



**25<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**DAY**

# **AFRICA DAY**

## COMMEMORATION TOOLKIT

### 2025



Designed & Created by: Center for Global Africa  
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## WHAT IS AFRICA DAY?

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In Africa and throughout the global Diaspora to symbolize and promote African unity, Africa Day is celebrated annually on May 25 to honor the continent's independence and liberation movements, rich cultural heritage, unity, and progress. This toolkit serves as a strategic resource to assist individuals, organizations, and communities effectively plan, coordinate, and amplify their messages and activities in celebration of Africa Day (May 25th). The toolkit is a guide to promote consistent messaging and coordinated action on the 25th and beyond. Celebrations can be ongoing and should reflect the historical contributions of the past and visionary leadership of the present.

## AFRICA DAY OVERVIEW

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Historically, Africa Day traces to the May 25, 1963 establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) when thirty-two (32) heads of independent African states gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to sign the founding charter for the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

As a continental institution of newly independent African nations, OAU leaders signed a charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with goals of Pan-African cooperation, strong African sovereignty, and the need to end apartheid and colonialism in other parts of Africa.

The OAU manifested the pan-African vision for an Africa that was united, free and in control of its own destiny. The OAU identified the need to promote understanding among Africa's peoples and foster cooperation among African states in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences; and the date of the observance known as "African Freedom Day" was changed to May 25 to coincide with the anniversary of the creation of the OAU and it was renamed, becoming "Africa Day" or "African Unity Day".

In 2002 the OAU became today's African Union (AU) with continental commitments of integration, good governance, sustainable development, and global advocacy for "An Integrated, Prosperous, and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."

This vision encompasses the implementation of Agenda 2063, which is Africa's 50-year development blueprint. Agenda 2063 encourages involvement of Africa's worldwide Diaspora (including African Americans, Afro-Latinos, Afro-Caribbeans), who the AU defines as Africa's "Sixth Region," which embodies people of African descent who geographically live beyond Africa's "Five Regions" of North, East, South, West, and Central Africa.

Recognition of the Sixth Region holds much historical significance since records confirm that Marcus Garvey (1887-1940) of Jamaica inspired founders of the OAU. This includes President Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria, President Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, and President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. In his autobiography President Nkrumah wrote, "of all the literature that I studied, the book that did more than any other to fire my enthusiasm was the Philosophy and Opinions of Marcus Garvey." His recent Full and Unconditional Presidential Pardon, granted by U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, on January 19, 2025 is a testament of Garvey's enduring legacy and impact on actions for African unity and economic cooperation as the AU espouses and Africa Day promotes.

In 2023, Delaware designated May 25th as "Africa Day" through Senate Concurrent Resolution 60. This resolution acknowledges the ongoing decolonization efforts on the African continent and the increasing demand for political rights and independence. The resolution was passed by the House on May 18, 2023, and signed by the Governor on May 31, 2023. (Concurrent Resolution No. 60 Attached-Year 2023)



SPONSOR: Sen. Pinkney & Rep. Wilson-Anton & Rep. Minor-Brown  
Sens. Brown, Buckson, Gay, Hansen, Hocker, Hoffner,  
Huxtable, Lawson, Lockman, Mantzavinos, S. McBride,  
Paradee, Pettyjohn, Poore, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon,  
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DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

DESIGNATING MAY 25, 2023, AS "AFRICA DAY" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, after World War II, the decolonization of the African continent gathered momentum as Africans  
2 increasingly agitated for more political rights and independence; and

3 WHEREAS, with the exceptions of Ethiopia and Liberia, Europe had colonized every country in Africa; and

4 WHEREAS, while in some parts of the continent colonial powers reluctantly and grudgingly relinquished power,  
5 in other places, African people launched protracted struggles against colonial regimes; and

6 WHEREAS, between 1945 and 1965, a significant number of African countries gained independence from  
7 European colonial powers; and

8 WHEREAS, on March 6, 1957, Ghana became the first African country south of the Sahara to gain independence;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Ghana's independence served as an inspiration to other African countries struggling against colonial  
11 rule, and as a result, Ghana occupied a central role in the struggle against colonial rule; and

