



COFP
Fellowship Program
2020
YEARBOOK

Sponsors:





“Peace means effectively managing and transforming conflict and structures that promotes violence for nonviolence social change, coexistence and development,,

COFP

“There was never a good war or a bad peace,,

Benjamin Franklin



COFP
Fellows
Class of
2020

2019/2020 COFP Fellowship Program
Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation & Mediation

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FOREWORD



Restoring peace and repairing relations in a world where extreme religious views and ideologies are used to justify violent extremism and insurgency has been a difficult task. The ever increasing frequent encounters of religious leaders of diverse traditions continue to demonstrate the wide margins of convergence in the power of faith to correct misinformation and transform extreme views and hearts. In our present emerging world, we need to continuously review and update the tenets of our religious teachings in order to embrace the interests of our common home, the human family.

Supporting grassroots leaders and organizations that are deeply committed to improve relations across communities through dialogue and mediation is the cornerstone of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace work.

To ensure that religion becomes and remains a positive influence and a force for good in our common search for peace and harmony, it is important to make extra effort to uproot all forms of religious fanaticism that reject others and create fertile grounds for violent extremism to grow and thrive. As religious leaders, we must create space for freedom to flourish – in a better humanity where no one is left on the margins, and where all can live in peace, to the greater glory of God.

We should learn to live with our differences and even go a step further in discovering and celebrating our many common grounds of shared values and convictions. The pursuit of the respect of inalienable fundamental human rights should not be left to secular humanists alone to champion. Those rights are best protected and promoted when firmly anchored on God by religious leaders and all men and women of faith.

I warmly congratulate our Second set of COFP Fellows for their dedication and commitment during this one-year Fellowship Program. With the one-year Fellowship Program in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation, this 35 Fellows are now equipped and set for the task ahead. They have been strengthened and positioned to engage in more meaningful interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding actions that will open up for development and peaceful societies in Nigeria. They have also discovered the force of inter-faith action, in a sacred coalition against violent extremism in the name of God and peace building. They have learnt to be courageous and do the needful even in the face of COVID 19. They can henceforth be addressed as Peace-builders. Therefore, I challenge them all to use their newfound knowledge, skills and talents, as well as the networks that they have built over the past one year for the common good and peace in our country Nigeria.

Our appreciation goes to the GHR Foundation, German Federal Foreign Office (Ifa/Zivik), Veritas University of Nigeria, Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Islamic Education Trust (IET), Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI), Nile University of Nigeria (NUN) and other partners for making this program not only a reality but a success. Let us not forget that alone we can move fast but together, we can go far.

May the Almighty and Merciful God grant us the peace that we so greatly need. Amen.

+John Cardinal Onaiyekan (CON)
Founder & President
COFP Foundation
Cardinal Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja

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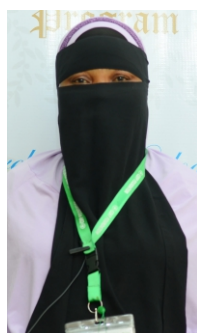
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ABOUT COFP FOUNDATION

Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) is a non-governmental organization with the mandate to provide a platform for building and strengthening the processes of peace and social change in Nigeria and Africa at large.

Established in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, one of Nigeria's most respected faith leaders and a passionate advocate for religious tolerance and inclusiveness, the Foundation recognizes that most conflicts in Africa (despite their ethno-religious colorations) are symptoms of deeper structural problems arising from all manners of exclusion- religious, ethnic, political, economic, gendered- that can only be adequately resolved through governance structures that are both ethical and just.



COFP therefore strives to address these challenges by, among other things, promoting ethical leadership, offering a space for faith leaders, citizens and political leaders at all levels to engage in discussions for peace and development. The Foundation also assist in providing conflict parties with critical skills for peacebuilding, conflict management and transformation within their communities.

As a Foundation for inclusive dialogue, and driven by the principle of common good in line with the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, the guiding point of reference for COFP is the Nostra Aetate Declaration of the Second Vatican Council on Interreligious Dialogue and Sustainable Development Goals SDGs on peacebuilding. COFP is also guided by decades of leadership in addressing social injustice, interreligious dialogue and collaboration for peace and resilience of all Nigerians.

This is why the Foundation is keen to engage with everyone, particularly marginalized groups- women, youths, children and others on the margins of society- recognizing that peace is a condition for transformative development which all must be involve in. COFPs core programs include Interreligious Dialogue, Peace Education, Governance/Leadership Ethos and Development, Community Engagement, networking with similar groups, among others.

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Mandate

To provide the platform for inspiring and equipping grassroots leaders to work together genuinely in building their own solutions for social change & common humanity

Approach

Addressing issues of violence and social injustice nonviolently by building network of community peacebuilders, promote leadership ethos and encourage interfaith/intercultural cooperation.

COFP THEMATIC PROGRAM AREAS

Rather than focus all our energy on the barriers, we concentrate on creating more sustainable communities, opportunities and potentials that bring the change that we want to see through our thematic areas:

1. **Build Common Ground for Peace**
2. **Integrating Social Change through Ethical Leadership**
3. **Sustaining Peace for Development**

BUILD COMMON GROUND FOR PEACE

Interfaith cooperation is one of the key essential elements in building sustainable peace in the twenty-first century.

The COFP believes that the role the religious leaders can play in building peace and harmony cannot be underestimated. Building common ground for peace should not just be the responsibility of government but task for every individual and much more, a duty for every religious leader.

Equipping religious leaders with peacebuilding skills has become a necessity for countering violent extremism. Fostering peaceful and healthy human development requires changing the narrative for peace which means empowering the people with a mind-set that enhances peaceful co-existence.

The COFP encourages major stakeholders and religious leaders to rise above extreme ideologies and sentiments that leads to violence and sectarian conflicts and work collaboratively to build common ground that would advance peace in a complex

INTEGRATING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

The duty of every responsible government is service and this is what ethical leadership is all about. Moral and innovative leadership fostered through ethical governance is essential in advancing societal goals for sustainable peace and economic development. COFP provides forums that address concerns and build consensus for community based response to conflict.

Through this forum, the civil society are able to explore new opportunities for collaboration and advance citizen to citizen exchange that promote goodwill, build trust and ensure their voices are heard. The COFP believes that Good governance is centered on accountability, fairness, openness, engagement and inclusion which guarantees secure and stable peaceful environment.

SUSTAINING PEACE FOR DEVELOPMENT

There is no doubt that peace is the gateway to a successful and prosperous future. Sustainable peace ensures not only development but inclusive and harmonious society. The COFP Foundation has advanced a range of initiatives that significantly aimed at sustaining national peace and development.

COFP Fellowship Program: Building Dialogue that Forms the Foundation for Actionable Project



Over the past years, COFP has successfully established itself in the space for countering violent extremism by developing and adapting programs for positive change within the socio-economic, religious and political contexts. Our interventions place people at the center of every project that we execute, with clear focus on fulfilling our mission and set goals. Based on our thematic program areas and core values, COFP uses a bottom-up approach in all our peacebuilding efforts by investing and supporting initiatives that are locally designed and led by local communities which is also the bedrock of our 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan.

With the discovery of a novel coronavirus disease which has exposed our connectedness as humans as well as social injustice, tribalism, discrimination, poverty and inequality that continue to divide us, our Fellowship program has become a hub that equip actors to recommit themselves to non-violence and collective responsibility in order to build a new normal based on human dignity, social justice and religious freedom for sustainable peace.

Practical stories of successes from our Fellows on how their efforts are making huge impacts in their communities are clear evidence that our Fellowship programs are already reaching thousands of people and yielding good results by helping vulnerable people and communities build resilience in tackling the imminent challenges of life.

The goal of COFP Fellowship Program is to effectively empower religious men, women and youth with skills on dialogue negotiation, conflict sensitivity, ethical leadership and mediation. The advancing of peace efforts through this process will build the capacities of grassroots community leaders as critical actors and peace agents in conflict transformation, building and enhancing social cohesion, integration and peace in our communities.

The current 2019/2020 COFP Fellowship Program commenced in July 2019 to this very day in Abuja Nigeria with 34 Fellows comprising of 23 males and 11 females and among this group are 19 Christians (out of which 13 are males, 6 are females) and 15 Muslims (10 men and 5 women). Fellows were drawn from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds in Nigeria, for instance, 12 Fellows are from Northcentral, 9 Fellows from Northeast, 6 Fellows from

Northwest, 4 Fellows from Southwest, 2 Fellows from Southeast and 1 Fellows from South-south. The 34 Fellows that participated in this Fellowship Program came from the following religious groups and sects in Nigeria: Participants of the Islamic faith came from Sunni, Shiite, NASFAT, Ahmadiyya, Izala, Qaddriyya and Tijjania. From the Christian faith came Catholic, ECWA, Baptist, Assemblies of God, EYN, COCIN, Methodist and Anglican.

Through the one-year training program in peacebuilding, these Fellows have successfully emerged from the required 150 credit hours of study at Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace and have individually executed their peace projects and COVID 19 interventions in their various states. Having fulfilled all the necessary requirements for graduation, these Fellows will be awarded with a Certificate in “Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation” today August 14th 2020 by COFP Foundation through Veritas University of Nigeria (VUNA) and Nile University of Nigeria (NUN), who are partners of COFP in this project. The graduation ceremony for the 34 Fellows automatically qualifies them as members of the COFP Alumni Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP) which is the network that enables them to further continue the interaction, cross cultural learning and experience sharing even after the Fellowship program.

It is our conviction that the above training received in Interreligious Dialogue, conflict transformation and Mediation has prepared our Fellows to become Peace Ambassadors. This means that a lot is now expected of them. One of the ways that they can strengthen the efforts to address challenges of today’s conflicts, is to put into action all that they have learnt in the Fellowship Program, understanding that, when it comes to preventing and countering violent extremism, community leaders & religious actors have significant roles to play.

Building lasting peace requires committed leaders and actors like them who would share more openly lessons learnt and jointly work for peace in their various communities. We sincerely hope that this modest initiative will help to address our urgent need for religious harmony and peaceful coexistence. The time has come to translate dialogue into practical actions and that is what it means to be a COFP Fellow.

Agatha Chikelue SR. DMMM

Executive Director

July 30th 2020



The COFP Fellowship Program Modules



How It Works

The COFP Fellowship Program course brings together topics that was carefully selected and developed by practitioners and professional experts in the field. The COFP Fellowship course is made up of three modules which were designed to be studied together. The modules are sub-divided into three components in each Fellowship year as shown below. Each module is expected to last for one full week beginning from

Monday to Saturday. The venue for each of the one-week training session will be in Abuja, Nigeria. This program will give the Foundation the opportunity of supporting peace processes through capacity building, training and engaging faith leaders in dialogue and mediation skills. Embarking on a one-year Fellowship Program that will be implemented over 3 consecutive years (2018 – 2021) marks the beginning of this journey.

Module One

The courses in module one

will provide Fellows and their trainers with the opportunity to explore the root causes of war, investigate the relationship between human nature, religion and war. Therefore, this session will be a useful avenue within which the discourse of war from Christian and Muslim perspective may be ethically examined.

Module Two

Explains how training on violent conflict, dialogue negotiation, mediation and training the trainer courses in module two would help

Fellows overcome prejudice and extremism; possibly creates common grounds for dialogue and build nonviolent commitment/approach to addressing the issues of social injustice. Fellows will therefore be instructed to use similar processes in designing their individual projects which they would implement individually or collectively in their respective communities before the commencement of the last training session and graduation.

Implementation of Individual Peace Projects Initiated by Fellows

The innovative aspect of the COFP Fellowship Program is that before the end of each

Fellowship Program, Fellows will be asked to design, develop and implement one peace initiative of their choice in any part of the country. This exercise will enable them apply skills learnt to a

particular issue or challenge. Through this process, Fellows will demonstrate how faith leaders can play integral role in promoting peace, reconciliation and community resilience in the



community. They will also, evaluate themselves, identify and consolidate lessons learned for peaceful coexistence

Module Three

This session will further

concretize training on conflict early warning and response, leadership skills, community resilience building, social media communication and networking. Evaluating lessons learned during

Fellows individual projects will enable them to build a visible and practical action plan that would be translated into their professional career at the end of the Fellowship Program.





ABDULLAHI ABDULLMALIK

Researcher and Trainer at Da'wah Institute of Nigeria, Islamic Education Trust

Abdulmalik Abdullahi is a graduate of Bachelor of Science Education Geography from Usmanu Dan Fodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria, hails from Cheche in Katcha Local Government Area in Niger State, attended Limawa Model Primary School Minna, Day Secondary School Minna and Government Secondary School (GSS) Minna.

