



COFP

Fellowship Program

2021

YEARBOOK


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COFP Strategic Plan 2020-2025

A graphic with a dark green background and white text, enclosed in a thin orange border. The text reads "COFP FELLOWS CLASS OF 2021".

COFP
FELLOWS
CLASS OF
2021

2020/2021 COFP Fellowship Program
Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation & Mediation

Publisher:

Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP)
Abuja Nigeria
COFP, 2021

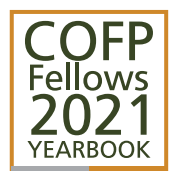
First Published 2019

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Printed in Nigeria by: Jeremore Multimedia Ltd.



FOREWORD



Rise in violence in many corners have tremendously and significantly increase insecurity globally. Security challenges in our country have had disastrous implication on human lives in general. The ongoing insurgency, menacing banditry and kidnapping have continuously exposed government's inability to protect, safeguard and provide for the people. Restoring peace, building trust and repairing relations in a world where extreme religious views and ideologies are used to justify violent extremism and insurgency has been a difficult if not impossible task.

However, despite all this bad news, on the whole, humanity has been going through a quiet but deep revolution in the area of interreligious relations. Things are happening these days that would have been unthinkable only 50 years ago. In this regard, we can think of the encounter between Pope Francis and the Grand Sheikh Ahmad Al Tayeb of Al Azhar, and the follow up to that encounter in terms of joint statements on human fraternity, and the establishment of a joint council for the

same purpose. It is significant that this has encouraged the United Nations Organizations (UNO) to declare an annual "Day of Human Fraternity" for February 24th.

The ever growing better rapport we are seeing in the summit of religious leaders still has to reach the grassroots effectively. Unfortunately, the reality on the ground in many quarters still leaves much to be done. There is need for patient education at all levels and dogged efforts at living and working together with a common mind. Religion ought to be a powerful antidote to human weakness – and in many cases it has been serving this role. But unfortunately it has also often allowed itself to be co-opted and hijacked for political and other sinister interests, thus losing its salutary force for good. This is why we must all vigorously pursue the project of liberating all religions, from the many evil interests that try to hold it hostage. This is a project that all religions must buy into in order to enhance security and peace.

May I congratulate our Third 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, these 40 COFP Fellows are now equipped and set for the task ahead. They have been equipped, strengthened and positioned to engage in a 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. Therefore, I challenge them all to use your newfound knowledge, skills, talents and the networks that you have built over the past one year for the common good and peace in our country Nigeria. A lot needs to be done, but we must start somewhere in building a culture of peace and harmonious society in Nigeria.

Our deep gratitude to the GHR Foundation, the German Federal Foreign Office (Ifa/Zivik), Mensen met een missie (MM), Veritas University of Nigeria, Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Nile University of Nigeria, Islamic Education Trust (IET), Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI) 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.

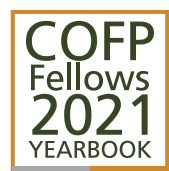
May the Almighty and Merciful God grant us peace that we greatly need, Amen

+John Cardinal Onaiyekan (CON)

Founder & President

COFP Foundation

Cardinal Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja



www.cofpfoundation.org

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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.

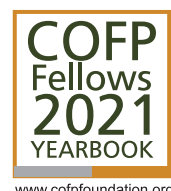
COFP therefore strives to address these challenges by, among other things, promoting ethical leadership, offering a space for faith leaders, citizens and political leaders at all levels to engage in discussions for peace and development. The Foundation also assist in providing conflict parties with critical 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 religious society like Nigeria.

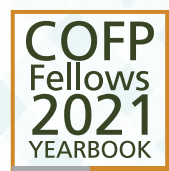
INTEGRATING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

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



2020 was a year like never before. It was the year that coronavirus pandemic led to the loss of lives and impacted all human affairs. Many businesses were halted, schools closed, jobs lost and salaries cut. In this same period, Nigeria witnessed escalating violence in all regions of the country particularly, in the northwest region where bandits, kidnapping and killings hold sway. Conflict in the northeast is still unabated and pockets of gang conflicts still exists in the southern region. Forced migration and displacement was also prominent in many violent hotspots during this period.

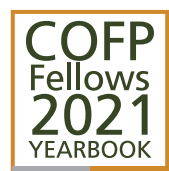
Since 2011, more than 37,500 civilians have been killed and 2.4 million people were displaced, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. Targeted killings, attacks on civilians, and kidnappings have destabilized the region, causing spikes in criminality, ethno-religious conflicts, and

disputes between people displaced by violence and host communities. Communities face violence on many fronts, both external and internal.

In this hopeless situation, we believe that doing things differently is one of the ways to address the challenges of our time. As we developed strategies to tackle today's complex conflict environment, we focused on rebuilding trust at all levels of society and supporting ordinary citizens and leaders alike to reduce violence. One powerful tool for tackling this challenge is through our COFP Fellowship Program. The purpose of initiating COFP Fellowship Program is to effectively build the capacities of religious and community actors especially men, women and youth so that they will be able to engage in meaningful interreligious/cultural dialogue, transform conflict and advance ethical leadership which enhances social cohesion, integration and peace.

As I look at what we have achieved over the past year/s despite huge challenges, I became extremely happy on how we are focusing on what ties us together as peacebuilders, actors, citizens, faith communities and above all, human beings united in the vision of a safer, healthier and more just world that will only come through sincere collaboration. From all corners of the country, we have implemented programs that involved hundreds of people with multiplying effects through our Fellowship programs and other interventions. We have used the shared challenges and concerns presented by insecurity, injustice and COVID 19 to foster cooperation, advance coexistence, touch lives positively and strengthen resilience.

The current 2020/2021 COFP Fellowship Program which happens to be in its 3rd year with the Class of 2021 or the 3rd Set began their journey in September 2020 due to the delay caused by COVID 19 pandemic. For the first time, the program brought together 40





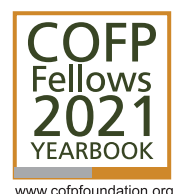
Fellows comprising 24 males and 16 females and among this group are 25 Christians and 15 Muslims from diverse backgrounds in Nigeria. These Fellows represent the following Christian and Muslim sect/denominations within Nigeria: Sunni, Shite, NASFAT, Qadiriyyah, Ahmadiyya, Izala, and Tijjania, From the Christian faith came Catholic, ECWA, Baptist, Assemblies of God, EYN, COCIN, Methodist, Lutheran and Anglican.

Through intensive and participatory one-year Fellowship Program, Fellows successfully emerged from the required 150 credit hours of study at Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace and have individually executed their community peace projects in their states. Having fulfilled all the necessary requirements for graduation, the Fellows will be awarded with a Certificate in “Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation” today April 11th 2021 by COFP Foundation through Veritas University of Nigeria (VUNA) and Nile University of Nigeria (NUN), who are partners of COFP in the project. The graduation ceremony for the Fellows automatically qualifies them as members of the COFP Alumni Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP) which is a nationwide network that enables Fellows from across the country to further continue the interaction, cross cultural learning, peacebuilding interventions and experience sharing even after the Fellowship program.

We strongly believe that the 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 by putting 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 role 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
March 30th 2021



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.

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,

Implementation of Individual Peace Projects Initiated by Fellows

The innovative aspect of the COFP Fellowship Program is



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.





HAUWA BATA

Broadcaster with Radio Nigeria Peace FM,
Maiduguri, Borno state

Bata Hauwa is a member of the Church of the Brethren, Borno State and a reporter with Radio Nigeria, Peace FM Maiduguri. She holds a B. A. in Mass Communication from the University of Maiduguri, a Certificate in Journalism from the National Broadcast Academy, Lagos, and P.G.D in Strategic Planning.

My Reflections on Peace

I have come to understand that no o. will give you peace but you yourself. So I've resolved to do something for peace, no matter how small or how long it takes.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

HAUWA BATA

My perspective towards other religions changed when I came for the Fellowship program, and it has changed my way of reporting events on religion, conflict, peace and trauma. All the courses were impactful and timely but my favorites were Dialogue and peace building Presented by Dr. Mike Bazza, mediation skills by Dr. Wuye and social change and peaceful coexistence.

My Community Peace Project

Title of Project: Peaceful Coexistence among Students in Maiduguri

Project Summary: The two-day workshop was executed on 21 & 28 of January 2021 with 50 youths in attendance. The project was aimed at encouraging peaceful coexistence, respect for other's cultural and religious beliefs, increased trust in the community & eradication of bias, fear & aggression among youths in the state.

Project's Outcome/Impact: The project helped to expose people's hunger for peace. It created an avenue for people to open up, understand their differences and learn to respect each other. Amazingly, the project impacted positively on the students, so much so that within a week, other schools started calling the convener (Hauwa) for similar peace seminars for their students. Even the Commissioner for Education in the state requested that Hauwa should organize similar workshop for all the students in the school and also extend same to other schools in the LGAs. Hauwa has also been getting positive feedbacks from listeners of her peace event when it was aired on radio and TV. Meanwhile, since the implementation of Hauwa's community peace project, event planners now makes provisions for "brief peace talk" in their program of events.





ABEL NUHU

Project Officer, Lutheran Foundation Yola,
Adamawa State

NUHU ABEL is a Lutheran Christian and hails from Adamawa State, North – East Nigeria. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Management Technology from Modibbo University of Technology Yola. He is the Vice Chairman, Governing Board, of Yola – North Division of the Nigerian Red Cross Society and a Member/Volunteer of Karewa Detachment. Equally, he is the Project Officer at Lutheran Aid Foundation (LAF) and a Member and Volunteer at Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN).

My Reflections on Peace

Peace is a necessity, because without it no meaningful development can take place in any community, state or nation. Therefore, we must come together as a people to pursue peace with all diligence. It is only when there is peace that we can practice our religions, meet our aspirations and even sleep with our two eyes closed, hoping to see the next morning. Peace is none negotiable!

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ABEL NUHU



COFP Fellowship program has been marvelous all through. From the reception of the first day of arrival, communication with the staff, meals, lodging, workshop materials and resources persons (facilitators) are all wonderful. This is an experience I would love to have again. The courses of the workshop are apt seeing the situation our dear country is in now where there are conflicts ranging from 'herdsmen attack' inter-communal clashes arising from single stories, religious conflict, banditry, the COVID – 19 pandemic and terrorism. These are situations that require more of peace builders because there is anger in the minds of the people. This Fellowship is to me a square peg in square hole. The resource persons were all fascinating; they all left me wondering who my best facilitator is after every session. They all have the expertise and skills to impact knowledge. It is because of the experience and knowledge I got from the Fellowship

program that gave me courage and skills to successfully execute my Peace Project and today I can say boldly that, the project has yielded the desired impact.

My Community Peace Project

Title of Project: The Need for Peaceful Coexistence in Yola-North LGA of Adamawa State.

Project Summary: The program began with an introductions and paper presentations on, **Understanding and tolerance as a panacea for ethno-religious coexistence taking the Nigerian society as a study area.** Peace was defined as a necessity, if development is to be achieved. It was clear that politicians have taken the advantage of people's belief (religion) and love for culture as an avenue for vote stealing and continued to stay in office. Hence, the need to come together as a people to do the needful for our own good remains

paramount and inevitable owing to the fact that God was not wrong when He made all of us citizens of Nigeria and from different faiths. The program was held in Yola, Adamawa state with a total number of 42 Youth (Male & Female) and Religious Leaders in attendance.

Project Outcome/Impact: One of the participants during the workshop by name Mrs. Happiness Abraham said *"From the 2nd presentation and interaction with the Muslim faithful, I now understand better, how to relate and coexist without challenge. Now my perception has change towards my Muslim brothers and sisters". -Thus, all the participants were happy with all presentations and interactions. They wished this will be extended to other communities in the state.*





ADEJOH JUSTINA

Catholic Nun/Principal of Our Lady of Consolation
Girls' Secondary School Jalingo, Taraba state.

Rev. Sr. Justina Adejoh is a Religious of the Canonesses Regular Hospitallers of the Mercy of Jesus, of the Order of St. Augustine. She hails from Kogi State and works in Taraba State. She is the Principal of Our Lady of Consolation Girls' Secondary School Jalingo, Taraba state. She holds B.A in Christian Theology and M.A in Pastoral Theology, both from the Anglian Ruskin University, Cambridge, United Kingdom. Presently, she is working in Our Lady of Consolation Girls' Secondary School, Mile-Six, Jalingo, Taraba State and have spent most of her life in the North Eastern part of the country. Her philosophy of life is that, "Everyone is special in the eyes of God".