12 WHEREAS, just over a year after its independence and under the leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana  
13 convened the first Conference of Independent African States (Conference) on April 15, 1958, bringing together various  
14 African countries, including Ghana, Ethiopia, Sudan, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, as well as representatives of  
15 the National Liberation Front of Algeria and the Union of Cameroonian Peoples; and

16 WHEREAS, this Conference was the first pan-African conference to be held on the continent and was an  
17 unequivocal assertion of Africa's rejection of colonial and imperialist domination of the continent, becoming a collective  
18 platform from which African countries sought to cooperate in the struggle against colonialism; and

19 WHEREAS, to further encourage and forge a common goal of fighting against colonial rule, the Conference called  
20 for the annual observance of African Freedom Day, to mark "the onward progress of the liberation movement, and to  
21 symbolize the determination of the People of Africa to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation"; and

WHEREAS, during this Conference, President Nkrumah presented his vision of the United States of Africa, but the majority of those in attendance were overwhelmingly against his idea because it risked dissolving sovereignty and territorial integrity; and

WHEREAS, this disagreement led to the emergence of 3 ideological blocs on the continent: the Casablanca Group, comprised of 7 countries; the Monrovia Group, comprised of 12 countries; and the Brazzaville Group, comprised of 12 countries; and

WHEREAS, these 3 ideological blocs were brought together when, on May 25, 1963, 32 heads of independent African states gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to sign the founding charter for the Organization of African Unity (OAU); and

WHEREAS, the OAU manifested the pan-African vision for an Africa that was united, free and in control of its own destiny; and

WHEREAS, the OAU identified the need to promote understanding among Africa's peoples and foster cooperation among African states in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences; and

WHEREAS, the date of the observance known as "African Freedom Day" was changed to May 25 to coincide with the anniversary of the creation of the OAU and it was renamed, becoming "Africa Day" or "African Unity Day"; and

WHEREAS, in July 2002 the OAU evolved into the African Union, reflecting a consensus by African leaders that to realize Africa's potential, there was a need to refocus attention from the fight for decolonization and ridding the continent of apartheid, the focus of the OAU, towards increased cooperation and integration of African states to drive Africa's growth and economic development; and

WHEREAS, each year, on May 25, Africans around the globe celebrate Africa Day; and

WHEREAS, Africa Day commemorates the founding of the first union of African countries on May 25, 1963, and is an opportunity to reflect on the progress made by the African Union in achieving its goals, especially in regard to protecting the human rights and freedoms of Africans; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2023, the people of the State of Delaware join Delaware's African residents, Africans, and people of African descent all over the world as they rededicate themselves to strengthening partnerships in pursuit of peace and sustainable progress for all Africans on Africa Day.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that May 25, 2023, is designated as "Africa Day" in the State of Delaware.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution designates May 25, 2023, as "Africa Day" in Delaware.

Author: Senator Pinkney

**Sample: Africa Day Faith-Based Worship Program, designed to celebrate the rich, cultural, spiritual heritage and traditions of Africa across the African Diaspora. Programs should be customized to meet the needs of members.**

## **Africa Day Faith-Based Worship Program Outline**

**Theme:**

**“Rooted in Faith, United in Spirit”**

### **1. Welcome & Opening Prayer**

- **Opening Scripture:**
- **Opening Prayer:** Acknowledging the African Liberation movement and ancestral heritage

### **2. Processional Hymn**

- **Song Suggestion:** A traditional African hymn.
  - **Purpose:** Celebrate the unity and diversity of Africa through music.
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### **3. African Faith Based Heritage Reflection**

