

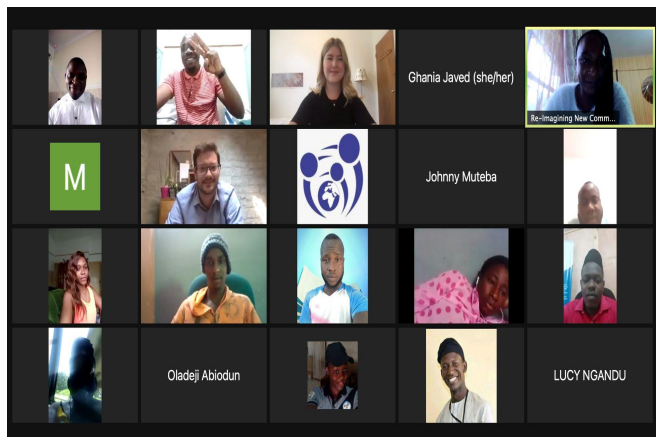
Report: Effectively Organizing Students for Peacebuilding

Case studies from Kenya, Canada, Nigeria, Gambia, and Colombia.

July 28th, 2021

Why The Topic: Since the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security (YPS) on 9 December 2015 young people have been recognized as a positive force in preventing and resolving conflict and building sustainable peace. There have been a lot of initiatives and efforts by different players in the peacebuilding sector to ensure youth involvement and active participation.

Therefore, ***Effectively Organizing Students for Peacebuilding***, intended to look into different scenarios and initiatives by student led peace organizations, organizations working with students on peacebuilding amongst others. Provide a space where the practitioners can share their work, learn and devise some form of collaboration.



Summary: The virtual event was attended by participants from Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Italy, Gambia & Canada. The forum commenced with the invited panelists sharing their work in line with the topic. After the presentations, the forum was opened up for an interactive Q&A session. The discussion focused more on the challenges and collaboration as well as building a self-sustaining peace programme that supports more students and communities.

Our panelists included Sahlm Charles, Wevyn Muganda (Kenya), Tunde Ogunyale (Nigeria), Mackenzie Mosey (Canada) and Yankuba Manjang (Gambia).

Fundamentally, the forum emphasized the importance of organizing students at all levels for peacebuilding work and community service. Designing children-led peace projects as well as university programmes that shape the understanding of the students. The panelists emphasized the need to hold small classes, seminars and workshops with young adults at universities, schools and communities. This will help reach out to many students. Those working with students were also encouraged to use fun and play in their strategies so as to keep them intrigued about learning while reassuring them that their voices count.

Impact: 25 participants. Participation by students, programmeers, community organizers, mediators, scholars and teachers from various countries. An interactive Q & A



session. A commitment to continue designing effective programmes that benefit and prepare students for peacebuilding. Overall, overwhelming feedback from the participants who attended the forum and those who followed it on social media.

Conclusion: This was the first part of a two series online conversation on the topic. The second session will be held in September bringing together policy experts and other stakeholders to forge a collective approach.

We want to thank all our partners, Peacepace from Nigeria and Peace Ambassadors from Gambia. We also want to sincerely appreciate everyone who participated in the forum. Through collaboration with different organizations across the world, peace can be sustained.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” ~ **Margaret Mead**