

Advocacy Visit to Amayam Clan



Venue: Amayam Village Hall, Ikot Ekpene Local Government, Akwa Ibom State.

Date: 2nd August, 2025

Led by: African Faith and Justice Network Nigeria, Youth Advocates.

The Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) Nigeria Youth Advocates recently conducted an advocacy visit to the Amayam Clan council in Akwa Ibom State to address the negative impacts of domestic servitude, child marriage, and child labor in their communities. The Youth Advocates presented a memorandum of understanding (MOU) aimed at regulating the movement of children out of the community. The MOU requires that any parent or guardian who wishes to take their child out of the community must first inform the clan chief and sign the memorandum, promoting greater community oversight and protection of children.

During the visit, Christian Nkanta spoke about the detrimental effects of domestic servitude, highlighting how children subjected to this practice are deprived of education and exposed to abuses, ultimately limiting their future opportunities. Isaac Obot discussed the severe consequences of child marriage, which strips children of their childhood and exposes them to various forms of exploitation. Mr. Etido Ekpeyong emphasized the harmful impact of child labor, which violates children's rights and endangers their health and safety.

The Amayam Clan council raised several concerns in response. They expressed significant frustration about the high unemployment rates in their area and suggested that creating more companies and job opportunities could help reduce the socio-economic pressures that contribute to these harmful practices. The council also spoke about issues of indecent dressing and advised that advocacy efforts should extend to

women in the community to maximize impact. Furthermore, they recommended that future visits include at least one government official to amplify the call for action and enhance the community's ability to address these challenges collectively.

This advocacy visit is part of a broader effort by AFJN to engage traditional leaders and community stakeholders in Akwa Ibom State to combat human trafficking, domestic servitude, child marriage, and child labor. AFJN's approach includes grassroots sensitization, youth empowerment, and collaboration with government and civil society organizations to ensure sustainable community-led solutions.

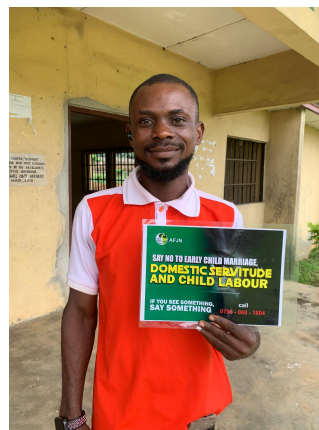
Conclusion:

The visit to the Amayam Clan council successfully raised awareness about the damaging effects of domestic servitude, child marriage, and child labor. The presentation of a memorandum of understanding signifies a concrete step towards institutionalizing community-level monitoring and control to protect children. However, addressing these issues requires not only community vigilance but also tackling underlying socio-economic factors like unemployment and involving wider community segments including women. The council's recommendation to involve government representatives underscores the need for multi-level collaboration to enforce protective measures effectively.

Next Steps:

1. Organize follow-up visits to the Amayam Clan and other local councils to monitor the implementation of the memorandum of understanding and continue sensitization efforts.
2. Develop targeted programs to engage women and mothers in awareness campaigns, recognizing their critical role within families.
3. Advocate for increased government involvement by inviting officials to future meetings and lobbying for supportive policies and resources to create job opportunities and enforce child protection laws.
4. Establish a community monitoring system with regular reporting mechanisms to identify and intervene in cases of domestic servitude, child marriage, and child labor promptly.

These coordinated steps will help solidify the progress made and mobilize broader support to protect children and promote justice within Akwa Ibom communities.







Reported by Mr. Christian Nkanta.
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