

Africans Rising

For Unity, Justice, Peace & Dignity

2026 African Liberation Week Concept **Note**

Introduction

Africans Rising for Unity, Justice, Peace and Dignity is a global Pan-African movement of people and organisations. We are determined to foster an Africa-wide solidarity and unity of purpose of the Peoples of Africa to build the Future we want, in which all Africans experience peace, social inclusion and shared prosperity.

The African Liberation Week (ALW) is set aside to mobilise all Africans, grassroots organisations, community groups, women's organisations, faith groups, youth groups, local associations, media, and individuals, to take action on specific themes or issues relevant to both local and continental contexts. These actions may include, but are not limited to, campaigns, community problem-solving initiatives, solidarity actions, community dialogues, film screenings, protests, public education campaigns, digital engagements, and practical interventions responding to community-identified needs.

Building on the gains, lessons, and impact of previous editions, **African Liberation Week 2026 intentionally shifts the focus more deeply to the unity of Africa.** Over the years, we have been focused on pushing for a united Africa, one that gives equal opportunities to all Africans irrespective of the country they reside in. A united Africa is one where Africans can travel freely without borders or visa restrictions; where freedom of movement extends to capital, goods, and services; where there is one citizenship and one passport; one currency recognised across the continent under a single African Central Bank; one Pan-African army with one command centre; one communication system; and one African Economic Zone guided by a shared economic programme.

The 2026 mobilisation will be focused on engaging our members to lead this process of engagement at the grassroots. Through this approach, Africans Rising seeks to strengthen the role of its members as **changemakers within their communities**, while ensuring that local ideas are connected to broader continental struggles for the unity of Africa.

Africans Rising will actively support members by helping them refine their engagement strategies and implement impactful, context-responsive activities throughout the week.

Since its inception, African Liberation Week has mobilised hundreds of thousands of Africans, strengthened cross-border partnerships, and ignited transformative actions across Africa and the diaspora. The 2026 mobilisation builds firmly on these achievements, deepening community

ownership and translating Pan-African ideals into practical, lived realities at the grassroots level.

History of African Liberation Week Mobilisation

The first-ever mobilisation took place on May 25, 2017, when two thousand volunteers, partners, supporters and friends organised a total of 300 actions and events in 42 countries across the African continent and the diaspora, to mark the launch of the Africans Rising Movement.

On 25 May 2018, the “African Liberation Day” mobilisation took place under the theme **#StopTheBleeding**. The mobilisation grew to hundreds of actions and events in 54 countries, including six in the African diaspora, as members mobilised against illicit financial flows and the economic plunder of Africa.

In 2019, activities were held under the theme “**Africans Not for Sale! Stop Slavery and Human Trafficking**”, focusing on the historical legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the urgent need to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

In 2020 and 2021, Africans Rising responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and global health crises under the theme **#Rise4OurLives**. The movement supported health education campaigns in at least 30 African countries, launched a Pan-African Solidarity Campaign against COVID-19, and advocated for the release of incarcerated people through the **#FreeThem** campaign.

In 2022, the mobilisation transitioned from a single day to **Africa Liberation Week**, creating expanded opportunities for participation. The theme “**Africa for Africans**” echoed Marcus Garvey’s call for African unity and self-determination, with sub-themes on Decolonisation, Gender Justice, Health, and Climate and Environmental Justice. Over 500 events took place across 49 countries in Africa and the diaspora.

From 2023 onward, Africa Liberation Week has been commemorated under the theme “**A Borderless Africa for All Africans**”, mobilising more than 1,000 events across over 50 countries. These mobilisations advanced the Borderless Africa Campaign, promoted the African Union Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, and strengthened continental and diaspora solidarity through marches, convenings, dialogues, and coordinated actions.

In **2025**, African Liberation Week marked a significant milestone, with **over 850 activities organised across 54 countries**, supported by a digital event-mapping system that enhanced visibility, coordination, and cross-country learning. The 2025 mobilisation demonstrated the growing strength, reach, and organisational capacity of Africans Rising members, while reinforcing the power of grassroots-led, Pan-African action.

These cumulative experiences have laid a strong foundation for **African Liberation Week 2026**, which seeks to consolidate past gains by taking liberation efforts even closer to the people, empowering communities to move from mobilisation to solution-driven action, and anchoring Pan-Africanism firmly within everyday community realities.