He is a passionate poet and writer. As an Arabic – English translator, he has over 10 writeups to his credit out of which few have been published. He is into marital counselling and has written in its favour: “When sex isn't on the menu (Glad tidings to men) and “Glad Tidings to Ladies” his bestselling book. Currently, he works as a Researcher and Trainer with Da'wah Institute of Nigeria, Islamic Education Trust, Minna.

As a peace worker, Abdulmalik has a poetry collection titled: “Musings” meant to be compendium for the peace clubs in secondary schools as well as the peace worker.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ABDULLAHI ABDULMALIK

The COFP Foundation has strengthened my relationship with Christians and with people of other faiths and this has broadened my network. In fact, that was the reason why I published a peacebuilders' companion titled: MUSINGS

PROJECT TITLE:
**Violence among youths:
Bane to communal
development**

PROJECT LOCATION:
**Diwa Resource Centre,
Islamic Education Trust,
Minna Niger State**

SUMMARY:
The project recorded 48 secondary school students, 10 teachers, and 6 members

of Indigenous Languages Learning Centre (ILLEC) from a total of 5 secondary schools in attendance. Fruitful and engaging, two lectures were presented. The theme was presented by Abdulmalik Abdullahi while the other lecture was presented by Muhammad Aliyu Sachi, a teacher from kowa Schools on the topic: "Tolerance; the unifying spirit in diversity". In





addition, drama titled: "Politics beyond boundary" was presented and a poetry titled: "One Nigeria". Both

activities were presented by Kowa Schools, Kpakungu, Minna. A book titled: Musings was unveiled and

distributed free of charge to every participant. The book was written by Abdulmalik Abdullahi, the project organizer.

ABDULRAZAQ MUHIBBA MODUPEORE

Federation of Muslim Women's Association
of Nigeria (FOMWAN) President,
Plateau State Chapter

Muhibba Modupeore Abdulrazaq hails from Ibokun in Obokun L.G.A of Osun State, Nigeria. In 2017 she was appointed Amirah of Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) Plateau State chapter. She is presently a member of plateau state interfaith forum and also a fellow of the Woman Peace & Security Network (WPS).

She has attended several trainings on peace women & sustainable development both National & International, and has received an awarded by the National Associations of Nigeria Students (NANS) for her unsurpassed performance in human capacity development in Peace Advocacy and Education.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ABDULRAZAQ MUHIBBA MODUPEORE



The COFP program has given me the opportunity to meet with people of different backgrounds thereby sharing best practices. It has also given me the full understanding that service to humanity no matter how small the act, the contribution you make can possibly impact or even change someone else's life. This has also given me the opportunity to deepen my

understanding of others as well as see people for who they are.

COFP Fellowship Program Modules 1, 2 & 3 has really helped me a lot. Before I came for the program, I had little knowledge about Christianity but now my perceptions about them has changed and I intend to stepdown the knowledge gained to my followers and also work with other

organizations for peace building. I thank the COFP for giving me the opportunity to be among the Fellows. I have stepped down what I learnt to Jos North women interfaith program by helping them to understand our commonalities and the need to live in peace. I also had a workshop with the women on culture of forgiveness.



PROJECT TITLE:

Culture of Forgiveness

PROJECT LOCATION:

Jos Jarawa/Angwan Damisa and Bala keze in Rikkos Community, Jos North LGA, Plateau State

SUMMARY:

Held on the 17th January 2020 at British American Corner, University of Jos Consultancy Building Jos Plateau State, the program started with opening prayer with 75 participants, comprising of Muslims & Christians, men/women,

youth and two speakers. According to Hajiya Muhibba, as a COFP Fellow, she is happy to give back to her community what she had learnt and gained from the Fellowship program, hence the idea behind her project is to stressing the need for all to cultivate the Cultures & habit of genuine forgiveness.

The first Speaker, a Pastor, talked about the biblical perspectives of forgiveness and what God expects of every existing human living on the surface earth to be patient, tolerant and quick

to forgive no matter the offence done against us with love to enhance peace.

The second Speaker, an Imam, also spoke about the cultures & relationship of Islam and other religions, were he stressed that Forgiveness is a Key that opens the door of love, and with love comes Forgiveness, and Forgiveness brings about peace in every society. He encouraged all to let go of any form of grievances/grudge & embrace Forgiveness for a Peaceful society.





ABRAHAM EGBODO OGAH

Reverend with Methodist Church of Nigeria

Very Revd. Abraham E. Ogah is a Presbyter in Methodist church Nigeria and currently serves as presbyter in charge of Maiduguri circuit, comprising of Borno and Yobe States. He is also currently serving as CAN Treasurer, Borno State chapter. He was formally CAN Chairman, Jalingo Metropolis of Taraba State, Vice Chairman CCN Taraba State.

He has B.Sc. Ed Pol. Science from Taraba State University and M. Ed Guidance and Counseling in the same university. He was honored with the award of an Ambassador of peace by Jalingo L.G.C owing to his activities and contribution to peaceful co-existence in the State.

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IMPACT OF THE COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ABRAHAM EGBODO OGAH

My Eyes Were Opened

I have learnt a lot from COFP fellowship program, but for the sake of space, I will be brief.

This fellowship program has opened my eyes to see the reality of life. I have learnt from the slogan of Sister Agatha that “whatever hate can do, love can do better”; when I saw it first what came to my mind was that even if one thinks he/she is hated by someone else, the best way to answer the person or approach the person is with love, for love answers all things. Before the program, if anyone talked of showing love or saying that government should call the Boko Haram to a round table discussion for settlement, I will hate such speaker and even turn off the television set or

radio. But today after the first, second & third modules of the fellowship program, I am now an advocate of round table discussion for amicable resolution conflict which includes ending insurgency in Nigeria.

During our step-down project in my community, someone asked a question that if he can catch a Boko Haram member who had killed his brother or any relation, what can he do to him? I was the one that answered him, that forgiveness is the answer to Nigeria's problems today. So, you must forgive the Boko Haram. Abraham Ogah, the hater of Boko Haram now says forgive Boko Haram members!!! Unbelievable! Thanks to Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace for this annual fellowship

program. I am glad; I found myself here, it is a good place to be. BRAVO!

PROJECT TITLE:
Effective and Sincere Dialogue: A pathway to a violence free society.

PROJECT LOCATION:
Federal Government college Maiduguri, Borno State.

SUMMARY
The goal of this project is to have violence free society in Borno state. Sixty-one (61) participants were drawn from academic & religious institutions comprising representatives from Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Muslim community, youth, women and students from the area.

The main theme of the





program was “Effective and Sincere Dialogue: a pathway to violence free society”. Participants were educated on the need for an effective dialogue, one that should move from dialogue to action as a step towards curbing the incessant killings in Borno State. The workshop yielded the following results:

- For the first-time women especially, Muslim women came out in their numbers to participate in such a program with their male counterpart in Borno State.
- An interfaith dialogue platform was created for further discussion on issues of peace in the State.
- Participants were prepared to step-down the training received
- Other communities are asking for similar workshop in their community



ACHINIHU IMMACULATE NGOZICHUKWU

Secretary, Association of Disabled Women (ADW) and Founder Global Foundation for People Living with Disabilities.

Achinihu Immaculate Ngozichukwu is a native of Umuohiagu Ngor Okpala LGA of Imo state. She is a graduate of Library and Information Science Federal Polytechnic Nekede Owerri Imo state. An Executive Information Officer, Imo State Ministry of Information Owerri Imo State and the Secretary of the Association of Disabled Women (ADW) and the founder of Global Foundation for People living with Disabilities.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ACHINIHU IMMACULATE NGOZICHUKWU

I sincerely appreciate the COFP Foundation for educating me on various topics treated during modules one, two and three. I have learnt a lot, so numerous to mention.

Infact, this program is a PhD program. I will forever be grateful to COFP Foundation for giving me opportunity to learn new skills that have shared my life positively. I pledge to put into practice the skills that I have learnt from the Fellowship Program. May God Almighty continue to bless the Founder of COFP foundation, Rev. Sister Agatha and all the staff of COFP Foundation. Thank you so much.

PROJECT TITLE:
Restoration of Peace and Unity Among People Living with Disabilities

PROJECT LOCATION:
Ikenegbu Owerri Municipal, Imo State.

SUMMARY:
The goal of my Peace project is to prevent crisis among disabled people by creating awareness on the need for Peace and Unity in their communities. During our last election 2 years ago, there were a lot of crisis the organization which resulted to fighting, and some persons were injured.

It is in the light of this that

the program was organized for the purpose of avoiding disputes that might arise during the forthcoming general election for people living with disabilities in Imo State. A Stitch in time saves nine they say. The participants numbering 50 in the workshop learned skills on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) which I believe will enable them settle disputes subtly and peacefully. The training yielded immediate results as participants were able to have peaceful deliberations in the training and expressed desire to step down the skills learnt in their communities.





ADAM UMAR

Youth Leader, Bachir Youth Association, Riyom

Adam Umar is a native of Riyom in Plateau State North Central Nigeria. He is an Izala Muslim and holds an SSCE certificate. He is the Chairman of Bachir Youth Association in his community.

I thank COFP for organizing the program.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ADAM UMAR

Before I joined the COFP Fellowship Program, seriously I don't know much about other religion but now I have realized that there's little difference between Christian and Islamic religions. This is the reason why I implemented my community peace project with the intention of educating my people on the similarities that exists among us. The Fellowship program has inspired and equipped me to:

1. Be a leader that works in building peace and social development in my community and the world at large.
2. I now understand basic teachings of other religions
3. I can now implement a peace project based on the knowledge that I gained on project management

I thank COFP for organizing this program.



PROJECT TITLE:
Religious and cultural tolerance Via Empowerment and Skills Acquisition

PROJECT LOCATION:
Riyom Community Plateau state.

SUMMARY:
The objective of the project was to foster peacebuilding through interfaith and intercultural communication between the Biroms and the Fulani Muslims of Bachir in Riyom district. The project aimed at training 15 women in tailoring as it is evident that the community has no tailor. Prior to this training,

the locals usually go to Barkin Ladi, a town few kilometers away for trading and mending of their torn clothes. The implementation of this project has helped to ease the difficulty of cloth mending for the locals.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, one of them, Safiyatu Ahmad immensely appreciated the presence of COFP Foundation in their community. As at the time of writing this report, 10 sewing machines were already on ground and have been distributed to the beneficiaries.





ADAMU BITRUS DUCHI

Assistant Secretary, Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) Maiduguri

Adamu Bitrus Duchi is a Baptist Christian and the Assistant Secretary of the Christian Council of Nigeria from Borno State. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Adult Education/Public Administration from the University of Maiduguri.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ADAMU BITRUS DUCHI

Moulded To Be A Peacemaker:

When I was first told of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) Fellowship program, I was skeptical about it and was reluctant because I have been attending many so-called Peace programs and they do not worth the name because at the end I get nothing peaceful there. So I thought to myself, is this not one of those programs you attend and the organizers take group pictures and send to their donors for more funding while in truth they have nothing to offer?

Today I must confess that I was proved wrong by what I have received from this program. The stuff & content I gathered from this program from the previous modules has truly turned me from the man I used to be into another good man today. The last mini peace project we had in Borno State, if not for our exposure through the

Fellowship program, I wouldn't have done anything. Now I can organize peace talk and I can talk about peace anywhere boldly and authoritatively. I can now make peace with people of different faith because I have been enlightened to know the common ground between Christians and Muslims. There is a move by us now to form an interreligious peacemaking forum in the state where we can come together to talk about peace and how we can live together in peace with one another in our community. I am now an advocate of peace anywhere I find myself.

Another thing that captured my mind and pushed me towards peacemaking was the scenario of a dramatized conflict emanation and escalation by the COFP team during our first day of module two, I discovered since then that some people engage themselves ignorantly in an issue and

problem they don't know how it came about by making such problem their own. Since then my slogan is “**know why you want to die!**” I now take Muslims as friends due to the knowledge I have gained and really appreciate the Foundation for the opportunity.

PROJECT TITLE:
Effective and Sincere Dialogue: A Pathway to Violence free Society

PROJECT LOCATION:
Federal Government College Maiduguri, Borno State.

SUMMARY:
The goal of this project was to have violence free society in Borno state. Sixty-one (61) participants were drawn from academic & religious institutions comprising representatives from Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Muslim community, youth, women and students from the area.





