



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC) CONFERENCE DES EGLISES DE TOUTE L'AFRIQUE (CETA)

AACC-CETA

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Happy Commemoration of the 2023 Juneteenth day; The war against slavery is still on

Today 19th June 2023, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) joins all people of African descent in the United States of America (USA) and across the world commemorating the Juneteenth day: a day of celebrating the end of slavery in the USA¹. As an ecumenical fellowship of churches in Africa working for life, peace, justice and dignity, AACC delights in the actions such as those taken by General Gordon Granger and his troops², who on this day, 158 years ago, freed 25,000 Africans from their enslavers. These Africans were still being held as captives even after the emancipation declaration³ had been made by president Lincoln in 1863. The Juneteenth day affirms our conviction that indeed it's possible for human beings to stop doing wrong, learn to do right, seek justice and correct oppression as God required of the Israelites in Isaiah 1:16-17.

As we commemorate this day, however, we are disturbed by the fact that till now; 158 years after the abolition of slavery in the USA, people of African descent have never gained the total freedom that was fought for by the abolitionists. They still suffer from racial discrimination, economic inequalities, and social injustices: the same evils that characterized the period of slavery whose end we commemorate today.

In addition to this, modern day slavery and human trafficking are rising at an alarming rate in every part of the world with people of African descent being the most likely to be affected⁴. Do you see the trouble we are in?

Standing in solidarity with all those who see the Juneteenth day as a symbol of hope for a just society, we pray that this year's commemoration of the day will awaken us to the fact that the war against slavery is still on and the people of African descent are yet to gain their total freedom from attitudes, practices and systems that continue to hold them under oppression. We indeed pray on this Juneteenth day, the love of Christ will compel us all to unite and act for the total freedom of all African people, and free humanity from all forms of contemporary slavery.

Happy Juneteenth Day!

The Rev Dr Fidon Mwombeki
General Secretary

¹ <https://www.history.com/news/what-is-juneteenth>

² <https://time.com/6188864/general-order-3-juneteenth/>

³ <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation>

⁴ <https://www.dw.com/en/modern-slavery-is-far-from-abolished/a-59990800>

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