



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

## Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

Office of National Collections  
3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017-1194  
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SUPPORT THE  
Solidarity Fund for the  
**CHURCH IN  
AFRICA**

**Dear Diocesan Director,**

Human trafficking involves exploiting a person for labor, services, or commercial sex by force, coercion, or fraud. An estimated 50 million people worldwide suffer in this form of modern slavery, including 7 million Africans.

The Catholic Church is united in condemning human trafficking as a serious crime that violates the dignity of the human person. Bishops around the world work to combat this injustice through prayer and action. Among the bishops leading this fight are the member bishops of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA). AMECEA is made up of bishops' conferences representing eight countries in eastern Africa plus two affiliate countries, including countries in the Horn of Africa such as Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan, where trafficking is prevalent.

Last year, with support received from the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, AMECEA conducted a series of workshops designed to raise awareness, formulate advocacy strategies, and develop guidelines that enable its member episcopal conferences to reduce the risk of trafficking and provide training to pastoral ministers assisting victims of trafficking. Your diocese's support for the appeal for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa helps the Church carry out its mission to fight injustice and aid those most in need.

We need your help to promote your local parish collections for the Solidarity Fund and to share the stories of those who benefit. **You can help the appeal by using the sample letter from your bishop and by encouraging pastors to highlight the appeal at Mass and to use the bulletin announcements and the social media tool kit** available at [www.usccb.org/africa](http://www.usccb.org/africa).

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or [ncpromo@usccb.org](mailto:ncpromo@usccb.org). Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Margaret Hren  
Assistant Director, Promotions