My Reflections on Peace

We seek peace daily. In most cases, disagreement and violence have led to the breakdown of societies, human lives have been lost, Infrastructures have been destroyed, education and health services have suffered and the environment have been damaged. The ties that link people together have been broken, social solidarity has collapsed and political tension has been generated. In addition, socio- economic development has also been severely retarded as a result of the carnage and destruction

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ADEJOH JUSTINA

caused by conflicts. Therefore, there is need to promote peace and social solidarity. In fact, peace is not just the absence of violence, but the presence of social solidarity, cultural and religious co-existence. To achieve cultural co-existence, it means that members of the society must begin to recognize each other as fellow human beings and begin to share a concern in the common welfare and well – being of one another. Social

solidarity makes sense because only by ensuring the security, safety and well – being of other people can we hope to secure safety and the peace we desire. To emphasize the need to foster peace and social solidarity and cultural co-existence is to recognize inter – connectedness of each human being in order to live in peace with one another, despite all odds. Like St. Francis, I pray “Lord make me an instrument of your peace”.

COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

THE CHANGE IN MY LIFE - This one-year COFP Fellowship program was indeed worthwhile. And the resource persons throughout the three modules were wonderful, impactful and did a great job to all the topics they were given. The wide ranges of courses offered on interreligious dialogue and mediation were thoroughly researched and well delivered. It has helped me as I am more enlightenment about Islam and its practices. Through the instrumentality of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) I have been enlightened, empowered, better informed and given opportunity to have a better understanding of Islam, Conflict management and mediation. It offered me an opportunity to interact more freely with my Muslim brothers and sisters and my Christian brothers and sisters from

different denominations. The experience I had gave me the confident to able to bring students from different faith together and discuss issues of faith and peaceful coexistence in a relaxed and conducive environment. Through COFP, I have learnt to be a humming bird in my time. Even as I round up this interesting and noble Fellowship program, I will continue to do the little I can in the best way I can to sow seeds of peace that God has been placed in my hands through the Foundation, promote interreligious dialogue and ensure peaceful coexistence; first beginning with myself, my students, my colleagues at work and my religious community. Every positive, notable and desired change must begin with self, putting on the lens of Mahatma Ghandi who advices 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. May the seed of peace that he has



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planted in many hearts through the Fellowship program continue to bloom everywhere that we have been planted so that the peace the founder so desired will be achieved through the COFP ambassadors all over the country. The COFP brought us all together and made us one family with a single goal which is "PEACE" My sincere gratitude to the Foundation Executive Director Rev. Sr. Agatha O. Chikelue, DMMM for her commitment and dedication to promoting the growth of the Foundation. May God bless and reward her abundantly. Sr., your efforts will never go down the drain. We shall go and become Peace ambassadors in our different communities and states by the grace of God. I say a very big "THANK YOU" to all the dedicated staff of the Foundation for their tireless efforts in reaching out to us and carrying us along through this Fellowship program. May God richly bless and reward you abundantly. I am sincerely indebted to the Foundation for giving me the opportunity to participate in 2020/2021 COFP. May the foundation continue to grow from strength to strength? Together with St. Francis of Assisi "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace..."

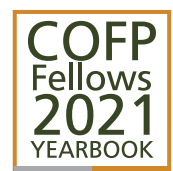
My Community Peace Project

PROJECT TITLE: Promoting Peaceful Coexistence among Students in Secondary Schools in Jalingo, Taraba State.

Project summary: The one-day seminar trained 24 students of different faith backgrounds in Secondary Schools within Jalingo Local Government Area of Taraba State. The aims/objectives of the seminar

are: a) to promote peaceful co – existence among the students. b) Promote interfaith dialogue among the participating students. c) Build conflict resolution skills and techniques among participants who will in turn teach others when the PEACE CLUB is set up in their schools. d) Promote understanding and tolerance among students in the schools and communities. e) Help in settling disagreements among students in the school without necessarily involving third parties. f) Promote peace among students in the schools irrespective of tribe, culture and religion.

Project Outcome/Impact: It was a life transforming and educative platform for all participants at the workshop. A total number of twenty-four (24) participants comprising three (3) students and one (1) Teacher from each school were present at the workshop. Participants were excited and attested to the fact that they gained adequate knowledge and skills as it relates to the theme of the workshop; **Peaceful Co-existence among Secondary School Students.** It is also worthy of note that participants were charged with the responsibility to be Peace Ambassadors in their various schools and communities. Finally, they were commissioned as Peace Ambassadors and presented with white a flower which symbolizes peace. In the same vein, each school was charged to sustain the established Peace Club in their various schools. Conclusively, each Peace Club is expected to hold meetings either weekly or forth nightly and will in return report to the school management to enable the convener, Sr. Justina liaises with them from time to time.





AISHA TUKUR ALIYU

Ameerah & Health Chair of FOMWAN Kaduna State, Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, and the Advocacy Chair Kaduna Maternal & New Born Accountability Mechanism (KADMAM), Kaduna State.

Tukur Aisha Isyaku is a Muslim from Katsina state. She is the Ameerah and Health Chair of Kaduna State Chapter of the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN). She is also the Chairperson of the Kaduna Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, and the Advocacy Chair Kaduna Maternal and New Born Accountability Mechanism (KADMAM), Kaduna State. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria. Aisha was recently appointed as the Executive Secretary, Kaduna Health Supplies Management Agency by the Kaduna state Governor.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building Interfaith Relationship in Conflict Prone Community of Igabi Local Government Area through Muslim and Christian Women

Project Summary: A joint project was implemented by Sr. Onyeanisi, Veronica Ifeyinwa OLA of Women's Interfaith Council (WIC) and Hajiya Isyaku, Aisha Tukur of Federation of Muslim Women's Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN) in collaboration with Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP). The workshop was held at Mal. Nasir El Rufai

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

AISHA TUKUR ALIYU



Skill Acquisition Center Mando, Igabi L.G.A. Kaduna State with fifty two (52) women and interfaith leaders in attendance. The selection process ensured a good mix of Muslims and Christians from the L.G.A. and women faith groups to enable them have better interfaith interaction and improved interreligious understanding/dialogue and collaboration

between the two faith groups (Christians and Muslims). During the workshop, the participants were educated on conflict prevention, management and early - warning early- response. At the end of the workshop the participants were evaluated and in their responses affirmed that the workshop was not only timely but will help to bring about peaceful co-existence

between Christians and Muslims in the community. Some of the participants shared their thoughts as follows: In the words of Hauwa Idris, "I have come to understand that both the Christian and Islamic religions



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preach love and peaceful coexistence. We are tired of violence and we should make efforts to live in peace". In the words of Sarah Sunday, "We should start the peace talk from our homes. Our children need to be taught the truth. We all know the truth but we hide it for our selfish interest". According to Mairo Ibrahim, the Amira FOMWAN Igabi LGA, "As peace builders and mothers, start teaching your children the value of peace. Start by teaching them".

Project Outcome/Impact: The number of participants that attended the workshop was encouraging. The way they turned up in large numbers shows that they are desirous of a peaceful society and if they are invited next time, more people will turn up. The

program brought Christian and Muslim women together under one roof to interact with one another on ways to achieve peaceful coexistence and religious tolerance among the Christians and Muslims in Igabi LGA. The participants were very happy and confessed that "the workshop is essential for forgiveness and will help to eradicate hatred. In order to sustain this effort, an interfaith forum (Peace Ambassadors) was established for the Igabi Local Government area and the participants elected their two leaders- a Muslim and a Christian to coordinate their activities.





AISHATU ALIYU

Women leader of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Movement, (JPRM) Jos, Plateau state.

Aliyu Usman Aishatu is an Izala Muslim from Nassarawa state, though she lives and works in Plateau State. She is the Women Leader of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Movement, (JPRM) Jos, Plateau State. She holds a B.SC in Public Administration from the University of Jos.

My Reflections on Peace

We all have Faith in something; the issue is whether or not we have faith in each other and in our own abilities that will move our society forward.

COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship Program has been more of an eye opener for me in another dimension of my working experience, where the theory and the practical aspect of all the session was based on more understanding of each other. Looking at the state of our nation the Fellowship program and my community peace project implementation was very timely. As a community women leader who interacts with people from different Faith, the Fellowship program has provided me with opportunity to make more research.

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My Community Peace Project

AISHATU ALIYU

My Community Peace Project
Project Title: Amplifying the voices of women and youth in our communities.

Project Summary: The aims and objectives of the program were to strengthen the voice of women, as mothers in bringing about desired social change in the community. It also aims at building the capacity of the youth to understand their role in securing their community. The workshop further provided the space for enlightening community leaders especially men, so that they can carry women and youths along in all aspects of community life. 34 participants were in attendance while the workshop targeted Christians, Muslims, youths, women and two community leaders in the area.

Project Outcome/Impact: Before the end of the workshop, the participants who have been separated since 2001 crisis agreed to come together to work as one united community henceforth. The sustainability plan that was designed by the group focused on enlightening other community members in their various Churches and Mosques and to hold such

programs in other communities. The group promised to meet more regularly.





AKERELE JULIA

National Secretary of Women Wing of CAN (WOWICAN) and the National Director of the Children Department, Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), Nigerian Region

Akerele Julia is a Christian of Cherubim and Seraphim (C&S) denomination from Edo state and works in Lagos State. She is the National Secretary of Women Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN) and the National Director of the Children Department, Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) Nigeria Region. She holds a B.A Hons in French from ABU Zaria.



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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

AKERELE JULIA

The Fellowship program has been very educating to say the least. I say with all sincerity of my heart, that I count myself very fortunate to have been a participant of this program. I have learnt so much of the similarities of Christianity and Islam how they are closely related that we should not even have any misunderstandings between us, and even where there are differences, we are given scriptures that encourage us to respect these differences as there is strength in



diversity. I learnt to open and read the Koran first time in my life during this training, this afforded me the opportunity to find out more on our similarities, such as the fact that we are all equal, for God created us out of one man, one woman, no one race is superior to the other, but what makes us different is our level of righteousness. (Koran 49:13) The corresponding passage in the Bible is Galatian 3:28 'For there is neither Jew or gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you all are for Jesus. The lectures were well packaged and excellently delivered. The general Administration of the training program was very good, the use of pre- and post-assessment forms made one to be very attentive as the responses on the post assessment showed how much one was able to assimilate. My Community Peace Project Project Title: Interfaith Dialogue, an

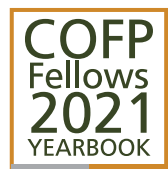
Effective Tool for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building.

Project Summary: I and my colleague carried out a step-down training for our pet project on interfaith dialogue for peace for our six WOWICAN zones. It was a one-day seminar with the theme: **'Interfaith dialogue, an effective tool for conflict resolution and peace building'**, organized by Fellow Victoria Bola Ihesiulor and Fellow Julia Akerele. In



attendance were about thirty seven (37) participants and some members of Federation of Moslem Women Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN). The Seminar commenced in the spirit of interfaith and oneness of purpose, the words 'GROUND RULE', was replaced with 'COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT', wherein the word **agreement** indicates that there is no insinuation of force or coercion as connoted in the word 'Rule'. The adoption of the expression **Communication agreement** instead was very appropriate to our project title.

Project Outcome/Impact: Beneficiaries showed a renewed commitment to peace building. The project also gave the women an ample opportunity to blend amongst different religions, cultures, and ethnicities.





ALI YEKINI

State Coordinator, National Council of Muslim Youth Organization (NACOMYO), and a facilitator at Da'awah Institute of Nigeria, Minna, Niger State.

Alli Yekini Adesina is a Sunni Muslim from Ondo State and the former Assistant Secretary of Nigeria Interreligious Council, Ondo State Chapter. He is also the State Coordinator, National Council of Muslim Youth Organization (NACOMYO), and a facilitator at Da'awah Institute of Nigeria, Minna, Niger State. He holds a B. Ed in Economics from Ekiti State University and M.Sc. in Business and Applied Economics from Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ondo State. He is a Senior Lecturer at Bethel College of Education, Ondo state.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ALI YEKINI

The COFP Fellowship program being a carefully selected one by professionals offered me the opportunity of knowing the fundamental meaning of Jihad for the Muslims and Crusade for the Christians. Also, the Fellowship program provided an avenue to be more knowledgeable in the aspect of dialogue, negotiation, conflict resolution that can help to overcome prejudice and extremism. Furthermore, I must acknowledge the fact that all the

resource persons that handled various topics of discussion in the course of training performed excellently. This leads me to the Executive Director, Sr Agatha O. Chikelue, indeed she has displayed unparalleled level of leadership. On my step-down program, I gained certain experiences, the bottom line of which is that there is nothing that is impossible in an effort to bring peace into our community. With little effort, those who had hitherto have been looking at one another as enemies can be brought together, rob minds together and come to a mutual agreement on critical issues. It also helps in increasing the mutual understanding between people of diverse faith and reduce the communication gap between them. I can comfortably say that





before an issue can become crisis, dialogue must be employed to nip such an issue at the bud.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Sustainability: An Antidote to the Community Development in Ondo State

Project Summary: The project was held on Thursday 28th January 2021 at HANDEF EVENTS CENTER, Akure Ondo State with a total number of fifty (50) participants drawn across the three (3) senatorial districts of the state. The target audience cut across Faith-based leaders (both male and female), Community leaders, Civil Society Organizations, Government Parastatals, Security Agencies, youth leaders and Media Groups. The aims and objectives of the project were to promote peaceful co-existence in Akure, Ondo State. The

activities carried out in the course of the project include, advocacy visit to the Community Gatekeepers, and a peacebuilding workshop on the topic above. The State Governor who was ably represented and other key dignitaries from government agencies and religious bodies were present during the workshop.

