Let’s Talk Africa
Voices From Nigeria
Julie Arnheim, MA, MBA

MA- Leadership and Organizational Transformation

Global Citizen, Deep thinker, Compassionate Advocate, Professional Networker

23+Me results = 100% Ashkenazi Jew
5th Generation member of Rodef Shalom Congregation in Pittsburgh with German and Lithuanian ancestry
“TALK and DO” & WHY today’s ZOOM

Nigerians live all over the United States and the World. These states have the largest Nigerian IGBO/BIAFRA populations totaling approximately 300,000 Nigerian Americans

Maryland, New York, Texas, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania
Ohio, Atlanta, Indiana, North Carolina, Nevada, West Virginia

Banky W - "Talk and Do" feat. 2Baba, Timi Dakolo, Waje, Seun Kuti, Brookstone & LCGC (LYRIC VIDEO)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sg1bBaSvQ4w&feature=youtu.be
Mental Connections as a Jew

Rabbi Walter Jacob

https://jewishchronicle.timesofisrael.com/remembering-kristallnacht/

Photo source @igboekui-facebook account

“Lest We Forget”

http://www.claimscon.org/what-we-do/allocations/red/documentation/remembering-kristallnacht/
Military police pulled these Igbo from their homes, then marched them to their deaths while what is left of their homes was set on fire.
Nigerian Jews?

Documentary
Re-Emerging: The Jews of Nigeria
Official Trailer: https://vimeo.com/37622733

The lost Jewish tribes of Nigeria still hope for aliyah
Sister Zita Iwuoha
Women in Nigeria have an Inner Strength

Riot or Rebellion?
The Women’s Market Rebellion of 1929


Goals: The campaign began with the goal of receiving a written assurance that women would not be taxed, and evolved to also demand the removal of many Warrant Chiefs.


https://oldnaija.com/2020/04/10/aba-womens-riots-1929/
Maternal instincts

Here was the ways women during my Mom’s time wrap babies and travel miles

- To work on the farm
- To go to the market
- Fetching water

that can not happen now due to FEAR of kidnapping, rape and killing.

This can not continue.
Nigerian Police Brutalize Women Supporters Of Biafra

Photo source @igboekuie facebook account
Zita’s Healthy Beginnings

Story on Zita
https://www.publicsource.org/mothering-the-mother-sister-zita-iwuoha-combats-black-mother-mortality-in-allegheny-county-and-beyond/?fbclid=IwAR1CFWvLaOzVbZYd7FxFYvXyzR3oMJ0jPfeQ0QVFIZ9_1dazmlvEDeKTFM
Covid brought new issues for ZHB to help address

Covid
Pandemic
Hygiene
Clinic
Mask
projects

Covid was a FLAME to existing tensions

Our clients keep reaching out to share stories of their friends and families in need this coming winter.
These Pregnant Women lost their lives for no reason.
Reverend Columba Nnorom
Images from Nov 2 - Nov 5
1966 anti-Igbo pogrom

8,000 and 30,000 Igbos estimated killed in Northern Nigeria

“Wartime casualties were significantly higher, and soon eclipsed the 1966 attacks. Estimates range from a low of 500,000 or lower to a high of 6 million. Due to the blockage and disruption of agriculture and food distribution, relief agencies operating in the region at the time estimated hunger deaths at more than 1,000 a day. In July 1968, the British mission estimated that 200-300 Biafrans were dying every day. “

https://sites.tufts.edu/atrocityendings/2015/08/07/nigeria-civil-war/
Casualties of the aftermath of the Biafra War

These are victims of the nigeria-Biafra War (1967-1970) and were suffering from a disease known as Kwashiokor, which is caused by malnutrition. For blockaded by land, sea and air by Britain/Nigeria and after their farms had been destroyed, the Igbo were dying from starvation. But for the intervention of humanitarian organizations like Caritas, Joint Church Aid etc, the Igbo would have been wiped out. Both the Israeli government and American Jews also sent relief materials to Biafra.
Kanu: IPOB Leader

Nnamdi Kanu, the Igbo Jewish leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) Eloquent and charismatic, he can mobilize 2 million of his members "with the snatch of his fingers."
Rivers State aka “Ogoniland”


Oil spills in Biafra.
The Biafrans own the oil but the Nigerian Fulani regime is in-cahoots with the multinational oil companies- control it with brutal force. It's the reason for the killings. "Follow the oil."

