



Presbyterian Mission

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

UNAIDS: This office coordinates the global response to the HIV epidemic. With assistance from UNAIDS, the DRC now provides antiretroviral therapy for 136,000 Congolese children and adults while emission of mother-to child transmission coverage was increased up to 70%.¹

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): 4.5 million people have been displaced inside the DRC while 735,000 Congolese refugees now reside in sub-Saharan Africa. UNHCR provides shelter, distributes aid, and offers protection to vulnerable populations experiencing displacement, in particular women and children that are more likely to experience abuse.²

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA DRC): As violence in the DRC has led to food insecurity and an economic downturn, OCHA has coordinated the humanitarian through partner organizations and governments. In 2017, humanitarian partners delivered assistance and protection to 3 million Congolese.³

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights): As political uncertainty grows in the DRC, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights monitors the situation and creates influential reports which advocate for accountability by the international community.⁴

UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO): With a revised mandate in 2010, The UN's peacekeeping mission in the DRC established 19, 074 personnel to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel and human rights defenders and to support the DRC government in its peace and stabilization efforts.⁵

UN Security Council: As the primary UN body for peace and security, the Council recently extended its arms embargo, asset freeze, and travel ban on the DRC through July 1, 2019. The Council is also responsible for defining the responsibilities of the peacekeeping mission in the DRC.⁶

The Presbyterian Church (USA) & The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Presbyterian Mission: Presbyterians have been engaged in the DRC for over 125 years. Partnerships continue today through the Presbyterian Community of the Congo and Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa as well as the Protestant umbrella organization, the Church of Christ in the Congo. Project

collaboration has centered on the rights of women, micro-savings programs, reconciliation efforts, and education for 220,000 students in 1,000 schools. The Church supports six mission co-workers that support and facilitate this work with mission partners.⁷

Congo Mission Network: This is a grass-roots organization made up of congregations and presbyteries across the United States interested in strengthening communication and coordination for mission partnerships and projects across the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁸

PC(USA) Policy & The DRC: The General Assembly of the PC(USA) has produced a body of policies related to the DRC in recent years. In 2016, the Assembly approved an overture supporting vigilance concerning the country's elections and remain in solidarity through prayer with mission partners in the Congo.⁹ An overture passed in 2014 touched on issues ranging from gender-based violence and education to child soldiers and greater transparency over mineral extraction and human rights violations. In many cases, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) is asked to be an advocate these policies to the United Nations.¹⁰

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN)

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations is called to act on an issue when it meets three criteria: the PC(USA) has a policy regarding the topic, partner churches are in favor of action, and it appears on the UN agenda. In the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, PMUN has interpreted their ministry through a campaign to end the use of child soldiers and ecumenical advocacy to members of the Security Council. The Ministry also advocates against the use of child soldiers through its Red Hand Campaign and participates in Thursdays in Black, a campaign by the World Council of Churches about resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence in around the world—including the DRC.^{11,12}

NGO Working Group on the Security Council: The NGO Working Group was founded in 1995 to promote dialogue between the NGO community with foreign officials, policy experts, and members of the Security Council. PMUN involvement in the working group creates an exchange of information and perspective between the PC(USA) and the Security Council, which is responsible for all peacekeeping missions, including the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).¹³

¹ <http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/democraticrepublicofthecongo/>

² <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/dr-congo-emergency.html>

³ <https://www.unocha.org/democratic-republic-congo-drc/about-ocha-drc>

⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/CDIndex.aspx>

⁵ monusco.unmissions.org

⁶ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13402.doc.htm>

⁷ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/democratic-republic-congo/>

⁸ <http://congopartners.org/about.asp>

⁹ <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/6353>

¹⁰ <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/4893>

¹¹ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/no-child-soldiers/>

¹² <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/thursdays-in-black>

¹³ <https://www.globalpolicy.org/ngo-working-group-on-the-security-council-4-24.html>