



COFP

Fellowship Program

2022 YEARBOOK

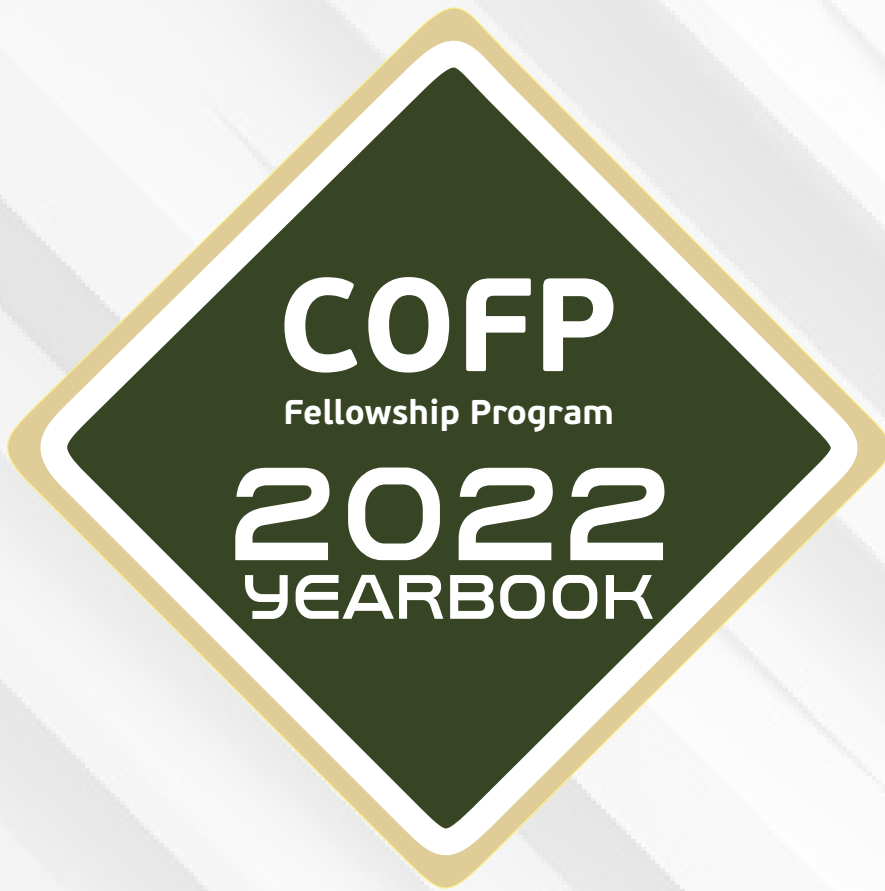
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Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP)

COFP Strategic Plan 2020-2025



COFP
Fellowship Program

2022
YEARBOOK

2021/2022 COFP Fellowship Program
Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation & Mediation

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The effort to build a continent that is peaceful, inclusive and progressive is the dream and desire of every African man and woman especially as the most local violent conflicts in Africa have ethno-religious, communal and political ties. Hence, building peace in deeply divided societies like Africa is a bumpy ride that we must not be afraid to venture into. Managing communal conflicts that guarantees safety and human development requires a lot not only from the government but the citizens also.

The encounter between Pope Francis and the Grand Sheikh Ahmad Al Tayeb of Al Azhar, and the outcome of that encounter in terms of joint statements on human fraternity, and the establishment of a joint council for the same purpose have given hope that together, we can surmount the challenges and come up with a more robust society that cares and protects the rights of every citizen.

COFP Foundation has toured this path in the last four years by providing the platform for religious leaders and peace actors to buy into the business of promoting peace and security through our annual COFP Fellowship Program which recognizes the important contributions of people of all religions and beliefs, with emphasis on building common grounds for peace through our understanding of the values shared by all mankind. Since government at the United Nations have seen the need to work with faith communities in building sustainable peace, government in Africa must consider engaging and mobilizing actively, civil society actors, faith-based groups as well as the traditional institutions in advancing peace and security for human development.

I wish to heartily congratulate the Fourth Set of COFP Fellow for their commitment and dedication through the one-year Fellowship program. With the one-year Fellowship Program in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation, these 60 COFP



Fellows who came together from all corners of Nigeria and African are now equipped and set for the task ahead of them. They have been empowered, strengthened and positioned to engage in a more meaningful interfaith and peacebuilding actions that will open up for development and peaceful societies across Africa. They have also discovered the force for inter-faith action, in a sacred coalition against violent extremism in the name of God.

They can henceforth be addressed as peacebuilders. Therefore, I challenge them all to use their newfound knowledge, skills, talents and the networks that they have built over the past one year for the common good and peace in our continent of Africa. A lot needs to be done, but we must start somewhere. Challenges and obstacles will come but don't forget that you have been equipped to overcome them with the help of God. Your greatest task therefore, is to take on the project of building a culture of peace and harmonious society wherever you find yourself. We also welcome the COFP Alumni Fellows who are here to witness the graduation of their successors and to familiarize with them for the greater task of community building ahead of them.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the GHR Foundation, German Federal Foreign Office, the Hilton Foundation, Veritas University of Nigeria, Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Nile University of Nigeria (NUN), Islamic Education Trust (IET) and other partners for their donations and contributions which has enabled us to continue with this life changing program thus far. We are still counting on your individual, organization and government partnership for the sustenance of the program. Let us not forget that alone we can move fast but together, we can go far.

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

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



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.



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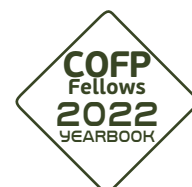
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ABOUT COFP FOUNDATION



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

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

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

As a Foundation for inclusive dialogue, and driven by the principle of common good in line with the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, the guiding point of reference for COFP is the *Nostra Aetate* Declaration of the Second Vatican Council on Interreligious Dialogue and Sustainable Development Goals SDGs (16) on peacebuilding. COFP is also guided by decades of leadership in addressing social injustice, interreligious dialogue and collaboration for peace and resilience of all people.

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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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/community leaders & actors 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 society/continent like Africa.

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



Building peace in an environment where ethnic strife, bad governance, terrorism and insecurity predominate is both a personal commitment, with organizational efforts and key responsibility of government. The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) has continued to engage faith leaders and community actors across the continent in efforts to bridge divisions by building inclusive societies that enhance peace.

It is certainly true that unless civil society, faith-based and community-based organizations are involved, government efforts alone to bring peace cannot succeed. Therefore, joining forces with other actors to strategically increase citizen participation, strengthen community resilient, ensure security and create peace narratives against hate speech, mistrust and stereotype remain our priority. This is the reason why building commitment for lasting peace and

development has always been the bedrock of our peacebuilding work.

Since its inception in 2018, COFP Fellowship program has presented us with the safe space needed for tackling the challenges of our times especially that of violent extremism by developing relationships in the face of complex set of dynamics. This has inspired us to continue relentlessly in our efforts towards building interfaith relations, strengthening communities and fostering culture of peace.

COFP Fellowship program has come to stay because of its unique role in preparing, equipping, empowering, encouraging and engaging leaders and actors to take an active role in communities where they live, always working towards ways to advance reconciliation and peace by assuming civic responsibilities that provide people with opportunities to take part in their own community development. For this reason, COFP Fellowship Program in 2021 took a new dimension by expanding its scope and horizon to other African countries. This has made it a Pan African program with global solidarity.

The journey to 2021/2022 COFP Fellowship Program which is in its 4th year with the Class of 2022 began in July, 2021 with a total number of 60 Fellows. Apart from the Nigerian Fellows who were in the majority, about ten Fellows were drawn from the following countries in Africa: Ghana, Liberia, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo DRC, Cameroon, Kenya, Zambia, Somalia, Morocco & South Africa. These Fellows represent adherents of the following Christian and Muslim sects/denominations within Nigeria and Africa. From the Muslim sects are: Sunni, Shite, NASFAT, Qadiriyyah, Ahmadiyya, and Tijjania, From the Christian faith came Catholic, Baptist, EYN, Orthodox, Presbyterial, Lutheran and Anglican.

Through a tailored, 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 and countries. Having fulfilled the necessary requirements for graduation, they will be awarded with a Certificate in “Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation” today May 21st 2022 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 Africa Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP) which is a nationwide and now continental scale network that enable Fellows from across the continent to further their interaction, cross cultural learning, peacebuilding joint interventions and experience sharing even after the Fellowship program.

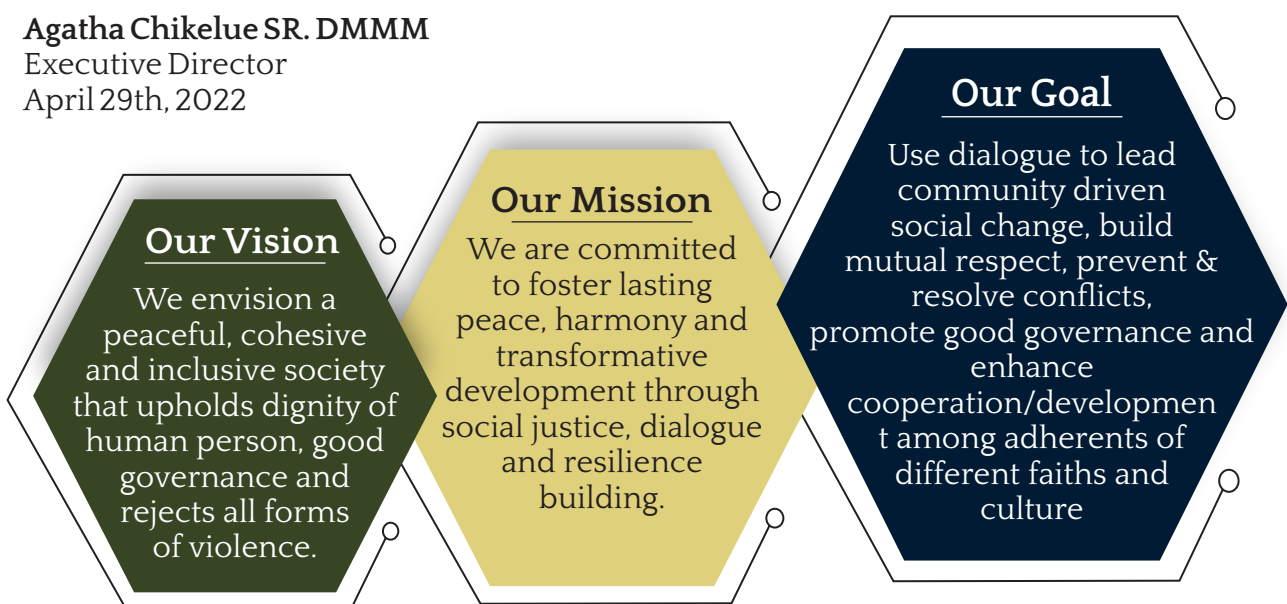
We are confident that the training received in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation has prepared our Fellows to become Peace Ambassadors. This means that a lot is now expected of them. One of the ways that they can strengthen the efforts to address challenges of today's conflicts, 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/ religious leaders & civil group 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, peaceful coexistence and community development. The time has come to translate dialogue into practical actions. That is what it means to be a COFP Fellow.

May I conclude by paying respect to our hero and colleague – Late Rex-Cyprain Aniah who died in a car accident on his way to supervise Fellow's peace projects three years ago. Rex, your memories are still very fresh in our minds. But we are consoled that this noble task for which you died is growing from strength to strength. Above all, we have faith that you are already resting with the Lord, the rewarder of every good action and the bestower of eternal peace.

Welcome once again and God bless you.

Agatha Chikelue SR. DMMM
Executive Director
April 29th, 2022



The COFP Fellowship Program Modules

How It Works

COFP Fellowship Program is a one-year Program that prepares, equips, inspires & engages religious and community leaders from diverse faith & cultural backgrounds, academicians, media personnel, security agents & peace actors across Africa with skills in interfaith dialogue, conflict transformation, leadership and mediation. With its inception in 2018, COFP Fellowship program has to date built the capacity of more than 170 people from 11 African countries in strengthening community resilience for peace & sustainable development.

The COFP Fellowship courses bring 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 uniqueness of the program is that it was designed and has continuously been updated based on African context by African scholars and for Africans working in Africa. The program is sub-divided into three modules/sessions which gives Fellows the opportunity to meet quarterly for one week-long in-class in-person training during the one-year

program. Before graduation, Fellows will receive a seed grant for implementing a peace project initiated by each one of them in their community. Upon graduation, University Certificates will be issued on **“Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation”** which automatically launch Fellows into COFP Africa Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP).

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, culture, religion and war. This session will be a useful avenue within which the discourse of war from Christian and Muslim perspective may be ethically examined in order to explore common grounds for peace.

