

## Africa Transitional Justice Legacy Fund (ATJLF) AWARDED \$3M MACARTHUR FUNDS SUPPORTING AN EQUITABLE RECOVERY

***The grant will support ATJLF's work to advance reparative justice and racial healing initiatives in Africa.***

[Accra, Ghana] August 3, 2021 — The Africa Transitional Justice Legacy Fund (ATJLF) has been awarded a \$3M (three million dollars) grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for its work to promote reparative justice and racial healing initiatives in Africa for a three-year period.

The grant is part of roughly \$80 million in awards MacArthur announced on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July, in support of the foundation's [Equitable Recovery](#) initiative, centered on advancing racial and ethnic justice. The initiative is funded by MacArthur's [social bonds](#), issued in response to the crises of the pandemic and racial inequity.

“We are extremely delighted to be among this cohort of grantees. This grant award gives us an opportunity to build on existing work across the continent to promote advocacy for reparations and racial healing, in partnership with the African Union Commission,” said ATJLF Director, Makmid Kamara. “Over the next three years, we will utilize the grant to support research, coordinate and mobilise ongoing efforts around reparative justice and racial healing, with a view to advancing a comprehensive continental agenda for reparations.”

“As we emerge from this moment of crisis, we have an opportunity to improve the critical systems that people and places need to thrive. Our systems and structures must be rebuilt,” said MacArthur President John Palfrey. “We are committed to ensuring that our response to the pandemic is focused on supporting the reimagining of systems that create a more just, equitable, and resilient world.”

The Africa Transitional Justice Legacy Fund is one of thirty-seven (37) organizations receiving grants under the Racial Justice Field Support, with a Focus on Combatting Anti-Blackness. This project will enable ATJLF to convene, moderate and advance trans-continental conversations between Africa-based organizations and black-led organizations and groups in the US on the twinned but different themes of reparations and racial healing. The objective of the racial healing focus is to build bridges and foster healing and connections between the African continent and the Global Black Diaspora.

MacArthur is supporting work in that focus, as well as three other areas:

- Self-determination of Indigenous Peoples supports uplifting Indigenous communities to enable autonomous pursuit of a recovery guided by their priorities, cultures, and practices.
- Public Health Equity and COVID-19 Mitigation and Recovery supports improving access to resources for immediate health challenges while advancing new policies, models, and structures to support a more equitable and resilient public health sector in the future.
- An Equitable Housing Demonstration Project supports restoring communities and reducing incarceration and housing instability by generating an array of housing solutions that can help to permanently end the use of jails and prisons as housing of last resort.

MacArthur identified the areas through a participatory process with a [diverse group of external advisors](#), who informed its strategic approach. The participatory process aimed to center the voices

of communities that are affected by the Foundation’s decisions and have a stake in the grantmaking outcomes.

Almost two-thirds of the awards represent new grantee relationships, and most of the organizations are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-led or -serving. The grants also reflect MacArthur’s global reach: 45 percent of the new funding supports work outside of the U.S., including 12 percent in India, and 14 percent in Nigeria, where MacArthur has offices.

### **Equitable Recovery Initiative**

In the fall of 2020, MacArthur established a \$125 million Equitable Recovery Initiative. The Foundation deployed \$40 million of bond proceeds through 24 grants. Initial grants [focused on](#) strengthening voter mobilization and election protection, addressing anti-Black racism, and supporting Native Americans impacted by COVID-19. Grants also supported Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous [arts organizations](#) in Chicago, [technology and justice](#), and a [fund for social entrepreneurs](#) advancing racial equity.

View [all Equitable Recovery grantees](#).

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