

ENTERTAINING ANGELS

"...in doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it..."

This past June, HHTN Global collaborated with Africa International University (AIU), to commemorate Refugee Week 2024, themed 'Our Home'.

AIU is situated in Nairobi, Kenya – a nation hosting over 700,000 registered refugees, most of whom reside in Kakuma and Refugee Camps. These camps shelter adults and children who have been driven from their homes by the horrors of war and conflict, bearing scars, both physical and emotional.

For decades, organisations like UNHCR have provided for the basic needs of these refugees. However, HHTN Global and AIU are rallying the Church to support refugees.

Our mission has always been to tackle the root causes of conflict and promote peace and reconciliation. By addressing these issues, we hope to create a world where people are no longer forced to flee their homes in the first place.



I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN

During the Refugee Week, we hosted a webinar on 14th June, and commemorated the World Refugee Day on 20th June by hosting a breakfast consultation, a chapel service and a press conference.

During the webinar, Rev Phil Wagler and Martin Kapenda, both of Peace and Reconciliation Network shared personal stories and encounters with migration. They highlighted the Biblical mandate of loving and taking care of the 'stranger' emphasising that this can start in our own homes by showing hospitality to the 'aliens' in our own communities and opening our hearts and our homes to them.

During the World Refugee Day commemoration, refugees in Kenya shared real experiences with us. .

One moving testimony was from Meshack Muziga (in the image), a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Forced to flee his homeland, Meshack found himself in a foreign country with limited resources and a bleak future. Yet, he never lost hope. Through faith and a supportive church community, Meshack found the strength to learn a new skill of being a barber, pursue his education and even begin a PhD programme in theology!

His story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of faith to overcome adversity.



Another refugee highlighted the emotional burden she carries, "As a refugee, there are things I carry in my heart which I cannot share. We are suffering mentally. There is no one to share with. Is there an institution that gives care and opportunities to refugees?"

Another one spoke of the mental health toll of displacement, while another described the daily frustrations of limited opportunities and discrimination. We heard many more heart-wrenching stories of loss, struggle, the constant longing for a sense of belonging but also of hope and finding a home far away from home.

Their stories were a reminder of the realness of the human cost of displacement and the urgent need for support.

World Refugee Day activities weren't just about raising awareness. They were a call to action. During the chapel service, Dr Enoch Opuka (AIU) shared a powerful sermon where he emphasised the responsibility of the church to stand with refugees, offer hospitality, prayer and advocacy for their rights.

The Press Release (in the image below) highlighted AIU's commitment to creating a welcoming environment for refugees, acknowledging their potential and contributions. The story was aired by three major media houses in Kenya.

Refugee week activities were a powerful reminder that 'Home' is more than just a physical location. It is about obedience to God, community and acceptance. When the Church supports the refugees and immigrant communities, we can build a world where everyone feels they belong.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

The Southern African School of Reconciliation (SASOR) is taking place from 16 to 18 July at Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ) Secretariat, Lusaka, Zambia. We welcome all our friends in Southern Africa to sign up using this link (<https://forms.gle/zXqhGL4whDqH2PkV9>)

Interested in supporting this cause?

Reach out to us via email at info@hhtnglobal.org to make a donation

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