Module Two

This module explains how training on violent conflict, dialogue negotiation, mediation and training the trainer courses in module two would help Fellows overcome prejudice and extremism; possibly creates common grounds for dialogue and build nonviolent commitment/approach to

addressing the issues of social injustice. Fellows will therefore be instructed to use similar processes in designing their individual projects which they would implement individually or collectively in their respective communities before the commencement

of the last training session and graduation.

Implementation of Individual Community Peace Projects Initiated by Fellows

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





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.



Abubakar Uthman Shehu

Biography



Executive Director, Interreligious Harmony and Advocacy Initiative, TSTV Africa, Kebbi state.

Abubakar Uthman Shehu is a Muslim from Kebbi State. He is the Executive Director, Inter-Religious Harmony and Advocacy Initiative, TSTV Africa-Abuja. He holds a B.Sc. in Information Technology, from Jamia Hamdard University New-Delhi, India and has a vast experience as a University lecturer in the field of Computer Science and Information Technology.

My Reflection on Peace.

Peace for me is, unity and harmonious inter-relations aimed at achieving some common societal, organizational, personal and interpersonal goals despite diversities of religion, culture or social background.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

- I. It has widened the scope of my knowledge and understanding in the area of interreligious conflict intervention and mitigation processes.
- ii. It adds to my skills of proposal, report writing, fund raising and benefit of team work and collaboration.
- iii. It exposed me to different approaches to dialogue and conflict possibility to co-exist in unity despite

resolution, strengthening my conviction in the diversities.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peacebuilding among Youths of Tertiary Institutions Project Summary

Held on the 16th of February 2022, in Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State, the peace project which focused on peacebuilding amongst youths of tertiary institutions attracted 150 participants cutting across the two major faiths of Islam and Christianity. The objectives of the project were to promote peaceful inter-religious coexistence and interpersonal relationship especially among youths of Tertiary Institutions.

Project outcome/Impact

As a result of Abubakar's project, the participants and people in his community have not only realized the relative proximity that exists between the two religions of Christianity & Islam but equally the possibility of adherents of these two religions coming together for dialogue. They have seen reasons and the need to embrace peace and avoid all forms of shady actions and activities. The participants were so happy that they are eagerly demanding for more of such similar project work in the community.



Abadum .U. Eugenia

Biography



Vocation Directress,
Augustinian Sisters, Kogi state.

Eugenia Abadum is a Catholic and an Augustinian Sister of the Mercy of Jesus, Kogi state where she is the Vocation Directress. She holds a License in Religious Sciences from Pontificio Università Urbaniana Rome.

My Reflection on Peace

For me, Peace is harmonious coexistence, the motto for this project is: 'Peace begins with me" this for me also means, peace must be built from the inside, from the inner being, from the family, from the local community, from schools, from religious institutes or places of worship then gradually extend to the entire country then to every part of the world.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience so far has been worthwhile, I have come to understand what it really means to live & relate with people (even those who hurt you), how to love them and how to be a mediator especially in situations where the tendencies of conflict is obvious, (and sensibly knowing and identifying the signs or drums of war and making a quick move to stop it or discourage its spread). It is NOT

ENOUGH to talk or give lectures on peace, but the actions that follows it makes a bigger impact. I will personally like to commend the Foundation for also giving me the opportunity to bring down to my local community a glimpse of what we have been taught, through the seminar I organized on peace talk & skills acquisition & empowerment. It is indeed a great privilege to be a Fellow on this great platform.

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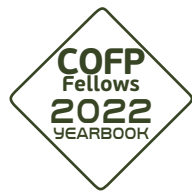


My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Social Integration through Peacebuilding and Welfare Remediation.

Project Summary:

The 2 days' seminar which held on the 22nd and 23rd of February, 2022, at Idah, Kogi state was a forum where youths from different localities and different faith backgrounds were invited to come and listen to peace talks delivered by different resource persons. Also, the workshop was to reflect and examine peace building approaches, through conflict transformation, dialogue, mediation, and reconciliation as essential elements in building sustainable peace. Twenty (20) beneficiaries, 41 participants and 3 facilitators were in attendance.





Project outcome/Impact:

The target was on youths, but on hearing about the seminar many other uninvited persons attended the program and even made valuable contributions especially during the interactive session. For the organizer, this was a clear indication that they have been longing for such programs, and are indeed ready and committed to work for this noble course of projecting the language of peace to their communities. Importantly, the forum had a great impact on the lives of the people especially when Eugenia gave little financial support to the unemployed youths who were interested in living for peace to enable them set up their petty businesses.

Emetumah Fatima Ijeoma

Biography



Amirah/Chairperson, Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) & Lecturer, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri Imo state

Fatima Emetuma is a Muslim from Imo state. She is the Amirah of the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria, (FOMWAN) Imo state. She holds a Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and also lectures at the Federal Polytechnic Nekede.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace to me is love, and love is life. A soul without peace is bound to wither thus, every soul must be desirous of peace and love to attend meaningful development.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

COFP has equipped me in no small measure to authoritatively undergo my peace advocate mission with confidence. The knowledge gained will surely help me to contribute in stopping religious bigotry that is tearing our country apart today.

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My Community Peace Project Project Title: Peaceful Coexistence Through Knowledge (PCTK)

Project Summary

The two-day project was held at Umuofor Autonomous Community, Imo state on the 12th & 13th of February, 2022 to establish peaceful coexistence among adherents of different religions. Knowledge sharing from the scriptures and other traditional religious source was used to instill the culture of love and acceptance among religious groups. Christians and Muslims were encouraged to gain some knowledge about each other's religions, culture, tenets etc. no matter how small in order to create room for mutual love and understanding. 112 participants attended this peace forum.

Project Outcome/Impact

By the end of the Amirah's peace project, the participants did not only gain knowledge about Islam and Christianity which they never had before, but they also wholeheartedly resolved to apply their new knowledge and called for more of such workshops in their community.



Sabina Nganga Njeri

Biography



Secretary, Kenya Women of Faith Network & a Certified Counselling Psychologist and Mediator at the Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi

NGANGA SABINA NJERI is a Kenyan Catholic. She is the Secretary of the Kenya Women of Faith Network. Sabina is a Certified Counselling Psychologist and Mediator at the Technical University of Kenya, Nairobi. She holds a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology from the Mount Kenya University.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is the absence of conflict or violence. It is a state of tranquility where every person is able to co-exist harmoniously with the neighbor. For one to be able to share peace with the neighbor one must have what we call inner peace which is a state of self-realization and acceptance. After accepting the self then, it is easy to accept others hence building interpersonal peace. Peace with the neighbor should be expanded to the community and to the wider society so that we all can live in peace and harmony.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) Fellowship Program has given me a lot of personal growth. As a Christian I have learnt more about Christianity and what the Bible talks

about the way man should relate with his Creator (God) and how man should relate with his neighbor. My neighbor is every person I encounter as we are all created in the image and likeness of God (Imago Dei).

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Training for Interfaith Youths and Women

Project Summary

In order to break the barriers between people of different faiths, Sabina organized a peace project which was held in Nairobi, Kenya on the 17th of February, 2022 with 17 youths and 25 women taking part in it. The objectives of the workshop were to build the capacity of interfaith youths and women by enlightening them more about interfaith dialogue, peace building activities as well as conflict resolution mechanisms.

Project Outcome/Impact:

The project helped to break barriers between people of different faiths. The participants got a chance to interact and learn from each other. They acknowledged each other as child of God and acquired skills that they promised to disseminate to others in their religious organizations.



Abbas Agbaje Oluwaseun

Biography



Trained Missionary & National Officer,
Majilis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, Nigeria.

Abbas Oluwaseun is an Ahmadiyya Muslim from Osun State. He is a trained Missionary & National Officer at Majilis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, Nigeria. He holds a B.Sc. in Botany from Unilag and M.Sc. in Sustainable Environmental Management from the University of Greenwich, UK.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is attainable through the proper use of our body parts: Eyes (Inner and Outer): to appreciate the Divine wisdom behind human diversity and envision a harmonious co-existence.

Ears: to eschew to listen twice, one for information and second for insight. Listen to understand, not to undermine.

Heart: to love all without discrimination, forgive all without reservation.

Legs: Seek places and people who seek peace and steer clear of people and places that invoke fear and disharmony.

Hands: Build bridges and block bullies, hold your fellow's hands and do good together, but don't fold your arms when the right of others is abused.

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP program has offered me tremendous opportunities to better understand the 'Otherness' of people who don't share our faith and creedal philosophy. I have gained excellent knowledge and insights on peaceful dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution, and leadership. My community project provided a unique opportunity to make critical contributions to fostering community peace and addressing diverse enablers of violence at different social strata. The COFP program has allowed me build an enhanced skillset for making a difference in the society. The experiential learning has offered immense value and I truly appreciate the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace for building Peace Ambassadors.



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: - One-Day Stakeholders' Meeting on the Impact of Drug Abuse on Communal and National Peace and Security.

Project Summary

Abbas & Taofeequah held a one-day joint peace project on 17th February, 2022 at Ikorodu (Comprising Baiyeku, Igbogbo, Ijede) Lagos state with about 215 participants. The project aimed to sensitize critical stakeholders on the need to enhance parenting to effectively curb antisocial tendencies among adolescents and young adults, in order to develop response strategy for reorienting youths to discourage illicit drug use and resort to vices and violence and to engender an atmosphere that promotes dialogue among critical stakeholders to collectively work to stop drug abuse by strengthening social and cultural institutions. Furthermore, the program aimed at nudge religious leaders and faith-based organizations to develop programs that educate young people and inspire them to play leading roles in peaceful co-existence.

Project outcome/Impact:

Abbas peace project gave rise to a short-term Strategic Partnership and Stakeholders' Collaboration. The participants became fully aware of the dangers of drug abuse among youths and what role they need to play to stem the tide. As a result of the project execution, the Lagos State Youth Council team agreed to commit to working with other stakeholders to develop a strategy for reorienting young across different societal strata on the dangers of drug abuse to their own health and future ambition.



Agbaraji Gladys Osinachi

Biography



Coordinator, Institute for Formators,
Jos., Nigeria

Gladys Osinachi is a Religious Sister from Clarissan Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She is the Coordinator of Institute for Formators Jos. She holds Master's degree in Educational Psychology from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace means swimming alongside others without suffocating others but appreciating our diversities. Peace is a glue that binds all together irrespective of our beliefs, traditions and values. Peace helps us to navigate our diversities in harmony and non-violent communication. For me peace means tranquility of mind and being in harmony with others. It is a calm state of the mind. Peace is a stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there is no fighting or war.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace has taught me how to be an ambassador of peace. I will remain ever indebted to this Foundation. Through this Foundation, I have learnt the need for people to live in peaceful co-existence, to educate people on how to discontinue from creating

division but rather embrace peace and unity. Again, I have learned that people should not allow an imported religion divide us rather it should be a uniting factor for all of us, that peace is a fundamental component of community development and that living together in peace rather than constant hostility should be our priority.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: A One-Day Interreligious Dialogue/Skill Acquisition and Empowerment

Project Summary

The one-day interreligious dialogue and skill acquisition program held on 12th February 2022, at Shen, Jos, Plateau state. The program brought together 125 participants out of which 50 widows were empowered with starter kits after the vocational training. The objectives of the project were to facilitate a workshop that gives sufficient peace education on how to live in harmony with oneself and with others, to facilitate a skill acquisition training that would train widows on basic house needs including, cosmetology products like: liquid soap, pomade, disinfectants of varied types and perfumes were used to empower them to be self-reliant so as to reduce their dependence on opportunistic politicians who might take advantage of the widows' vulnerability.





Project Outcome/impact

The project brought smiles on the faces of the widows who were living in abject poverty and became a platform for peace building to a community that had forbidden Muslims from living in the same society with them after the crisis they had years back that claimed the lives of many of the indigenes. The project brought favors to a community that has not attracted the serious intervention of the NGO's before then. The organizer, Sr. Gladys Osinachi had the opportunity to visit the Chief of the town and his cabinet members, she was also privileged to meet the community leaders and the president of the widows of Shen community. They were overjoyed and testified to the fact that God's intervention has come to their community. They prayed and deeply thanked the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace and the Hilton Foundation for the sponsorship.



Shaljaba David Buba

Biography



Retired Brigadier General from the Nigerian Army, Commander-34 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Owerri, Fellow-National War College and Chairman, UEDA/GUAPA Humanitarian Development Initiative Maiduguri

Shaljaba David Buba is a faithful of the EYN/All Saints Protestant Church. He was the Commander, 34 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Owerri and retired as a Brigadier General from the Nigerian Army. He works as the Chairman of UEDA/GUAPA Humanitarian Development Initiative, Maiduguri. Buba holds a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He is a Fellow National War College, Nigeria.

My Reflection on Peace.