**Scripture Reading:**

- **Reflection & Visuals:** Displays or images of great leaders, faith-based spiritual movements(ex. Bishop Desmond Tutu and Anti-Apartheid Movement)
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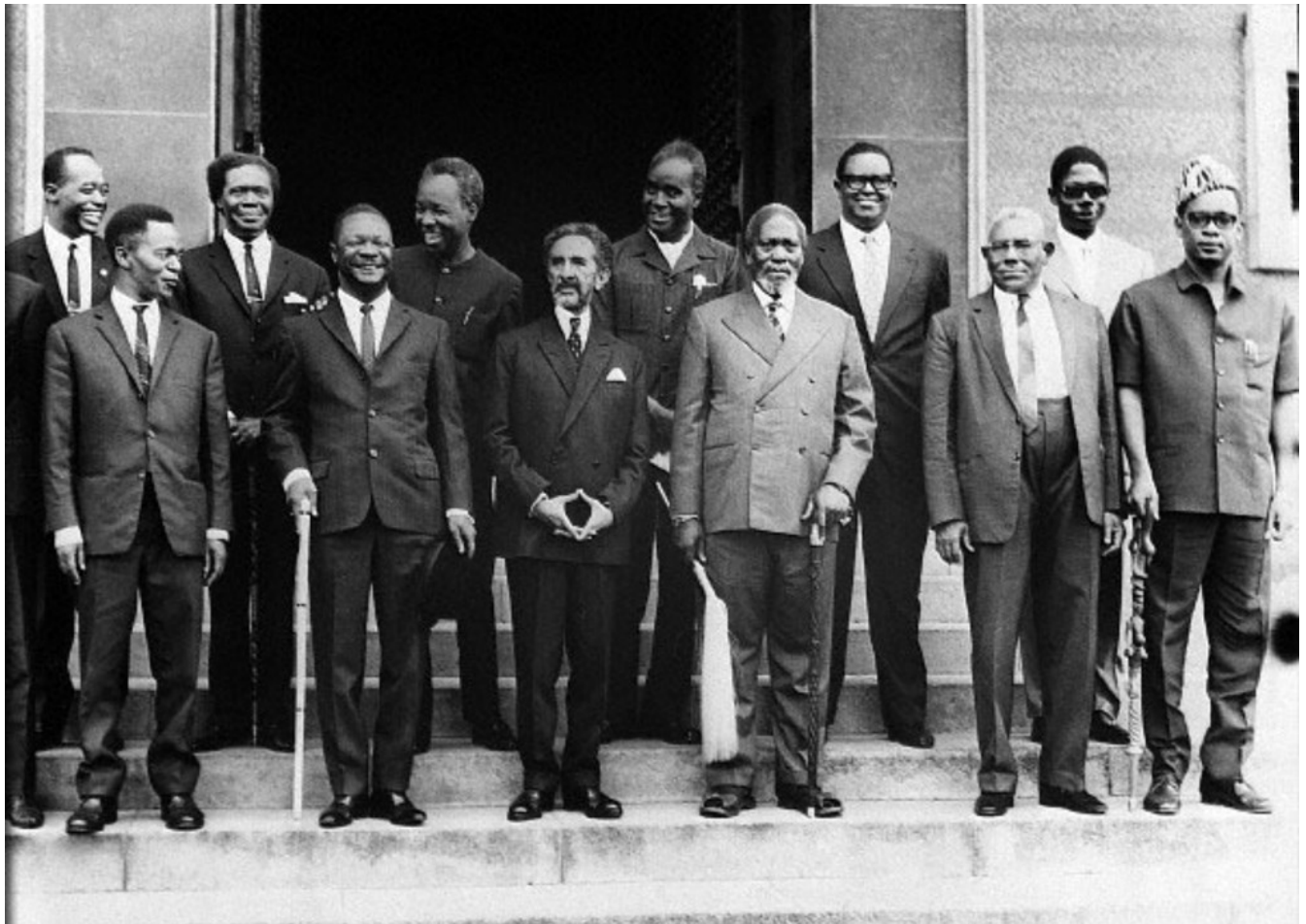
### **4. African Praise and Worship**

- **Music:** Incorporate traditional African instruments and rhythms.
  - **Congregational Participation:** Encourage clapping, dancing, and vocal harmonies in the worship – Call and Response:
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### **5. Scripture Reading & Sermon**

- **Scripture:**
  - **Sermon Focus:** Legacy - The role of African and Diaspora Leaders
  - **Application:** Encourage the congregation to embrace their heritage and continue the mission of promoting peace, harmony and dignity rights
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## 6. Intercessory Prayers

- **Prayers For:**
  - Unity among African nations, the Diaspora and spiritual networks
  - Peace and reconciliation in regions of conflict.
  - Empowerment of African and Diaspora Youth in faith.
- **Suggested Method:** Invite different members to lead prayers, reflecting the diversity of the continent.