The main theme of the program was “Effective and Sincere Dialogue: a pathway to violence free society”. The workshop dwelt on the need for an effective dialogue, one that should move from dialogue to action as a step towards curbing the incessant killings in Borno State. The workshop yielded the following results:

- For the first-time women especially, Muslim women came out in their numbers to participate in such a program with their male counterpart in Borno State.
- An interfaith dialogue platform was created for further discussion on issues of peace in the State.
- Participants were prepared to step down the training received
- Other communities are asking for similar workshop in their community



Imam, NASFAT Society

AbdusSalam Abdullateef Abiodun, a native of Imosan Ijebu in Odogbolu Local Government Area, Ogun State is a Yoruba by tribe. He obtained a National Certificate in Education (NCE) from Osun State College of Education, Ilesa, all in Osun State and his first degree, B.A Communication Arts from University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. He had his second degree, M. Ed. Educational Management in 2017 from University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

He had worked in different capacities as a teacher, Vice Director of Studies (Vice Principal) in City Model Schools, Port Harcourt, Rivers State where he won the award of the Most Industrious Teacher of the year twice in 2001/2002 and 2008/2009 academic session respectively. He worked as a Cross River State Project Coordinator for UNICEF/NASFAT Partnership on Ending Violence Against Children from 2016 - 2019. He is currently the Head of Schools of NASFAT Model Schools, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

AbdusSalam Abdullateef Abiodun is an astute Muslim missionary worker. He is the branch missioner/Imam of Nasrullahi -il - Faith Society (Nasfat), Port Harcourt branch and the Lead Missionary for South South/ South East zone of the country. He is currently the state chairman for Association of Model Islamic Schools, (AMIS) Rivers State Chapter and the CEO, AsSalaam Widows and Less Privileged Empowerment Foundation (ASWLEPEF), a non-governmental organization. He is happily married with children.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ABDUSALAM ABDULLATEEF ABIODUN

COFP Fellowship Program turned me into a Peace Builder

Islam as a religion has ever been dear to me and I had always been a staunch Muslim from birth. I had my primary and secondary school education in Anglican and Catholic schools – St. Peters Anglican Primary School, Ile-Ife and St. John Grammar School, Oke-Atan, Ile-Ife. Being born into a Muslim home with strong Islamic background with my father being an Imam, a Muslim religious leader, made me to be very committed to my religion despite attending Christian schools. I had been introduced to Islamic education in my early years growing up as a child. Hence, my strong belief that Islam is the best religion. I had Christian friends in schools and work places and as neighbors but they are just casual and not intimates. I have been living my life as a devout Muslim who preaches what the religion stands for to people



around me. Sometimes, we engage in arguments with adherents of other faiths especially the Christians on comparative religious knowledge with the sole intention of proving that Islam is the right religion. All these I have been doing before coming to Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace. I pride my religion over others and believed that whoever does not practice Islam will not enter paradise, but I had never for once fought or fight with the intent of harming or killing others to defend the faith I profess. I believed Islam is peace and Muslims are enjoined to live in peace with others.

Be that as it may be, my perception about peace building ever since I started attending COFP program had changed tremendously because the courses I had been exposed to and the wisdom applied by the course facilitators had exposed me to better approach to solving religious issues. Through the foundation and courses attended, I had been made to understand that nobody can fight for God and that God who divided us along different religion lines had not made a mistake. I had been made to understand

that with understanding of our differences, we can actually coexist together. I had also learnt that it is better to work on areas of commonalities of the different religious divides in order to enhance and promote mutual understanding, love and tolerance in a country with multi-diverse religions and cultures like Nigeria.

If I was told I will in my lifetime handle a project where Muslims and Christians will be brought together under one roof to discuss peace building and peaceful coexistence, my response will actually be a sharp and capital 'No' and not possible. Though Islam enjoined the Muslims to dialogue with the non-Muslims on areas of common ground and similarities as stated in surah Al-Imran Qur'an 3:64 but I had never thought it necessary because I strongly believed 'My religion is mine and your religion is yours', so, I believe in Practice yours and I practice mine. But with the introduction to courses on 'Peace Building and Dialogue', my previous perception changed completely because I later saw reason why such collaboration is of great importance.



With my exposure now, I yearn daily for avenues where religious matters could be discussed not for scoring points or for argument purpose, but making clarification and correcting misconceptions about my religion – Islam, in a peaceful way in order to make the religion well understood by the non-Muslims. I can confidently say now that, I am proud to be a Peace Building Ambassador, courtesy Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace.

PROJECT TITLE/THEME:
Inter-religious dialogue: A panacea for Peaceful Co-existence, growth and Development.

Project Location:
Nasrul-lahi-l-faith society, Port Harcourt, River state.

SUMMARY:
 The program was held on Saturday, 8th February, 2020 at Nasfat Village, Port Harcourt Rivers State. The objective of the project is to

engage 30 faith leaders and stakeholders to address the issues that border on the areas of commonalities and the differences in both religion with efforts to reach a mutual understanding so as to bridge the apparent divide, promote peace and deliberate on how they can collectively work together to put an end to religious intolerance in communities and the state in general.

The 30 participants came up with the following communique and resolution at the end of the program:

Communiqué

- i) The forum unanimously applauded the summit and agreed that it should be a continuous program at least to be held quarterly for maximum result.
- ii) The Christian representatives charged the Muslim counterpart to make an open press release

- iii) The body should form a coalition and transform to a substantive interfaith group to protect the Muslims/Christians interest in the state.
- iv) The forum observed that Muslims/Christians in Rivers state had been found to have a long track record of peaceful coexistence and harmonious relationship which should be sustained.
- v) The church and mosque leaders should deploy the strongest possible terms to create every necessary and serious program to stop racial and religious dichotomy in order to cultivate harmony.
- vi) The Muslims and Christians should not allow the politicians to divide them along religious line, plant hatred in their hearts and instigate them against one another.
- vii) Both Qur'an and the Bible emphasize love, peace, tolerance, justice, kindness, sacredness of human lives and peaceful coexistence.



AKEWUGBERU SALIU AKANNI

Former, National Protocol Officer/P. A &
Head of Schools, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at

A native of Abeokuta Ogun State, Akewugberu Saliu Akanni is a teacher by profession. He has held various positions in Ogun state as an educationist and is the former National Protocol Officer, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Nigeria. As a proprietor, he is the Executive Director, Al-Ihsaan Unique Educational Consult.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and he is fluent in Arabic language and a member Ogun State Muslim Forum.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON AKEWUGBERU SALIU AKANNI

COFP – Beyond Imagination

“I came, I saw and I
conquered”

I had been a peace builder
among my friends,
colleagues and in my
community ever before I
come across COFP.

At the initial stage, my
thought was just to get to
the Foundation and start
sharing my experiences and
ideas with the members of
the Foundation but on
starting the courses most
especially with the module
2, I began to experience
changes in my thoughts.

Infact, the COFP Fellowship
program has really
equipped me the more and
prepared me for all
challenges in being an agent
of peace and a peacebuilder
in my community.

With the skills acquired

from the Fellowship
program and small peace
project which I carried out
in my community, I can see
that I am more loaded with
ideas, skills; capabilities and
leadership acumen that will
enable me extend my
tentacles in peace building,
conflict prevention and
peaceful co-existent even
beyond my community and
more importantly to people
of other faiths in my state.

PROJECT TITLE:
Peace building and conflict
prevention for selected
religious clerics in Yewa
South Local Government
Area of Ogun state.

PROGRAM LOCATION:
Ahmadiyya Missionary
Training School Center,
Ogun State.

SUMMARY:
Participants to the Peace
project were majorly drawn
from cleric (sects) of both

faiths (Christian and
Muslim) in Yewa South local
government of Ogun State.
The goal of this Peace
project was to increase the
awareness of the clerics and
improve their
understanding on conflict
prevention and peace
building in their
communities. The 50 clerics
who are at the helm of
affairs in their various
capacities were adequately
equipped with knowledge
on peacebuilding and
conflict prevention to
become change agents that
fosters love and peaceful
co-existence within the
community irrespective of
religious and cultural
differences.





ALABEDE TAJUDEEN

Tajudeen hails from Oyo state. He is currently the Assistant Director/Head Programme and Corporate Services with the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN) Oyo state. He has a Masters' Degree in Public and International Affairs (MPIA) from the University of Lagos. Tajudeen preaches interreligious dialogue and mediation as the necessary tool to impact intra-faith and inter-faith relationship in Nigeria as a nation.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON ALABEDE TAJUDEEN

I consider myself lucky to be part of this program, my past experiences in interreligious dialogue has not been as impactful as this, it is a laudable project that aids nation building. Government should encourage and support this initiative to further promote peace in our country Nigeria.

One major lesson was to learn from the perspective of the adherent of a religion. The need for us to respect one another.

I thank COFP for this and for government to participate in the mediation process.

PROJECT TITLE:
Faith and the fate of the Nation: interreligious harmony as a national imperative.

Project Location:
Seminar room 1 and 2 UI hotels and conference center, university of Ibadan, Oyo state.

SUMMARY:
The Project was targeted at selected young religious leaders in Ibadan, Oyo State. The general age range of the participants between 21 to 30 years. Special consideration was given to a few youths who fall within 30-35 age range.

The south western region best approximates Nigeria's inter-religious dynamics. To this extent, the geo-political zone deserves special attention in matters relating to inter-religious harmony.

The project aimed at deepening inter-religious harmony in the region. In the face of religious crises in different parts of the country, the need for genuine, intensive and extensive engagement among the adherents of the Christian and Islamic faiths has now become a national imperative. At the end of the training, participants resolved to become advocates for mutual understanding, peace and development



COFP Fellowship

Dr

AMINU IBRAHIM

Vice chairman Youth Wing Islamic Research and Dawah Foundation. Co-secretary Inter faith Youth and Peacebuilding Network Nigeria

Aminu Ibrahim hails from Kogi State but lives and work in Abuja. He is a Muslim and his educational career started in the early 90's when he started Primary School then proceeded to government secondary school, Nyanya Abuja where he obtained SSCE Certificate. Aminu has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Arabic Studies in 2016 from Nasarawa State University, Keffi and currently a post graduate student with the National Open University of Nigeria on Business Administration. He currently works as a business consultant at Fab Prime Resources Limited. Aminu believes in touching lives of the less privilege and advocating for peaceful co-existence in the society.

Self-development through challenges that offers the opportunity for continual learning and to be an agent of change anywhere I find myself, and to maximize potentials, so as to contribute to the betterment of humanity.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON AMINU IBRAHIM

COFP Fellowship Program: An Eye Opener For Me

The COFP Fellowship Program that we started last year is a life time opportunity and an eye opener for me. Meeting my co-Fellows that came from all parts of the country was my best moment and the facilitators including those from Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI).

The knowledge and experiences I learnt from the Fellowship program has helped me tremendously in improving my skills in religious dialogue and mediation.

The community peace projects funded by COFP Foundation also helped me in reaching out to many youth who changed their narrative for peace at the end of the project

workshop. I can categorically state that the COFP Fellowship Program is an eye opener for me and I have learned a lot and developed my skills for lasting peace.

Thank you COFP for this life changing opportunity.

PROJECT TITLE:
Religious Tolerance and Acceptance

PROJECT LOCATION:
**Supreme Court Quarters
Juma'ah Mosque Karu,
Abuja**

SUMMARY:
The project targeted 200 participants (50 Women, 100 youths and 50 Teenagers). The goal of the Peace project is to bridge the existing gap between Muslim and Christian folks which often leads to religious crisis/violence,

and so make peace and unity the order of the day as far as Nigeria is concerned.

It is against this backdrop, that the Peace project focused on using religion to restore peace, unity in diversity, growth and stability among Nigerian citizens since that is the only way to achieve peaceful co-existence in the country.

From the interviews and post survey forms, it was gathered that most participants were able to, for the first time sit together with their Christian counterparts in such forum to learn about peaceful coexistence. Experience shared by some opted for a sustainability of the project with the aim of continuously seeking for common ground.





ATUMEYI BERNICE OJONUGWA

Sister/Headmistress

Bernice Ojonugwa Atumeyi hails from Ankpa LGA of Kogi state but has spent most of her life living in North central part of Nigeria. She had her early education at Arewa and Jabi and attended Federal Government College, Minna Niger state for her secondary education and obtained a Diploma in Accounting, B.Sc Management and PGDE from University of Jos. She is a religious sister of our Lady of Fatima sisters, Jos and works at St. Louis College, Jos. Her philosophy of life is “to treat everyone first as human beings” Sr. Benice has a passion to impact lives especially those of children and youth. She hopes to continue her, “project peace” in other schools even after ending her one-year Fellowship Program.



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IMPACT OF THE COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON BERNICE OJONUGWA ATUMEYI OLF

The Change in My Life

The one-year COFP fellowship program was indeed worthwhile and the resource persons during the three modules did a great job. The wide range of courses offered on interreligious dialogue and mediation were very well researched and delivered.

Through the instrumentality of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) I have been enlightened, empowered, better informed and given the opportunity to have a better understanding of Islam, my Muslim brothers and sisters and come in close contact with them and Christians of other denominations. I am glad I was able to dine and discuss issues of faith and peaceful coexistence in a

relaxed and enabling environment.