Project's Outcome/Impact: With the implementation of the above project, there is now a better perspective and understanding of religious diversity and mutual tolerance among the participants who are leaders of various faiths and communities in the state. It also helped in reducing tension and anxiety over the current farmer-herder conflict and doused the tendency of hate speech. Furthermore, the workshop helped journalists in identifying the inherent danger of one sided reportage.

AFRICA
IN



ISHAQ AMATULLATEEF DAMILOLA

National Executive member of
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jam'at, Lagos State.

Amatullateef Ishaq-Anifowose is a National Executive (Female wing), of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jema'ah, and an Ex-National President (Female youth wing). She holds M.Sc. in Agricultural Administration from Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State. She is an Expert in Sustainable Agricultural practices, Agro business and Consultancy. Member, Nigerian Institute of Management, (MNIM) and Founder, Molominira Impact Initiative (with focus on youths, teenage girls and women on improved education and reduction of violence, eradication of teenage pregnancies and promoting quality of life and Peace).

My Reflections on Peace

Peace is simply non-negotiable and must be sought at all costs. It is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. Justice, equality and protection of human rights of all is ultimately the recipe for peace thereby leading to sustainable peace and development of people in the country and the world at large.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ISHAQ AMATULLATEEF DAMILOLA



I see COFP as a wonderful and amazing Foundation and hopes that more of such foundations should be introduced in the country. I was able to learn, unlearn and relearn, have a paradigm shift and a change of perspective on the issues of accepting and understanding other religions, while dutifully focusing and maximizing on their similarities. I also understood that without identifying, and understanding conflict and how to handle it, peace cannot reign. I sincerely appreciate what COFP stands for, and has decided to emulate and propagate its goodness through my initiatives and other

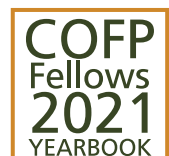
civil projects.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Sensitization of Youths On Inter- Religious Harmony Towards Achieving Sustainable Peaceful Society and Prevention of Violence.

Project summary: The workshop took place on Feb 14th, 2021 with 65 participants comprising students, women, religious and youth leaders at Ajegunle Lagos state. The goal of the workshop was to emphasize on the need to promote community peace because majority of

youths in the community have developed tendency for violence due to their perceived negligence by the government.



Sensitizing them is paramount at this time, because most of them have little or no knowledge on how a peaceful society could help them achieve their dreams of becoming responsible citizens'. During the workshop, participants were educated on the processes needed to achieve lasting peace. They were also urged to shun drug abuse/addiction which can lead to violence and destruction.

Project Outcome/Impact: The entire community of Ajegunle was very happy with the project because, there is no or little intervention in this area for the youths and government is doing next to nothing about the situation. Thus, the youths and leaders in this community expressed their unreserved appreciation for the program and thanked COFP for giving them the opportunity while looking forward for more.





ASAKE SAMAILA

Pastor & Chairman of Youth Wing of CAN
(YOWICAN) Kano State.

Asake Samaila Joshua is the General overseer and President of the Light of the World Evangelical Church, Kano State, and the Chairman of Youth Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWICAN) Kano State. He is from Kaduna state but lives in Kano state. He holds a B.Th. in Theology from Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Osun state. He also holds a Masters of Theology and PhD in Church Management and Administration from International Institute of Church Management (IICM) Bible College and Theological University, Florida USA.

My Reflections on Peace

Peace is the bed Rock of every society....

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ASAKE SAMAILA



It has been the best ever peace program that I have ever attended and it has increased my knowledge about other faiths especially Islam.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peaceful Co-Existence among Interfaith Youth in Kano State

Project Summary: The participants at the project were over fifty (50) persons though; our projection was for only fifty (50) persons. Our target audience for the project were youth (interfaith) and ethnic leaders in Sabon Gari Community in Kano State Nigeria. The aims and objectives of the project were to inculcate a tolerant and peaceful mindset in the youths, towards ensuring full understanding of



the fundamentals of what peaceful co-existence means and how it could be translated to achieve peace in Kano State in general. The activities carried out during the program, were to teach both interfaith youths the basic tenets of Islam and Christianity, in order to welcome & respect different religions and coexist with one another without hatred or biased mindset.

Project Outcome/Impact: Accepting to gather and sit together at the venue which was a CAN secretariat shows that the program is of great impact. The

interfaith youth were all happy and have more understanding of what peaceful coexistence means to them all. The above project have made the traditional leaders present during the workshop to appreciate the efforts of the COFP in supporting peace in their community through this program and this has increased their eager to know more about what COFP stand for. This project has brought Friendship amongst younger people and their parents and it is the first of its kind because peaceful coexistence, workshop and seminars has always been among the elderly.





BELLO LATEEF

Policy and Communications Officer at Development Initiative of West Africa (DIWA) Minna, Niger state.

Bello Lateef Adegunle is a Sunni Muslim from Oyo state who resides and works in Minna, Niger State. He is the Policy and Communications officer at Development Initiative of West Africa (DIWA) Minna. He is also a facilitator and trainer at Da'awah Institute of Nigeria (DIN), Minna, Niger State. He holds a B.A in Linguistics from University of Ilorin.

My Reflections on Peace

There is no smoke without fire. For every disagreement, there are unaddressed concerns that communication can address. Religious gate-keepers must demonstrate open and close commitment to peace-building, do not silently whisper bridge-building in closed door sessions and openly proclaim war. We must be consistent in preaching and living in peace! May our story end with.... "And they lived peacefully ever after".

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

BELLO LATEEF



I saw the Fellowship program as a reflection of what humans can do if they focus more on issues of common humanity and de-emphasize differences in religion, culture, and beliefs. In the COFP class, I saw in practice, the narratives that lead to violence, such as plagiarized thesis, Christians and Muslims seem to have about the same complaints about one other and since there was no formal forum to bring the issues up for conversation it continued to spread like

wildfire powered by the harmattan wind. The COFP provided the atmosphere to learn, unlearn and relearn. I am sure the effort will give birth to a more inclusive community where there are mutual understanding, empathy, and love.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Training of Teachers and School Owners on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FORB).



Project Summary: The above program was held on Feb 6, 2021 with thirty (30) participants, six (6) Panelists/Facilitators, and four (4) Officials. The audience who attended the training was six (6) proprietors of faith-based schools and twenty four (24) teachers of religious studies in private faith-based primary and secondary schools in Minna, Niger State. The program aimed at reducing the number of students in Faith-based schools without exposure to Interfaith relations or (FORB) by training of teachers of religious studies on Freedom of Religious Beliefs. The participants went through the following activities; (A) One day Non-residential training. (b) Interreligious Tours (visits to a Church and a Mosque). (c) Questions and Answers Forum. The facilitator and Panelists at these two

sessions used scriptural evidence that promotes interfaith relations and (FORB) to broaden participants' perspectives on various ways of preventing interfaith conflict, promote (FORB) and how to integrate the teachings into the learnings of the children they tutor. The second part of the training was an Interreligious tour to Minna Central Mosque and St. Michael Catholic Cathedral, Minna.

Project Outcome/Impact: The participants developed Joint Action Plans (JAPs) which they will thereafter implement in their respective schools. The participants promised to collaborate in stepping down the training in their students.





USMAN RISIKAT BOLA

Amirah Federation of Muslim Women Association
of Nigeria FCT, Abuja.

Usman Risikat Bola is a Muslim from Oyo state; she lives and works in Abuja. She is the current President Amirah of Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria FCT Abuja and she holds a Diploma in Public Administration. She is the Convener, Islamic Green Club Empowerment Initiative (Climate Change Vanguard).

My Reflections on Peace

"If you want to end the war then Instead of sending guns, send books. Instead of sending tanks, send pens. Instead of sending soldiers, send teachers." ~ Malala Yousafzai (17 year-old Noble Peace Laureate) I am motivated by this and convinced that with an approach like this, our roles as faith leaders, teachers and patriotic citizens can restore peace when there is unrest or war.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

BOLA USMAN



I gained more improved knowledge, capacity building and new ideologies. I made new friends who I see as newly established family, folks cutting across faith affiliates and ethnicities.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Preach Peace, Teach Peace.
Project Summary: This interfaith project took place at Zuba College of Education on Feb 17th, 2021 at Zuba FCT. Three (3) papers were presented by a Muslim, a

Christian, and an ICT expert on, the negative impact of social media. One hundred and thirty (130) participants were in attendance.

Project Outcome/Impact: It was a one stop shop location where teachers, student - teachers going for teaching practices were being groomed. Hence, the hope and optimism that the objectives of the interfaith peaceful teachings are guaranteed.



VICTORIA BOLANLE IHESIULOR

National Chairperson of the Women`s Wing of the
Christian Association of Nigerian (WOWICAN)

Ihesiulor Victoria Bolanle is a member of Christian Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (CPFN) and the National Chairperson/President of the Women`s Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN). She is from Kogi state; lives and works in Abuja. Victoria holds a B. Sc. in Business Administration from the University of Abuja.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interfaith Dialogue, an Effective Tool for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

BOLANLE IHESIULOR

Project Summary: Victoria carried out a step-down training seminar in FCT Abuja on interfaith dialogue for peace for six (6) zones of the Women`s Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN). It was a one-day seminar with a total number of 37 attendees in addition to some members of the Federation of Moslem Women Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN) who attended the program. In the spirit of interfaith and oneness of purpose the words 'GROUND RULE', was replaced with 'COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT", wherein the word

agreement indicates that there is no insinuation of force or coercion as connoted in the word 'Rule'. The adoption of the expression Communication agreement which seem to be more appropriate was adopted as the project title.

Project Outcome/Impact: Beneficiaries showed a renewed commitment to peacebuilding. The project also gave the women an ample opportunity to blend amongst people from different religions, cultures, and ethnicities in the country.





BRIGHT OGBANSIEGBE

State Secretary of both Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Interfaith Coalition for Social Cohesion (ICSC), Yobe state.

Ogbansiegbe Bright Kristopher is a Methodist Pastor from Abia state. Presently, he lives & works in Yobe State. He is currently the State Secretary of both Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Interfaith Coalition for Social Cohesion (ICSC), and has HND from BAM Federal Polytechnic, Damaturu.

My Reflections on Peace

Peace is not the absence of conflict or war, rather, peace is simply fairness and justice. Peace is cheap, violence is expensive. Experience explains it all. Therefore "Peace Begins with a Smile".

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

BRIGHT OGBANSIEGBE



For me, the first day I arrived the training ground, I made up my mind to learn, relearn and unlearn what I knew peace to be. The course modules were a great experience as it aptly exposed me to what peace and peaceful practices entail. I interacted with the facilitators and gained

from their in depth knowledge of their topics of discourse. The Module 2 prepared me for my community peace project and interaction with my fellow participants was and has remained enriching as it also helped shape my perspective and perception.



