



There's a lot going on in Rayjon! Please take the time to read the many stories part of this E-Bulletin :)



Podcast - Have you listened?

The Right to a Name and a Nationality: The Reality of Statelessness in the Dominican Republic is the 1st episode in our new *Reimagining with Rayjon* series, available NOW, wherever podcasts are found!

"We cannot continue to silence a reality that affects so many people...we must denounce it so as to not become accomplices through silence." - Rosa Iris Diendomi Alvarez

[LISTEN NOW](#)

Help Bring Renaud to Canada!

Renaud Thomas is the Director of Rayjon Share Care Haiti. We've invited him to visit Canada, to share his knowledge and insight about sustainable development in Haiti, and to be the guest of honour at a special event here in Sarnia to highlight and celebrate Haitian & Caribbean culture. We even have an official letter of invitation from Sarnia's mayor, Mike Bradley, and strong support from local businesses and organizations eager to work with us to create an event to benefit our whole community.



When Renaud submitted his application for a visitor's visa in December, we were told the estimated wait time was 662 days. WHAT?!

Rayjon is asking for answers from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. Renaud is a trusted colleague, and his visit to Canada would be of great benefit to our organization and to the community at large. **The many barriers in place to Renaud obtaining a visa reek of systemic discrimination and injustice.** Rayjon's Executive Director, Heather Smith, was interviewed by CBC about the issue.

Please [read the article](#) and send a note to your local MP to ask for their support to bring Renaud here, and to ensure an equitable and fair application process for all.

[Take Action to Help Bring Renaud to Canada](#)



Women as "*poto mitan*"

On March 8th our partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic celebrated International Women's Day: In Cap Haitian at the Centre for Education for Women & Children, 60 women encouraged one another through testimonials and song and enjoyed a motivational speaker, who shared about women as *poto mitan*, central pillars of community and society. In rural St. Marc, the Haitian Women's Federation also hosted a party, with a guest speaker who spoke about equality and the fight against gender based violence. In Barrio 41, Dominican Republic, preschool children created special floral pictures to give to their mothers and grandmothers. **The messages ring loud and clear: Women are to be valued and celebrated in all of their diversity!**

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#2 I Do No harm

The 2nd principle of [Dignified Storytelling](#) reminds us to prioritize the safety and well-being of those whose stories we are telling.

The well-being of the people in the stories – and the communities they belong to – is more important than any need for advocacy or the promotion of issues, causes, or programs.

Together

The past year has been truly difficult for our Haitian partners. Haitian families have been demoralized, traumatized and trampled by forces beyond their control. An earthquake. An assassination. Political turmoil. Gang violence. Cholera. Suffering. Sometimes it's all just too much.

But they have not lost hope. They hope for a better future, and they're willing to do what it takes to create one. They're moving forward, creating change family by family, community by community.

Your solidarity matters!

We're continuing to invest in Haiti, in Haitian communities, now, during difficult times, because we believe that no one should be denied the opportunity to reach their full potential.

By committing resources in support of Haitian-led programs in Education, Health Care, the Empowerment of Women and more, we are supporting lasting change.

Thank you! Mèsi! ¡Gracias!

[DONATE NOW](#)



Did you know?

Until March 31, create a new monthly gift of \$20 or more in support of our charity online, and CanadaHelps will make a one-time extra \$20 donation to Rayjon!

Thank you for your continued support 

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