Through COFP, I have learnt to be a humming bird in my time. Even as I round up this noble Fellowship program, I will continue to do the little I can in the best way I can in sowing the seeds of peace God has placed in my hands through the Foundation, promote intra and inter religious dialogue and ensure peaceful coexistence first beginning with myself because every positive, notable and desired change must begin with self and I agree with Mahatma Gandhi who advises mankind to be the change they wish to see.

May God enrich the founding father of COFP His Eminence Cardinal John Onaiyekan and surround him with His loving

kindness as he continues to play his role in peace making through uniting people of different faiths. May God bless Sr. Agatha and the COFP Team for their hardwork and encouragement.

May God bless all partners of COFP; GHR Foundation, institute fur Auslandsbeziehungen Ifa, Tony Blair Foundation and all other partners for their support in sustaining this noble program.

PROJECT TITLE: Developing a culture of peaceful coexistence among students and impacting lives for a secure future.

PROJECT LOCATION: St. Louis College, Jos, Plateau state





SUMMARY:

The project aimed at stopping the harsh treatment of the junior students by the senior students and to also assist students having challenges in paying their school fees so as to be able to continue with their studies.

There has been a general and continuous complain of the harsh treatment of the junior student by the senior,

this has resulted to the unfriendly relationship among students of the school and the poor performance of the some affected academically and psychologically. This necessitate my peace project as a way to enlighten the students on the need and importance to live harmoniously, creating room for positive growth for themselves as students and the community in which they found themselves.

The high light of the occasion is the scholarship award to four (4) students who are facing challenges in paying their school fees, two (2) students out of those who got the scholarship are students of the University of Jos, while the remaining two (2) are secondary school students. Over one hundred students attended the workshop.



BABA RAMATU

State Amira (State president) Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN), Kogi state chapter

Fellow Ramatu Baba hails from Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi State. She attended University of Jos and obtained B.Sc. Geography (1985), and also holds M.Sc. Urban and Regional Planning from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (1998). She is an employee of the Kogi State Civil Service and currently appointed Permanent Secretary Kogi State Ministry of Works and Housing in January 2020. Ramatu served as a member of the Kogi State Inter Religious Council from 2017 – 2019.

She is a committed and dedicated member of Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) and was appointed as the State Amirah (President) of FOMWAN Kogi State Chapter from 2015 – 2019.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON BABA RAMATU

The COFP Fellowship Program had impacted on me greatly:

1 It has deepened my understanding of Islam and Christianity religions - main differences and the need to preach the message of their common grounds of shared values and build on them.

2. It has also equipped and given me the understanding on how to promote peace and security in any community I find myself.

3. My capacity is improved

to understand others and to serve humanity no matter how small the act of my contribution will be in enhancing peace and security. Like the Hummingbird to do the best I can and preach the message of peace wherever I am.

Ramatu is always concerned on the growth and development of Nigerian Youths towards peaceful coexistence in Nigeria. She is grateful for being part of the COFP Fellowship program where I have been enlightened more and

understood the Christian religious belief, and various strategies in promoting peace in our various communities.

I want to use this medium to thank his Eminence for the work he is doing.

PROJECT TITLE: Drug Abuse and Addiction: An Impediment to Peaceful Co-Existence and Harmonious Living

PROJECT LOCATION: Ankpa Township Ankpa Local Government Area, Kogi State.





SUMMARY:

The project was designed for 70 participants including parents and students from secondary/tertiary Institutions and active youths in the society in the ratio of 20:50 respectively.

The project goal is to drastically reduce drug abuse and other related substances to an infinitesimal percentage as a panacea to peaceful co-existence and harmonious living amongst the inhabitants of Ankpa and its environs arising from the aberrant behavior that is quickly becoming the order of the day such as kidnapping, rape, robbery, stealing, cultism to mention but few is gradually becoming a social, personal norms and value in Nigeria and Ankpa Local Government Area, Kogi State in particular. These vices have eaten deep into the fabric of people

mostly the youths, who have also become vulnerable to desperate politicians and influential individuals to be used for lots of social vices for their benefit.

Research has shown that these vices are mostly if not at all times perpetuated under the influence of drug and related substances. Hence consumption of these substances and cultism has been identified as the spring board to most negative societal and personal vices which has been preached in places of worship but has not been preached in an organized program such as this in Ankpa township.

The project Objective seeks to educate participants on the early likely symptoms to be manifested as a result of drug abuse addiction, enlighten participants to on the constituents of drug abuse and to bring to their fore-

knowledge the ills of drug abuse and other related substances on individuals and society then analyses the importance of abstinence from drug abuse/addiction and the hedonic value of peace and sanctity in our society.

This seminar gave participants the opportunity of understanding the ravaging effect that drug abuse has inflicted on people of the community and its environs. Drug addiction makes them vulnerable and susceptible to violence, and the training has enlightened them to quit drug and become peacemakers in the community.





CHONG SIXTUS

Evangelist and Coordinator Emergency Response Team, Riyom

Evangelist Sixtus Barau Chong holds a diploma certificate from Christian College of Education Jos, National Certificate of Education from college of education Gindiri. He is a cleric at St Thaddeus G-kibo Zone and St Lawrence parish Riyom Plateau State. He is also a Primary school teacher.

He is currently the Emergency Preparedness Response Team Co-ordinator, Riyom branch, PRO of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Riyom and member of Search for Common Ground.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON CHONG BARAU SIXTUS

I have learnt different skills needed to promote peace with people of other religions in my community and I intend to stepdown this knowledge in my community to avoid further religious conflicts in my .

I appreciate what the Foundation has done through this program. May God give them more wisdom to educate more people on the need to live in peace.

PROJECT TITLE: Skill Acquisition training
PROJECT LOCATION: Hauwan Kibo, Riyom LGA

Plateau State.

SUMMARY:

After making available all the sewing equipment and materials needed for the beneficiaries, the project immediately kicked off.

The aim of the project was to foster peaceful coexistence between the Hausa/Fulani community of Bachir, and the Christians in Kibo, Riyom through a joint skills acquisition/vocational training. This give both Christians and Muslims the opportunity to learn sewing skill together and in that way, they share ideas on the need to live in peace.

The community leaders showed much appreciation in the project and pledged their support for its sustainance. The participants are all women and were enrolled in the program and will be completing the training in 6 months time.

Members of the community expressed their desire to be part of the COFP Fellowship program; Mr. Sixtus promised to keep them abreast with the fellowship application procedures as soon as the portal is opened.





DIGA GAMBO RAPHAEL

Priest of Catholic Archdiocese of Kaduna

Born in Kaduna state, Diga Gambo Raphael is a Catholic Priest of the Kaduna Archdiocese. He has Degrees in Sacred Theology and Philosophy both from the Good Shepherd Major Kaduna and Seminary and St. Augustine Major Seminary Jos. Since his priestly ordination, he has worked in various capacities to cater for the spiritual needs of the people entrusted to him. He is presently the parish priest of Saint Dominic's Parish, Ungwan Pama, Kaduna State.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON DIGA GAMBO RAPHAEL

Learning new skills & ideas have always been my hobby and this led me to apply for the COFP Fellowship Program. I have had several interactions with the Muslims in my places of pastoral assignments and the need to learn more from them to improve dialogue was just too important for me.

The COFP Fellowship program has equipped me enough, even though I wish the program doesn't end, I am now a better, certified,

verified peacebuilder, with skills to interact and dialogue more professionally and without doubt. The Fellowship opened my eyes to a lot of things I never would have known and to a lot of other things I was ill-informed about.

Thanks to the COFP Foundation, I am a better person!!!

PROJECT TITLE:
Approaches to Peace making and challenges for

transformation and development.

PROJECT LOCATION:
Terryjo Event Center, Sabon Tasha, Kaduna state.

SUMMARY:
The program focused on the basic concept of approaches to peacemaking and challenges for development and transformation. The goal of my Peace project which brought together 45 youths of the two major religion in Nigeria (Christianity and



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4 Days Standby

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Islam) to review conflict profile according to context of their locality and discuss the possible ways to integrate a positive transformative strategy for sustainable peace and development.

The Peace project was necessitated by the tension born out of the action of the former governor, when in 2000 the then Governor Mohammed A. Makarfi introduced sharia law in the Kaduna State. This singular act dramatically intensified religious tensions in the state and further polarized people, making the Christians minority even more fearful of their Muslim neighbors. Ultimately, the introduction of sharia law

led to even more violence characterized by attacks and counter attacks that claimed the lives of 1,295 people and an unstated number of bodies that was buried without identification. This incidence over the years has reshaped our lives both the Christians and the Muslim alike in the state.

Also, the Hausa-Fulani are predominantly cattle herders while the people of southern Kaduna are mostly farmers who cultivate food crops for a living. Violence periodically flares up between the herdsmen and the farmers when the herdsmen migrate to the south in search of pasture this migration triggers conflict over land use, land ownership, and

encroachment of farmland. Reprisal attacks from the farmers are common. This dimension of the conflict has been made worse by the religious differences of the actors and the perceived bias of successive Kaduna State governments against the Christian minority. Therefore, my project was aimed at bridging these gaps by giving people the opportunity to dialogue practical ways of living in peace amidst our diversities.





DIKE NICHOLAS CHIGOZIE

Coordinator Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria, Abuja Archdiocese

Hails from Imo state and resides in Abuja. He is the Youth Coordinator, Catholic youth organization of Nigeria (CYON), Abuja Archdiocese. A graduate of accounting from Federal Polytechnic Nekede Owerri, Imo state. Member Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM), Fellow Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP), Member Interfaith Youth and Peace Building Network of Nigeria (IYPBNN) Abuja. A Certified Project Manager from Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, UK. He has passion for youth and children development. He has successfully organized and also attended interfaith programs and activities within the country. He is a volunteer and has passion for interfaith activities, peace building and youth development.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON DIKE NICHOLAS CHIGOZIE

From Bigotry to Peace Ambassador!

Bigotry is a cankerworm that is eating up the religious system in our society and most people have in one time or the other, directly or indirectly being involved in this religious scourge including myself. As one born in Christian family in the rural area of the South East, I have over the years developed some negative perceptions about Muslims and the Islamic religious practices. These perceptions were built

know that the world is not really what I think it is, some of those ideologies and perceptions I used to hold on to were merely individual opinions.

Having being privileged to be part of the Fellowship program, my relationship with the Muslims changed tremendously; no longer afraid of entering the Mosque, no longer afraid of reading the Quran, now attend a lot of interfaith programs and activities, and now a "peace ambassador".

One of the outcomes of my

peace project was the formation of a branch of Interfaith Youth and Peace Building Network of Nigeria (IYPBNN) in Lugbe, Abuja. Therefore, what you do not know about others and their religious practices, you must learn not to condemn.

May God continue to bless the Cardinal for this initiative.

PROJECT TITLE:
Interreligious Dialogue and Funfair for Youth and Children

PROJECT LOCATION:
Tudun Wada Lugbe, FCT Abuja

Targeted Participants:

SUMMARY:
The program was an interactive session aimed at enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the youth on both religions so as to create an enabling environment for peace to strive. The Program was graced with the presence of



around what I heard about Muslims, negative encounter with few of them and the orientation from my Christian religious background. Little did I





the Co-chairs of the INTERFAITH YOUTH AND PEACE BUILDING NETWORK OF NIGERIA (Rev. Fr. John Sixtus Okonkwo and Barr. Sarki Mohammed), who witnessed the establishment of the first of its kind, Interfaith Forum

Tudun Wada. This is to function as a faith clinic that will help prevent easy access of extremist ideologies. This forum was proudly supported as a welcomed idea by the village head who said the faith clinic will host scholars who will share faith ideas to

adherent of their different faiths and beliefs after participating in my program. Over 400 participants were in attendance (including scholars, youths, children and invited Guests all from the two religions).



DIKKO OLAJUMOKE BASIRAT

Immediate former President (Female Wing)
Ahmadiyah Muslim Jama'at Nigeria

Dr. Basirat is an advisory Board Member of the Women of Faith Peacebuilding Network from Osun State. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, a Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and PhD in Guidance and Counselling from the University of Lagos. She is a member of the Association of Professional Counsellors and has attended several workshops and seminars with many written articles in both local and international journals to her name.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON IKKO BASIRAT OLAJUMOKE



All praise belongs to God that motivated and used our able Eminence, Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace to gather different individuals from both Christian and Islamic groups/sects in the Country together, only for inculcating the need to spread the gospel of peace. Encouraging intra and inter religious collaborations.