For me, peace is a collective effort, therefore, since peace is a collective effort, there is need for all the members of the community to participate in establishing a peaceful coexistence and a peaceful environment. All the traditional rulers and the religious leaders are also to play vital roles in promoting peaceful coexistence in the society.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My personal experience and what I've learnt so far on this program speaks volumes. However, for the purpose of brevity, most important is the opportunity of obtaining more knowledge on my faith as a Christian

and how to relate more friendly and peacefully with others that are not of the same faith with me. The program has deepened my understanding on the situation that people's reactions especially in our Country Nigeria towards religious differences basically is due to either the persons lack in adequate knowledge about their religion or that the religious leaders preach what is not obtained in the various religious books. My perception about how to live peacefully in Nigeria and even globally is possible if this program is given more publicity especially through our various learning institutions. We need peace in our communities, states and the entire country now more than ever and it can be achieved. I am proud to be a COFP Fellow. Thanks

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Promoting Safe Space for Security and Intercultural / Interfaith Relationship in Askira/Uba.

Project Summary

The one-day peace project was held on the 18th of February, 2022 at Askira/Uba LGA, Borno State. Borno State has been bedeviled by insurgency for more than a decade now, and Shaljaba's community peace project came as a ray of hope in the horizon. His targeted audience was 100, but interestingly, about 160 participants turned up for the peace workshop. The peace project aimed at building harmonious relationships among people of different cultures and religious groups in the community and also to promote an atmosphere that enhances peaceful flow of conversations and interactions on issues affecting the community. The workshop attracted almost all the Traditional Rulers in the area as it relates to human safety. Solutions were proffered by experts: Islamic clerics and Christian Pastors to numerous questions and concerns raised by the participants.





Project outcome/Impact:

The people of Askia Uba were overwhelmed with gratitude to the convener, for such a rare opportunity to sit with scholars and traditional rulers to look for a way forward out of the insurgency that has plagued their area and had subsequently sown seeds of fear and discord in the community. They all pledged to go home and apply what they have learnt in the workshop to their individual and community lives. The Traditional rulers were most impressed and demanded that Shaljaba should host more of such peace workshops to enlighten the populace and create a common ground for different faiths and cultures within the community to brainstorm on issues affecting their peaceful co-existence. While the local councilor pledged to give Shaljaba every support he needs anytime he is ready to carry out such project in the community again.

Kadiri Haleemat

Biography



Assistant Director, NAFDAC, Abuja

Kadiri Haleemat is a member of Nasrul-Lahi-L-Faith Society (NASFAT), Abuja and works as an Assistant Director with (NAFDAC). She holds M.Sc. in Industrial Chemistry.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a major state of mind that brings harmony. It is freedom from fear of violence, conflict, between individuals or groups. Two of the major religions we practice in Nigeria (Islam and Christianity) preach peace and there is need for our leaders to use peacemaking and diplomacy to establish a type of behavioral restraint that will result in the establishment of regional peace & economic growth through dialogue and mediation.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP has informed and adequately equipped me with the most needed knowledge and tools to engage in dialogue and promote peace in my community.

Equally, the program has built my capacity effectively on inter religious dialogue and ways and manners to interface and relate well with other

religious bodies. And, I have also acquired more understanding and knowledge on the conduct and practice of other faiths.

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My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Ending Violence against Women and Girls and Sustaining Peace Within the FCT

Project Summary

Haleemat's one-day peace workshop took place on the 20th of February, 2022 with 95 participants at NASFAT Islamic Centre, Kubwa, Abuja. Her goal was to reduce the rate of domestic violence among target beneficiaries, create awareness and build capacity of NASFAT and Christian women on domestic violence. While the main objectives of her project included, eliminating all forms of violence against Women and Girls under SDGs, eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), & educating the target audience on their roles as leaders and sensitizing other women affected by domestic violence.

Project Outcome/Impact

At the end of Haleemat's peace project, a forum was established to prevent domestic violence because, the participants saw the need to shun domestic violence in their community. Their confidence was built to curb all forms of violence among women & youths through dialogue and mediation while also exploring other ways of mitigating the inhuman act in the society.

The project further provided the 10 branches of NASFAT and the Catholic Women Organization avenues for reporting cases of violence.



Agbakoba Julie Ngozi

Biography



Sister of the Clarissan Missionary of the Blessed Sacrament, Ezillo, Abakaliki, Ebonyi state

Julie Agbakoba is a Catholic Sister of the Clarissan Missionary of the Blessed Sacrament, Ezillo Community, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. She holds an M. Sc. in Accounting from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace for me is everything that makes life livable. Absence of conflicts in individuals' communities, states, countries. Peace is love, harmony and unity. Peace for me is freedom from disturbance. Peace brings about growth, progress, solidarity & oneness. Where there is peace, there is no room for quarrels and there is always dialogue and forgiveness as means to maintain peace.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My gratitude to God Almighty for this golden opportunity given to me to participate in 2021/2022 Fellowship program. To the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace, I say well done for the great work you are doing, you will continue to live long. This program has made an impact on me positively as a person, at my place of work and the society at large. My way of thinking, reasoning and attitude has changed

having been educated on inter religious dialogue and peace building. Through the project I carried out through COFP, many have been empowered, and peace restored in communities. I will continue to implement all I have learnt to touch lives. Long live Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace.

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My Community Peace Project: Project Title: Peace for Human and Societal Building through Empowerment

Project Summary

Without peace and understanding, a society cannot work together to achieve a common goal. That has been the challenge of Ezilo & Iyiolu in Ishielu LGA of Ebonyi state, that have been at war for some time over land dispute. Julie in an attempt to broker peace invited 60 unemployed youths and some students from both communities from the 12th - 13th February, 2022 to discuss their problems and to find a way forward. Julie achieved the objective of her project by incorporating empowerment/skill acquisition workshop into her project. The youths were trained on production of liquid detergents, perfumes, and bakery. Thereafter, they were given starter packs for producing liquid detergents, perfumes for sale and catering materials (Industrial Frying pans, etc.).





Project Outcome/Impact

Julia Agbakooba through her youth empowerment and skill acquisition peace project carried out for these two communities, brought relative peace between these communities that has been at war for some years. These youths that fought one another at the slightest opportunity in the past, now sit together under one roof, shared ideas, food, drinks and were trained and empowered on the same skills during the course of the project. They went home happy after the project, eager to totally stop the incessant fights & were full of hopes for the future. Interestingly, some of the youths that acquired liquid soap making skills are now into full production on their own. And those that got the catering materials have gone ahead to establish some petty business that helps them to be self-reliant and earn daily income for their families.



Abdellah Khayya

Biography



Secretary General,
Moroccan Youth League
for interfaith Dialogue

Khayya Abdellah hails from Boujdour in Morocco. He is a Sunni Muslim, peace educationist & activist, Co-founder and Secretary General, the Moroccan Youth League for Interfaith Dialogue. Abdellah holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the St. Petersburg State University, Russia.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace not only means the obvious lack of conflict between different groups, but it means everyone is able to feel safe, and most importantly, loved.

Peace is the feeling you get when you see neighbors helping one another after a natural disaster. It's the ability to love who you love without the fear of being attacked. It's being able to walk on the sidewalk without people moving to the other side of the road, or clutching their purses. Peace is going to the grocery store and not being judged for what you wear or who you choose to worship. It's the safeness someone feels after being hugged when they are feeling down. Peace is all of this, and so much more.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I am honored to be selected for COFP Fellowship program. COFP program has a positive impact on me personally and professionally as I was able to meet up with great fellows and lecturers as well as COFP Foundation team who have afforded me great support before and during the Fellowship. Attending The COFP Fellowship was one of the most rewarding things I have done in my career. Having the opportunity to have a deep understanding of interfaith and interreligious dialogue as well as fundamentals for co-existence is indeed rewarding. I realized how important it is to broaden my thinking and gain new perspective. At COFP Foundation, you are surrounded by brilliant and talented Professors and Fellows. Having the opportunity to exchange knowledge with

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some of the Fellows was my favorite part of the Fellowship. I felt as though I finally found a way to practice interreligious dialogue as Fellows belong to different faiths and the program was organized in Nigeria where interreligious dialogue is a big issue. I experienced tremendous growth through my interactions with Fellows and lecturers and I learned a lot about myself as a leader and peace advocate. Finally, it was an honor to implement my community project which had a good impact on young peace champions in my community. All these achievements could not have been done without the generous support from COFP Foundation.



My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Interfaith Training for Local Peace Workers Towards a More Tolerant Community.

Project Summary

The two-day peace project which began on the 21st of February 2022, at Boujdour Morocco brought together 30 participants who were divided into two groups of 15 participants each for the 2 days. The workshop aimed at building capacities of local youth workers in the field of peace building and interfaith dialogue.

Project Outcome/Impact

Following the execution of this project, Abdellah plans on establishing a platform for attendees to form peace circles in the future by setting up strong network among participants to organize peacebuilding activities and exchange expertise with one another. Also, by creating a network of young peace champions, the youth will have more opportunity to advocate for interfaith dialogue and tolerance in schools and universities. This will encourage the female youth workers to actively take part in peace activities in the community. Finally, through this network, the youths will synergize with local authorities and other stakeholders to generously support activities that boost interfaith dialogue and inter-ethnic coexistence in his local community.



Ajegena Azizi Elizabeth

Biography



Chairperson, Women Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria, (WOWICAN), 19 Northern states and Abuja.

Elizabeth Ajegena is a Christian from Nasarawa State. She is the Chairperson of Women Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria, (WOWICAN), 19 Northern states and Abuja. She holds B. Sc. in Economics from the University of Jos.

My Reflection on peace

For me, Peace is a necessity. No peace, no meaningful development. We seek peace every day, we all have faith in something, the issue is whether or not we have faith in each other and in our abilities that will move our society to greater heights.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

In my one-year training program with COFP, I learned how to tolerate one another irrespective of religious or ethnicity differences and to respect one another's opinion.

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My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Peaceful Co-existence among Christian and Muslim Women in Lafia.

Project Summary

The forum was a one-day workshop organized for women from different faiths within Lafia communities on the 7th of February, 2022. It aimed at building relationships, tolerance, understanding and creating awareness among women, on the need for peace. Peace is a necessity, no peace - no meaningful development. Furthermore, the forum provided an avenue for Muslims and traditional groups to interact and iron out their issues amicably and equally created a network of women ready to disseminate the message of peace.

Project Outcome/Impact

Elizabeth's project created a massive awareness among Christian and Muslim participants. The participants expressed their appreciation for the timely workshop and promised to work together as one family.



Laisin Juliet

Biography



Teaching at St. Paul Nursery & Primary school, Dawaki, Plateau state.

Laisin Juliet is a Catholic Reverend Sister of the Infant Jesus Religious congregation. She teaches at St. Paul's Nursery and Primary School, Dawaki Plateau State. She holds a B. Ed. in Education Administration and Planning from Taraba State University.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I am very blessed to be a beneficiary of the COFP Fellowship program this year. This program has helped me to build relationships outside of my circle and exposed me to different views and people from various spheres of life. My basic knowledge of Islam has helped me to appreciate our differences and taught me to avoid generalization. I have also learnt some skills in peace building, peaceful co-existence and different ways to nip symptoms of conflicts in its bud and this will remain in me all my life.

My Reflection on peace:

Looking at all the gruesome happenings in the world today, families being turned against each other, countries torn apart and innocent children who ordinarily should have had no part in all the happenings usually getting caught up

in the middle of all this chaos, one would have wondered if the concept 'peace' really existed in reality or it's only a fictitious concept. However, peace is the freest of all the gifts nature could ever bestow on us, as the fabric of all that ever existed is woven out of peace itself. It abounds in all of life forms: From the air we breathe to the sounds of the birds' song and in the little noises of the children around us, yet, it is the most difficult gift for us to accept owing to the fact that we have detached ourselves from nature and reality and selfishly sought our own good at the expense of others. This has reduced the word 'Peace' to almost a laughable term, one which seems rather a deceit than a true

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reality but, if we can humble ourselves once again to the true essence of nature and humanity, then we can still enjoy that peace which seems only a myth in this world.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peacebuilding, Peaceful Co-existence and Women Empowerment.

Project Summary:

Rev. Sr. Laisin Juliet carried out a very impactful peace project in her community of Dawaki, Kanke Plateau state. The two days' workshop which was held on the 11th & 12th of February, 2022, targeted elderly women, widows and single mothers with the aim of giving them a more viable means of livelihood for themselves and their families. About 209 peasant female farmers (102 on the first day & 107 on the second day) were empowered with improved seedlings of maize and beans for the planting season. Sadly, Dawaki community abandons the responsibility of catering for the family to women, who culturally are the breadwinners of their family and not the men. Her project relieved these peasant women of the burden of procuring viable seeds for their farms which is their only means of livelihood. Those who benefitted from the gesture were mostly widows and single mothers that went home full of appreciation



Project outcome/Impact

Sr. Juliet's Project has achieved the feat of making the women see the need of living harmoniously as one, despite their individual and religious differences and the huge responsibility which their culture has foisted on them. Equally, it has made them to realize that though they are single parents or widows they can still impact the lives of their children and the community as a whole positively. The gesture of giving them seeds to sow, significantly translates also to how they train their children and what teachings they give to them bearing in mind that such an upbringing will yield fruits in the long run and manifest in their lives. Some of the women that were interviewed at the end of the workshop, confessed, that it was their first time attending a peace workshop and they felt very privileged to have been given this rare opportunity. The leader of the widow's group thanked the COFP and the Sisters of the Infant Jesus for this opportunity and they promised to take this peace education to their homes and make efforts to mend their faulty relationships.



