



Stichting Platform for Social Transformation

Verslag van uitgeoefende activiteiten in 2023

Opgesteld op vrijdag 10 mei 2024.

I. Social Transformation & Vulnerability

- Development of manuscript for a textbook on the Costa Rican Political System, currently under review with Springer. Sample chapter was published in [Derecho en Sociedad](#).
- Contribution to podcast series “Alertas” in partnership with the Political Observatory on Latin America and the Caribbean on whistleblowers in Latin America: [Costa Rica - Cooperativas Para Beneficio Personal](#) and [Nicaragua Venezuela - Alertadoras En Dictadura](#).
- Development of research project “Good practices for political advocacy.” Publication pending.

II. Family Life and Policy

FLAEM

We are encouraged to see that most of the schools participating in the programme are producing better results in the final Primary Education Examinations administered by the Ministry of Education. Our contribution to such success cannot be over emphasized. This is one of the reasons why schools that are not part of the programme continue to pressure us to extend the programme to their schools.

During the year, the number of participating schools increased to sixty-six (66). This is a result of one junior school, Thumbwe in Namphungo Zone, moving up the ladder to having classes that qualify for the participation of Why Wait lessons. Welcome on board Thumbwe School.

Supervisory visits to the schools and reports from Primary Education Advisors (PEA’s) show that the majority of the teachers are doing what is expected of them. We want to thank all the Primary Education Advisors (PEA’s) for the passion that they have for the work. More teachers are teaching WHY WAIT before being trained. We commend the head teachers of such schools for encouraging the teachers to join the WHY WAIT teams in their schools.



We did not have the Quiz Competition because of the effect of Cyclone Freddy. A good number of our schools were either damaged or used as rescue and shelter centers. This affected teaching and learning in such schools. As such, we could not have the competition. Among other reasons, the competition helps us to evaluate how teachers are presenting the programme in their schools. We don't do it as a formality. It is a critical activity.

During the academic year under report, we reached out to a total of twenty-seven thousand and thirty-six (27,036) learners. Of these, twelve thousand six hundred and sixty-six (12,666) are boys while fourteen thousand three hundred and seventy (14,370) are girls. This is an increase of nine hundred and twenty-six learners (926) from last academic year.

By targeting young boys and girls in the Primary Schools we are actually shaping our future. In my mother tongue we say that "You shape or straighten a tree when it is small". This is exactly what WHY WAIT Life Skills is doing to the young boys and girls.

More information: www.flaem.org.

GIFAM

- Develop the concept of the **GIFAM framework**.
- Initial desk research on **documentation** produced by LGBT+ activists.
- The insight from the previous two items led to the **leading question and sub-questions** presented above.
- Draft the framework with **initial themes** (for each societal sphere).
- For the education and family sphere further developed the initial themes into **indicator statements**. Subsequently developed **AI search questions** for these.
- Start **answering** the sub-questions, and scoring by testing the AI search question for the Philippines, France and Germany as test countries. This is still ongoing.
- Develop tags and sub-tags for an **incident database** for the Education and Family spheres of society, relating to incidents connected to the NSE agenda.

III. International Institute for Religious Freedom

Projects executed under a separate organization. More information: www.iirf.global.

IV. Observatory of Religious Freedom in Latin America

In 2023, OLIRE continued to monitor the situation of religious freedom in the region. Special work was done on improving the Violent Incident Database platform. The inputs obtained are presented



through our blogs, newsletters, country reports, semi-annual reports, thematic reports, webinars, interviews, among others.

OLIRE continued with advice/consulting, as well as training programs for different audiences, including religious leaders, religious communities and religious alliances, students, public officials, civil society organizations, media, and the general public. Part of the training program includes but is not limited to: Introduction to human rights; the state of religious freedom in the region; Monitoring and documentation; The role of religious communities for the common good; The role of religious communities in the public space; Religious freedom, how to communicate it, and others. Through our virtual internship program, we had 2 university interns throughout the year.

Projects/activities were carried out with government agencies, universities, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and the media, to promote and/or raise awareness about the right to religious freedom in Latin America. Likewise, we seek to make use of the platforms available in the regional human rights protection system, to provide relevant information about the limitations on the right to religious freedom.

More information: www.olire.org.

V. Observatory of Religious Freedom in Africa

ORFA team's primary focus for 2023 was to assure regular, high-quality reporting on violence incidents in Nigeria and publish this on the ORFA website, and with key partners and external forums. Together with our primary partner in Nigeria, a UK based desk researcher and the back-office staff and volunteers we accomplished the following related to Nigeria:

- Published a three-year report about killings and abductions in Nigeria (10/2019- 9/2022). This provides of an in-depth report, analysis, and key findings about the violence in Nigeria. An online interactive version of the data is available on the ORFA website as well.
- Ongoing quarterly reports providing recent and verified reports on violence incidents in Nigeria. The first three quarterly reports were published during 2023. For the reporting period over 3,100 violence incidents accounting for nearly 13k killings were recorded. Nearly half of these were civilian victims (including over 4,000 Christian victims), a more complete analysis on 2023 will follow in the first quarter of 2024.
- ORFA prepared a submission about Nigeria for its Universal Periodic Review during the 45th Session of the Human Rights Council. The submission presented the statistical data and findings of its work from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2022, registering killings and abductions of civilians, including their religious backgrounds, age and gender, in the context of an ongoing 'culture of violence' created by 'Terror Groups' such as Boko Haram, Islamic State in the West Africa Province (ISWAP), armed Fulani herders, 'bandits' and other, smaller groups.



- ORFA contributed a special report to center for the study of Law and Religion at Emory University (Georgia, USA): *An Illustrative Approach to Religious Freedom Violations in Nigeria*.
- ORFA periodically contributes verified incidents to the global “violence incident database” which is maintained by the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF).
- A new approach is being developed for Burkina Faso to overlay external data on violence and internally displaced people (IDP) with data from the World Christian Database to enable quicker estimation of Christian and other religious minorities victims (killings and/or abductions) in select countries in West Africa.

More information: www.orfa.africa.