The journey of the inter faith dialogue started in a day and with all sense of appreciation, I participated in the previous modules which were loaded with series of lectures and workshops. Consequently, all the skills and trainings I acquired was put into practice by executing my small-scale peace project in

Lagos state. The fellowship programme has influenced me a lot. I have been privileged to further:

1. Understand more of Christian principles/faiths
2. Cooperate with people of other faith and culture
3. Learn a lot of Inter/Intra faith dialogue skills
4. Equip myself with the knowledge of executing small-scale project
5. Expose myself to different challenges that one could face in

the society as an NGO that desires to impact the society positively, most especially from due government bureaucracy and unscrupulous government officials that would stand to impede the progress of the project

6. Learn that at the face of challenges, one has to move forward and at the end, Success would be recorded.

I really appreciate His Eminence, Cardinal Onaiyekan, The Executive Director Sister Agatha O. Chikelue and all the COFP team.



Long Live COFP, Long Live their partners & sponsors, Long Live Christian group, Long Live Muslim group, Long Live 2019/2020 fellows, Long Live Nigeria.

PROJECT TITLE:
Violence Among Youths: A Bane to the Societal Peace

PROJECT LOCATION:
Lagos, Lagos state.

SUMMARY:
The program was applauded by participants that it could not have come at a better time than this. Due to the series of conflicts between rival cult

groups within the community which resulted in the death of eighteen youths, the goal of the program was to equip youths with conflict resolution skills. 206 participants were invited from Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, youths, secondary school students, Ijede community leaders, the Peace Forum Group and Lagos State Security Neighborhood Commission (LSNC).

The highlight of the program was the presentation of Peace Award to some of the

community leaders, notable among them is the Ba'le of the Ijede community, the Local government Chairmen, the Ijede Youth Forum and other distinguished members of the community for their outstanding role in ensuring peace in the community. During interview, the participants revealed that they found the program impactful and are now ready to propagate peace in the society. Stickers with the inscription PEACE AMBASSADOR was distributed to further create awareness of the program.



CWO President, Catholic Archdiocese of Jos

Mrs. Mary Asibi Gonsum is an indigene of Barkin Ladi LGA of Plateau State Nigeria. She is a graduate of Public Administration and obtained (M.Sc.) in Society. Mary is the president of the Catholic Women Organization (CWO) Jos Archdiocesan. She is a renowned teacher and the currently the Principal executive officer (Admin) in her Local Government Council. Due to her dedication and commitment, Mary has received the following awards & recognition for her work,

1. 2019 - Member of Board of Directors, Our Lady of Apostle Hospital (OLA) Jos
2. 2019 - Papal Award/ Medalist of Benemerenti
3. 2019 - Corporate Member Society for Peace and Studies and Practice (SPSP)

In my quest to keep up with the time, I enrolled with ECWA Information and Computer Science institute, where I graduated with a Diploma in Computer Application in the year 2010.

In the year 2004, I got married to Engr. Augustine Geoffrey Gonsum in St. Murumba Parish and the marriage is blessed with three children.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON GONSUM MARY

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Fellowship training has impacted positively in my life as I now have a better understanding of the other faiths. This has helped in molding my reaction towards them when I see them in certain situation.

The COFP Program has broadened my horizon by providing a platform of eminent and intelligent Fellows who are always

willing to share their knowledge and experiences. The program has also inculcated in me the ability to undertake peace project in any community I find myself. I thank COFP Foundation and hope to learn how to interact more with people of other religion.

PROJECT TITLE:
Promoting Peaceful Coexistence among Students in Plateau State.

PROJECT LOCATION:
Jos Jarawa, plateau State

SUMMARY:
The purpose of the Peace project is to equip 60 youths with the right attitudes, skills and values necessary to create durable peace in the State. This led to the establishment of Peace clubs in two secondary schools, Government secondary school and Buschords





International High School all in the project community. The Peace Clubs would be operated within the schools as a co-curriculum program, and it will be made up of groups of young people (Students,

Pupils and Youths) guided by Peace Club instructors (Teachers from the both schools). The instructors are saddled with the responsibility of creating opportunity for them to learn how to handle conflict

properly, exchange experiences with each other, and develop good attitude & respect for people of other background irrespective of their gender, age, religion or ethnicity.



JAMES HELEN DANLADI

**Immediate Past Chairperson
Adamawa State Chapter**

Mrs. Helen Danladi James is from Lamurde Local Government Area of Adamawa State. After her primary and secondary education, she gained employment with the Adamawa State Ministry of Education, Yola. She got admission into College of Administration and Business Studies (CABS), Azare, Bauchi State and graduated with a Diploma in Accounting. She further obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting (B.Sc.) Helen is currently undergoing a professional training with Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) at Nigerian College of Accountancy, Kwall, Jos, Plateau State. She is the immediate past Chairperson of the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN) Women Wing, Adamawa State Chapter.

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IMPACT OF THE COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON JAMES HELEN DANLADI:

The Fact That I Am Right Does Not Mean That The Other Person Is Wrong

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) Fellowship program is one of the most important things that has ever happened to me. The Foundation has increased and broadened my horizon on peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiative. I have come to realize that in maintaining balance and peaceful coexistence amongst the various religious affiliation in the society, respect for one's belief or faith is very sacrosanct. Prior to this fellowship program, there had always been a silent debate within the various faiths as to which is the right or true religion? However, the Foundation has done insightful justice by de-emphasizing the difference and promoting the understanding that it is a matter of perspective.

Nigeria is, in principle, a secular state, but religious intolerance has always threatened the unity of the

nation. Decision making in governance is mostly viewed with religious, ethnic, regional or political pigmentation, which the unfavoured feel marginalized. This give rise to agitation and subsequently, crisis or conflict. Through social justice this trend or trait can be avoided, which is one of the building pillars of the Foundation. Understanding the concept of social justice, which is one of the cardinal points picked during this fellowship program has had a great impact on me. This has help in shaping and influencing the process of my decision making and decision taking on not just how to relate with people of other religious faith, but also within family members and colleagues at work place.

The blueprint for peacebuilding learned through the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) has a far-reaching impact and if

sincerely or religiously followed and implemented, it will bring about lasting peace in our communities and the society at large. One phrase that has become my watchword or guiding principle after this program is – **THE FACT THAT I AM RIGHT DOES NOT MEAN THE OTHER PERSON IS WRONG.** With perspective and attitudinal change, peacebuilding is possible.

PROJECT TITLE:

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Initiative

PROJECT LOCATION:

Mona Tari Community, Lamurde Local Government Area, Adamawa State

SUMMARY:

The justification of this project stems from the need to create a mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence amongst the various tribes in Mona Tari. Mona Tari is a community in





Lamurde LGA of Adamawa State, predominated by the Mona tribe, hence, the name 'Mona Tari' meaning, Mona land. Due to its proximity to Lafiya, and as a result of population explosion in Lafiya the Waja immigrated to this community, followed by the Chubbo and then the Takari. For some time now there have been land disputes

among these community dwellers, which has left many dead and the economic activities grounded. The after effect of this is the poor level of development of Mona Tari and also of note is the tension that resonate the community because of these disputes.

The aim of the project is for

continuous dialogue and peace building as an avenue for cordial relationship, peaceful coexistence, development and respect for one another with the hope to rewrite history in favor of our children.



ALIYU IBRAHIM

Director of Peace and Interfaith,
YOWICAN 19 Northern States and FCT

Evangelist Ibrahim Aliyu is an indigene of Tula in Kaltungo Local Government of Gombe State. He was educated at Army Children School Azare, Federal Government College, Ilorin, The Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi and NTA Television College, Jos. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication specializing in Investigative Journalism.

He has been a Missionary, Accounts Clerk and Journalist at different times before opting to be a Peace advocate and a Practicing Politician.

Evangelist Aliyu has attended many Interfaith peace engagements both within and outside the country including the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change UK, American University of Nigeria, Yola, and the KUKAH Center. He is currently the Director Research and Strategy of YOWICAN North East Zone as well as the Director Peace and Interfaith as well as the Publicity Secretary YOWICAN 19 Northern States and FCT.

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IMPACT OF COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON IBRAHIM ALIYU

The COFP Fellowship Program: A Shining and Rare Model for Nigeria of Our Dream

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be created” Martin Luther King. The above statement captures the essence and intentions of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) as it trains religious and community leaders who are desirous of promoting peaceful coexistence and interfaith harmony from across the country.

Let me confess that I have attended several interfaith engagements both within and outside the shores of Nigeria but I make bold to say that the COFP Fellowship program has been the best in terms of content and organization.

It has been my dream for over 10 years that one day I would be able to start an interfaith dialogue group for youths in Katagum LGA of Bauchi State where there has been mistrust, suspiciousness and intolerance. I stand to testify that this Fellowship program provided me the

knowledge, skill and platform to fulfil my dream.

I have learnt in one year what ordinarily will not be learnt in five years, thanks to Cardinal John Onaiyekan, Sister Agatha and her team and all the facilitators and partners.

PROJECT TITLE:
Dialogue and Peaceful co-existence: A Pre-requisite for Societal Transformation.

PROJECT LOCATION:
Multi-purpose hall, Federal government college, Azare, Bauchi state.





SUMMARY:

The peace project was held on 19th of December, 2019 with the aims and objectives of enlightening participants on the basic tenets of both religions and what the Holy books teaches on peace building and dialogue.

Being the very first of its kind in the entire area, the 47 participants were highly impressed and motivated towards peaceful coexistence amongst themselves. An Interfaith Dialogue Group was formed at the end of this workshop with a

steering committee put in place to pilot and midwife the group for future engagements. Participants made recommendation that the program should be sustained and expanded to other communities of the seven LGA of Azare Bauchi state.



JAAFAR ISA DAUDA

Instructor/Trainer; Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN)

Ja'afar Isa Dauda is from Kano state. He holds a B. Tech in Mathematics from the Federal University of Technology Yola in Adamawa state. He is a certified teacher and a Sunni Fulani Muslim. He is the former Secretary General of the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), Kano State Area Unit and presently a member of the National Council of Muslim Youths Organization (NACOMYO).

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON JA'AFAR ISA DAUDA

I have actually learnt a lot but most prominent is the fact that we should always have the opinion of each other i.e. the danger of a single story. I am among the lucky ones to attend this Fellowship Program. I have learnt that whatever you want to know, learn it from those that practice it. In my work, I execute projects in the line of peacebuilding. Classes on conflict management will help me further in my cause of peacebuilding activities.

PROJECT TITLE: Students' Interreligious Council for Peace Project (SICP) Building Capacity for Peace Ambassadors

PROJECT LOCATION: Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil, Kano State

SUMMARY:
The growing population in Kano University of Science

and Technology (KUST) which attracted students from all parts of the country has made the University a landmark of pluralism both culturally and religiously. But the underlying lack of true integration and socialization between Muslims and Christian students suggests separation, suspicion and even some elements of distrust which if not handled properly can deteriorate and culminate into possible rivalry and conflict.

Preventing conflict and ensuring peaceful coexistence through dialogue and engagement. Since the university is just growing and luckily enough it has never recorded any incidence of conflict between the students in the name of religion, it is now pertinent to sow the seed of peaceful coexistence and understanding through

dialogue and engagement so as to prevent possible breakup of the delicate peace being enjoyed. My peace project therefore serves as a pilot to this noble cause which can be replicated in other universities in Kano and the nation in general.

This is why the goal of this Peace project is to make KUST a religious-conflict-free University which serves as a model for other universities by creating understanding, love and confidence through effective dialogue between the followers of other religions to ensure positive relationship which will pave way for peaceful coexistence and prevent suspicion, segregation and conflict.





Uniting people of different faiths for peace through dialogue

ONIAH JUDE

Priest of Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja

Rev. Fr. Jude Oniah is a priest of the Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja and Pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Utako. He holds a degree in Philosophy and Theology and Master's Degree in Public Policy Analysis. He has been participant at various peace and conflict trainings by various organization in the country as a result of his passionate interest in peace, justice and development concerns. As a Fellow of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) Fellowship Program, he has decided to further this passion by being involved in organizing community leaders, faith leaders and youth leaders of various and diverse affiliations within his vicinity to work together and beyond the confines of offices and pulpits towards finding lasting solutions for peace, justice and conflict resolution.

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IMPACT OF THE COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON JUDE ONIAH

My Capacity in Peace & Conflict Resolution Has Been Increased!

This program was designed to 'increase my capacity in peace and conflict resolution' as a religious leader. In a very volatile, politically polarized, and religiously intolerant society as we have experienced of late, the impact cannot be overstated. Since I started this program, my commitment to making a positive and significant impact in the world has deepened. I have been engaged in peace, justice and conflict resolution arrangements than I have ever been. It has made me to be more broadminded and this is why I will always bring to the table a deeper approach to resolving conflicts. It has strengthened my long-held idea that dialogue and peace are not achieved by denying or ignoring them but rather acknowledging and stating them in order to reach common grounds for peaceful living.