Mariam Hassan Gambo

Biography



Executive Director, Child Protection and Women Empowerment Initiative (CPWEI) & Lecturer, Yobe State University Damaturu Yobe state

Mariam Gambo is a Sunni Muslim from Yobe State. She is the Executive Director of Child Protection and Women Empowerment Initiative, (CPWEI). She holds a B.Sc. in Biology and Masters in Educational Psychology from Yobe State University, Damaturu, where she is also a Lecturer.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is Wealth, Peace is Life. Without peace, there will never be any development. Maintaining peace is everyone's responsibility. We all need to reflect, we need to remember that before we hold any identity of religion, tribe or ethnicity, we are first identified as humans so, we need to love one another.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship program has really made a tremendous effect in my life. It made me have an entirely different view towards people of other religions. It gave me the opportunity to widen my network internationally. With the support from COFP, I was able to successfully conduct an interfaith dialogue and brainstorming session with Women-

led Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) where discussion focused on the roles of women in Peace Building and Countering Violence Extremism in Yobe State. I can boldly and confidently say that I am equipped and ready to promote peaceful coexistence, spearhead and participate actively in all peacebuilding activities on interfaith and violent extremism prevention.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Enhancing Women Participation in Peace Building and Countering Violent Extremism in Yobe State – Nigeria.

Maryam carried out her peace project in Damaturu, Yobe State, on the 8th of February, 2022 for a total number of 50 women in her community. The workshop focused on tolerance, understanding and cohesion amongst women through interfaith dialogue and engagement and was extensively deliberated in a panel discussion by Muslim Clerics and Christian scholars. The aim of the workshop is to empower women with skills for building peace and countering violent extremism for peaceful coexistence in their communities. The participants were happy at the end of the program for the opportunity given to participate in the program.





Project Outcome/Impact

The above community peace project improved the understanding of the participants on their role in countering violent extremism and peacebuilding. Through this workshop, the capacity of women-led FBOs in organizing interfaith engagements and peacebuilding processes were enhanced.



Louis Ojougboh

Biography



National Vice President, Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria, (CYON).
He lives in Delta state

Comr. Louis Nwabueze Ojougboh holds (B.Sc.) in Computer Science from National Open University of Nigeria. He is the National Vice President Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria, South South Coordinator, PDP Youth Vanguard & Director Arts, Culture and Tourism National Youth Council of Nigeria.

My Reflection On peace

For me, Peace means the absence of conflict or war.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Partaking in COFP Fellowship is a great privilege for me for it has made my approach for Peace more defined, by listening and carefully ascertaining root causes and being more diligent and diplomatic in my everyday life, because when you have a sustainable peace of mind among everyone, there will be sustainable development.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Youths and Politics, Sustainable Peace for Sustainable Development.

Project Summary

The workshop on interfaith peace building which held on the 5th February, 2022 at Asaba, Delta State brought together 30 participants. The workshop aimed at improving peaceful participation of youths in politics for Sustainable Development in the State.

Project Outcome/Impact

Louis's workshop increased the knowledge of the participants on conflict resolution, conflict management and conflict transformation in relation to politics.



Yilma Boru Hilpa

Biography



Program Head, Ethiopia Interfaith Forum for Development and Dialogue and Action (EIFDDA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Boru Yilma is an Ethiopian and a Christian of the Orthodox Church. He is the Program Head, Ethiopia Interfaith Forum for Development Dialogue and Action (EIFDDA), Addis Ababa. Yilma holds Masters Degrees in Gender Studies and Business Administration from the Addis Ababa and Jimma Universities, respectively.

My Reflection on Peace:

My understanding of Peace is fundamentally about dealing with the reasons why conflicts & fights happen between groups, peoples, or communities in the first place, and how to manage differences and conflicts without resorting to violence. Peace is important for nation development, creating harmony among various ethnic and religious groups, accepting differences, resolving injustice in nonviolent ways and transforming the structural conditions that generate deadly conflicts and violence.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

At the outset, I am thrilled to witness that I am able to acquire the required

knowledge and skills which has truly turned my wishes into reality. This excerpt was my ambition I wrote while applying for the COFP Fellowship program “in the future EIFDDA would like to build the capacities of the grassroots community representatives to be advocate and champions of peace. To this regard this initiative would be a good opportunity to gain knowledge and experience for mobilizing religious leaders, community elders, youths and women representatives to advocate for peace and conflict resolution” The courses have been designed and delivered exceptionally to fulfill the need I was looking for when I applied for the program, which includes the

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Tenets of Christian Faith, Fundamentals of Islamic beliefs etc. They really provided me with the core concept of religion, faith interactions and the role of interfaith dialogue on peace in addressing conflicts involving religion.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Training Workshop on Conflict Sensitivity and Planning Interventions for Interfaith Youths

Project Summary

Yilma's community peace project was a two days' event held on the 5th & 6th February, 2022 at Oromia Region, AMBO City, Ethiopia for 20 youth participants who were selected from interfaith peace forum. The workshop's objectives included familiarizing the concept of Conflict Sensitivity in Project Cycle Management for Interfaith Youth Forum Members; developing understanding about conflicts and its dynamics among interfaith youths; enhancing knowledge and understanding on the concepts of peace, conflict and violence and strengthening skills and knowledge on conflict analysis, Connectors and Dividers.



Project outcome/Impact

As a result of Yilma's peace workshop, the Interfaith Youth Peace Forum has come up with actions and activities to work with other peace committees at local structures in a coordinated manner. The Forum is now actively working for sustainable peace in Ambo City as members have developed their knowledge and understanding of the root causes of conflicts in their localities. The Interfaith Youth Forum is instrumental for creating more stable zones in Ethiopia especially, as youths are beginning to understand their role in peacebuilding.



Phoebe Thomas Abdu

Biography



Vice President, Irigwe Development Association, Plateau state

Phoebe Abdu is an ECWA Christian and the vice President of the Irigwe Development Association, Plateau state. She holds a B.Sc. in Journalism from ABU (NTA Television College), Jos.

My Reflection on Peace:

As human beings, we owe each other a duty of care. We must love and forgive.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I honestly learned a lot in the COFP Fellowship program, I experienced the reason to forgive and let go of the past and embrace peace because the Christian, Islamic and Jewish religions are all Abrahamic religions emanating from the same creator. Thanks

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Fulanis and Iriqwe Communities Emergency Humanitarian and Peace Breakfast Meeting.

Project Summary

The communities of Iriqwe and the Fulanis have been in conflict for many years. There is need for peace to reign in these communities. With this in mind, Phoebe gathered 300 community members to dialogue and proffer solutions to the incessant crises in their community. It was a one-day community peacebuilding workshop held at Maingo Rest Home (HRH) Plateau State with the objective of reconciling the Fulanis' and Iriqwe communities. Both groups need healing from the past wounds inflicted on them as a result of the crises which is presently affecting the younger generation, leaving them traumatized. Indeed, peace is the only sure way to bring healing to both community groups.



Project outcome/Impact:

The participants were reunited with the Muslim Fulani's that ran away from iriqwe community for over 20 years during the peak of the crises.



Dahiru Usman Abubakar

Biography



Managing Director and
Chief Executive of Munzaifad Venture

Dahiru Abubakar is a Shia Muslim from Gombe State. He is the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Munzaifad Venture. He holds a Master's Degree in Development studies from Bayero University, Kano.

My Reflection on peace

Conflict has never brought success or progress to a person, community or nation. It is only dialogue that leads to peace and happiness; therefore, I appeal to all to be open to all mechanisms and actions to promote the value and dignity of humans and be successful in building peace and move our society forward. Peacebuilding should reflect the capacity to prevent conflict, reconcile and plan strategies and skills that can help in promoting human relationship in faith.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship program has taught me a lot about inter-religion. Before I came for the program, I had no idea of what it was all about, but now, I can discuss conflict issues and look for ways to mitigate conflict issues in my community.

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My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Dialogue and Conflict Mediation: Alternative Dispute Resolution Among Youth in Our Community by Promoting Peace through Dialogue

Project Summary

The above project was carried out in two phases and was spread across a 2 weeks period. The first part was an advocacy workshop which spanned from the 4th-13th of February, 2022 and had about 200 participants from the (6) Local Government Councils of the State, while the second part was a sensitization workshop held at Gombe, the State capital on the 19th of February, 2022 & had about 130 people. The main objectives of the program were to develop a common understanding of conflict, violence and peace; expose participants to the range of methodologies and techniques that can help make conflict resolution a participatory one for all.





Project Outcome/Impact

At the end of the project, the remote causes of the problems that caused conflict in the area were identified. All the issues concerning the problems were analyzed by the participants with suggested solutions. The community leaders appreciated the initiative as it came from a neutral and credible source of Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace. They promised to maintain the peace and establish good relationship and keep promoting peace.



Lucy Esedebe

Biography



Administrator, OLA Hospital/ Orphanage,
Zawan, Jos Plateau state.

Lucy Esedebe is a Sister of Our Lady of Apostles (OLA). She is the Administrator of O.L.A Hospital/Orphanage, Zawan, Jos, Plateau state. She holds a B.Sc. in Nursing/Health Education from Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ogun state.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a collective affair. We all need peace to survive and perform maximally. Peace is a continuous process that requires certain skills and attitude such as patience, tolerance, forgiveness, empathy and compassion. There can be no peace without Justice. We are called to act justly.

COFP Fellowship Program Experience

COFP Fellowship program has greatly impacted on me in the aspect of listening, cultivating and engaging in dialogue. I can now listen through before making judgement. (SEE, HEAR & ACT). In order to listen effectively, I have to be patient. Finally, Dialogue has become a tool for me to approach difficult issues before taking a stand. The program has helped me to appreciate others better and to respect people's opinion.

Chimamanda's "DANGER OF DANGER OF A STORY" STANDS OUT AS MY WATCH WORD.

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My Community Peace Project
Project Title: Interfaith Dialogue & Skill Acquisition, a Tool for Curbing Youth Restiveness in Jos South LGA.

Project Summary

The Two-day interfaith peacebuilding workshop and skill acquisition/ empowerment was held on 16th & 17th February, 2022 at Zawan, Jos. Plateau state have had a fair share of religious and communal crises which made this program a priority at this time. 80 participants were present during the workshop. The main objective of the program was to encourage dialogue among youths and women of different religious and ethnic backgrounds through skill acquisition.



Project outcome/Impact

Participants to the workshop testified that the project improved their relationship in promoting peace and unity in the community as youths were able to sit together, list out the problems in their locality with the aid of problem tree and also proffered solutions that each of them will cascade to their various communities. A WhatsApp group was also created to help track their activities and for further engagements. Equally, the empowerment initiative was of great help as it empowered women and youth to contribute meaningfully.



Aliyu Garba

Biography



Lecturer, Federal College of Education, Zaria.

Aliyu Garba is a lecturer with the Federal College of Education, Zaria. He holds a B.Sc. in Accounting from the Bayero University, Kano. He is a Sunni Muslim from Katsina State.

My Reflection on Peace

An important lesson that I derived from the Prophet's life is that the power of peace is stronger than the power of violence.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

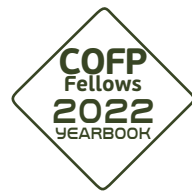
The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) Fellowship provided a conducive atmosphere to have a dialogue between me (a Muslim) and people of other faiths (Christians). It gave me the opportunity to talk and listen to others, getting to know and learning to understand the 'other'. I have learned and understood that in interfaith dialogue we try to approach our partners in a spirit of tolerance, truthfulness, sincerity, love, respect and good will, without forcing the other person to accept our own beliefs or ideas.

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My Community Peace Project Project Title: Community-Driven Approach to the Menace of Religious Intolerance, Insecurity and Vigilante Justice.

Project Summary

The joint peace project took place at Kaura Namoda Zamfara State on the 12th of February 2022, with about 100 participants from different faiths. The 1-day workshop was aimed at establishing, promoting and maintaining peaceful coexistence in a multicultural and multi-religious society on one hand and on the other, identifying the measures that are effective in restoring normalcy in the event of any insecurity.



