



Liberians Advocacy For Change



Comfort Keah Itoka, Founder LAFC

As a natural born Liberian, born in Garraway, Grand Kru County, Republic of Liberia, organizing an advocacy organization for retaining our Liberian Citizenship is an obligation. Most especially after the personal loss that we Liberians both at home and in the diaspora have experienced because of the Liberian civil war. Some of us will remain traumatized from these atrocities until our own demise. The initiation and founding of the “Liberians Advocacy for Change” was birthed out of these frustrations, concerns, and challenges we faced with our homeland on the loss of our birthright citizenship as a result of certain provisions of part III, Chapters 20, 21, and

22 of the Alien and Nationality Law. The organization is composed of Liberians all over the United States. Our advocacy is to restore citizenship to natural born Liberians who have lost their citizenship pursuant to any such provision. This is done by collaborating with other Liberian organizations in the diaspora, together engaging the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of government in Liberia. The drive and passion to find a way to advocate for our birthright citizenship, would not only be for people in the diaspora, but for Liberians in Liberia. The retention of our citizenship will be a win-win, for our beloved country, Liberia. Rather than a liability, Dual Citizenship will strongly contribute to economic power, and positively impact development.

Liberians in the diaspora have continued to sacrifice as families and as a people with scars from civil war, plus daily anti-immigrant rhetoric. We resettled all over the world, strangers to those countries, and started from the bottom of making a living. However, amid those struggles, the bulk of our incomes that are not expended to meet our daily needs, are sent to family and friends in Liberia. The staggering remittances from diaspora Liberians make Liberia the second highest recipient country of Diaspora remittance. This is beside the barrels we ship, and cash we send through others.

Most of us who have settled abroad, our hearts remained in Liberia while we pledged allegiance to another flag. While it was our decision to make, becoming a citizen of another country was not an easy choice. This advocacy is our duty and obligation. This organization serves as an example of how diaspora Liberians should constructively engage with the homeland.

Dual Citizenship has been a trend spreading in Africa over the last decade. Many Africans in the diaspora have managed to convince their governments that Dual Citizenship does not mean conflicting loyalties. These countries realize that the benefit of Dual Citizenship outweighs any associated cost. Recognizing it is a major pillar for national development; most of the neighboring countries bordering Liberia permit Dual citizenship, and one can observe the differences that Dual citizenship makes in places like Ghana, Sierra Leone, Cote D’Ivoire, and other countries on the Continent.



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If we are stronger, more successful, more resourceful, and resilient, no matter where we are in the world, it will translate into more sustainable contributions to our families at home in Liberia, and to strengthening our country itself. We must make this compact with ourselves, for ourselves, and for our nation. That is the main impetus for “Advocacy for Change”, to make a real difference.

If you have never gotten involved in the past, now is the time for you to get involved. This advocacy should be the cause for every Liberian, or Liberian organization. The Liberian Advocacy for change is inviting all diaspora Liberians to join us in the struggle for our birthright citizenship, and that of our children. We can start by getting involved and not sitting on the fringes. Join us to **be the catalysts** for change, instead of waiting for change to take place.

Dual Citizenship for Natural Born Liberians and their Children!

ONE LIBERIA! ONE PEOPLE!

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