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## 7. Offering & Tithes

- **Purpose:** Support local and international missions, particularly those in Africa and the Diaspora.
  - **Special Emphasis:** Highlight projects that empower communities through education, healthcare, and spiritual development.
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## 8. Closing Hymn & Benediction

- **Hymn:** African Selection with African Drumming
- **Benediction:** Pronounce a blessing over the congregation, sending them forth to live out their faith with the strength of their heritage.

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### Optional Additions:

- **Cultural Showcase:** Display traditional African attire, art, and crafts.
- **Testimonies:** Invite members to share personal stories of faith and heritage.
- **Refreshments:** Offer traditional African foods and beverages after the service to foster fellowship.

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- This outline aims to honor the spirit and purpose of Africa Day by promoting the tapestry of Africa and its Diaspora, fostering a deeper connection to the ancestral heritage and historical narrative of the continent.
    - Share photo images and stories of Africa Day activities through email @ info@centerforglobalafrica.com or by text +1-302-690-8407 (mobile/WhatsApp)
    - Post on social media, tag and share with others...spread the word.

## RESOURCES:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KpT-wzbz\\_Qnw055IWEH3pXdIQRtNyu1f](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KpT-wzbz_Qnw055IWEH3pXdIQRtNyu1f)

[WWW.CENTERFORGLOBALAFRICA.COM](http://WWW.CENTERFORGLOBALAFRICA.COM)

<https://au.int/>

<https://youtu.be/YAEQNwEcfcc?si=GSXNWt0LPhIGbyWe>

[https://youtu.be/T\\_-YcUVdP7w?si=ZjwE\\_hWozzpiZ5TU](https://youtu.be/T_-YcUVdP7w?si=ZjwE_hWozzpiZ5TU)

[https://youtu.be/2C3dbMhfhfo?si=SusD\\_Sdxf3GTybPd](https://youtu.be/2C3dbMhfhfo?si=SusD_Sdxf3GTybPd)

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/africa-day-lets-put-our-resources-risk-behind-africas-young-people-adesina-61504>

<https://africanactivities.org.uk/africa-day/>

<https://youtu.be/mz6zEpeVvsE?si=H7xiaG6u2Dbnd3Ac>

# The Founding of the OAU



## OAU FOUNDERS



Algeria: Ahmed Ben Bella



Benin (Republic of Dahomey): Hubert Maga



Burkina Faso (Upper Volta): Maurice Yaméogo



Burundi: His Majesty Mwambumba IV



Cameroon: Ahmadou Ahidjo



Gabon: Léon M'ba



Egypt (United Arab Republic): Gamal Abdel Nasser



Central African Republic: David Dacko



Chad: François Tombalbaye



Congo: Fulbert Youlou



Libya: His Majesty King Idris I



Ivory Coast: Félix Houphouët-Boigny



Ethiopia: Emperor Haile Selassie



Liberia: William V.S. Tubman



Madagascar (Malagasy): Philibert Tsiranana



Mali: Modibo Keita



Mauritania: Mokhtar Ould Daddah



Niger: Houari Boumedienne



Guinea: Ahmed Sékou Touré



Morocco: King Hassan II



Senegal: Léopold Sédar Senghor



Nigeria: Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa



Romania: Grigore Koybarcha



Sierra Leone: Sir Milton Margai



Ghana: Kwame Nkrumah



Somalia: Abdirahman Osman



Sudan: El Fahir Ibrahim Abbeid



Uganda: Milton Obote



Tunisia: Habib Bourguiba



Togo: Sylvanus Olympio



Tanzania (Tanganyika): Mwalimu Julius Nyerere



25<sup>th</sup> May

# Africa Day



[www.au.int](http://www.au.int)     