Project Outcome/Impact

As Garba & Sadiya provided the forum for the participants to re-evaluated their role in creating, maintaining and sustaining peace in Kaura. The presence of the Emir of Kaura Namoda, who dedicated his time to the workshop from the start to finish and listened to the complaints of the non-indigenes on issues pertaining to indigenes amongst other things, brought hope to the affected participants as he promised to make a move to ensure that non-indigenes that had stayed for a long time in the community are not denied their human rights, for example (gaining admission into the State University, because they are not indigenes of Kaura Namoda). The Emir's presence threw more weight into the whole discussion even as he shared his experiences as a cadet officer at the Nigerian Defense Academy with the participants. He equally shed more light on issues concerning conflict and how to overcome them through dialogue which could possibly lead to peace.



Lerum Semen Isaiah

Biography



Reporter, NTA Ganye and Coordinator, I have Conscience Foundation, Adamawa state.

Semen Isaiah lerum is a Lutheran Christian from Adamawa state. A graduate of Mass Communication from Taraba State University Jalingo & a reporter with NTA Ganye. Also, she is a media Fellow with Search for common ground Nigeria and Adamawa state coordinator of I have conscience Foundation.

My Reflection on peace

Peace is freedom and liberty. Peace is Stillness and calmness; Peace is essential and not negotiable. Peace starts from within you.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Because of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace, my confidence has grown to a point that I can even stand in my community to talk about inter religious issues amongst other things, I can proudly say that because of this Fellowship program, I gained a great deal of confidence.

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My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Building Interreligious Relationship among Youths of Ganye Chiefdom

Project summary

The peace project which was held on 23rd February, 2022 at Ganye, Adamawa State brought together 78 participants cutting across adherents of Islam and Christianity. The objectives of the program were to build the capacity of youths and educate them on the strategies for peace building. It was also to explore the multiple faces of our own identity, and understand how identity can either be a connector or a divider, and also to understand our differences and similarities and how to accept them in order to have a peaceful coexistence by understanding the real meaning of empathy and recognizing how that contributes to building trust.

Project Outcome/impact

Semen after her peace project received personal letters and stories from different individuals who participated at the event and whose perceptions were changed during the course of her project. There were also Changes from biases, stereotypes, beliefs and experiences.



Suwaibatu Yakubu

Biography



Member, the Ghana Conference of Religions for Peace & Disaster Control Officer, (DCO), National Disaster Management Organization, Ghana.

Suwaibatu Yakubu is a member of the Ghana Conference of Religions for Peace. She is a graduate of IPMC Secretarialship and Management Studies. Swaibatu works with the National Disaster Management Organization, Ghana, as a Disaster Control Officer (DCO) and is currently working in the Central Region of Ghana, Cape Coast.

My Reflection on Peace.

For me, Peace means ability to tolerate and understand each other.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

After educating my community on the importance of living peacefully, we have not recorded any clash between the Muslims and Christians over the last two months. Moreover, with the little token that I gave to my participants, some of the women have set up petty trading on their own and I am grateful to COFP for the opportunity given me to also impact positively on the lives of others. Thank you so much, May the Almighty continue to bless the COFP Foundation.

✉ suwaibat@gmail.com



My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: One Day Workshop on the Importance of Peace and Interreligious Dialogue between Women and Youth in Kasoa Community.

Project Summary:

The interfaith peacebuilding workshop was held at Kasoa –Lawyer in the Central Region of Ghana. Fifty (50) people participated in the workshop. Participants were given seed money to start up small businesses after the peacebuilding dialogue session and the convener promised to visit them frequently to see how they are doing in their businesses. The workshop also aimed at educating the women and youth on the importance of living peacefully in the community.

Project outcome/Impact

Through Suwaibatu's workshop, most of her Muslim participants in the community understood the importance of living peacefully with their Christian neighbors. Thereafter, the participants, especially the women from both religions promised to stop the disparagement abuse against one another.



Akintayo Ademola Akinyemi

Biography



Chairman, Youth Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria, (YOWICAN), Osun state.

Akintayo Akinyemi is a Cherubim & Seraphim Christian from Osun state. He is the Chairman of the Youth Wing of CAN, (YOWICAN), Osun state. He holds an HND from the Federal Polytechnic, Ede and a PGD in Tourism and Management from NTI Kaduna.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a state of living in harmony with one another without any hitches.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I want to thank God for this privilege. I have never for once come across the category of people I met in the course of this program. I happen to be a hot-tempered person, who doesn't tolerate people stepping on my toes, but this program has assisted me to be cautious in my relationship with the masses especially in relation to peace campaign. My level of tolerance has increased rapidly and I am setting up a peace foundation for myself soon. I thank COFP sincerely for this opportunity.

✉ abefegold07@gmail.com

My Community Peace Project: Project Title: Peace Summit, Interfaith Dialogue, Skill Acquisition and Empowerment

Project Summary:

The objective of the two-day interfaith dialogue, skill acquisition and empowerment workshop which attracted 95 people of different faiths was to sensitize the community on the need to live in peace and reduce poverty through skills acquisition and empowerment. The workshop was held at Ifesowapo community in Osun state on the 5th & 6th of February 2022. The participants were empowered with starter kits after the skill acquisition training on the production of liquid antiseptics and soap.

Project Outcome/Impact:

Prior to this peace project, people of different faiths in Akintayo's community see one another as enemies especially during their prayer time. But after this project workshop, they are now seeing the rationale for religious tolerance as a panacea for their community development.



Chrisvic Ebhodaghe

Biography



Assistant Research Fellow, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), FCT Abuja

Chrisvic Ebhodaghe is a Christian from Edo state. She is an Assistant Research Fellow with IPCR. She holds an LLB from the Ambrose Ali University Ekpoma, BL from the Nigerian Law School and PGD in Peace, Conflict and Strategic Studies from Nile University, Abuja.

My Reflection on Peace

In the words of Albert Einstein "Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order in short, of government." For me, the essence of peace, advocating peace and attaining peace at any price cannot be over emphasized to save the world from the reckless destruction of lives and properties caused by conflicts. Thus, Peace is being able to coexist harmoniously irrespective of our racial, religious, political differences amongst others. Wars bring nothing but destruction, sorrow and hinder development as nothing is ever guaranteed or certain. Little wonder why it is often said that the most disadvantageous peace is better than the most just war. In Peace, sons bury their fathers but in war Fathers bury their sons.

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Sincerely, it has been a wonderful experience for me, journeying closely with members from diverse denominations and religions. Thanks to the quality time spent at the different modules. The program has broadened my horizon on issues of inter-faith, giving me an opportunity to study in depth and understand the fundamentals of different religions and the beautiful similarities amongst them. I am grateful for knowledge gained; acquaintances made as well as the whole formation in its entirety. The world definitely needs more of this to stop the avoidable violent conflicts that abound. A very big thank you to the organizers, COFP is truly making the world a better place.



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Awakening our Minds to the Dangers of Inter-Religious Conflict

Project Summary

Chrisvic held her peace campaign on the 19th of February, 2022 at Wuse, Abuja with a total number of 40 youths in attendance. The main goal of the project is to create an avenue for sober reflection, sincere dialogue and communication among youths of different faiths and religions in a bid to build sustainable peace in Nigeria where religion is often misused in the pursuit of prejudice, stereotype and violence. The project seeks to build a peaceful Nigeria through the Young People's Actions by changing the negative narrative about the youths, which portrays them as mostly capable of destructive actions.

Project Outcome/Impact

It offered participants who were mostly young people the opportunity to reach the grassroots with more knowledge and understanding of the different religions & fundamentals for mutual respect. Participants were able to air their views and change some negative perceptions they held prior to the seminar.



Kaltum Abari

Biography



Amirah/Chairperson, Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Adamawa state.

Kaltum Abari is a Sunni Muslim from Adamawa State. She is the State Amirah of Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Adamawa State. She attended school of Midwifery, Yola and Post Graduate School of Nursing. She is a registered Nurse and Midwife.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means staying in harmony with one another regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, and geographical location within the globe. If there is peace, all social, economic and political rights can be accessed easily by even the less privileged and the vulnerable people. There is a saying in Hausa "zaman lafiya yafi zama dan sarki" meaning: "living in peace is better than being a prince".

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I must begin by thanking the COFP Fellowship program for changing my life. It's really wonderful to me personally, to realize that yes, we can make it. I never thought it is possible to gather the various religious groups that were living with grudges with one another in one place, talk less of sitting with one another, but now it is seen

practically that they interacted, sat together and even visited one another. I was highly impressed with these experiences. I wish to once again thank the COFP Fellowship Program for this initiative. Thank You.

✉ fomwanadamawa@yahoo.com



My Community Peace Project:

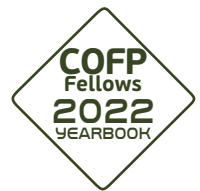
Project Title: Youth Interfaith Dialogue on Peacebuilding.

Project Summary:

The one-day workshop was held on 9th February, 2022 at Modire/Yolde, Adamawa State and had 60 people in attendance. The objective of the project was to foster peacebuilding among Modire/Yolde Pate Communities of Yola South LGA of Adamawa State.

Project Outcome/Impact

The participants were so happy at the end of Khaltum's peace project that some of them went emotional and embraced one another. The next morning, the village head and his entourage as well as other village groups paid Khaltum a courtesy visit to thank her, the FOMWAN and the COFP for organizing such an impactful peacebuilding workshop and prayed that such noble gesture should be extended to other communities.



Rebecca Tarpeh Major

Biography



Secretary General, Interreligious Council of Liberia.

Tarpeh -Major Rebecca is a Liberian and a Catholic. She is the Secretary General of the Inter Religious Council of Liberia. She holds a B.A in Sociology and Public Administration, from the University of Liberia.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace means the following to me: Freedom and dignity. Dignity to have food, security, health care and education, safe drinking water, electricity, access to Justice, equality for all, regardless of tribe and religion. Peace is very important to our human existence. Considering the significance of Peace to our existence, I am committed to promoting peace using my position and space in every way possible. So, I shall use community dialogue and other tools to promote peace.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I learnt a lot especially on mediation, how to settle a dispute and create an agreement when there is a conflict between two or more persons and how to tolerate one another without considering his or her religious and ethnic background.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Strengthening Liberia's Peace and Stability through Interfaith Dialogue.

Project Summary

In Order to enhance the relationship between Christians and Muslims using dialogue to promote peace, national healing and reconciliation, Rebecca on the 9th of February, 2022 brought together 15 Muslims and 15 Christians comprising (11 females and 19 males) on a summit on the way forward. The participants who came from Palala, Bong County, Republic of Liberia were happy at the end of the program for the knowledge acquired.



Project Outcome/Impact

Rebecca's project enhanced peaceful co-existence in the project community. It promoted forgiveness and encouraged regular meetings of Christians and Muslims in the community.



Adamu Sha'aibu

Biography



Member, Joint National Association of Persons with Disability, Jigawa.

Adamu Sha'aibu is a Muslim from Jigawa state and a member of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disability. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Technology from ATBU, Bauchi.

My Reflection on peace

Peace to me is a harmonious interaction between individuals and group of people of different and diverse cultures, traditions, ethnicity, location, and religion. It can also be regarded as a clearer understanding and mutual co-existence between creatures. Peace is also love, affection, concern and care for one another despite the differences.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Actually, it has been a wonderful and positive experience for me in the COFP Fellowship program. The program enabled me to have a clearer knowledge on interfaith especially between Islam and Christianity. The knowledge acquired equipped me more on how to interact and mediate in restoring and enhancing peace between two parties. It is an opportunity to meet with people from

different parts of the world, however the most amazing thing is that everyone loves peace.

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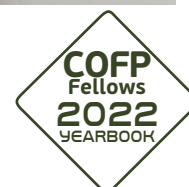


My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Sensitization Training on Peace among Youths in the Society

Project Summary:

Adamu Shaibu, on the 19th of February 2022 at Dutse Jigawa state assembled 50 participants to learn more on peaceful coexistence through his peace project. The objectives of the project were to educate the participants to have more knowledge on the teachings of Islam and Christianity & on peaceful coexistence, to educate the participants on the causes of conflicts fueled via biases and to equip the participants with skills to challenge their biases in order to reduce conflicts arising from them.



Project Outcome/Impact

The project successfully changed participants misunderstanding, misconception and misinterpretations of the concept of peace in Islam and Christianity. At the end of the workshop, majority of the participants made a call for more of such programs in different parts of the state.



Uzoigwe Thecla Maria

Biography



Principal, Our Lady's School, Maiduguri.