This Fellowship program

has also assisted me in meeting and collaborating with peace agents along diverse lines. Bringing us together from diverse background has been a big plus in my life as we all need each other to engage the world; and sometimes you will need peace agents of another faith and background as a stepping board to engage people of other backgrounds and faith too.

I want to thank his Eminence Cardinal Onaiyekan and Sr. Agatha for a wonderful work and for counting us worthy to be part of this program.

PROJECT TITLE: United against (religious) Violence but for Peace and Common Citizenship

PROJECT LOCATION: Chida Hotel Utako FCT Abuja.

SUMMARY:

Participants in the program included youths, faith leaders and community leaders across the aisle,

advocates of public policy, government representatives, chiefs and Imams mostly from Jahi, Utako and Kado-kuci areas of the FCT Abuja. They numbered 41 in attendance.

The major concerns raised in the program were causes of insecurity, violence and clashes, leadership failure, collapse of the true nature of the Almajiri system, perpetuation of illiteracy and poverty in the North east, forced unitary system of government, inciting homilies by faith leaders. These problems were extensively discussed and key facilitators addressed the fact that they are not far fetched from religion.

The project was however timely because tensions in the concerned communities sometime raise their ugly heads amongst youths. The religious leaders admitted to sensitize their followers and listeners on the necessity of living together peacefully. Some courageously admitted to have incited hatred and violence in their teachings





KARIM OLAYINKA RAMOTA

Karim Olayinka Ramota is a native of Ijebu Ode, Ogun state. She is a University Professor in the Department of Home Economics and Food Science and has a Ph.D. and B.Sc. in Food Science & Technology at the University of Ilorin, Kwara State.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON KARIM OLAYINKA RAMOTA

When I was coming for the Fellowship program, I had a myopic knowledge of only Islam but since I joined the program, I have come to realize that we are all worshipping one God with so many commonalities.

I have had interactive sessions on my new skills and experiences from the Fellowship with my students and the women folk as women are the home builders as a means of stepping down the knowledge to them so that they will in turn teach their children as well as further promote peace in their homes and communities.

PROJECT TITLE:
Sowing the Seed of Community Peaceful Co-Existence: The Role of Food Security
Project Location: University of Ilorin and Nasfat, Tanke Branch, Ilorin, Kwara State

SUMMARY:
50 participants comprising of youths from the University of Ilorin and women from the NASFAT society were in attendance for the program.

The project trained the selected youths and women from University of Ilorin and NASFAT Society on the elements of food security and peaceful coexistence in

the community. The objectives intended for the project were met and they include; concept and importance of food security in the community for national development, needs and ways of achieving peaceful coexistence in the community, roles of religion on food security and peaceful coexistence and the pathways for religious cohesion through community food security.

Participants had practical training on production of some traditional food items and were educated on interreligious co-existence hinged on sustainable food security.



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MAMZA YOHANNA SHAIBU

Head of Department CRS, College of Education, Waka-Biu

Dr. Yohanna Shaibu Mamza hails from Wandeo of Askira/Uba Local Government of Borno State. His early Education began in 1985 in Tudun wada. Yohanna obtained a Diploma in Theology, acquired Bachelor of Theology at Gindiri Theological Seminary, Plateau State. Post Graduate Diploma in Education in University of Maiduguri, Masters of Theology at Theological College of Northern Nigeria and a Ph.D from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. He taught in Primary School, College of Education and now a Senior Lecturer of Religion Education in University of Jos, Nigeria. He is an author of four (4) Texts books and Fifteen (15) Local and International Journals, one is sponsored by COFP. He is married to Mrs. Hyelhani and blessed with Five (5) Children and two adopted as well.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON MAMZA YOHANNA SHAIBU

COFP, A Unique Family Capable of Transforming the Boiling World

One of the greatest achievements which I will put in my life Dairy is being a fortune member & Fellow of this prestigious Fellowship.

When I see the caliber of the people: Men and women of high standard that include educational background, political connection, top public servants and respected clerics, I wonder how I was selected but I just consider it as God's grace and a rare privilege.

Despite the unique combination of the team, no one can identify who is who while participating and contributing in class

discussion. Within this period of one year, no one displayed a character of arrogance or pride, no religious reservation, no social class ego and ethnic prejudices

The most exciting and practical fellowship I observed exist between Engr. Fellow Sada, Sarafa and Fellow Aliyu. The bound of their friendship is an envious one.

The sacrifice and zeal of the founder, His Eminence, Cardinal John Onaiyekan and the efforts of CEO Rev Sister Agatha and team of COFP propelled me to get involve into NGO of sacrifice where I went to very dangerous localities to pay scholarships to victim children in Borno and Adamawa States about 41 of them. I learn humility,

respect to other people faith and feelings. I understand that Nigeria has a hope with such credible men and women. God bless the founder and the management as well as all the Fellows.

PROJECT TITLE:
Interreligious Dialogue to Teachers in Training

PROJECT LOCATION:
College of Education Waka-Biu, Biu Local Government Area, Borno State.

SUMMARY:
The problem of religious crisis and hatred is enormous in North East Nigeria which Borno State is inclusive. The children are brain washed at homes and schools by Religious Teachers, hence the need to teach tolerance, love and





patriotism in our schools especially in the Basic (9) years of education. NCE Teachers are saddled with this responsibility. College of Education Waka-Biu is one of the sixty (60) Nigerian Colleges that train such teachers, so training students in this

methodology will go a long way to get a balanced generation with free hatred and crisis.

The project expectation is enshrining the culture of peaceful co-existence in the institution by the Establishment of Dialogue

center in College of education Waka-Biu. The dialogue center will be saddled with the responsibility of creating Interreligious Dialogue awareness among students, the teacher to be and the entire community of Waka-Biu at large.



State Chairman, Rasulul-A'azzam Foundation (RAAF) of Nigeria

Muhammad Alhaji Gana (Al-Baqir) was born in Maiduguri Borno State's Metropolitan. Muhammad is a Sunni Muslim who later converted to Shi'a (follower of Ahlul-Bayt {as}). He obtained Senior Islamic Studies certificate in 2000 and Shari'a and Civil Law 2003 at Muhammad Goni Collage of Legal and Islamic Studies Maiduguri. Gana proceeded to University of Maiduguri where he bagged a B.A. in Islamic Studies 2010, he continued with M.A. at same University studying Islamic studies 2019.

Muhammad A. Gana is member of Rasulul-A'azzam Foundation (RAAF), he has been the State Chairman of the Organization for the past 10 years, and for over 5 years he has been struggling to see that there exist peace and mutual understanding between deferent religious group in North-Eastern Nigeria especially among the Christians and Muslims in Borno State. This resulted in the establishment of local interfaith dialogue forum under the supervision of JNI in Jere Local Government of Borno State. He worked with ICRC and Mercy Corps for the advocacy of Peaceful coexistence. This also has led to the creation of

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON MUHAMMAD ALHAJI GANA

COFP Fellowship Program Proved That “With Peace the World Is Heaven”

Indeed, the COFP Fellowship Program changed my perspective towards other religions, this morally educative & spiritual growth program opened my eyes to the world of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, where I have been thought how to become a peacebuilder in my locality, it has definitely influenced and created deep impact on my peacebuilding capacity.

No doubt dialogue and tolerance are the two keys and the backbone of peace in any community; without tolerance there would not be peace.

There are common grounds between Islam &

Christianity which are discovered only via dialogue. Before attending this very valuable program, I had different views concerning Christianity but presently, due to this Fellowship course (a golden opportunity for me), I learned many wisdoms in this ocean of knowledge. Sincerely speaking, the entire program was fully packaged that even if it is only the first Module we stopped, it would be enough to improve our capacities more and explore better ways of networking for peace. Surely this one-year program contributed tremendously to my peace advocacy mission in my community.

Finally, we pray Almighty Allah to shower His choicest blessings towards the funders of this peacemaking

center and those working for peace under this respected Foundation especially to Sr. Agatha O. Chikelue DMMM the Executive Director of COFP Foundation. As I believe Jesus and Muhammad and the all other Prophets are Peace Ambassadors on earth, they brought religion of Peace and call for Peace, may the light of peace surround us, so that we live in peace forever and ever with our fellow mankind.

PROJECT TITLE: Effective and Sincere Dialogue: A Pathway to a Violence free Society.

PROJECT LOCATION: Federal Government College Maiduguri, Borno State.

SUMMARY: The goal of this project was



to have violence free society in Borno state. Sixty-one (61) participants were drawn from academic & religious institutions comprising representatives from Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Muslim community, youth, women and students from the area. The main theme of the program was “Effective and Sincere Dialogue: a pathway to violence free society”. The keynote speakers dwelt on the need for an effective

dialogue, one that should move from dialogue to action as a step towards curbing the incessant killings in Borno State. The workshop yielded the following results:

- For the first-time women especially, Muslim women came out in their numbers to participate in such a program with their male counterpart in Borno State.
- An interfaith dialogue platform was created for further discussion on issues of peace in the State.
- Participants were prepared to step-down the training received
- Other communities are asking for similar workshop in their community





MOSES NONGOATSE

On-Air Personality/Head: Internship Desk & Head of Events, Wazobia FM Kano

Moses Nongoatse is an experienced Broadcast journalist with 95.1 Wazobia fm Kano. He holds a Bachelor's Degree B.Sc. (Hons.) Mass Communication and a Master's degree in Public Relations practice from Bayero University Kano.

His passion for a peaceful world is encapsulated in his daily broadcast activities as he speak directly on the radio with over 3 million listeners, 6 Hours a day, 6 days a week all year round. Moses work allows him to interact directly with his audience which cut across religious, Social and cultural backgrounds. Over the past seven yearshe deliberately built content and shared daily, deliberate messages to foster tolerance, peaceful and harmonious coexistence of the people he serve. He became a strong advocacy voice riding on the trust he gained as a popular On-Air-Personality in the city of Kano.

Moses has worked at various leadership levels with a view to empowering and strengthening capacities to deliver on set goals and objective. He strategically supported the training and supportive supervision of Broadcasters in Steam and Globe Broadcasting and communications Limited, particularly the three sister stations of 96.9 Coolfm, 95.1 Wazobiafm and 93.1 Arewa Radio in Kano, Northern Nigeria as Head of Events, Head of On-Air Personalities/ Broadcasters and Head of Internship Desk. He managed the part of process that has better positioned the stations as leading broadcasters in Northern Nigeria as well as enhanced positions on the Monthly Media and Products Survey (MPS) and AMPS ratings Conducted by Info tools South Africa where they are consistently placed between numbers 1-3 in Kano state with a cumulative audience base of over 15 million listeners.

I am married to one wife and blessed with two children, a Boy and a Girl.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON MOSES NONGOATSE

COFP Fellowship Program Turned Me into a Peace Builder

My journey into peace building has begun with the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Fellowship program.

I had no idea how much impact I could make by virtue of my strategic placement in my immediate community. A community bedeviled with multi coloration of religious intolerance, bitterness and hate. I had prior to my acceptance into the COFP Fellowship underrated how much influence I weighed as a Broadcaster with a daily audience listenership of over 3 Million people in Kano state!

I was completely oblivious of the difference I was capable of making in the peace process. It made me

wonder what I could have achieved if I had started this journey early in my 10 years Broadcast journey on Radio.

I however realized that it is never too late to start. It is never too late to lead and as a matter of fact, champion the quest for a more religious tolerant and Peaceful Kano state and Nigeria using my God given abilities and professional advantage.

The COFP Fellowship program has trained me as a peace Ambassador as well as given me a chance to reach out to my audiences which are large and heterogeneous with the message of Peace. To tell them about the need for peace in obedience to the greatest commandment of all, Love!

In the course of the program, I realized just how

much of an impact we all can make to make society a better place for us all and it a shame to sit back and do nothing when in actual fact we can all be actively involved.

Going forward, I am now more resolute in my pursuit for a peaceful community. With the training I have received from the COFP Fellowship program, the clear message of peace would always feature boldly in my daily broadcast activities bearing in mind the strategic position of I send my sincere appreciation to Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for this process and all involved in it.

PROJECT TITLE: The Peace Pledge and The Peace-All-Stars Novelty Football Match.



PROJECT LOCATION:
Tarauni, Tarauni Local Government Kano State.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS:
Young – Middle ages, 18-40 years. Approximately 10 Million Radio Listeners and 1000 Football Fans.

SUMMARY:
The Peace project was held in Kano on Sunday, 27th January 2020, using three core focal Areas.

