moving forward. Over the course of six days, meeting attendees mapped out a way forward to build more solidarity with grassroots movements across the continent as we resist oppression and amplify movements for justice, peace, and dignity. Members also took the opportunity to learn from country historian Mr. Bahru Zoro who provided perspectives on the rich history of Ethiopia.
Members of Africans Rising core team and facilitators convened for the movement’s strategic retreat. The objectives of the meeting were: to review the vision and mission of Africans Rising while updating on successes and lessons learned to date; to develop a framework for the next two years and the following five years; to consolidate deliverables under pillars of the existing and future strategic frame; to agree on activities and expectations moving forward; and to train on the general concepts and principles of feminism and equality and how they relate to Africans Rising’s work. From the six days of the meeting, team members learned that Africans Rising is building a movement and advocating for the oppressed and creating alliances on the way. Through the rich discussions, the movement is creating the #AfricaWeWant. Given our innovative approaches, we are strongly looking to build our community through rituals rooted in Pan-African cultures. This includes the way in which we open up our meetings as well as traditional attires worn. The way Africans build community is the way Africans Rising will be thinking about building this movement.

**LAUNCH OF INDIVIDUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN**

As part of Africans Rising’s movement growth plan, we launched our Individual Giving campaign with the aim of raising $12M from Africans over the course of 10 years. The idea is to create regular fundraising events throughout the continent and Diaspora to raise awareness and funds for the movement and our objectives. The launch’s theme was under the banner of #AfricaWeWant. Africans Rising collaborated with Financing the Future organizers (Divest/Invest) to engage their participants. We also invited our 166 Africans Rising members in South Africa. From this invitation list, we had 80 attendees and 3 pledges for donations. Our core team attendees were able to implement productive networking to increase the interest of attendees to join the movement and to collaborate with Africans Rising in the near future.
Over 400 activists, youth leaders, and community organisers attended the Africans Rising regional convening in Kinshasa. We celebrated the important role of youth in developing the #AfricaWeWant and engaged in important conversations on immigration, climate change, and gender inequality that we will continue in our newly-launched #ThePeoplesCampaign.

Africans Rising’s members in Ghana hosted a Regional Convening to provide a space for civil society actors in this region to reflect on the movement’s journey so far, with particular regards to the fulfilment of the commitments co in the Kilimanjaro Declaration. The theme of this Convening was “No One But Us Will Build Africa” and it provided an avenue for activists leading struggles to share their knowledge and experience in order to create space for learning and innovation to bring social change faster. The Convening also created the opportunity to raise awareness about the role of the youth in building the #AfricaWeWant. The event was attended by 160 activists, mobilizers, grassroots movement leaders, entrepreneurs, and artists from Ghana, Nigeria, The Gambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and USA.
The “Africans Rising Activist of the Year” award is a new award initiative presented by the Africans Rising community to an outstanding individual who has demonstrated sterling leadership in their work as a selfless advocate for the rights of people on the continent. Jean-Marie Kalonji, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was named the 2019 Africans Rising Activist of the Year.

KEY WINS

Congratulations to Movement Coordinator Coumba Toure and Core Team Member Farida Bemba Nabourema who were nominated by Avance Media for being among the 100 Most Influential African Women of 2019.

Congratulations to Movement Coordinator Muhammed Lamin Saidykhan who was nominated as one of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans by the African Youth Awards.
23,000 Individual Members