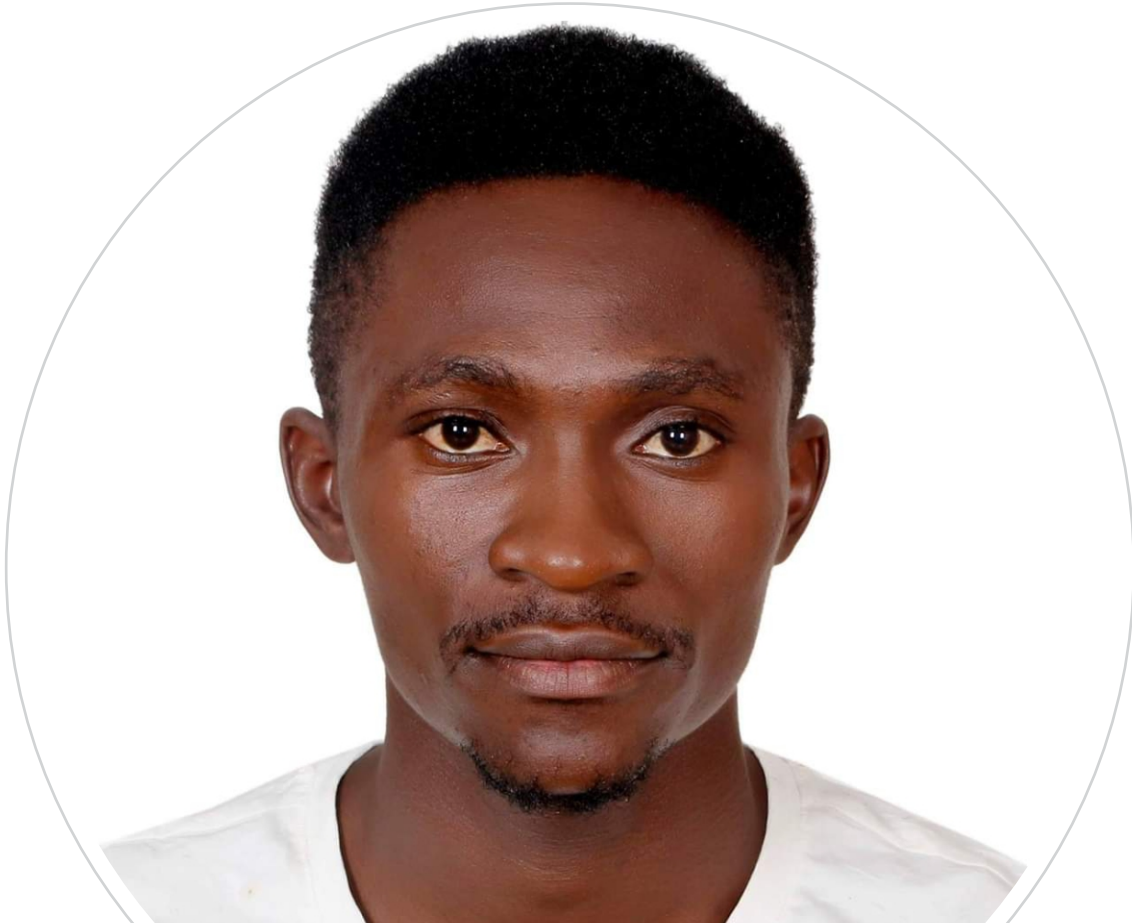
My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Using the Instrumentality of Sports to Foster Interfaith Cohesion and Peaceful Coexistence.

Project Summary: The Program spanned four days with a target audience of Men, Women and youths. The peace competition was held in Damaturu, Yobe state on 23rd January, 2021 and in March. The aim of these sporting events is to use a social instrument (Sport) to bridge the gap and vacuum created by intolerance and extreme religious misconception of the other religions. Apart from sporting

activities, other project activities include a three days sensitization for team members on proper conduct during Novelty volleyball matches and also a one day Novelty volleyball match for both Christians and Muslims in the city. Project's Outcome/Impact: Presently, Bright has established an interfaith Peace Volleyball team with over fifty (50) active members and their training keep attracting people from far and near. The Interfaith Novelty volleyball game was the first of its kind and the community appreciated this sporting peace initiative.





DARLINGTON OKOYE

IDP Case Management Officer at Catholic Relief Services CRS, Yola, Adamawa state.

Darlington Okoye is a Catholic Christian who hails from Enugu state and works in Yola, Adamawa State. He is the IDP Case Management officer at Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Jimeta Yola. Darlington holds an MBA from the American University of Nigeria, Adamawa State and Masters in Public Health from University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building a peaceful society between the Host community and internally displaced persons in Adamawa State

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

DARLINGTON OKOYE

Project Summary: The workshop hosted thirty two participants and focused on building a peaceful society between the Host community and internally displaced person's (IDP'S) living in the host community, through a transformative dialogue in Adamawa State. The workshop which was held on 23rd and 24th of January, 2021 targeted Leaders of IDP'S and host communities in Yola North LGA, Adamawa State. The main objective of the workshop was to build a peaceful coexistence with the (IDP'S) and their host communities. The peaceful co-existence would aid in building social structures in the community that have been suspended

because of hidden grudges. Activities carried out include, dialogue between the two groups, facilitation and reconciliation.

Project's Outcome/Impact: Through this workshop, peace was established between these two groups and all the leaders were happy with the gap bridged by (COFP) and were grateful. The organizer of the workshop - Darlington has been able to get the support of an international organization for migration and D- clovers initiative to support and continue the activities afterward. He equally charged the community leaders with the duty to carry out the agreed task.





DEBORAH ADAMU

Program Officer, Justice Development and Peace
Caritas (JDPC) Sokoto state.

Adamu Deborah is a Catholic Christian from Cross River state. She resides & works in Sokoto State. She is the Program Officer of Justice Development and Peace Caritas (JDPC) Sokoto State. She holds a B Sc in Computer Science from the National Open University of Nigeria. Deborah currently works with Malaria Consortium International as LGA Field Officer. She is very passionate about resilience and Peace Building, religious tolerance among communities and various households.

My Reflections on Peace

The issue of war and peace has always been a focal issue in all periods of history and at all levels of relations among nations. The concern of the humankind for peace can be assessed by taking into account the fact that all religions, religious scriptures and several religious ceremonies are committed to the cause of peace, and all these advocate an elimination of war. Nevertheless, since the absence of war is the first condition of peace, one of the major concerns of all scholars and statesmen have been to formulate and follow the principles and devices needed for securing this primary objective.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

DEBORAH ADAMU



COFP Fellowship Program gave me a life time opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn most things that I thought were right that were not right about interreligious dialogue. My capacity was built in a better way for approaching and resolving conflict in my community and the society at large. My community peace project was centered on the role of women in addressing single stories (misconception) of interreligious dialogue

in Nigeria; targeted over 40-50 women of five major women group in Nigeria (FOMWAN, CWO, MSO, CAN, Zumuntan mata in Kebbi State. However, in this zone a whole lot of individuals and communities consider (Single Stories) to be fact, true, very complete, unbiased and any other story is foolishness which has brought so much war, bitterness & backwardness or lack of development not just in our various communities and



society but has grown to be a deep hatred in our innocent hearts for each other. Therefore, such misconception needed to be corrected because when stories are balanced, you will get a better picture of the realities around you and the peaceful co-existence we crave for in our families, community and society will come to be and development can come to stay and be sustained in our country Nigeria. I want to sincerely thank his Eminence John Cardinal Onaiyeke and the entire COFP team for a great work, consistency and for counting us worthy to be part of this program.

My Community Peace Project

Project title: The Role of women in Addressing Single Stories (misconception) of Interreligious Dialogue in Nigeria.

Project Summary: It was a one-day workshop which took place in Kebbi State on 3rd Feb, 2021 with over fifty one (51) participants that cut across the five major women group in Nigeria (MSO, CWO, FOMWAN, CAN and Zumuntan Mata). The aims and objectives of the project include: 1. To address the misconception of interreligious dialogue among the Muslim and Christian brethren in Kebbi State. 2. To foster peaceful coexistence among the two religious groups. 3. To create an enabling environment for the sustenance of growth and development among the groups.

Project Outcome/Impact: The project addressed the misconception that the participants and other people have about the others' religion. It created a neutral ground for peaceful coexistence among the two religions and provided an enabling environment for sustainability of Peace among the women groups. Their quest to contribute and collaborate in restoring and fostering peaceful coexistence in their various communities and society at large was beyond comprehension. It was an interactive session where the participants freely expressed their concerns and those concerns were attended to by the resource persons.



DEBORAH ADAMU



ENEBE UCHENNA JOHNPAUL

Ex- Officio Member of Young Catholic Student
and the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria, Abuja.

Enebe Uchenna Johnpaul is a Catholic from Enugu state and works in Abuja. He holds a B. Eng. in Civil Engineering from Enugu State University of Science & Technology. He is an Ex- Officio member of Young Catholic Students and the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria, Abuja. He is a Peace and Development Commissioner.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship Program is very apt and timely. It is very impactful, inciting deep reflection, sincere dialogue and communion among people of different faith and religion in a bid to building a sustainable peace. The courses promote understanding regarding the tenets of the major religions which is key, conflict; it types and proffers real life solutions to peace. it is action inclined too and this is basic reaching out to lots of people and inviting them to take up the responsibility of been peaceful and spreading peace.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ENEBE UCHENNA JOHNPAUL

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Youth Creativity and Leadership.

Project Summary: The Summit organized by Johnpaul created a unique platform for young people from different religious affiliations to sit together, learn and reflect deeply, engage in sincere dialogue, and discuss key religious fundamentals and practices. It afforded them the opportunity to exchange and express ideas from different points of view, and clearly defines the Nigeria that they would like to see and live in as believers in God and respecters of human dignity. The workshop was implemented in Enugu & Delta states respectively in February 2021.

Project's Outcome/Impact: There was over ten thousand audience coverage/ outreach through the thirty (30) minutes Radio Peace Talk and Interfaith Peace summit. During the workshop, young

participants resolved to work towards achieving Peace and were very willing to volunteer and be engaged as volunteers. They shared testimonies, took active part in the group workshops and discussions and also penned down their anxieties. The Participants also resolved to engage in more grassroots outreach and awareness. Very vital is the individual resolve for peace and a harmonious environment, through the "I am because you are" Ubuntu adage.





FRANCISCA ENEH

National Chairman on Education Committee,
Catholic Women Organization of Nigeria

Eneh Francisca Ogechukwu is a Catholic Christian from Enugu state. She works in the FCT. She is the National Chairman on Education Committee, Catholic Women Organization and a retired Director, Department of Special Needs Education, FCT Education Secretariat, Abuja. She holds a Ph.D. in Education Administration and Planning from University of Abuja.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

FRANCISCA ENEH



My Community Peace Project

Title of Project: Interreligious Dialogue for Peace Building, Conflict Prevention and Resolution.

Project Summary: The one-day seminar which took place on 9th Feb 2021 brought together more than fifty (55) invited guests including the Chairman and seven (7) Directors from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Secondary Education Board

(SEB) also graced the occasion.

Forty students comprising Christians and Muslims participated in the workshop. The project aims and objective is to propagate and instill Peace building, Conflict Prevention and Resolution ideas in the minds of the young students of different religions who are expected to be the future leaders of tomorrow. The organizer (Francisca Eneh) also, use the opportunity to discussed with the Secondary Education Board Management on the need to establish Inter-faith peace clubs in all schools in the FCT.

Project Outcome/Impact: The program attracted the interest of the students who asked relevant questions during the interactive session, other guests who spoke during the seminar all agreed that it was a topical issue that required urgent attention for intervention as dialogue, understanding and spirit of cooperation



are the panacea for peaceful coexistence in the nation. Another wonderful development is that if the interfaith peace clubs are established in the schools in Abuja, it will help to disseminate information on the need to enhance peaceful coexistence faster all over Abuja and even beyond. The program was given wider publicity via AIT and NTA and this attracted many goodwill and congratulatory messages to the organizer-Francisca for the bold step taken for peace. For this reason, she planned to expand this program to private schools in the FCT too so that they too will consider establishing such inter-faith peace clubs in all their schools.



FRANCISCA ENEH



GARBA ISAH

Program Coordinator of Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) Kano State.

Garba Isah is a Shia Muslim from Bauchi State and works in Kano State. He holds a B.A in Islamic studies/English (combined Hons) from Bayero University, Kano State. He is the Senior Program Officer of Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) Kano State. He has over a decade of experience of development work, with good governance and peace building as areas of key competence. He held positions of Muslim Student Society President, AD Rufai College for Legal and Islamic Studies, Misau, Patron Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria Government Day Secondary School, Azare Branch. As CITAD officer, he coordinated and implemented many peace projects, including Online Monitoring and Countering of Hate Speech in Nigeria supported by Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Program (NSRP) and countering online Hate Speech, supported by the MacArthur Foundation.

My Reflections on Peace

“Every person is your brother in peace or your equal in religion”, if we can apply this to all human beings, all conflicts will be resolved in ways that respect humanity or the heart that believes in religion, and with this there will be peaceful coexistence.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

GARBA ISAH

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interfaith Dialogue among Youths.

Project Summary: The event was organized to train interfaith youths on interfaith Dialogue and Youth and also to establish an Interfaith Youth Network of Peace Agents in Bauchi state. The goal of this project was to establish youth network that will use social media platforms and festivities in promoting interfaith relations and peaceful coexistence. Presentations were made on the importance of interfaith dialogue, processes of dialogue, importance of networking and how to use social media to enhance peace and conflict management. About thirty six (36) Youths comprising six (6) females and thirty males (30) drawn from Christian and Muslim religions attended the program.



Some of the representatives were the youth leader of the Christian Youth in Katagum Emirate, the Youth Forum of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, the Ashabul Khafi youth, and the Youth of the Darika Movement.

Project Outcome/Impact: In their submissions, the youth of the Islamic Movement pledged that even if no support is found for the replication of the training,





they would continue organizing interfaith get-together during festivities, especially during Sallah celebrations. All participants agreed to make at least one friend among the participants particularly, from religion different from theirs so that they can share authentic information that would help to dispel misconceptions concerning their faith while identifying

conflict early warning signs in the community and across the state. A WhatsApp group was created with the name Katagum Interfaith Youth Network which will be a platform for seeking clarifications, addressing conflicts early warning signs, and strengthening relationships.