Shell oil spills in the Niger delta
Shell has accepted liability for two massive oil spills that have had severe consequences for the economy, health and development of the community of Bodo in Nigeria

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2011/aug/03/shell-oil-spills-niger-delta-in-pictures
Onyinye Gandhi Chuks
Nigeria’s SARS: An Overview
Creation

- 1985 - 1992 Nigeria adopts and implements IMF-recommended austerity measures (Structural Adjustment Program - SAP)
- SAP worsened unemployment and poverty leading to high crime rates
- In response, the Ibrahim Babangida-led military junta established the Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS)
SARS goes rogue

❖ As with most institutions in Nigeria, impunity, corruption, poor training and even poorer remuneration made the unit go rogue
❖ Since then, scores of innocent Nigerians have been extorted, robbed, tortured, and/or extra-judicially murdered by SARS officers
#ENDSARS Protests

- #ENDSARS Protests sparked by recent killings by rogue SARS officers, and reinforced by pent-up anger and frustration over poor leadership, corruption, and the worsening economic and security situation in Nigeria

- Protests were peaceful despite attempts to the contrary by the government
- Protests brutally suppressed by the Nigerian government with reported massacres in Lekki, Lagos State, and other parts of the country.
Extrajudicial Killings By The Buhari Regime

- 348 Shiites killed - December 2015
- Scores of IPOB members killed 2018, 2019, 2020
- Youth killings in Ikire, Osun state
- Obigbo killings in Rivers state
Marginalization And Dehumanization

Dr. Louis Picard

https://asasocialfundforbiddenpeoples.org/
Types of Hidden Peoples: World-Wide

- Indigenous People- First People who lived in a place
- Threatened People- Race, Gender, Ethnicity, Religion and Language
- Endangered- At risk of Extinction
- Marginalized- Shunned in War and Peace- Children, Women, People with Special Needs (Social, Physical and Mental)
Gypsies (Roma), Untouchables (Dalit) and Bushmen (San)
Dehumanization: Impact on People

- Abandonment of Children (Street Kids, Kidnapping and Child Soldiers)
- Brutality (Rape, Gender Violence, Acid Attacks, Burns)
- Atomization (Shunning, Exploitation and Death)
- Marginalization (Subordination and Exclusion from the Social System)
- Violence and Genocide
The Uganda Case Study: Language and Ethnicity

1. Internal vs. External Refugees- Anger and Resentment

2. Three “nations” (Bantu Speakers, Luo Speakers and Central Sudanic)

3. Marginalization in War and Peace

4. From Victim to Survivor: Goal

5. Focus on Governance in a Divided Society
A Formula for Disaster
Katwe Uganda 2018
200,000 Killed--1,000,000 Displaced LRA War

Joseph Kony & Friends

“Lords Resistance Army”

Gulu Uganda 1986-Present
Gandhi & Julie

Action steps & more
Action Steps: Read and Learn more

**UK based organization** JOIN FORCES WITH US AGAINST THE ROOT CAUSES OF GLOBAL POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE.

Polluted promises: how Shell failed to clean up Ogonilan
https://www.waronwant.org/resources/polluted-promises-how-shell-failed-clean-ogoniland?_ga=2.241422656.351515673.1604856625-1029308099.1604856625

**UK & USA based organization** Dedicated to advancing human rights in business and eradicating abuse
Nigeria: Civil society demands justice for peaceful protestors killed and respect for civil liberties
Action steps

--Nigerian Embassy in the USA
http://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org
Ambassador Sylvanus Adiewere Nsofor
Head of Mission
Email: ambassadornsofor@nigeriaembassyusa.org
Subject of email: End Silent Slaughter in Nigeria

--Post on Social Media with #silentslaughter and #endSARS #ObigboMassacre

--Join the Zita Healthy Beginnings email list: http://eepurl.com/hik5a1

--Write to government
If you write the Embassy, Congress, Senate etc and you get FEEDBACK/REPLY please share it with us by email at ZHBAwareness@gmail.com
Action Steps: Read More about Women’s History in Nigeria

Igbo women campaign for rights (The Women's War) in Nigeria, 1929
https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/igbo-women-campaign-rights-womens-war-nigeria-1929

ABA WOMEN’S RIOTS (NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1929)

Riot or Rebellion? The Women's Market Rebellion of 1929

Taxation, Women, and the Colonial State: Egba Women's Tax Revolt (1947-49)
https://muse.jhu.edu/article/407888/summary

Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti: and the Women's Union of Abeokuta
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000230929
South-East Governors meet Wike over IPOB

OYIGBO KILLINGS: Withdraw soldiers in 72 hours or face ICC, INC tells Wike

Attack On Peaceful Protesters Violates Human Rights Of Citizens - YPF

International Criminal Court commences investigation into Lekki shooting
https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/icc-investigates-lekki-shooting/k1jib3s
ACTION STEPS: review the existing Change.org petitions created by Nigerians

Hope Ogobuegwu started this petition to The Nigerian Government
#EndSARS https://www.change.org/p/the-nigerian-government-end-sars-in-nigeria

Booger Red started this petition to President and Vice President of Nigeria
#EndPoliceBrutality

Ayobami Arannilewa started this petition to Nigeria National assembly, to The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
#ProtectNigerianYouth
Youths Continue #EndSARS Protest In Abeokuta
October 19, 2020  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WC8NP54gx_E

Kristallnacht
Activist Movements tend to Draw Media attention

1. Change.org Petition. Sign it & Share it among your circles on any social media platform
2. Write to the Foriegn Affairs and Subcommittee of Africa Senators and Congresspeople saying you need them to publicly condemn the massacres and pressuring the US to send a Special Envoy to Nigeria.
3. Write “Letters To The Editor” and get the media to publish stories about the Biafra massacres
4. Tell your friends about the current Biafra genocide.