- . On Radio
- . Online &
- . Main Event

Two set of Audio Messages were specially created in Hausa and English Language to drive home the importance of Peace in our Domain. Two other messages were also created to promote the Main Event, the Peace All Stars Novelty Football Match. These Messages ran concurrently on three Radio stations in Kano State (Cool FM, Wasobia FM and Arewa radio Kano) with a

cumulative Audience Base of over 9Million listeners for two weeks. Within this same period also, there were also special peace talk sessions by Radio Personalities on the Three Broadcast stations. The online Aspect was promoted on Social Media platforms using special Google Forms created where Citizens were directed to visit and pledge for peace, after the pledge, special Peace pledge badges is created for them to also share on their platforms as reminders and a form of commitment to the peace Process. Visit bit.ly/ajebizzlepledge for more insight. In all a total of 176 responses were received.

The Main Event (The Peace All Stars Novelty Football Match) attracted football lovers across Religious, Tribal and social circles to



play together for Peace. The Novelty Match also featured religious youth groups, where 8 teams played 4 Matches at 30 Minutes per match. The speakers took turns to speak peace at Halftime that is 15 Minutes into Each Match.

500 Peace Flags and Table Souvenirs with Simple peace messages boldly written was distributed to the attendees. Between this event, the peace Sign-on Carpet consisting of 500 square boxes was introduced as another commitment to the peace process, where all in support of sustained peace were encouraged to sign with a promise that the 10X10 flex containing the signatures would be submitted to the COFP to serve as a reminder of the commitment of Kano people to sustained peace in





OGUNLADE TOYIN GABRIEL

National President, Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON)

Gabriel Toyin Ogunlade (OTG) is a native of Ise Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. Gab obtained his Ordinary National Diploma (OND) and Higher National Diploma in Computer Science from The Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti in 2014. He observed his mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Calabar city, Cross River State with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in 2016. Gabriel has successfully completed his courses on Data Quality and Data Use for Programme Manager with Global Health Learning Center in July 2019.

As a devout Catholic, he has served the Church in many capacities right from his home town and in year 2017, he rose to the highest youth position in the country as the National President of Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria. He has represented the Church at different World events. In 2016 he was at the World Youth Day in Warsaw Poland, in 2017 he lead Nigeria Catholic Youth to Accra Ghana to discuss on Sustainable Development Goals and Children's Right, in January 2019 he was at Panama City to represent Catholic Youth at the World Youth Day Celebration with the Holy Father Pope Francis and in August 2019 he represented Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria at the World General Assembly of International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movement at Antwerp Belgium.

Gabriel has participated at different peace building projects in the country and today a Fellow of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Fellowship Program.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON OGUNLADE TOYIN GABRIEL

No Religion Preaches War: We worship the same God but in different ways.

There is no doubt that there are many young people who are ignorant of other people's religion and beliefs in causing unnecessary hatred, discomfort, distrust and lack of respect wherever they find themselves. We may not really blame much because they may be acting in ignorance just as I was doing before my engagement with Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace via the Fellowship program. Today I am happy that I am more aware of myself and my society with its diversities.

With the knowledge I have acquired through the Fellowship, I know that there is no religion that preaches 'war'. This has changed my mentality of thinking that one religion is

evil, although there are extremist elements in all religions which often make some believe that their religion is superior to others. The fact is that we worship the same God but in different ways.

After my peace project on **Ekiti Youth Interreligious dialogue**, this project has reawakened my zeal to be the bridge that will bring young leaders in my State together because the project has sown seeds of love and unity among youth leaders working to ensure peaceful coexistence in my State.

Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace has increased and built more networks for me through the Fellowship program. This past one year has been a great privilege for me meeting different people from different walks of life both from home and

abroad. I will forever be grateful to Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace for this rare opportunity.

PROJECT TITLE:
Ekiti Youth Interreligious Dialogue and Peace Summit

PROJECT LOCATION:
Ekiti State.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS:
120

SUMMARY:
The project targeted 90 participants of which 80 were in attendance with excuses reported for those who could not be present.

It aimed at debriefing the youths from 16 local government areas in Ekiti state about the need for peaceful coexistence and interreligious dialogue.

Being a state of the south-





west, Ekiti is of indigenous Yoruba Christians and Muslims, more participation in interfaith programs so as to promote the culture of mutual respect and understanding of each other's religious beliefs was also the centre of deliberations.

Immediate effect was recorded as the establishment of a quarterly forum for peacebuilding activity was initiated with participants giving their consents to this. The 16 youth leaders stood as members and committee chairmen of the newly formed forum.





OKOROAFOR AUGUSTINE CHIGOZIE

Executive Secretary, Nigerian Conference of Women Religious (NCWR)

Sr. Augustina Chigozie Okoroafor, SSH, is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Benin City, Nigeria. She joined the SSH Congregation in the year 1997, made her temporary Profession in July 27, 2000 and her Perpetual Profession in September 8, 2006.

Since profession, she has served her Congregation in various capacities in their Education Ministry. Her other ministries include, Secretary of the Bishop of Uromi Diocese, in Edo State, Nigeria, Coordinator of the Affiliates of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Coordinator of Fullness of Life Counseling and Development Initiative (FULIFE), a Non-Governmental Organization established by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Edo State.

She has a B.Sc. degree in Social Work from the University of Nigeria Nsukka in 2014. In March, 2015 she was entrusted with the responsibility to serve as the National Executive Secretary of Nigeria Conference of Women Religious.

In August 28, 2016 her Congregation elected her as the second Councilor of the Leadership Team of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

At the parish level, she is the Catholic Women Organization of Nigeria Spiritual Adviser, Spiritual directress of the Legion of Mary and Lay Readers Association in Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, Iva Valley, Enugu State, Nigeria.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

I have gotten a lot of enlightenment about Islam and I have seen that the only difference is our mode of worship. I intend to educate others by carrying out sensitization exercises across all the dioceses and parishes within my conference. I really appreciate this program and wish that it would continue so that more Nigerians would benefit from it.

PEACE PROJECT TITLE:
Inter-religious relationship between Muslims and Christians: The role of the youth in Peace building.

PROJECT LOCATION:
Nigeria conference of women religious national secretariat Iva valley Enugu, Enugu state.

SUMMARY:
The goal of the Peace project is to create a positive and healthy mindset among the youths that will help them tolerate one another irrespective of religious, tribal, ethnic, family cultural differences. Often times the youths are misinformed, indoctrinated and prejudiced with biased and negative stories leaves

them very gullible and vulnerable tools to be used and dumped during conflict situations that most often results to serious clashes or conflicts that leads to destruction of lives and properties.

The program re-oriented them on theto build healthy relationships with people from other religion, for a peaceful coexistence and for positive nation building. More than 30 youths participated in this program which was held on Feb 14th 2020.





OKOYE LILLIAN EBELE

First Vice President Catholic Women
Organization of Nigeria, Abuja Archdiocese

Mrs. Okoye Lilian Ebele, a Professional Accountant (CNA), Assistant Chief Accountant with the Federal Capital Development Agency FCDA. Lilian is the first Vice President of the Catholic Women Organization Abuja Archdiocese. She is happily married and blessed with four children. Mrs. Okoye is a passionate peacebuilder and Committed to God's work.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON OKOYE LILIAN EBELE

It is true that peace is very necessary. Nigeria is not at peace, people don't trust one another again because of religious, political and individual differences. Having acquired these wonderful peacebuilding skills, knowledge and experience on dialogue and mediation from COFP Fellowship Program: I don't see other religion, culture and practices just from my own perception. I understand the importance of dialogue and mediation in achieving lasting peace. I can now address issues of violence and social injustice nonviolently. COFP Fellowship Program has taught me how to foster lasting peace, harmony and transformative development through social justice, dialogue, cohesive and resilience building and this will help me greatly in my organization, community and even in my work. With the skills acquired, I can ensure that children, youth and women have a chance to play key role in reshaping the society

for true lasting peace and development.

PROJECT TITLE: Unity in Diversity: Nigerian Youths and Religious Bigotry

PROJECT LOCATION: Government Secondary School Wuse Zone 3 Abuja.

SUMMARY: Nigeria as a nation is besieged by lots of violence that stems from domestic violence to physical violence. The inability to



tolerate other people's religious beliefs and accommodate their views and opinion is therefore one of the major sources of religious bigotry in Nigeria.

The Federal Capital Territory Abuja which is supposed to be the most protected

region of the country is also faced with similar challenge.

Many religious adherents especially the Muslims and Christians have demonstrated intolerant attitude towards one another. This has rendered peaceful co-existence among Christians, Muslims, Traditionalists and members of other religious difficult.

Against this backdrop, my Peace project focused on bridging the existing gap between Muslim and Christian folks in terms of religious crisis/violence by using religion to restore peace, unity in diversity, growth and stability, order among the Nigerian Children and Youths. In order to catch them young, 183 participants which comprised of youths in FCT Abuja were sensitized against violent extremism through empowerment program so as to foster peace and development.



COFP Fellowship

Uniting people of different faiths for peace through dialogue



OYEWO SARAF A ADEKUNLE

General Secretary, YOWICAN 19
Northern States and FCT

S arafa is a Sales Executive for West African Book Publishers Limited Zamfara Branch and a Baptist Christian from Kwara State. He is also the General Secretary of the Youth wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWICAN) of the 19 Northern States and Abuja and holds a bachelor's degree in Education (Computer Science) from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

He hopes that the Fellowship program will enhance and equip his developmental skill in interfaith dialogue.

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IMPACT OF THE COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON OYEWO SARAF ADEKUNLE

There is No Substitute for Peace

Infact, my personal slogan in peace building process is: **THERE IS NO SUBTITUTE FOR PEACE IN ALL ASPECTS**

This as a matter of fact became a common and routine words of my mouth being part of the results of the great impact which the COFP has built in to my life through its Fellowship program for year 2019-2020 Session.

I had attended many workshops, seminars, and even trainings on Interfaith and peace building yet, I could not achieve my dream of becoming a well-equipped and certified agent of peace building But thank God, I have now made it and achieved my dream with the help of COFP efforts through its fellowship program for the year 2019-2020 Session.

More grace to Cardinal John Onaiyekan, more blessing and thanks to Sister Agatha and her great team. Also, long life to the Vision of COFP as a whole.

PROJECT TITLE:

The basis for inter religious dialogue in Nigeria, (A case study of mobilizing Muslim and Christian youths for peaceful co-existence and development.

PROJECT LOCATION: City king Hotel and Towers, GUSAU, Zamfara state.

SUMMARY:

My Peace program started with prayers and opening remarks by the Emir of Zamfara as the chairman of the occasion as the CAN & JNI were guest speakers. 69 participants were in attendance and also in attendance were government officials & security personnel's in the state.

The Peace project looked at the fundamentals of Islam and Christianity, Essence of peaceful co-existence and dialogue with people of other religions in both sides.), contributions,

questions and answers and finally resolutions in addressing the goal of the project.

The project achieved its aim, goal and objective of a peaceful coexistence and religious harmony between the Muslims and Christians in the State by enlightening the participants on the fundamentals and basic tenets on both religions and what the holy books teaches about peace building. And so, addressing all element of mistrust, lack of confidence, misconception between the Muslims and the Christians in the state.

Recommendation from the participants is to find ways of sustaining the program and at the same time ensuring the program cuts across the state. Also, there should be structural presence of Foundation (COFP) by having a branch office in Zamfara state.





Pastor with International Praise Ministry

PIUS AUGUSTINE

Reverend Augustine Pius hails from Michika, Adamawa state. Augustine Pius, is a technician who later received theologian training and today, he is a preacher and pastor. He has been a Resident Pastor for about 21 years. He is presently the zonal leader of the Praise Church Michika where he worked closely with the then Christian Association of Nigeria CAN Chairman who was abducted and murdered by insurgents on 2nd February, 2020.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON AUGUSTINE PIUS



COFP Fellowship Program is one of its kinds in Africa. It is a model for peaceful coexistence.

Considering the fact that I came from one of the most dangerous zones in the Northeast of Nigeria, COFP Fellowship Program has helped to change my perception and views about others and about life in general. The program has served as an eye opener to me and has delivered me from a resentful and vengeful mindset which I developed due to my

experience with insurgent attacks for the past nine years in Michika, Adamawa state, North east of Nigeria. Earlier, I thought that the only solution is revenge and war.

But with the Fellowship program, dialogue and peace talk is a better solution. I am proud to say that the Fellowship program has transformed me into a peace maker and a mentor to those who use violence to terrorize the innocent.

Thanks to COFP for reshaping me this way.

**PROJECT TITLE:
Interreligious Dialogue for Religious and Committee Leaders**

**PROJECT LOCATION:
Michika, Adamawa State,
North - East, Nigeria.**

SUMMARY:
Wrong perception leads to hatred, suspiciousness and violent conflict. Michika is a Christian/ Muslim dominated community that has witnessed series of crises attributed to the

expression of wrong perceptions. The community is most likely to witness another bad experience if not addressed. The goal and objective of my Peace project is to consciously increase mutual understanding and strengthen peaceful coexistence between

120,000 Christians and Muslims in Michika through training and teaching on the nonviolent approach to resolving conflict and dialogue. Michika is a community known to have had its fair share of terrorist and interreligious conflicts; there have been other projects and programs, but

the practical approach implied by this project stood out. The participants learned in real terms what it means to solve conflicts nonviolently as this was shown in their immediate response to uphold the lessons learnt from the program.