Sr. Thecla Uzoigwe is a religious Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary congregation. She is the Principal of Our Lady's School, Maiduguri. Sister holds M. Sc. in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Maiduguri.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a divine attribute and fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is one of the greatest gifts Jesus left for us as a legacy after his death and resurrection and his before ascension -John 20:22. Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence such as war, insurgency, kidnapping, banditry etc. Peace is freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups. It is a state of inner tranquility, wholeness and completeness, God is known as the God of peace, being peaceful is a state of knowing that God is in charge and in control even in the midst of turbulence, peace of God leads to calmness and harmony of body, soul and spirit.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

This one-year Fellowship program is a great privilege to me. It has actually exposed me to know people of like minds who are promoters and ambassadors of peace. It has informed, educated and transformed my perception of peace and related issues in the society so much that I can stand as a peace mediator for the voiceless and less privileged in the society. COFP has empowered me immensely & I was able to empower other women in my community who were jobless to become self-reliant and also peace ambassadors. Through the enlightenment from this Foundation, I have been

 theclamariau@gmail.com



able to establish a platform known as The Way Forward Initiative which aims at educating and empowering women. We have begun the journey and it is really helpful. Hail COFP! Hail Cardinal Onaiyekean!! Thank you Hilton Foundation. God bless your efforts to serve humanity.

My Community Peace Project.

Project Title: Developing Strategies for Peacebuilding and Empowerment for Women in Maiduguri Metropolitan City.

Project Summary

Sr. Thecla Maria assembled 35 women from Maiduguri metropolitan city. The participants which cut across the two major religions: Islam and Christianity were trained in a peacebuilding & empowerment workshop which lasted for two days with focus on vocational skills acquisition from 17th - 19th February, 2022. The women were trained in the art of liquid soap making, peanuts and pomade. The participants expressed their joy for the new acquired knowledge/skill and promised to practice what they have learnt. The aim of the project was to have a social platform where women will understand their role as agents of peace so that empowered, they will contribute to community development, and subsequently help other unemployed women to acquire similar skill and become self-reliant and independent economically in order to make a living for themselves and their families. The project further enabled the beneficiaries to establish a network of like-minded women who will encourage and empower others by cascading the knowledge gained through the project.





Project outcome/Impact/Impact

Sr. Thecla's project went a long way in empowering the women through their newly acquired skills, which helped to make them become self-reliant and also generate some income to help their families. This project also, trained women on how to love and accommodate others at all times irrespective of their color, religion or race. In fact, some of the participants to the workshop confessed that their outlook about Christianity and Islamic religion has totally changed and is now geared towards positive impression because they have learnt to respect the opinion of people from other faiths, value them and are willing to collaborate with them for peaceful development of their community. Interestingly, many of the participants have since set up small businesses with the money and starter-packages given to them by COFP through Sr. Thecla, on completion of the project skill acquisition course.

Taofeeqah Aderoju Fagbolade

Biography



National President, (Female wing),
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Nigeria.

Taofeeqah Aderoju is a Muslim from Oyo State though she resides & works in Lagos. She is the National President (Female wing) of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Nigeria. She holds a Master's degree in Education from the University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State.

My Reflection on Peace:

Simply put, peace is the absence of violence or war. At any present situation, peace opens doors to all kinds of opportunities. For example, love, tranquility, freedom, tolerance, etc. Hence planned activities are easily achieved or executed. It is the cornerstone that ushers in freedom of thought and religion. It allows people to live by the faith and values they believe. It eradicates prejudice. For if God had wanted all humans to think and act the same way, God would not have created diversity. Hence, for there to be Love for All and Hatred for None, there MUST BE PEACE AMONGST ALL HUMANITY.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

When people live together in peace, there is harmony, tranquility, quietness, love and happiness. These

and more are the instructions written in the two Holy Books which are taught at COFP. In my participation in the program so far, I have learnt more about these lessons and it has improved my relationship within and outside my community. I now know that "Peace in a society is a two-way process and can only be established if all parties worked together to achieve it."

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: 1-Day Stakeholders' Meeting on the impact of Drug Abuse on Communal and National Peace and Security



Project Summary:

The one-day joint interfaith peacebuilding workshop of Fagbolade was held on 17th February, 2022 at Ikorodu (comprising Baiyeku, Igbogbo, Ijede), Lagos, with about 215 participants. The workshop objectives were to sensitize critical stakeholders on the need to enhance parenting to effectively curb antisocial tendencies among adolescents and young adults, to develop response strategy for reorienting youths to discourage illicit drug use and resort to vices and violence and also to engender an atmosphere that promotes dialogue among critical stakeholders to collectively work to stop drug abuse by strengthening social and cultural institutions.



Project Outcome/impact

At the end of the joint workshop of Abbas & Taofequah, there was a short-term strategic partnership and stakeholders' collaboration. The danger of drug abuse among youths was understood and what role they need to play to stem the tide. Lagos Youth Council team committed to working with other stakeholders to develop a strategy for reorienting young people across different societal strata on the dangers of drug abuse to their own health and future ambition.



Okorie Ruth Hajaratu

Biography



Chairperson, Women Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Kano state chapter.

Ruth Okorie is a Christian and the Chairperson of the Women Wing of Christian Association Nigeria, Kano state chapter. She holds M.Sc. in Organic Chemistry from the Bayero University, Kano.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is like a jewel that everyone desires. Every system needs it for proper functioning and productivity. With the current wave of crime, conflicts of all sorts ranging from rape, kidnapping, banditry etc., without Peace, efforts to eradicate them will surely fail. Women are the most vulnerable and they suffer most. So, in an attempt to deal with this, women and youths have to be committed and empowered and their capacity as peace agents have to be enhanced. Peace is the ability to manage conflict constructively as an important opportunity for change and increased understanding. Peace is wealth.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

With the training received, the knowledge acquired and capacity built through COFP Fellowship program, I realized that peace is achievable. As I get committed to the

work of peace in the community, I can now communicate easily with people of other faith, understand and work passionately to impact positive attitude for a peaceful co-existence.

✉ hajaratuosaini@yahoo.co.uk



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Women and Youth as Agent of Peace for Peaceful Co-existence

Project Summary

The above event was organized to enhance the role of women and youth as peace agents in promoting peaceful community and to enable them understand different types of conflict and how to manage such conflicts to avoid their escalation into violence. The peace project which took place in Sabon Gari, Kano on the 18th of February, 2022 brought together 103 participants who promised to work together to enhance peace in their community.





Project outcome/Impact

According to Ruth, participants to the workshop showed that they have acquired new skills in conflict resolution through increased relationship among them. At the end of the program, youths and women of the two faiths agreed to work together to enhance peace and also identify the right authority in the community where they can report cases or symptoms of conflict.



Ishaak, Ali-Baba Kpacita

Biography



Peace Promoter/ Mediator,
Qaddiriyya Sufi Movement

Ali-Baba Ishaaq is a Qaddiriyya Muslim from Niger State. He is the Peace Promoter/Mediator of Qaddiriyya Sufi Movement. He holds a B.Sc. in Political science from ABU Zaria and PGD in Management from Bayero University Kano.

My Reflection on peace

Peace does not imply complete absence of war or conflict. It refers to a harmonious condition, settled or stable state of mind. Peace is usually brought about through the process of dialogue, reconciliation, mediation, arbitration, forgiveness, love, mutual understanding, tolerance and accommodation. If the peacebuilding process does not include or reflect these vital ingredients, it may not be sustained, and would likely result to conflict.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship Program has been a wealthy experience; impacting positively on my life, and changing my thoughts on one-story narration and negative perception about Christianity and Christians.

✉ alibabaishaak@gmail.com

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Peacebuilding Program to Prevent Incessant Communal & Politically-Motivated Violence & Conflict in KPACITA Community.



Project Summary:

The workshop was held on the 19th of February, 2022 with 100 participants from Kpacita Lavun L.G.A of Niger State in attendance. The aim of Ishaak's project is to increase the interpersonal relationship, cooperation and to build mutual trust in the community. The project led to an increased awareness on the risk of political violence which had characterized previous elections. Based

on the commitment of their Leaders, members of the 5 communities who were present during the workshop are more committed to prevent communal, and politically-motivated tension during the forthcoming elections, thereby creating a communal & enhanced ability to break the barriers that had hitherto limit their effective participation in governance and public life, especially as they were adequately informed of their democratic rights, responsibilities, privileges and opportunities.



Project Outcome/Impact

Following the execution of Ishak's project, the five warring villages that make up the Kpacita community resolved to henceforth live peacefully with one another. Also, the inter youth peace forum which was made up of youths from the 5 villages and which had been dormant for years was finally revived and the youths re-strategized to hold their meetings and early warning functions more frequently. The village heads from the 5 villages on their own part agreed to synergize in order to maintain lasting peace in the 5 communities. They all resolved to forgive one another and to live together in peace. Youths, who engaged in drug abuse and other substance addiction showed a great deal of remorse when the paper on Youth Restiveness and Drug Abuse was delivered at the event. In all, peace and reconciliation were brokered among the warring communities. A committee of community Peace Ambassadors and Advisory of Council of Elders was inaugurated during the program for sustaining the positive impacts of the project in the community.



Egwu Jovita

Biography



Administrator,
OLA Hospital, Jos Plateau state.

Rev. Sr. Jovita Egwu belongs to the Congregation of Our Lady of Apostles (OLA). She is the Administrator of OLA Hospital, Jos Plateau State. She holds a B.Sc. in Social Works and Administration.

My Reflection on peace

I believe, Peace is an invaluable asset that can never be compromised. I cannot give what I don't have and so peace starts with me and then I can relate that peace in me by affecting others with my peace. There cannot be any meaningful development without peace. Khalida Bouzar wrote "The Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) is to have an intrinsic relationship to peace and stability. without peace, all other goals – from focusing on Youths and Women's needs, to addressing climate change and water, energy and good security will be impossible to achieve".

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

COFP has implanted in me greater courage to mobilize, organize, partake, sensitize and promote peace in the community of my birth by bringing all the different stakeholders to discuss on peace building and development.

 jovitasimple@yahoo.com

My Community Peace Project: Project Title: A Peacebuilding and Development Workshop for Youths

Project Summary:

The one-day interfaith peacebuilding workshop organized for 50 young Nigerians was held on the 8th February, 2022 at Godogo Jama'a of Kaduna State. Its objective was to improve communication between the two major religions of Islam and Christianity through their adherents in this community and through this avenue bring about community peace and development.





Project Outcome/Impact

After Sr. Jovita's workshop, adherents of the two major religions in her community came to understand better that both Islam and Christianity promote peace and love.

This acknowledgement created greater appreciation of one another. Also, all the youth participants with one voice agreed to interchange visits during Sallah and Christmas festivities, and promised to carry out unity sports activities to promote peace in their Community. They now feel a greater need to respect one another's values. Interestingly, When the workshop was going on and it was time for the interactive session on what was learnt during the workshop, one of the participants through his utterances wanted to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of the workshop ,but, one of the youths; his fellow Muslim quickly stood up and addressed all the participants reminding them that “we have enjoyed this unique workshop which has taught us how to promote, build and handle conflict; we shall not allow anyone to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of this workshop. Let us begin to put what we have learnt in practice here and now”. After his address, the class became calm and everybody applauded him. When it was time to nominate the Coordinator for the newly inaugurated 7-man Youth Community Peace Building Committee, he was unanimously voted for. This in itself showed a positive immediate outcome of the workshop.

Emmanuel Chikoya

Biography



General Secretary, Christian Council of Zambia, (CCZ), and Chairman, Christian Churches Monitoring Group, (CCMG) Steering Committee.

Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya is an ordained Anglican Priest serving as General Secretary of the CCZ since August 2017. He holds a Cambridge University Diploma in Religious Studies, (BTH and MTH) Specialization from Justo Mwale University. Presently, Emmanuel is a Commissioner in the Human Rights Commission, Zambia and equally Chairs the Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG) Steering Committee. He also serves on the Board of Zambia Interfaith Networking Group (ZINGO) and Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation. Rev.

Emmanuel is a Theologian with special interest in stewardship of the economic and physical environment and promotion of good and accountable governance, as well as justice and peace.

My Reflection on peace:

For me, Peace is an essential ingredient for any community to thrive and prosper. It goes beyond the absence of armed conflict or physical fights. It does not necessarily mean the absence of misunderstanding but it refers to the ability to resolve differences in a manner that creates a win-win situation. It is a product of consensus building. The Bible says

blessed are the peacemakers. In the family setup, it means no verbal and physical abuse of the family members, listening and respecting the rights and opinions of all without discrimination. In society, it means respecting and upholding the interests and rights of all members of the society, particularly the minorities. In fact, the political, religious, media, and civic spaces must be wide enough to accommodate divergent views, there must be freedom before, during and after expression without fear of reprisals and harassment. People need to be at peace within themselves, informed and motivated by the greatest commandment “to Love the neighbor as they love themselves”.

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My personal experience is like that of a blind person whose sight has been restored. The COFP Fellowship program has capacitated, empowered and enabled me to have a user friendly me in the area of conflict transformation and peacebuilding. It has provided me with a well-structured training in the area of peacebuilding and the much-needed exposure regarding conflict transformation and resolution. I feel more confident to function as a practitioner.

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Equipping Youths to Become Agents of Peace

Project Summary

The event which took place at Lusaka Zambia on the 7th of February, 2022 had about 40 youths from different political parties and religions in attendance and was aimed at equipping them to become agents of peace.