African Liberation Week 2026

Building on nine years of sustained and expanding mobilisation across the continent and the diaspora, African Liberation Week 2026 will consolidate Pan-African solidarity by placing grassroots leadership and collective imagination at the centre of continental integration.

This year, Africans Rising will prioritise supporting members to convene community-based workshops and dialogues that envision the future of a fully united Africa.

Through coordinated engagement, capacity strengthening, and strategic support, African Liberation Week 2026 will demonstrate that continental transformation is not abstract; it is built through organised local action, shared vision, and collective responsibility.

Partners and members will work collaboratively to design and implement activities that meaningfully engage communities, strengthen facilitation capacity, and ensure that grassroots voices shape the narrative of African unity.

In 2026, Africans Rising seeks to deepen its legacy by expanding community ownership of the mobilisation, strengthening cross-border solidarity, and weaving together locally generated visions into a coherent continental call for integration. African Liberation Week will serve not only as a week of action, but as a catalyst for long-term, people-driven Pan-African transformation.

Theory of Change

Looking at a fully united African continent, it may sound like a distant or even vague dream. Yet African Liberation Week 2026 is grounded in the conviction that this dream is not only necessary but possible.

Such transformation cannot emerge only from state-led processes; it must be imagined, debated, refined, and demanded by African people themselves. African Liberation Week 2026 will be centred on community-based workshops and dialogues where Africans will gather to reflect on present realities and boldly articulate what this unity would mean for their security, mobility, prosperity, governance, and dignity.

If members convene inclusive spaces across communities to explore the various elements of unity, and if Africans Rising connects and amplifies these local visions across borders, then a shared continental political consciousness will deepen. When all these visions are put together, they will strengthen grassroots leadership, cross-border solidarity, and organised citizen demand for structural integration.

A united Africa, therefore, looks like a continent where integration is no longer rhetorical but lived: where Africans move freely, trade freely, communicate seamlessly, defend themselves collectively, and govern through shared institutions. Through structured dreaming, dialogue, and mobilisation, African Liberation Week 2026 seeks to transform the integration dream into organised continental intention, laying the people-powered foundation for Africa's political, economic, and social unification.

Date

African Liberation Week will be observed from **25th to 31st May 2026**

Theme and Sub-Themes

The African Liberation Week mobilisation continues to be anchored in the broad vision of **Pan-African unity, justice, peace, and dignity**, while allowing members the flexibility to align their activities with community-identified priorities that connect to continental struggles.

Key Objectives

- Deepen grassroots understanding and ownership of continental political, economic, and social integration.
- Mobilise Africans to take collective action on local and continental justice issues
- Promote Pan-African solidarity through locally rooted, continentally connected actions
- Amplify community voices and solutions through coordinated African and diaspora engagement

Expected Outcomes

- Consolidated continental summary of community visions outlining “What a Fully United Africa Looks Like.”
- Strong partnerships and alliances with key stakeholders between organisers
- Provide diverse forms of support for ALW events & organisers
- Increased visibility for Africans Rising & African Liberation Week through media collaborations
- Documentation through photos, videos, and reports of ALW 2026 activities

TIMELINE

Phase	Activity	Timeline	Key Focus
Phase 1: Launch & Mobilisation	Publication of 2026 Concept Note	March 2026	Official release and dissemination to media and diaspora networks
	Engagement with Members & Potential Organisers	March 2026	Regional/thematic calls to introduce the 2026 ALW
	Opening of Registration for ALW 2026 Activities	Late March 2026	Launch of registration portal and outreach representation
Phase 2: Capacity Strengthening & Coordination	Orientation & Training Workshops for Registered Organisers	April 2026	Facilitation training for Dreaming Workshops, documentation and reporting
	Selection of Activities for Financial & Strategic Support	Late April 2026	Review and approval of selected activities, disbursement of support
Phase 3: Implementation	African Liberation Week 2026	May 2026	Community Dreaming Workshops, dialogues, coordinated media mobilisation
Phase 4: Post-Mobilisation Consolidation	Documentation, Reflection & Reporting	June 2026	Compilation of workshop outcomes and production of Activity Report