GARBA SHEHU IBRAHIM

State Coordinator, National Council of Muslim Youth Organization (NACOMYO) Sokoto state.

A Sunni Muslim from Sokoto, Mallam Garba obtained B.A Ed (Hausa) from Usman Danfodiyo University Sokoto. He is Acting Secretary National Council of Muslim Youth Organization (NACOMYO) Northern Zone and Sokoto State Coordinator. He is Member, Keeping Girls in School (KGIS), Africa team and also Member/Fellow Nigerian Institute of Management (Chartered), and CEO El Sheikh Design and Textiles. . He holds a B.A in Hausa from Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto State.

My Reflections on Peace

The role of social media influencers in promoting peace and preventing conflict. Through the use of social media platforms, peace can be promoted within the society by social media influencers, because the social media platforms are the routes of conflicts currently (through hate speech, spreading rumors and fake news) by using the platforms in the right way, peace can be promoted.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

GARBA SHEHU IBRAHIM

I have achieved more through this Fellowship Program. I have learnt a lot on how to deal with intra/interreligious

struggle for spreading peace within the Nation and Africa. GOD BLESS COFP.

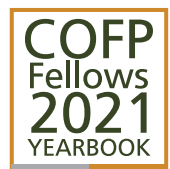


conflict and intra/inter-ethnic or cultural conflict. Also, I'm able to organized a project in my community titled "The role of social media influencers in promoting peace and preventing conflict". This project later gives birth to a network called "Social Media Influencers Network Sokoto". Also, through interacting with other Fellows during the Fellowship program, I'm able to build a strong relationship with people from different communities, ethnic, background and religion with different experience. Lastly, I'm able to know the branches or classifications of conflict and how to handle a successful peaceful coexistence after listening from specialized and experienced facilitators. Finally, I appreciate the COFP and team for organizing this needful project and their

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: The Role of Social Media Influencers in Promoting Peace and Preventing Conflict.

Project Summary: It was a One day symposium that had forty six (46) participants. Social media influencers, Traditional leaders, Religious leaders (selected), government and non-governmental organizations were among the participants. The symposium aimed at advocating the right use of social media platforms to promote peace in order to prevent conflict within the community. Ultimately, it intended that through symposiums, advocacy visits, meetings with stakeholders, and follow up meetings, the conflict arising from the social platforms will reduce.





GARBA SHEHU IBRAHIM

Project Outcome/Impact: This program brought about many changes for instance; most of the social media influencers were using the platforms to generate income without considering the problem beyond their post. But through this project, they

now know what to post and what not to post. Our trained influencers have now understood how to verify news before posting. The traditional leaders can engage influencers to promote peace within the community. Finally, based on this project, we agreed to create a forum for social media influencers within the State. This forum will coordinate their activities and provide guidelines for influencers on how to use the social media platforms to promote peace.





GERALD MUSA

Priest/Lecturer at Catholic Institute of West Africa
(CIWA) Porthacourt, Rivers State.t

Musa Gerald is a Catholic Priest from Kebbi state but lives and works in River State. He is a Lecturer at the Catholic Institute of West Africa (CIWA), Port Harcourt, Rivers State. He holds a Ph.D. in Communication Studies from School of Journalism and Communication, University of Queensland, St. Lucia Brisbane, Australia.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Ethno-Religious Conflict and Peace Journalism in Volatile Societies: The Role of the Media.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

GERALD MUSA



Project Summary: This program took place on the 29th of Jan. 2021 at Synod Hall, Holy Rosary Chaplaincy of Catholic Institute of West Africa (CIWA), Port Harcourt. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the rising cases of ethno-religious violence in different parts of Nigeria and

to educate journalists about their crucial responsibilities in situations of conflict. The Guest Speaker of the event, Alhaji Boye Salau, the Business Editor of the Tide newspapers did justice to the topic of the event.



Project

Outcome/Impact:

The project provided a platform for media practitioners in Port Harcourt to converge and discuss on the above topic. The workshop was the first of its kind as it identified and engaged media practitioners of different religious persuasions and ethnic backgrounds on using media to promote peace in Rivers state.



GRACE OSOFODUNRIN

Coordinator, Justice Development and Peace
Commission Abuja Archdiocese.

Osofodunrin Grace is a Catholic Christian from Benue state. Grace resides in Abuja. Presently, she is the Coordinator of Justice Development and Peace Commission Abuja Archdiocese. She holds M. Sc. in Gender and Women Studies from the University of Abuja.

My Reflections on Peace

Peace, according to the words of St. Francis, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me bring your love, When there is doubt, let me bring faith, When there is despair, hope, Where there is injury, pardon, Where there is darkness, light ... ". When you reflect on this beautiful prayer, it ignites an inner feeling and urgency to care for God's Creation. You will want to make sure that love radiates around you and thus would not want to hurt or harm anyone that blood runs in his or her vein. You would want to make sure that your words and actions give hope to the hopeless in particular and humanity at Large. Peace can only reign if we all show love and care for ourselves and neighbors in the society. We must know that God who created the world is Love. Love takes care of everything that is hurting the World. Love swallows hatred, grudges, wickedness, injustices and jealousy. So, let us all embrace Love to bring about justice and peace in the World.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

GRACE OSOFODUNRIN

For me, the Fellowship program has broadened my experience on Interfaith Dialogue and Peace building. It was an exciting moment meeting with great Scholars from both religions, (Christianity and Islam) sharing their experiences and knowledge on the fundamentals and areas of commonality. The Program was supportive to provide grants for me to embark on promoting interfaith dialogue

peace agents for a harmonious and peaceful society.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Promoting Peace Building and Interfaith Dialogue in Ushafa.

Project Summary: The workshop which was held at Ushafa, Abuja FCT enable participants to understand that peace is



and peace building in my community. Equally, the program was really encouraging and a dream comes true in my quest to make a lasting impact in the society. I am grateful and pray that all people embrace peace and strive to be

everybody's concern and so all hands must be on deck to ensure that peaceful co-existence is promoted at homes and in the community. The workshop was concluded with a Prayer by St. Francis of Assisi; "Lord, make me an instrument of

your peace, where there is hatred, let me bring your love, when there is doubt, let me bring faith, when there is despair; hope....

Project's Outcome/Impact: After the workshop, participants were enthusiastic about the whole event and wanted to have

an Interfaith Dialogue Committee in the community. They agreed to meet and start discussing on the way forward. They had their first meeting on the 6th of February, 2021 and after their deliberations, they fixed every 3rd Saturday of the Month for their meeting.





HAKEEM OBADITAN

Missionary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Organization
in Ilaro, Ogun state

OBADITAN HAKEEM OTITOJU is a Missionary of Hamadiyyah Muslim Organization for twenty-three years and still counting. He hails from Ayere town in Ijumu Local Government Area of Kogi State. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Arabic studies from Lagos State University (LASU) Ojo and Master's Degree in Islam and Peace Studies from the same University.

My Community Peace Project

Title of project: Virtuousness as the Paradigm for a Harmonious Society.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

HAKEEM OBADITAN

Project Summary: The one-day workshop was held on Dec 23, 2020 in Kogi state with over a hundred participants consisting of the community kings, high chiefs, religious leaders, politicians, youth leaders, women leaders, youths and the general public. The project activity includes advocacy visits to the community and religious leaders. The main goal of the project is to restore peaceful coexistence in the community of Ayere and equally bring an end to the rift going on in the community as a result of the murder of the community imams' wife. The project also aims at building trust, strong relationship and hope among the people of Ayere and other neighboring communities.

Project's Outcome/Impact: The above project brought a lot of positive change in opinion and in understanding of other people's religion. For the first time in the history of our community, religious leaders from multi-faith groups gathered under the same roof for close interaction and dialogue with the late IMAMS wife family. This gesture brought about unity within the community and the commitment to fight against every vice. Infact, it brought about peace and harmony within the community. For example some of our sons and daughter who left for a long time came back home. The participants are still yearning for similar gathering in the community at least, quarterly.





HUSSAINI GARBA IDRIS

President, Coalition of Muslim Youths Scholars
in Nigeria, Kaduna state.

Hussaini Idris Garba is a Fulani Muslim from Plateau state, though he works in Kaduna State. He is the President of Coalition of Muslim Youths Scholars in Nigeria, Kaduna state. He holds a Master's Degree in Arabic studies from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Presently, he is a Ph. D Student at AL-Nahdah University, Niger Republic, Department of Arabic Studies.

My Reflections on Peace

Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit, do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset, do not let the behaviors of others destroy your inner peace, because nobody can bring you peace but yourself. If you are depressed, you are living in the past, if you are anxious you are living in the future and if you are at peace you are living in the present.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

HUSSAINI GARBA IDRIS

I have derived so many lessons, experiences and achievements from the Fellowship Program and these have assisted me in setting up different committees in my community to tackle so many issues of violence. Through the skills I have acquired, I've been able to participate, deliver speeches and also represent our organization (Coalition of Muslim Youths Scholars) both at the local and state government programs on various intra/ inter- religious dialogue and peace in Kaduna metropolis. Through the skills acquired, am preparing on how our organization (Coalition of Muslim Youths Scholars) will tackle the issue of banditry and some similar issues which has always led to conflicts.

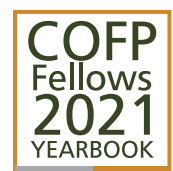
My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Capacity Building, Training and Facilitation on Peace Education, Intra/Inter Religious Dialogue.

Project Summary: The workshop commenced with a lecture on the Roles of

Imams and Youths in peace building in Kaduna Metropolis. It was a One day program and had fifty three (53) participants, comprising Imams and Youths. The aims and objectives of the program were to a. Ensure that Imams and Youths have a chance to play a key role in reshaping the society. b. Build a coalition of persons and community against violent extremism. c. Create opportunities for addressing the root causes of violent conflicts. e. Enhance cooperation among people of different faith and culture. f. address issues of violence and social injustice in order to build mutual respect and resolve conflicts.

Project Outcome/Impact: Before the end of the program, some Imams and Youths suggested that an inter-religious peace building summit should be organized to enable them engage more youth in discussions for peace in the state. The organizer - Husseni further set-up a committee with the task of resolving issues of conflict in the community.





ILUGO CLETUS

Peace Building Project Manager, Search for Common Ground, Delta State.

Ilugo Cletus is a member of Christ Chosen Church of God International from Delta State and the Peace Building Project Manager at Search for Common Ground, Delta State. He holds a Masters in Development Studies and Conflict, Security and Development from the Nigerian Defense Academy, Kaduna State.

My Reflections on Peace

The COFP Foundation has been organizing the Fellowship programs in previous years but this set (2020/2021) is awesome, rich in diversity and expertise which has aided adequate cross pollination of ideas, bonding, cohesion and unity of purpose for the propagation of interfaith dialogue with a view to promoting peaceful coexistence, peace building, and the enthronement of common ground approaches for the benefit of all the practitioners of all religious beliefs in Nigeria and beyond.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

ILUGO CLETUS

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) Fellowship Program is a meeting place for learning and

and it is worthy to say also that the trainers are vast in their expertise and were able to share knowledge without



constructive analysis of issues especially conflicts and other plaguing challenges in Nigeria. Although, it has been organizing this Fellowship program in previous years but this set (2020/2021) is awesome, rich in diversity and expertise which has aided adequate cross pollination of ideas, bonding, cohesion and proper geographical spread.

Additionally, it also provided an avenue for proper deconstruction of age long assumptions that have affected effective inter religious bonding and cohesion among the dominant faiths in Nigeria as well as serving as a budding ground for raising more interfaith peace ambassadors in the country and beyond. Furthermore, the lessons taught during the Fellowship program are very inspiring

constraints. In conclusion, the Fellowship Program is a worthy center for learning, bonding, socializing and reunion among others. I am optimistic that if Fellows endeavor to transmit lessons learnt and knowledge acquired to our various followers, peace will be generally entrenched in Nigeria.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building a Peaceful Society through Transformative Dialogue in Edo state.

Project Summary: The program was a One day Peace Summit hosted by Cletus Innovation Foundation with full support from Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP). There were a total of fifty two (52) persons in attendance including

parents, youth and children. Though Edo State may not be witnessing religious crisis as akin to what obtains in the Northern Part of Nigeria, however, it is well known for youth restiveness, cultism, cult clashes, violent agitations, criminal actions, arson and electoral violence amongst others, all leading to gross disruption of peace, harmony and tranquility in the state. The essence of this summit was to ensure that the philosophy of peace building through dialogue is established so as to reduce interfaith & communal conflicts where they exist and enhance peaceful coexistence in our common space. The program was designed to acquaint participants with requisite skills on Mediation, Conflict Prevention and Dialogue Processes. To achieve this, participants were taught the meaning and causes of Conflicts in their immediate environments, dangers of conflict and conflict analysis. Equally, Participants were drawn from across the age strata to promote cross-cultural learning with a view to drawing from their varied experiences in order to promote learning and understanding of the theme of the summit.