Project outcome/Impact

As a result of Canon Emmanuel's peace workshop, his participants agreed to introduce inter-political party sports activities, (which they had since organized, played amongst themselves and recorded huge success in using it as an avenue to cement relationships among the youths) as a medium for co-existence and respect for one another in their future activities. The participants also agreed on a proposal to create a common platform for lobbying for empowerment and development so that both youths in ruling and opposition parties can benefit from the government. Overall, there was an urgent need to follow the peacebuilding project with tangible capacity building and empowerment programs to help youths find means to earn a living. The group further created platform for Agents for Peace and WhatsApp Group that will keep them united and updated on their progress.



Halimah Tijani Idris

Biography



Women Leader, Rasulul A'azam Foundation, Zamfara state.

Halimah Tijani Idris is a Women leader of Rasulul A'azam Foundation Zamfara State chapter. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics from ABU Zaria. She is Married with 2 children.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. Peace is a stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there's no fighting or war, with everything co-existing in perfect harmony and freedom.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My overall experience from this program is; dialogue can resolve all conflicts, build capacity to address violence, enhance freedom of religion, bridge community divides and build a culture of peace. The program captured my opinions, priorities and experiences in transforming communities together.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Building a Peaceful Society between Host Community and the Internally Displaced Persons in Gusau Communities.

Project Summary

The project was held on the 19th of February, 2022 at Gusau, Zamfara State with 40 participants in attendance. The objective of the project was to identify and tackle the root causes of violence in order to prevent violent conflicts between the host community and the IDPs and to build community resilience among them. The project also trained and empowered the participants to address total economic dependence of women and girls on men by training them on basic skills in Internally Generated Revenues (IGRs). The beneficiaries acquired skills on how to produce snacks, liquid soaps, and airfreshners.





Project Outcome/Impact

Women and girls were empowered through Halima's training on Internally Generated Revenues (IGRs) to surmount some of the financially induced problems like prostitution, and giving out young girls as child-bride. The youths were equally educated on early warning signs of violence, and response mechanisms for preventing and combating



Neibo Boniface Achor

Biography



Catholic Priest of the Archdiocese of Abuja
& Vicar, St. Benedict's Catholic church,
Lokogoma, Abuja

Neibo Boniface Achor, is a Catholic Priest of the Archdiocese of Abuja, Nigeria and was ordained by His Eminence, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, CON, the Cardinal Archbishop Emeritus of Abuja. He currently works as Vicar, of St. Benedict Catholic Church, Lokogoma. He holds Bachelors in Philosophy and Theology from Rome.

My Reflection on Peace

True peace means seeking and doing the will of God. Understanding it and accepting it even when it is inconvenient to human desires. It means never lording it on others but walking the walk of love, keeping a smile handy and lending a helping hand.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Peace is a natural yearning of the human heart but only a few fervently work to keep it, and give it. To this effect, I must admit wholeheartedly that I have had a better opportunity undergoing this program of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace to become a better and balanced peace actor in my community. The program has been

deeply therapeutic with immense healing effects and has broadened my horizon personally that there is a bigger world outside the world I know. It has given me a broader view of the dangers of stereotypes either religiously, ethnically, culturally etc. Peaceful and harmonious coexistence is sacrosanct to engineering collaboration amongst different faiths in Nigeria and elsewhere and all hands must be on deck to achieve this at

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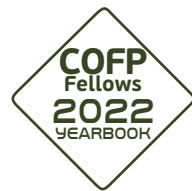
the home front, in communities and nationally as a country, and globally as well. The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace has not only given me a platform to leverage upon, it has even more equipped me with the rudimentary and requisite skills and for this I am always grateful.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Promoting Harmonious Co-existence among Different Faiths and Forestalling Conflict and Crises through Early Warning/Response Mechanism in Lokogoma Community of the FCT

Project Summary:

Fr. Boniface's peace workshop came up on the 7th of February, 2022 with 110 participants. The objectives of his project were to enable his participants have an improved understanding on early warning signs of violence, and response mechanisms and to adopt and learn to be tolerant of the adherents of different faiths and cultures which will not only increase their knowledge and skills in resolving conflicts but will afford them the opportunity to acquire skills necessary to identify the antics of the sponsors of violence and work hard to counter them.



Project Outcome/Impact

The 110 participants acquired and improved skills for accommodation and tolerance of the people of different faiths and culture. They also acquired skills on the basics of conflict resolution, skills necessary to identify the antics of the sponsors of violence & work hard to counter them. The participants had an improved understanding on early warning signs of violence and response mechanisms.



Aliyu Fatima

Biography



Staff Officer to the Technical Adviser to the Minister of Interior, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, (NSCDC).

Fatima Aliyu, studied English Language at the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria for her first degree, and attended the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre for a Master's degree in Gender, Peace and Security. She works at the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps as the Staff Officer to the Technical Adviser to the Minister of Interior. She is passionate about peace and is spreading the message of peace, its importance to development both socially, economically and in every other way.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace to me means freedom from war and violence, a situation where people live and work happily without threat and fear, peace can also be internal, because if there is no internal peace within one's self then, one cannot live with others peacefully.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Foundation and peace program has impacted my life in more ways than I can count. It has helped shape and change the way I used to think about people of different faiths, cultures and religions and has taught me acceptance and patience. The

program has exposed me to various ways of handling disputes and also better ways of communicating with people, from my home, place of work and even amongst friends and family. Attending the COFP Fellowship was one of the best decisions I ever made, and I can say that I am a better person and individual because of it, as I have learnt and known the importance of peaceful coexistence and always, to embrace peace wherever I go and at any time. Thank you.

✉ Aliyufatima007@yahoo.com



My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: The Importance of Peaceful Co-Existence Between People of Different Faiths and Cultures at the Internally Displaced Persons Camp, Durumi, Abuja.

Project Summary:

On the 21st of February 2022 Fatima organized a one-day workshop for the Internally Displaced Persons, (IDPs), in Durumi Abuja. The objective of the project was to imbibe in the participants the spirit and culture of forgiveness and tolerance for enhanced peaceful co-operation among them. The participants who were 67 in number were given food items to help supplement their rations and needs in the IDP camp.





Project outcome/Impact:

Halima was able to use the grant she got to organize a peacebuilding workshop and to support the living conditions of the IDPs by providing them with foodstuffs that would last them a while. In fact, she believes that by inviting the religious leaders to speak to the IDPs, she has not only succeeded in planting a renewed seed of peaceful co-existence among them, but also have been able to encourage them to live peacefully which in turn, fosters peace & development. She listened to some of their challenges and offered candid advice based on her personal experiences and knowledge on the issues bothering them. Her project further provided hope that even though they lack certain



Paulina Chioma Ogbonnaya

Biography



Paulina Ogbonnaya is a Catholic from Enugu State and a Dominican Sister of St. Catherine of Siena. She works with the Institute for Formators, Jos Plateau State. She holds a Master's Degree in Peace and Conflict studies from the University of Ibadan.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a state of mind. When it comes to peace outside myself, then I see it as a commitment to have a cordial relationship with all not minding race, religion, or social status. It is true that peace begins with me but I must strive to see that the next person feels peaceful while around me.

Furthermore, when it comes to social justice, peace is obtained when justice is served. This justice I see in giving human beings the dignity they deserve in all its ramification. When there is too much lack of peace in everything, there is a limit to the endurance of human beings, and when that limit is reached, peace is no longer guaranteed. So back to the words of the Popes... If you want peace, work for development, in other words, peace for me is development of people's lives, & the progress of all peoples - Populorum Progressio!

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience through the COFP Fellowship Program has been so enriching with the different lecturers and encounters with each and every participant. I was enriched first of all by what I was seeing among the COFP Team members. I saw Team Spirit in action. Their spirit of teamwork inspired me in my own working place and added value to how I related with my team members. Then, the interactions between the two major religions in Nigeria: Christianity and Islam. I felt like calling the whole world to come and witness how we can live as children of one God. I always look forward to our meeting with one other. There is so much knowledge to share each time we gather. Then the contents of each topic, the peaceful ambience of each lecturer that comes, the desire to assimilate everything that was being taught, were all good experiences which make good memories. I use this opportunity to thank the Founder, His Eminence, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, the Director, Sr. Agatha Chikelue and her Team. Thanks to you all, my dear Fellows. As we approach the 3rd Module, I am already feeling that I will miss you all when the program ends. But remembering that the Digital World has made us more and more one big family, we will continue to keep in touch and share our encounters as true Fellows of COFP and Ambassadors of Peace and Inter Religious Dialogues.



My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: A One-Day Training on Empowerment through Skill Acquisition for Young Women and Girls.

Project Summary

The one-day skill acquisition & empowerment targeted 11 young mothers, 21 young girls and 8 Reverend Sisters in Du Shen Zawan Jos of Plateau state. They were trained on how to produce peanuts, body & hair creams, Airfreshners, liquid soap and making of Tie & dye fabrics. The objective of the project was to train and empower young women and girls so they can become self-reliant and financially independent.



Project outcome/Impact

Participants who attended Sr. Paulina's workshop were very happy to have learnt something that would make them become self-reliant and contribute positively to their families and society. Thereafter, most of them were able to produce most of the products by themselves. Many made the choice of starting immediately to produce and sell while some others indicated they need some support raising startup capital. The young school girls who were on break opted to produce and sell snacks within their holiday period in order to save up some money to support their parents before School resumption. On their part, the Rev. Sisters who participated in the program were very happy as most of them are Formators, they can now teach the young women in formation class what they have learnt. Above all, the impact was highly felt in the joy that invaded the whole place about the newly acquired knowledge and Sr. Paulina's joy was full indeed. Thank you COFP!



Hassan Jacob

Biography



Chairman, National Association of Christian Religious Educators of Nigeria (NACREN), Gombe state chapter

Jacob Hassan is an ECWA Christian from Gombe State. He is the Chairman of the Gombe state Chapter of the National Association of Christian Religious Educators of Nigeria (NACREN). He holds a B. Ed. in Christian Religious Studies from Gombe State University.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a process of establishing good relationship between one person and another. It is an avenue for dialogue that creates peace in our community. Peace is indispensable, we must embrace it, practice it, preach it and above all love one another unconditionally.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My personal experience with the COFP Fellowship is a great one in the history of my life, because it is at the cost of the COFP program that I learned to make peace among different ethnic groups and reason with people no matter how difficult the person is. This program has completely changed my life and my thinking about Islam.

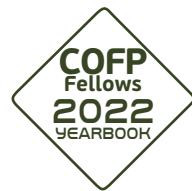
✉ draXX2014@gmail.com



My Community Peace Project: Project Title: The Role of Youth and Women in Conflict, Peaceful Resolution and Crisis Management

Project Summary

The 3 days' project started on the 19th of February, 2022 in Cham Balanga LGA of Gombe state. The summit was attended by a total number of 50 persons. The workshop provided an avenue for peaceful coexistence and harmony between the two tribes of Waja & Lunguda. Additionally, inter marriages was encouraged to further cement the new improved relationships.



Project outcome/Impact

The summit was attended by 50 participants including community leaders, security agencies, youths, women and the 5 councilors representing each ward. There was an active participation from each member during the summit. Goodwill messages were presented by the dignitaries that graced the summit. In their goodwill messages, they applauded the organizers of the event and called on participants to make good use of what was taught. They thanked the resource persons for speaking truth to power in their presentations and wished and pleaded that the peace summit be replicated in each of the 5 (five) wards.



Tinuke Layi Muritala

Biography



Member, Elder Council of NASFAT Society & a Volunteered Dawah Facilitator, Oyo state.

Tinuke Layi Muritala is a Sunni Muslim from Oyo State, Nigeria. She is a member of Elders' Council of NASFAT Society and Volunteers as a Dawah Facilitator. She holds a Master's degree in Publishing and Copyright Studies (MPCS) from the University of Ibadan.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means everyone behaviorally appreciating, respecting and promoting the wellbeing and happiness of others just as one's own, irrespective of religion, gender, language, race, tribe culture or ideology. Attaining and sustaining peace in any form demands everyday long-term commitment, dialogues and peace building. Peace does not occur by itself but requires a conscious effort involving work and sacrifice to achieve and sustain, and guided by faith in God, the Supreme Creator and Sustainer, and the love and commitment to do what pleases God, the owner of all mankind. Love breeds and sustains peace. Extremism should be avoided by all faiths.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship Program has afforded me the opportunity of an increasing awareness on the importance of dialogue and mutual understanding especially in the interreligious context. My mini peace project has paved way for creating spaces for communication amongst Muslims and Christians in my community thereby providing an opportunity of shared learning and improved interactions. The fact that few of the beneficiaries have carried out a step-down of the workshop and some are in the process of doing so is giving me a sense of fulfilment that I'm doing what I can (like the hummingbird) in building peace in my community.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Using Interreligious Dialogue (IRD) to Promote Peace among the Community of Different Faiths in Oyo State, Nigeria

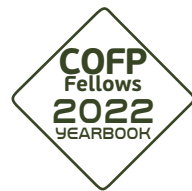
Project Summary

The one-day peace project was held at Ibadan, Oyo state on 19th February, 2022 with 60 participants benefiting from the program. The project intended to strengthen the capacities of religious leaders and community practitioners on using Inter-Religious Dialogue to promote peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion in Oyo State.