Secretary General, Joint Youth Islamic Organization

Engr. Lawal Muhammad Sada is a native of Zurmi town in Zurmi Local Government of Zamfara state. Born on 31st December, 1962 in Zurmi town. He started his education career at Sultan Ward primary school Sokoto in the year 1969. Presently, he holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Usman Dan Fodiyo University. He also has Masters degree in Civil Engineering (Geo-Technical option) from Bayero University Kano in the year 2011.

As a retired Director Civil Engineering, Ministry of works and Transport Gusau, Zamfara State. He is a member of Nigerian Society of Engineers and Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN).

Sada is presently the Co-donator, National Council of Muslim Youth Organization Zamfara State Chapter, Secretary Joint Youth Islamic organization Zamfara State, and a Co-Director, Inter-faith Foundation for Peace and Development Zamfara State.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON SADA LAWAL MUHAMMAD

COFP Fellowship Programme – A Model for Building & Nourishing Peaceful Co-Existence among Humankind: There is no Substitute for Peace

The most impactful thing that the 2019/2020 Fellowship program has done in my life is numerous, first it imbibes in me the sense of increased in respecting the other people's, views, religions, tribes, traditions and way of thinking. The training and interactions with invited facilitators, COFP team and fellow colleagues has

seriously improved my personal relationship with other people from different tribes, religions, nationalities and races. It has also increased my capacity building in terms of feature writing, dealing with Non-Governmental Organizations and philanthropist while seeking and giving out donations for the welfare of needy and local communities. In terms of peace building and communal effort; I gained a lot on different ways and manner of conflict

resolution and peaceful co-existence.

Finally, kudos and God's blessing to cardinal Onaiyekan, Sister Agatha and her great COFP team and great team of 2019/2020 fellowship program. These teams, you can say anything about them but you just had to admit that “they are just Great and Good”.





Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) National Vice President

Hajia Rafiah Idowu Sanni (Mrs.) is a Civil Servant with over 34 years of experience of classroom teaching and over 15 years of School administration. She is a school administrator who perfectly by Allah's grace coordinates personnel to create conducive Teaching/learning environments. She likes to arbitrate between teachers, parents and students to resolve conflicts.

Hajia Rafiah Sanni is currently the Naibatul Amirah (vice president) of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) and the Chairperson Dawah (Islamic Propagation) Committee for the same Association.

She is an experienced public speaker who can effectively engage audience with her creative approach. She has presented papers in local, state, national and international conferences on professional, educational, Da'wah, community development and Women issues. She is blessed with children and Grandchildren.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON SANNI RAFIAH IDOWU

The program has been very educative and enlightening and I have gained a lot, I have come to understand that we all come from one God and preach the same thing. Going back home I will let everyone know we should all live in peace because with peace the society will be happy.





SARAKI AKEEM ADERAYO

Mukadam Nafhatul Nasiriyyah
Al-Qadiriyyah Al-Kuntiyyah

Akeem Aderayo Saraki is Muslim and a member of the Qadiriyyah Movement Worldwide. He is currently a Research Fellow at the Department of Politics and Governance, Kwara State University (KWASU), and a Sub Editor at the KWASU Press and Publishing. He holds a Master of Science in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution from the National Open University of Nigeria, and a Master of Arts in Publishing Media from the Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom. His interest is in the area of utilizing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to establish [trust](#) and [interpersonal communication](#) in preventing conflict situations, religious extremism and radicalization among human individuals.

He believes in achieving of interreligious maturity for dialogue, peace and social cohesion through higher educational institutions' and interfaith programs. He, therefore, advocates for the need for our institutions of higher learning to be recognized as essential in modern conflict prevention, management, resolution, and transformation as well as post-conflict deradicalization and reconstruction.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON SARAKI AKEEM ADERAYO

COFP Fellowship Program: A Conduit for Positive Inter-faith Orientation – My Experience

My coming into the Cardinal Onaiyekan Fellowship Program was surrounded by different thoughts – both positive and otherwise. Although, I had the opportunity to have preparatory information about the intents of the program reading through available documents yet my doubts were not entirely subjugated. “An interfaith dialogue in a society where religion has long since been a source of at best lively debate and at other times a cause of explosive violence?” Or “An interreligious gathering in a country that is divided between Muslims and Christians and where question, sometimes resulting in hostilities, persists as to which religion is in the majority, superior, is more divine and the best acceptable to the Divine Being?”

Nonetheless, my doubts carry with them the hopes of

positive orientation of understanding and cooperation influenced by the caliber of the organizers as well as the character of the participants – a meeting of people with different religious and cultural philosophies, ideas, opinions, thoughts and faith who, like myself, might have never been involved in such forum. I immediately identified that there are several goals and aspirations to be achieved upon successfully completing the Fellowship program. Today, my expectations were adequately confirmed. COFP is well established as an avenue for religious consensus where academic and professional modules are taught and learnt, thereby committing itself to the development, growth and strengthening of interfaith coexistence and harmony.

Today, I have come to understand love, understanding and tolerance in their truest forms and meaning. I have developed a refined set of personal, academic and practical

religious ethics and values prompting the little I can do for my society. I have achieved interreligious maturity culminating into mutual understanding and cooperation as well as positive orientation in relation with whom I engage both within and outside of my immediate religious and professional community. On the overall, I am well trained and informed to continue and sustain the essence of the COFP objectives.

PROJECT TITLE:

Achieving inter-Religious maturity through university inter-faith programme for Dialogue, Peace, and societal cohesion.

Project Location:

Muhammed Buhari University Main Library, KWASU, Kwara state.

SUMMARY:

Lessons learned in the classroom stay with us as we continue to grow, and our learning does not stop once we have left the classroom.

Thus, universities can take on



a central role in promoting religious diversity. My project/programme was on interreligious project that uses universities as the central avenue in promoting religious cooperation and developing interreligious maturity in youths.

The benefits of such initiatives, like this project, have the potential of changing the lives of university students and those with whom they engage with

both inside and outside of college campuses. The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Kwara State University, Malete, Professor Sakah Mahmud called for peace and religious cooperation among students and staff in his opening address at the training. The training came at a very appropriate time as the nation is faced with violence, insecurity, and interreligious conflicts. It further engages Kwasu students, drawn from the two religions of

Islam and Christianity, by providing them the tools and information required to promote interfaith dialogue and understanding.

Professor Sakah Mahmud said the programme will be made compulsory for all students in the bid to foster religious tolerance in the institution.





Admin Northeast Zone; Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN)

Usaku Samuel Alahirah is a native of Yola in Adamawa State. She attended Federal Polytechnic Staff School Mubi and Federal Government Girls College Yola, Completing her Senior Secondary Education in 2001. She then studied Theatre and Communications Arts at the University of Jos and graduated in 2005.

She started her career at the Adamawa State Arts Council, the later became a Humanitarian and developmental worker with the Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN). She is also an Administrator and an Advocate of peace and unity. She still lives and works in the Northeast of Nigeria, helping communities ravaged by insurgency to heal and rebuild their lives while promoting Peace and tolerance amongst the people.

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IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON USAKU SAMUEL ALAHIRAH



IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ON USAKU SAMUEL ALAHIRAH

In the Course of this training, I came to realize that religion is often wrongly presumed to be the cause of conflict, while it is really the ignorance of the masses that is often leveraged upon by a few individuals to achieve their selfish interests.

I have also learnt a great deal about other religions and how to find common ground in our diversities as foundations for peace building in our communities. The most important thing I've discovered is that all religions preach Love, Peace, Kindness, Forgiveness and Tolerance.

PROJECT TITLE:
Interfaith dialogue for Religious and Community

Leaders on PEACE

PROJECT LOCATION:
Jalingo, Mile six (6) community. Taraba State.

Target Participants: 30

SUMMARY:

Taraba State is known for its ethnic clashes within different tribes especially among the Jukun and Tivs that share borders which demarcates Taraba and Benue State. The clashes can be traced as far back as the 60s, but recently there has also been clashes between the religious groups especially in the capital city of Taraba which is Jalingo since the election that took place early in 2019, where some youths lost their lives in the

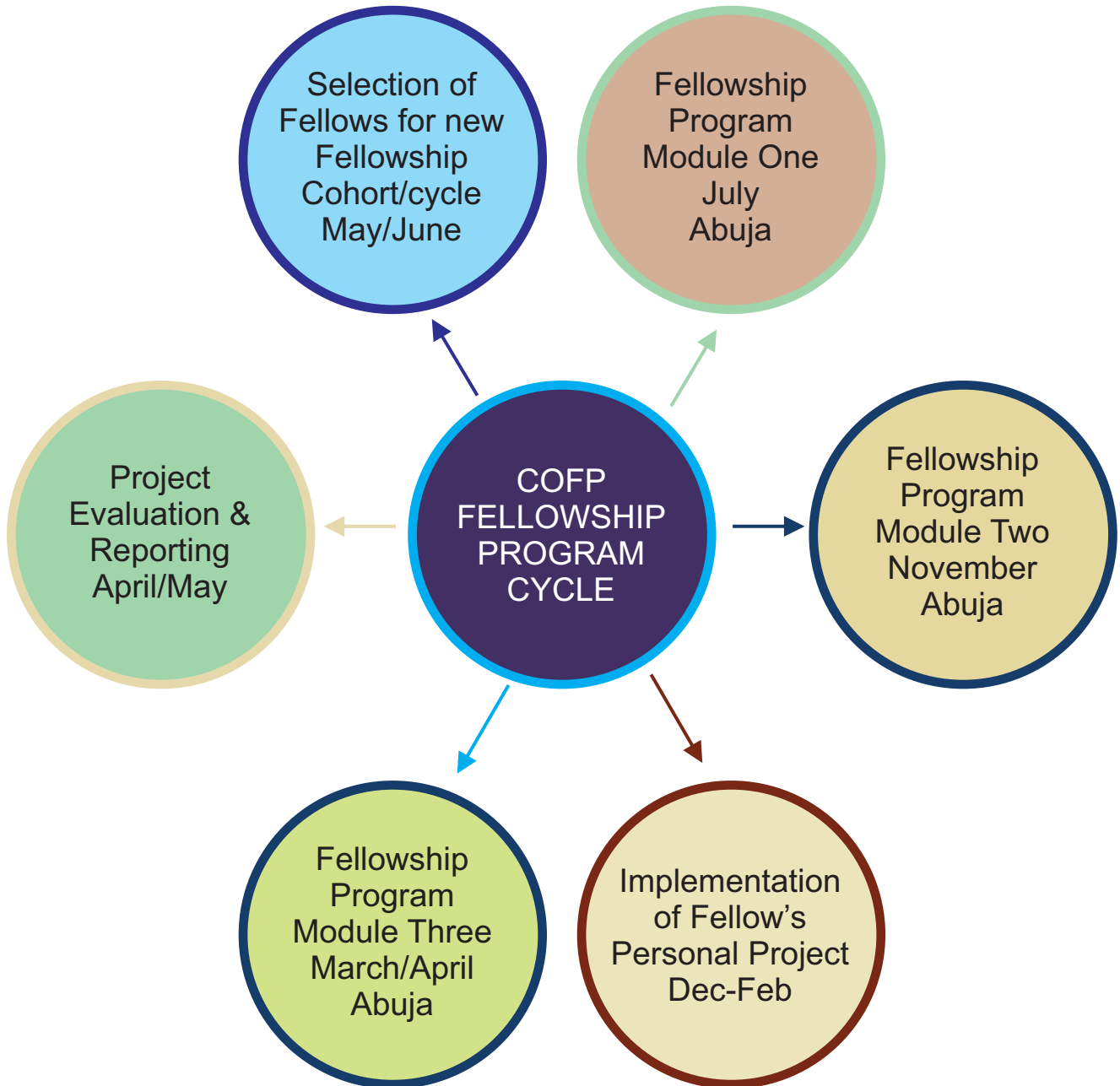
violence, it was actually an election violence but in the name of religion.

It is in the light of the above that my Peace project was organized with the theme “one day interfaith dialogue” with religious and community leaders.

30 religious and community leaders participated in the workshop which enlightened them on the need for peaceful co-existence through tolerance and understanding our differences.



COFP Fellowship Program Cycle



Brothers and sisters, our nation is in a state of emergency that calls for nothing less than a grand alliance of all persons of good will for justice and peace-Cardinal Onaiyekan



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Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP)

COFP Strategic Plan 2020-2025



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