Project's Outcome/Impact: Through this summit, participants resolved to out rightly practice actions devoid of marginalization and practice behaviors that connote peace, uphold respect for diversity and acceptance of other peoples' views and ensure that there is increased love and affection towards one another as a way to entrench peace and enhance peaceful coexistence in the society .This summit

contributed immensely to the general capacity building of participants by exposing them to the broad meaning of conflicts, causes and ways to mitigate/ resolve conflicts, this was archived through the Focus Group discussion held in the course of implementing the program. During Focus Group discussion participants were of the opinion that since peace building is a process, it will be necessary for this process to be adequately inculcated in their daily lifestyles and education since that is one of the ways to ensure that peace is embraced and promoted in our society.





IMAM RIDWAN

Coordinator, Plateau State Television Program on 'Islam calling' and the Coordinator, Da`wah on Television JN1 Jos.

Imam Ridwan Jumat is a Muslim from Oyo State but resides in Plateau state. He obtained his first degree, B.A Islamic Studies from University of Jos, Plateau State and his Post graduate diploma in Education from National Teachers Institute Kaduna. He had his second degree M.A Islamic Studies from the prestigious University of Jos, Plateau State.

My Reflections on Peace

Peace is everybody's business, and the best way to achieve it is by respecting our differences and celebrating our collective similarities.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

IMAM RIDWAN

The COFP Fellowship Program has given me the opportunity to meet people of different backgrounds and to share best practices. It has also broadened my understanding of service to humanity. COFP Fellowship Program Modules 1,2 and 3 has help me a lot. Before I came for the program, I had little knowledge about Christianity but now my perception has change and I intend to step down the knowledge gained to my followers and the youth especially the vulnerable ones at the grass root. I would like to work with other individuals or organization on peace building projects. I thank the COFP for giving me the opportunity to be their Fellow.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: De-radicalization of Youths in Jos.

Project Summary: The program was held on Saturday 9th January, 2021 at Haneef

High School Jos Plateau State. The objective of the program was to engage the youths who are mostly the main actors in the lingering crises in Plateau State. Forty five(45) Muslim and Christian radicals, vulnerable and drug addicted youths were de-radicalized with the intervention of a Reverend Father, Imam, Medical Doctor and security personnel who addressed issues that has to do with De-radicalization of youths from the Christianity, Islam, Medical and security perspectives respectively. Issues that border on the areas of commonalities and differences in both religions were also discussed in order to reach 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 Jos North and the state at large.





RIDWAN

Project's Outcome/Impact: Ridwan stepped down his project among some selected radical Muslims and Christian youths in Jos North Local government of Plateau State. These youths were carefully selected from the places consider as hot spots by the Security Agencies in Plateau state i.e Duste Uku, Congo Russia, Anguwan Rukuba, Yanshnu, Rikkos and behind Nassarawa Baptist and ST. Michel

Churches. A de-radicalization program was organized for the radical, vulnerable and drug addict youths who are the major actors and perpetrators of violence in Jos and environs. The participants are now aware of the need for peaceful coexistence in their communities and were also exposed to the negative implications of violence from different perspectives.



IYKE IBE

President of African Hope Development Initiatives, Imo state

Iyke Ambrose is a Catholic from Imo State. He is the President of African Hope Development Initiatives. He holds a Master's Degree in Political Science and Public Administration and a First Degree in Law. He is passionate about an egalitarian society, where no man is oppressed. He is a Disability Rights Advocate, currently working at African Hope Development Initiatives. He is an International Para Powerlifting Technical Official (Referee) and sports administrator.

My Reflections on Peace

Peace is a Panacea for sustainable development and harmony. There's no alternative to dialogue and peace

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

IYKE IBE



For me, the Fellowship program armed me with modern advocacy tools, broadened my horizon against some hitherto held beliefs and dogma relating to Christianity and Islam. It was a paradigm shift on how peace building and techniques can be applied as a psycho socio trauma element that can aid rehabilitation, forgiveness and healing

My Community Peace Project

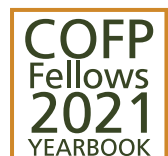
Project Title: Interfaith Conversation: Panacea for Peaceful Coexistence among Different Clusters and Faiths in the Disabled Community.

Project Summary: Religion, as an opium of the common man plays a key role in reverting people's attention to their rights. We discussed the need to draw the public attention to the issues of psycho-socio dimensions and their effect on Persons with disabilities (**PWDS**); Inclusion and integration of (**PWDS**) in the scheme of work vis-a-vis appointments, employment and empowerment; need for

domestication of international treaties on (**PWDS**) despite facing conflicts amongst different Clusters and the need to live-in peace with non-disabled persons and people of other faith.

Project Outcome/Impact: At the end of the workshop, we resolved;

1. As persons with disabilities (**PWDS**) to speak with one voice and advocate for their rights as an integral part of the society.
2. To ensure that PWDS live above stigma and discrimination.
3. Help them to widen their horizon on the faith they represent.
4. Have a new and better way of thinking and approaching issues.
5. Discover that Peace and dialogue are prerequisite for a better and harmonious living.
6. Acknowledge that Peace aids development.





JAHOTA RHODA

Chairperson of the Women Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN) Jos, Plateau state.

Jahota Rhoda is an Anglican Christian from Plateau state and the state Chairperson of the Women Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN) Jos, Plateau state. She has PGD in Marketing.

My Reflections on Peace

We should live in peace with all people, that's the position of God's word to Christians. So, build peace for a better and safer community and relationship because, PEACE is DEAR; get IT!

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

JAHOTA RHODA

The COFP Fellowship program has broadened my knowledge on Islam, how to settle disputes in the community, resolve conflicts and advocate. The Resource Persons were well selected and well prepared for the program. COFP workers too were awesome, ready to help and always make learning environment conducive for us. My peace project is on sensitizing the juveniles on peaceful coexistence for a better community and relationship after which we intend to have peace club and no gab will be left from women, men youth and children, religious tolerance is very important, Peace is dear so all have to get it that's what COFP is doing am glad to be in it. Thanks for the awesome opportunity.

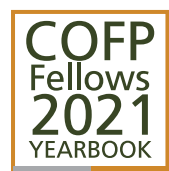
My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Building among the Juveniles for a Better and Safer Community Relationship.

Project Summary: The above workshop lasted for three (3) days with advocacy visits in between in Jos, Plateau state.

There were thirty (30) participants; selected from Muslim and Christian schools. The main goal of the project was to promote peaceful coexistence among the juveniles from different Faiths and also to set up peace clubs in schools and communities. Project activities: includes, trainings, teachings from the Holy books and action plan for groups. A meeting was organized with parents and schools to enable them make their wards available for trainings and workshops and also to support in the establishment of peace clubs in schools.

Project's Outcome/Impact: This workshop brought about friendship amongst younger people and their parents and it is the first of its kind because workshops and seminars on peaceful coexistence have always been organized only for the elderly with the exclusion of children. The media was involved in order to draw the attention of well-meaning Nigerians, to see the need to imbibe peaceful coexistence in our community. As a follow-up, I will like to continue with this project but will need a support financially in any way possible.





JIDDA IBRAHIM MOHAMMED

Psychosocial Specialist at Search for Common Ground North-East Nigeria.

Ibrahim Mohammed Jidda is a Sunni Muslim from Borno state. He is a Psychosocial Specialist and a trainer at Search for Common Ground North East Nigeria. He has a B. Sc. in Nursing and Master's Degree in Peace Building from University of Maiduguri.

My Reflections on Peace

Peace... as calming as the name sounds is a state of tranquility that every human aspires to reach.

Peace is not only the absence of war but can be a state where an individual enjoys calmness and tranquility within himself and the society around him.

Peace is the sanity of the inner mind.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

JIDDA IBRAHIM MOHAMMED



The Fellowship is very relevant to the work I do and the community where I leave in the Northeast. Northeast Nigeria is currently divided across lines of religion so this knowledge will help me to change the narratives. The courses and the resources person who were carefully selected have impacted on me and have succeeded in changing my perspective toward people of other faith in a more collaborative way. My peace project focused on a sensitive topic which is Reintegration of ex-combatant and trauma healing.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Sensitization on Psycho-trauma and Reintegration of Ex-Combatant: A Community Perception of

Peace Building in Maiduguri, Borno State. **Project Summary:** The workshop was held at NUJ Press Centre Maiduguri with forty (40) people; mostly youths. The project was intended to sensitize community stakeholders especially youths on trauma and reintegration of ex-combatants in Maiduguri. Activities conducted include dialogues and paper presentations by two resource persons. The sustainability plan for this activity is the **formation of youth peace club and community response network in two separate communities in Maiduguri.**

Project Outcome/Impact: The biggest success story is the formation of the above peace platforms which came about after the two-paper presentations.





MARIO FRANCIS

Catholic Priest of the Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja

Umar Mario Francis is a Priest of the Catholic Abuja Archdiocese. He hails from Kaduna state and works in FCT, Abuja. He holds a Bachelors of Arts in Philosophy and Theology from the Benue State University and Urbanian University, Rome, respectively.

My Reflections on Peace

The family remains the smallest unit of society. Social and family values shape the character of society members. The disregard of the family and community as essential agents of socialization, molding the character of young individuals and creating a peaceful society for all has become a challenge. The sizeable number of vulnerable children in Nigeria is a clear indication of the failure of families and communities in positive parenting. In the discussion of abandoned children and insecurity, Nigeria's almajiri situation comes in mind. Understandably rooted in ethno-religious underpinnings, it may have been loosely practiced that it has created a range of challenges for government and the society. For instance, the protracted North-East conflict is strongly linked to the accessibility of

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My Reflections on Peace

MARIO FRANCIS

recruits in the region that also has a high population of almajiri and 'out-of-school' children. Sixty-seven per cent (67%) of 'out-of-school' children in Nigeria are from Northern Nigeria. The conflict in the area has made schools unsafe and education a far cry. Vulnerable children are becoming potential child soldiers for non-state armed groups.

The situation of many Nigerian children demands moral reorientations. There is a need for intervention programs to promote family and community values. Family values and community values reinforce each other. The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) holds that values can add to relationships, influence judgements, behaviours and parenting styles. In a precarious world where parenting roles are weak, and vulnerability of children high, mainstreaming family values, roles of parents and communities in child upbringing becomes crucial. The NCFR further maintains that instilling family values can also protect children from making hurtful decisions.

Governments, civil society groups, community-based and faith-based organizations have a role to play in redefining what values communities hold. A report by Nextier SPD states that some families in the North-East in defying all odds have come together to redefine values and practices to support resilience and coping mechanisms in the face of the jihadi war. Community actors have improved their roles in mobilizing communities towards peace and collective safety for all. This example points to the intrinsic nature of family and community values. However, government and other relevant actors can trigger and support such conversations at the community level. As conflicts in Nigeria continues to cascade, with children and youth doubling as victims and perpetrators, it has become crucial to mainstream the roles of families and communities in the proper upbringing of children as productive and law-abiding members of society. Good Parenting must be a weapon for achieving peace.



COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) has built my capacity and equipped me with skills on inter religious dialogue, mediation and conflict transformation. I must confess, I have acquired enormous knowledge and skills from the Fellowship Program. I have been privileged to foster a relationship between people of different faiths and culture in Dobi community where I am currently working as a clergy. Thus, I am better equipped as a conflict mediator.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building Peaceful Coexistence in Dobi Community through Interfaith Dialogue.

Project Summary: The program had in attendance hundred and three (103)

participants from FCT Abuja and was held on Feb 20, 2021. The above participants comprises of Religious leaders, Traditional Rulers, Men, Women, Youths, Farmers, Community police, Primary and secondary school teachers. The aims and objectives of the project is to build grassroots peace builders' and actors who will use interfaith dialogue to lead community driven social change and to strengthen the capacities of religious and traditional leaders through interfaith dialogue so that they will learn to appreciate, respect and accept their similarities and differences for peaceful living.

Project's Outcome/Impact: As a result of this training workshop, beneficiaries have set up a local committee to advocate for the integration of Peace Education in





ONWURAH CHRYSANTUS

Lecturer at Nnamdi Azikiwe University,
Awka Anambra State.