400 Organisational Members

56 Countries Represented

20 Liberation Movements Supported

49 Countries In Africa Represented
CORE TEAM

Movement Coordinator
MUHAMMED LAMIN SAIDYKHAN
Senegal & Mali

Movement Coordinator
COUMBA TOURE
Senegal & Mali

Fundraising Consultant
FATOU JAMMEH
The Gambia & Canada

Assistant Coordinator
MAURICE Samba
Senegal

Finance & Admin Coordinator
OUSMAN SARR
The Gambia

Digital and Social Media Assistant
TOBIAS WANYOIKE
Kenya

Head of Operations
Moses ISOOBA
Uganda & Kenya

Artistic Activism Project Coordinator
MARIE HÉLÈNE NDIAYE
Senegal

Collaboration & Engagement Coordinator
FARIDA NABOUREMA
Africa

Engagement and Collaboration Assistant
PATRICIA SERVANT
DRC & USA

VOLUNTEERS

Regional Mobiliser - West Africa
PRINCE AKPAH
Ghana

Regional Mobiliser - North Africa
RIM MENIA
Algeria

Regional Mobiliser - Southern Africa
SAMUEL JOSÉ SENTINELA
Mozambique

Communications Intern
ALEESA MANN
USA
AMBASSADORS

Movement Founding Chair

KUMI NAIDOO

The former Executive Director of Greenpeace International, Secretary General of CIVICUS and Secretary General of Amnesty International.

📍 South Africa

AJA FATOUMATA C.M. JALLOW-TAMB AJANG

Ms. Tambajang is a politician and activist. She served as vice-president of the Gambia and minister of Women’s Affairs.

📍 The Gambia

BONIFACE MWANGI

Boniface is a renowned photographer-cum-activist.

📍 Kenya

JAY NAIDOO

Former Minister under Mandela’s government

📍 South Africa

NUNU KIDANE

Director of Priority Africa Network and Editor at Africa Moves, a Pan African Migration Platform which hosts regular consultations on migration policy in Africa and the Diaspora.

📍 Ethiopia & USA
COORDINATING COLLECTIVE

CC Chair
CATHARINE RODGERS
Uganda

RHODA BOATENG
Ghana & Togo

SODFA DAAJI
Tunisia & Italy

DOMANI DORE
Guinea

SEYFALLAH MACHAT
Tunisia

GIDEON ADEYENI
Nigeria

ABIGAIL STEVENS
Sierra Leone

DUDUZILE NYIRONGO
Zimbabwe

CC Chair
MARCIA THOMAS
USA

CHARLES KOJO VANDEYCK
Ghana

CIDIA CHISSUNGU
Mozambique

SOPHIE KANZA
South Africa & DRC

DAVID SHAMALA
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OPAL TOMETI
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African Liberation Day

PAYPAL DONATION

BANK TRANSFER DONATION
Account Number: 0010094905391201
SWIFT: ECOCGMGM
Bank Name: ECOBANK GAMBIA LTD
Address: 42, Kairaba Ave
P.O BOX: 3466 Banjul, Gambia

M-PESA
914465
1. Africa is a rich continent. That wealth belongs to all our People, not to a narrow political and economic elite. We need to fight for economic development that is just and embraces social inclusion and environmental care. We have a right to the ‘better life’ our governments have promised.

2. Africans have a diverse, rich and powerful heritage that is important to heal ourselves and repair the damage done by neoliberalism to our humanity and environment. Being African, embracing the philosophy of Ubuntu should be a source of our pride.

3. African Youth are a critical foundation of building the success in our continent and must play a central role in building Africans Rising.

Kilimanjaro Declaration

We, the citizens and descendants of Africa, as part of the Africans Rising Movement, are outraged by the centuries of oppression; we condemn the plunder of our natural and mineral resources and the suppression of our fundamental human rights.

Therefore, We Resolve That our Work should Build a Local, National, Continental and Global Campaign that is:

1. Expanding space for civic and political action
2. Fighting for women’s rights and freedoms across society
3. Focussing our struggles on the right to Equity and Dignity
4. Demanding good governance as we fight corruption and impunity
5. Demanding climate and environmental justice

Join Africans Rising and mobilise our people around this shared vision; organise and connect local struggles under this umbrella; galvanise solidarity with all African struggles. This movement is committed to peace and non-violent action. We assert our inherent rights as Africans and invite our governments, leaders, other stakeholders and institutions to join us in pursuing the Future We Want to leave our future generations. We commit to mobilising our people on the African Liberation Day to deepen the meaning of African Liberation Day and call on all sectors of our society to organise events in every African country which will build the momentum towards the genuine liberation of our beautiful continent.

Join the movement
www.africans-rising.org