Onwurah Chrysantus Chinyere is a Catholic Nun from the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love DDL. She hails from Anambra state and Lectures at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Anambra State. Sr. Chinyere holds a Ph.D. in Public Health from the same Institution.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP program has exposed me to the basic tenets of Islamic Religion and has provided me with knowledge of dialogue, peace education and various ways through which Peace can be maintained. Through the program, I got the knowledge of the concept of conflict, different types of conflicts, actors of conflicts and its consequences. As a lecturer in a Higher institution, COFP program has enriched me on the various ways through which conflicts can be managed, which I brought into my profession, educating the students and colleagues on conflict management in other to maintain peace with one other. Most importantly, the program provided me with the knowledge of peace building and different ways through which peace building can be achieved and strengthened, and also the

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ONWURAH CHRYSANTUS



understanding of how we can co-exist in spite of our religious, ethnic, tradition and cultural differences, for, what cannot divide us will unite us. Finally, the COFP program exposed me on how to maintain the culture of peace anywhere I find myself. Kudos to the Founder, Director and the Staff of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP), you are healing the world by training Peace Ambassadors who are working and helping to bring peace to the world. Congratulations once again, keep it up! Thanks also to the sponsors of this great Peace Fellowship; your supports are yielding positive fruits already.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Strengthening the Role of Youth in Peace building in Awka.

Project Summary: The Peace summit was carried out on the 16th of December, 2020 in Awka Anambra State with a total number of forty two participants. The program aimed at training the youth leaders of different towns & villages in Awka on the role they have to play in strengthening peace building in the state. The project also focused on educating youth leaders on the strategies for peace building, enhancing their involvement in peace building,

creating awareness for peaceful co-existence and establishing conflict transformation platform for youths in Awka. The summit activities include presentation discussions on the concept of peace, peace building, perpetrators of conflict and consequences of conflict, conflict management and its styles, and, finally, the youth as a peace builder.

Project's Outcome/Impact: The above summit was the first time that Awka youths came together after years of prolonged town crisis. The youth leaders of the thirty three (33) villages in Awka were

represented and they took active participation in the program. The participants applauded the presentation and were happy with the peace project. They promised to help educate other youth members in their villages. The participants were also happy for the opportunity to come together to share their problems as well as proffer possible means of addressing conflicts nonviolently in the entire Awka town. They equally requested that the Foundation should endeavor to organize similar peace summit for their elders and stakeholders since peace is what everyone needs.





ONYEANSI VERONICA IFEYINWA

Executive Director of Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women Association, Kaduna State.

Onyeanisi Veronica Ifeyinwa is a Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Apostles (OLA). She hails from Anambra and works in Kaduna State. She is the Executive Director of Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women Association in Kaduna a.k.a Women's Interfaith Council (WIC). She holds a Master's Degree in Admin and Planning from the National Open University of Nigeria.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience of the Fellowship program has been very enriching, inspiring and empowering of skills and knowledge through the various courses handled. It has also been moments of learning and relearning. The skills and knowledge acquired has spurred me into action in my apostolate in promoting interreligious dialogue among the different faith groups I work with for peaceful coexistence and development. I remain grateful to the COFP team and the funders who made this training program possible.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ONYEANISI VERONICA IFEYINWA

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building Interfaith Relationship in Conflict Prone Community of Igabi Local Government Area through Muslim and Christian women

Project Summary: A joint project was implemented by Sr. Onyeansi, Veronica Ifeyinwa OLA of Women's Interfaith Council (WIC) and Hajiya Isyaku, Aisha Tukur of Federation of Muslim Women's Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN) in collaboration with Cardinal Onaiyekean Foundation for Peace (COFP). The workshop was held at Mal. Nasir El Rufai Skill Acquisition Center Mando, Igabi L.G.A. Kaduna State with fifty two (52) women and interfaith leaders in

attendance. The selection process ensured a good mix of Muslims and Christians from the L.G.A. and women faith groups to enable them have better interfaith interaction and improved interreligious understanding/dialogue and collaboration between the two faith groups (Christians and Muslims). During the workshop, the participants were educated on conflict prevention, management and early - warning early- response. At the end of the workshop the participants were evaluated and in their responses affirmed that the workshop was not only timely but will help to bring about peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims in the community. Some of the participants shared their thoughts as follows: In the





ONYEANISIV ERONICA IFEYINWA

words of Hauwa Idris, "I have come to understand that both the Christian and Islamic religions preach love and peaceful coexistence. We are tired of violence and we should make efforts to live in peace". In the words of Sarah Sunday, "We should start the peace talk from our homes. Our children need to be taught the truth. We all know the truth but we hide it for our selfish interest". According to Mairo Ibrahim, the Amira FOMWAN Igabi LGA, "As peace builders and mothers, start teaching your children the value of peace. Start by teaching them".

Project Outcome/Impact: The number of participants that attended the workshop was encouraging. The way they turned up in large numbers shows that they are

desirous of a peaceful society and if they are invited next time, more people will turn up. The program brought Christian and Muslim women together under one roof to interact with one another on ways to achieve peaceful coexistence and religious tolerance among the Christians and Muslims in Igabi LGA. The participants were very happy and confessed that "the workshop is essential for forgiveness and will help to eradicate hatred. In order to sustain this effort, an interfaith forum (Peace Ambassadors) was established for the Igabi Local Government area and the participants elected their two leaders- a Muslim and a Christian to coordinate their activities.



SALOME IBRAHIM

Committee Member, Commission for Interreligious Dialogue, Sokoto Diocese.

Salome Ibrahim is a Catholic from Sokoto state. She is a committee member of the Commission for Interreligious Dialogue, Sokoto Diocese. She holds NCE Certificate in Home Economics from the Federal College of Education Zaria, Kaduna.

My Reflections on Peace

If we want peace in our country, religion must make peace, first. If you are a Muslim and you do not like Christians that means you do not understand Islam and if you are a Christian and you do not like Muslims that means you don't understand Christianity.



COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

SALOME IBRAHIM



from all the lectures I received and my interaction with other fellow Muslims, I came to realize that there's no point for people fighting one other, because we all come from one God, serve one God and we shall all return to one God. Also, I learnt that there are people who are working tirelessly to see that peace has been restored in this country

My Community Peace Project
Project Title:
The Role of Parents in Peace Building.

Project Summary:
Salome held a one day workshop on 13th February, 2021 with fifty parents and teachers in attendance. The project community Kafur LGA, Kebbi state still leaves in factions and religious intolerance is the order of the day between Muslims and Christians, and their

children carry this further to their schools. So, the aim and objectives of the project is to give good moral & peace education to the children so that they will develop good and positive relationship with one other, be able to interact with fellows children, and even share seats in their classes without religious bias.



Project's Outcome/Impact: At the end of the workshop, parents and teachers from different schools formed a meeting group where they discuss issues that can be beneficial in

building good relationship among their children who are the future leaders of their community. While at the Local Government level, the participants pleaded for more of such workshops so that they will have more opportunities to express their grievances.



SAMUEL NUHU BABA

Lecturer at the Nasarawa State University.

Samuel Nuhu Baba is a member of ECWA Church in Nasarawa State and a Lecturer at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi Nasarawa State. He obtained M.A in Linguistics from University of Ilorin, Kwara State. He teaches linguistics and languages at Nasarawa State University, Keffi. Samuel is a Member of several youth organizations for peace building and has received proficiency training on community dialogue from the United States Institute for Peace. He is at the moment a doctoral student with the University of Ilorin, and Rhodes University, Grahams town, South Africa.

My Reflections on Peace

Peace is manifested in different folds; peace relating to the mind, harmonious living, tolerance, peace arising from wars, and above all, peace arising from religious respect and understanding. Peace is best understood as the absence of war or hostility, thus it is the most needed. The good thing we can do to better our living is to encourage peace, make it a culture and institutionalized it.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

SAMUEL NUHU BABA

The Fellowship program proves to be a scintillating experience; knowledge packed and largely experience sharing. It broadens my horizon and knowledge of interreligious dialogue and mediation; changed my perception of Islam and how to coexist with adherents of other religions, it rebuilds my capacity in leadership and mediation. The courses taken are all inclusive, very didactic and



practical. The weather of experience that resource persons bring into the program makes it all great.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Promoting Interreligious Dialogue for Peaceful Coexistence through Youth Mobilization in Keffi.

Project Summary: The peace workshop training was successfully implemented in Keffi, Nasarawa State. Fifty eight (58) participants were drawn from local Churches and Mosques in Keffi metropolis during the execution of the project on Dec. 17th, 2020. During the workshop, youth leaders were randomly selected and trained on interreligious dialogue for peaceful coexistence. The goal of the workshop was to build the capacity of youth leaders with a view to ensuring that they are equipped with the requisite knowledge on interreligious dialogue, peace building and peace processes that can help lay foundation for peaceful coexistence in their respective communities. Put differently, participants were trained and equipped with the necessary skills needed for peace building and mediation process. The attending participants were supported through series of activities, which include hands-on-deck exercises, pre- and post-test questions were administered for evaluation and feedback.

Project Outcome/Impact: After the training, about 90% of the participants had a change of perception as against their earlier presumptions about interreligious dialogue and peaceful coexistence.





SARKI ABUBAKAR

Youth President, Islamic Research and Da'awah Foundation, Abuja & Co-President Interfaith Youth Network Nigeria.

Abubakar Muhammad Sarki is a Sunni Muslim from Nasarawa State. He lives and works in Abuja. He is the Youth President of Islamic Research and Da'awah Foundation, Abuja and holds an LL. B from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Sarki was recently elected as the President Muslims student Society of Nigeria (AMAC).

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interfaith Conflict Resolution; Building the Nation of Our Dream.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

SARKI ABUBAKAR



Project Summary: The above workshop took place on February 6th, 2021 at Karu FCT. Hundred participants including community and religious women and youth leaders were in attendance. The workshop aimed at bringing different Religious leaders together to work for peace. It was a bridge building program that unit people of different religions and culture for peace in the community.



Project Outcome/Impact: Through this intervention, the organizer, Sarki, was able to bring the Muslims and Christians of Karu community together under one roof (this has never happened before), to discuss on possible ways of working together irrespective of their differences. The sustainability plan of the project is to create platform for youths to meet from time to time in order to hold discussions on issues that will make their community coexist harmoniously.





TONY UKACHUKWU

Apostle of Christian Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (CPFN) and Bloc Leader of Youth Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWICAN) Minna, Niger state.

Ukachukwu Tony is a Christian from Imo state; he resides and works in Minna. He is an Apostle of Christian Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (CPFN) and Bloc Leader of Youth Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWICAN) Minna. He holds a Diploma in Computer Science from Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife.

My Reflections on Peace

Peace is my language, peace is my Culture, Peace is my Tribe, and Peace is my Faith. Peace is for All Languages, Peace is for All Cultures, Peace is for All Tribes, and Peace is for All Faiths. Peace is the Language of my Culture, Peace is the Language of my Tribe, and Peace is the Language of my Faith. Peace my language! Peace my culture!! Peace my tribe!!! Peace my faith!!!!

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

TONY UKACHUKWU



Truth be told, my experience here in COFP remains the best and most outstanding in all my Interfaith and Peace Building involvements over the years. I met great friendly and professional staff members, in depth and relevant courses during the program. Practical oriented and relational training were carried out. Very impactful and inspiring resources persons; Sheikh Nurudeen Lemu and Pastor Wuye readily

come to mind. Meeting and cultivating great friends through the Fellowship is one of my greatest gains. And most especially, the joy and fulfilment in carrying out my Peace project and adding my quota to the peaceful coexistence among young people of different Faiths in my community. I remain grateful to the Foundation for what she has done and is still doing for the Nation and for humanity,



especially our father the Founder of COFP-John Cardinal Onaiyekan (CON).

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Mutual Dialogue for Peaceful Coexistence: A Necessity for Nation Building.

Project Summary: It was a one day Interfaith Peace Summit held on Dec 19, 2020 with fifty five participants including Muslim and Christian youths in Minna, Niger state. The aim of the project is to build mutual understanding, respect, peaceful coexistence and religious harmony between the Christians and Muslims in Minna in particular and the entire State as a whole.

Project's Outcome/Impact: As a result of the implementation of the above workshop, better relations now exist among adherents of the 2 main religions in the community. The previous mistrust, ignorance and mutual suspension were replaced with mutual understanding and respect through an improved knowledge acquired as evidenced through the outlook, interactions and utterances of the participants. Furthermore, YOWICAN (Youth Wing of CAN) Minna, Chachaga LGA has adopted Interfaith Peace Summit into their 2021 program calendar. Finally, the Media reports from the summit has extended greatly the impact of the program and further brought more public awareness on the efforts and activities of the COFP Foundation on peace.





YUSUF IBRAHIM

Team Lead/CEO of Advocacy Centre for Development, Gombe State.

Yusuf Ibrahim is a Shi'a Muslim from Gombe state and the Team Lead/CEO of Advocacy Centre for Development, Gombe State. He holds B. Sc. in Business Education from the University of Maiduguri Borno state.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

YUSUF IBRAHIM

The program enabled me to understand the oneness of God from the Christian perspective and our experience sharing from the field expanded further the level of my network.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Community Dialogue for Peace.

Project Summary: About fifty two (52) participants took part in the peace workshop organized from 6-12 Feb 2021 in Gombe state. The attendees were comprised of Community leaders from four (4) communities in the two LGAs (traditional and religious leaders), brought in to discuss peaceful co-existence and

further build community resilience, and also to support community social interactions, and dialogues. Importantly, the workshop provided a safe space for the two Local Government Area leaders that have a rift, to discuss on how to maintain peace in their locality in the near future.

Project's Outcome/Impact: The community leaders appreciated the intervention especially as it was coming from a neutral and credible body - the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace. They promised to maintain the established relationship and keep using the festive periods to promote peace.





ADAMU EPHRAIM

Project Officer of Search for Common Ground, Abuja.

Ephraim Adamu is an Anglican Christian and the Project Officer of Search for Common Ground, Abuja. He holds a B.Sc. in Information Systems Development from Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK and MBA from the University of Business and international studies, Geneva, Switzerland.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ADAMU EPHRAIM

My Community Peace Project

Project Summary: Ephraim's project took place in FCT Abuja. He organized a Symposium for FCT Youth on Peacebuilding and Drug Abuse. 261 students participated in the program from Government Secondary School Gwarimpa Life camp, Our Savior International Primary and Secondary School, Karmo



and New Era Model School, Karmo. During the symposium, students were informed of the critical role of community service in building communities and avoiding drug abuse. Drug abuse information packets were provided to the school for step-down to students. Each school was encouraged to set up Peace clubs. Two schools where the symposium was held have now resolved to set up peace clubs, while Government Secondary School Life camp revived their NDLEA club. These initiatives will outlast the intervention and will be beneficial to students entering from JS1 (age 10-12) which is the age bracket most susceptible to being introduced to gateway drugs and violence. Meanwhile, the goals & objectives of the project include: (1) Supporting youth learning by providing resources that encourage peace building, interfaith harmony, and community service. (2) Strengthening youth activities in interfaith dialogue by educating clustered interfaith groups of

students on the tenets of peacebuilding in religion and their value to society. (3) Supporting interfaith youth activities by establishing peace clubs in secondary schools, with relevant community and religious leaders as patrons.

Project Outcome/Impact: The drug abuse information packets shared were of vital interest to the Principals of the schools. The Principal of GSS Karmo indicated interest for a repeat session of the workshop every school term.





ALADEJANA MONSURAT

Zonal Secretary Women Affairs of NASFAT Ekiti State.

Monsurat is a NASFAT Muslim and the Zonal Secretary, Women Affairs of (NASFAT) Ekiti State. She holds a PGD in Marketing from the National Institute of journalism Ogba, Lagos State.

My Reflections on Peace

A peaceful environment brings about economic stability, improved health, livelihood and security. The willingness of all parties to dialogue, leads to peaceful resolution of conflicts which ultimately, results to the much desired PEACE, the world is clamoring for. Let's all resolve to live in peace.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

ALADEJANA MONSURAT



For me, my coming on board as COFP Fellow is very apt. The courses I was opportune to attend really gave me a completely different view about the Christian Faith, Christians, and diverse ethnicities in Nigeria and the peace mission itself. I heard and learnt for the first time, the damage single stories had done, and still does within a lot of families, Communities and Countries. For me, none of the course contents can be waved aside as they all came handy, during the planning and implementation of my Peace Project. The lecturers were all fantastic in the delivery of their papers. This really influenced me greatly. By God's grace, I plan to continue with the Peace crusade in my Community.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Promoting Interfaith Peaceful Co-existence through Community and Civic Engagement in Ekiti.

Project Summary: The one day workshop drew together fifty participants from Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State on 7th January, 2021. The workshop participants were religious leaders from the two prevalent Abrahamic religions; Islam and Christianity, as well as Women and Youths. The workshop aimed at Promoting Peaceful co-existence by educating participants on the fundamentals and practices of each religion and identifying similarities in practice and creed. Various advocacy groups from the two religions were identified, and fifty participants were drawn across board. Conflict resolution and peacebuilding topics were treated during the workshop.

Project's Outcome/Impact: Participants were encouraged to go back to their various groups and Local Governments and spread the message of peace. They were also urged to replicate same in all

communities in Ekiti as requested by some of the invited guests the (Senior Special Assistant to Ekiti State Government on Religious matters, CAN Chairman in Ekiti State and NASFAT Ekiti Zonal Chairman). Finally, due to the

importance of this kind of training at this period of crises in the country, the State government has requested that the organizer of the above workshop, Aladejana should organize a similar peace workshop at the state level.



ALADEJANA MONSURAT



HABIB ALIYU

Principal Assistant Registrar of the Federal College of Education Technical, Gusau, Zamfara State

Habib Aliyu Muhammad is a Shia Muslim, from Zamfara state and a Principal Assistant Registrar of the Federal College of Education Technical, Gusau. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship Program has increased my skills in identifying early warning signs of violence, so as to enable me prevent escalation of crises in my community.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Yarlabe Peace Talk

Project Summary: The workshop which was conducted on January 9th on 2021 in Yarlabe Community of Zamfara state had over 100 participants in attendance. The workshop created a forum for the community members to dialogue on how to establish lasting peace

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My Community Peace Project

HABIB ALIYU

in the community as there already exists periodical association meetings; the peace project has come to stay in the community. Yarlabé community has been bedeviled by continuous ethno religious conflicts which is caused by religious misunderstanding. In addition to the above intra ethnic and religious crises experienced, there is also the issue of banditry and insurgency that has affected even the community members. Many have lost their means of livelihood as they were destroyed by the bandits, many have lost their parents, husbands, wives and other dear ones. The

program gave a renewed hope to people in this category and even rekindled the zeal in the people to embrace themselves as one indivisible entity as against the division on the basis of religion, culture and otherwise planted in them by lovers of violent. During the town-hall meeting, a round table discussion was held and this enabled the aggrieved community members to poured out their minds and grievances.

Project Outcome/Impact: The Locals were highly enlightened and they expressed their happiness and





OSSI CHRISTOPHER

Catholic Priest & Director, Centre for African Studies,
Adult Education and Rural Development CASEARD
Ebonyi State.

Ossi Christopher is a Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Abakiliki and hails from Ebonyi state. He is the Director of Centre for African Studies, Adult Education and Rural Development (CASEARD). He holds a BA in Philosophy and Theology from Urban University Rome, and a MA in Political Philosophy from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

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COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

OSSI CHRISTOPHER

I have had several trainings in peace building and conflict resolution before now. Very remarkable for me was the training on Mediation and Conciliation in Port Harcourt (2002) by the Institute of Chartered Mediation and Conciliation, I.C.M.C Lagos. It was vast, comprehensive, very challenging and yet fruitful. Also, very global and enriching are the numerous postgraduate courses for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution at the National Open University of Nigeria.

However, beyond comparison was my experience of Interreligious Dialogue and Mediation training organized by the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace during the 2020/2021 Fellowship program. The curriculum is very innovative, diversified and comprehensive;

the context of Nigeria situation in particular and African condition in general is very aptly reflected in the exposition of the themes. The Facilitators are very knowledgeable, seasoned and their depth of reflection very high. Their delivery of lectures is very open, friendly, mature and yet very focused on the challenges, and complexity of the subject matter under discussion, while reflecting the international best practices in the discipline. All these experiences have provoked much thought and reflections in me that I wrote these books (1) The place of language in developing a curriculum for peace education, and (2) A Catholic's Experience of using Structured Narrative Dialogue in Mediation and Conflict Resolution and Lessons for practitioners.





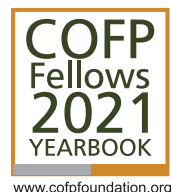
My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interfaith Peace Building and Mediation Facilitation in Ishiagu.

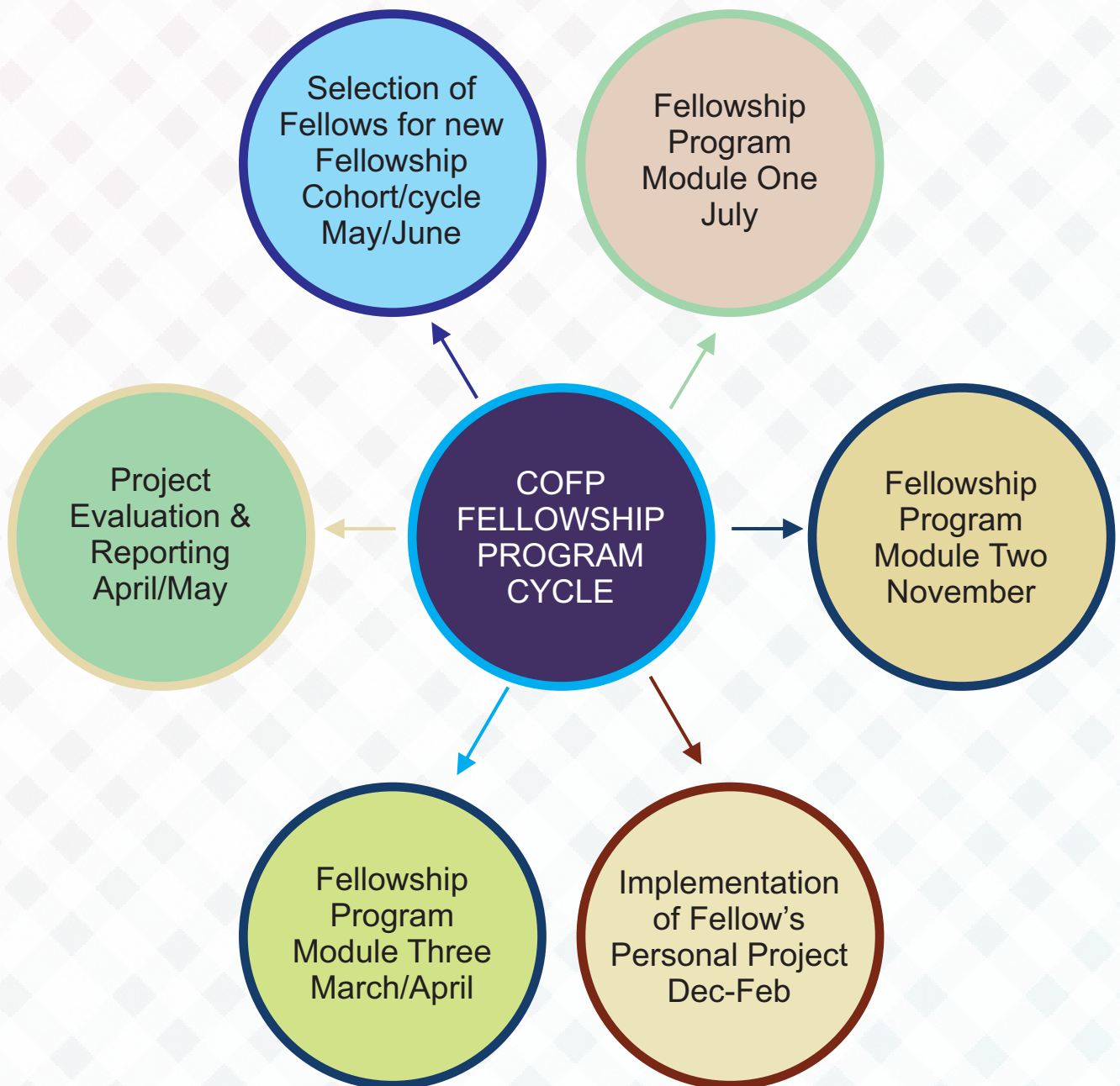
Project Summary: The two-day training workshop started on January 26, 2021 and ended on January 27, 2021 in Ishiagu, Ebonyi state. Many people were very passionate about the training and wished to participate, however thirty seven (37) people participated in the workshop on the first day and forty four (44) participated on the second day for the training sessions. The project targeted Community Leaders, Leaders of Faith-Based Organizations, Farmers, Herdsmen, Women Leaders, and Youths (males and females). Meanwhile, concerted efforts to secure the attendance of Muslim Herdsmen proved abortive as they had moved away from their camps to other areas. The overall goal of the project was to reduce conflicts between Herders and

farmers in order to eliminate incidence of environmental hazards, to enhance capacity building on conflict prevention and to establish a forum for dialogue/mediation in the community.

Project's Outcome/Impact: This step-down peace workshop provoked a tremendous amount of goodwill in Ishiagu Town as many of the participants demanded for more training, group/team exercises, and more guide on Interfaith dialogue, mediation, facilitation and documentation. The participants, pledged during interviews and discussions to practice what they had learnt in their homes and in their places of work. Finally, there is now a growing awareness on the necessity for attitudinal and behavioral change by all the people in the communities, in order to enhance peaceful coexistence in the town.



COFP Fellowship Program Cycle



A central graphic with a dark green background and white text. The text reads "COFP FELLOWS CLASS OF 2021". The graphic is framed by a thin orange border. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a horizontal bar divided into two segments: a grey segment on the left and an orange segment on the right.

**COFP
FELLOWS
CLASS OF
2021**

“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

Partners:



TONY BLAIR
INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE



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