Project Outcome/Impact

Immediate impact of the project was revealed through physical and Zoom chat box impact assessment of participants' behaviours, comments and expressions during the sessions as well as via personal interviews and analyses of the pre and post training questionnaire. Furthermore, calls & engagements received from some participants after the workshop were used to access the impact of the project in the community.



Roland Ako Arrey

Biography



Chaplain, Catholic Youth Organization, Diocese of Mamfe, & Coordinator, Bishop's Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Ex-combatants Cameroon.

ARREY ROLAND AKO is a Roman Catholic Priest from Cameroon and the Diocesan Youth Chaplain of the Diocese of Mamfe. He is also, the Coordinator of the Bishop's Scheme for the rehabilitation of ex-combatants. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from St. Josephs Major Seminary, Akwa-Ibom State, Nigeria and a degree in Theology from St. Thomas Aquinas Major seminary, Bambui, Cameroon.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a word used and cherished by many but not often understood. We take peace for granted, we desire to live in peace and enjoy the benefits of a peaceful society but we do very little to invest in building and sustaining peace. While some think the task of building peace is an assignment for a particular group or class of people, others see it as a tool or a platform for their political game. I have come to the awareness that building peace is important and sustaining peace is equally important. The task of peacebuilding and its sustainability is incumbent on all. We need to invest as much as we can afford on the peacebuilding process. We need all hands on deck. With everyone understanding what it involves and sincerely engaging we can build and

sustain peace. We need to educate even the young on the necessity and their role in the peacebuilding process. The world needs peace and everyone needs to engage in the process.

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

“Peace is a daily, weekly, monthly process, of gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.” John F. Kennedy. My COFP Fellowship personal experience has been an amazing one. This Fellowship Program has caused a change in my opinion on some issues, eroded old barriers and provided me with tools to work for the construction of new structures for a better and peaceful co-existence among persons and communities. Besides the beautiful lectures and experiences of the facilitators, I have greatly benefited and have been enriched by the life experiences of Fellows from different parts of the Continent. Again, I have become more conscious of some realities and facts I previously ignored or undermined. My perception and analysis of situations are more acute and balanced now. Like Eleanor Roosevelt, I have become convinced that: “It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.”



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: promoting a culture of peace and conflict management through the involvement of women and youths in Mamfe.

Project Summary

Fr. Roland's two days' community peace project was held on the 12th of February, 2022 at Mamfe (Manyu Division, South West Region) Cameroon with 30 youths and 20 women as direct beneficiaries while indirect beneficiaries were listeners on Radio Evangelium and members of organizations, churches, local communities and schools from which participants were drawn. The objectives of the forum were to build the capacity of women and youths at the grassroots on the dynamics of conflicts and peacebuilding processes, engage community stakeholders in reducing incidence of conflicts and enhance systemic change of people's mindsets and attitude towards conflicts, through awareness trainings.

Project Outcome/Impact

The peoples' awareness was promoted on the need for everyone to play a role in peacebuilding and conflict management process. Women and youths were empowered to contribute their quota in the peacebuilding process. Above all, testimonies from the participants during the project shows that their eyes were opened to the realities that they previously ignored and undermined. The local Radio programs further helped to educate the local communities on different ways of countering conflict using dialogue instead.



Sadiya Binta Suleiman

Biography



Amirah/Chairperson, Federation of Muslim women Association of Nigeria, FOMWAN Zamfara state.

Sadiya Binta Suleiman was born in Kaura Namoda Zamfara State. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts (BA) & Masters in Arabic studies. She is a registered member of Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN). Currently, she is the Amira of Federation of Muslim Women's Association in Nigeria, and the Chief Education Officer.

My Reflection on Peace:

For me peace is a presence of more good things like virtue, justice, good laws, government, relationships, well-being, freedom, respect for human rights, security, harmony, tranquility and an absence of violence.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

During the 1st and 2nd modules of the COFP Fellowship program, I understood the basic concepts and terminologies in peacebuilding, I learned conflict resolution skills for relevant interfaith actions. And I will also be able to train other people in their communities which will in turn bring about multiplier effects on the inter-religious dialogue conflict management.

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**My Community Peace Project:
Project Title: Community- Driven Approach to the Menace of Religious Intolerance,
Insecurity and Vigilante Justice.**

Project Summary

The Joint peace project with Garba which was held on 12th February 2022 brought together 100 participants made up of leaders, women and youths at Kaura Namoda, Zamfara State. It also attracted the Emir of the town who shed more light on issues concerning conflict and how to overcome it through dialogue. The project objective was to establish promotion of peaceful dialogue and maintaining peaceful coexistence in a multicultural and multi religious society on one hand and training the different groups in measures that are most effective in restoring normalcy in the event of insecurity on the other hand.



Project outcome/impact

As was expected, in the course of Sadiya & Garba's peace workshop, the participants re-evaluated their role in creating, maintaining and sustaining peace in Kaura Namoda. Before the workshop, some of the participants held the view that religion was inimical to progress and development. One important thing that gave hope on that very event was the presence of the Emir of Kaura Namoda, who dedicated his time to the workshop and shed more light on issues concerning conflict and how to overcome it through dialogue which could possibly lead to peace.



Maria Utaji

Biography



Head Teacher, Augustinian Nursery & Primary school, Mubi Adamawa state.

Maria Utaji is an Augustinian Sister of the Mercy of Jesus. She is from Benue state but lives and works in Mubi, Adamawa State Nigeria. She holds a B.Sc. in Accounting from the University of Maiduguri Borno State. Currently, she is in charge of a Nursery/Primary School belonging to her congregation at Mubi.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is God's gift to us and is the outcome of justice. It is a necessity for all mankind. It starts from within when our basic needs are met otherwise it can lead to conflict and if not properly handled can erupt like a volcano and spread to others. Peace is where true love is dwelling and where it dwells, God dwells there and where there is God discord has no part, rather one mind and heart. Peace for me is forgiving and saying I Love You and living as friends with others. So, when there is peace within, love flows out to others and sets us free.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship program has been of tremendous help and has enlightened me greatly in the area of understanding and tolerating people

and their beliefs & also in the area of conflict management and mediation.

✉ maria.utaji@gmail.com

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Sustenance for the less Privileged and the Physically Challenged.

Project Summary

Sr. Utaji's project focused on skills acquisition and women empowerment. The project which was held in Gipalma Mubi, Adamawa State lasted for 2 days from the 10th-11th of February, 2022 with a total number of 30 beneficiaries (women and girls). It targeted the less privileged and the physically challenged women in the community and was aimed at training and provision of a means of livelihood for them.





Project outcome/Impact

Sr. Maria's project gave hope and succor to the less privileged and physically challenged, by empowering them with training and some cash to enable them start some form of petty trading. The participants could not withhold their joy and gratitude at the end of the workshop, for instance, a widow whose husband was murdered, leaving her with 6 children to cater for in a poor rented apartment, was especially very grateful for the opportunity and privilege. She felt the project was specially meant for her because it came at the right time when all hope was lost as she was in dire need of help. From the seed money she got from Sister Maria, she set up a small fresh vegetable business and makes a daily income from it to help sustain and train her children.

Obio Bassey, Owai

Biography



Ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria and the Convener, Grassroot Ecumenism Promoters of Nigeria, (GEPON), Benue state.

Rev Bassey Obio is an ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria and the Convener of Grassroots Ecumenism Promoters of Nigeria (GEPON). He has Masters in Theology from The University of Calabar and has studied in Nigeria, Tanzania and Switzerland with study visits to France, Germany, Italy and a pilgrimage to the Vatican City, Rome where he met Pope Francis. He hails from Akamkpa, Cross River State, Nigeria.

My Reflection on peace

For me, peace is a function of tolerance, dialogue, forgiveness and reconciliation with others. In a world of diversity, conflict is inevitable. To promote peace, everyone must tolerate others, enter into dialogue with others for mutual understanding and respect, forgive others and be ready to reconcile with others.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I must confess that the Fellowship Program has increased my knowledge on peace, conflict and interreligious dialogue issues. It has also improved my skills and capacity for taking appropriate action for peace. Besides, it has contributed to better positioning

of our work in PCN GEPON for more technical grassroots peace building. All glory to God and much appreciation to COFP. Together we move.

 obiobassey@yahoo.com



My Community Peace Project Project Title: Seed of Peace-Training the Trainers in Benue state.

Project Summary

The 2-day workshop was held from 5th January, 2022 at Makurdi Benue state. It was aimed at increasing awareness of 20 church leaders and 22 teachers including women, youths and girls on ideals of peaceful co-existence in Benue state.



Project Outcome/Impact

During Bassey's workshop, 20 Church Leaders and 22 Teachers including women, youths and girls were trained on peaceful coexistence, their awareness on the ideals and their capacity to cascade this knowledge to their followers were also increased. Most of the participants expressed their joy at such an opportunity and were poised to continue in this path both in their families and the larger society.



Obiaku Theresa Ebere

Biography



Headmistress, Our Lady's Nursery school,
Maiduguri, Bornu state.

Theresa is a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Mother of Christ Congregation. She holds an NCE in English Language, and works at Our Lady's Nursery school Maiduguri as Headmistress.

My Reflection on peace

Peace is harmony between individuals and groups. It is being able to live without fear and anxiety and unwarranted trouble, freedom from fear of violence between individual or group. Peace is of two types; internal peace and external peace. Internal peace is a state of physical and spiritual calmness despite many stressors, i. e. being happy, contented and blissful, no matter how hard life is.

External peace is peace that occur in a society, nation and the world at large. It is happy co-existence of people, as well as nature. Without inner peace, there would be no external peace. And so, we should strive for inner peace.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

COFP Fellowship program is like an eye opener to me, it has armed and broadened my knowledge about Christianity and Islamic religion and changed my mindset about Islamic

religion especially. I also learned that we are all created by one God and we are worshipping the same God. Lastly, that understanding other people's religion, ethnicity and culture will go a long way to help us respect and live in peace with one another.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Advancement in Multi-Cultural Community and Empowerment of Youths



Project Summary

The two days' skill acquisition and empowerment was held on the 17th and 19th February, 2022 at Our Lady School, Maiduguri. In all, 35 people learnt skills on soap making, production of peanut and pomade. The objectives of the workshop were to train and empower youths to become self-reliant, foster mutual love and peace between easterners and northerners; assist people heal their wounds and bear the loss caused by insurgency and to create a platform for accepting diversities and community building for peaceful co-existence between the five tribes that make up the community.



Project outcome/Impact

This program was like an eye opener for many people, they now know that it is possible for Christians and Muslims, even the Fulanis' and in fact all the tribes in Nigeria to sit together as a team and work for the common good of all. For instance, during group discussion and skills acquisition practicals, people were marveled seeing Christians and Muslims working together to succeed without remembering their religious differences or tribe. It made the youths discover that they can do something on their own, to better their lives instead of waiting for the Government. Some of the beneficiaries had this to say "I didn't want to come initially but have learnt a lot and don't want the program to end" Emmanuel. Jacinta testified that, "With this skill that I have acquired, I can start a business of my own without waiting for a government Job. I am excited about the program" while Sherifat Musa confessed that, "I can now do things on my own. I am happy to have attended the program and will make use of what I have learnt".



Idris Yusuf

Biography



Coordinator, interfaith Dialogue,
Nigerian Red Cross Society, Niger state.

Idris Yusuf is a Sunni Muslim from Borno State. He lives and works in Suleja, Niger State. Idris is the Interfaith Dialogue Coordinator of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Niger State. He holds a B. Sc. in Political Science from the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina State.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace is freedom from violence, from peers, partners, family, strangers, and the State. Peace is compassion for others. Peace is being able to grow and thrive and be who you are. Peace is freedom from binary concepts and thinking. Peace is accepting of various religious practices, or the lack thereof.

✉ yusufidris2014@gmail.com

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Suleja Youths Interfaith Dialogue Initiative

Project Summary:

Idris had in attendance 100 youths from different schools in Suleja, Niger State to listen to various scholars on the need for peaceful coexistence in their community during his peace project. Some of the participants acknowledged the fact that they have learnt the need to live in peace with one another in spite of their religious differences. The project which was held on the 12th of February, 2022 attracted both Christian and Islamic clerics. The objective of the workshop was to bring youths of different faiths together and teach them that they can collaborate and live in peace.



Project outcome/impact

The workshop mostly dwelt on peaceful coexistence within the community which is why Idris peace project had in attendance traditional & religious leaders, youths, women and students, who brainstormed and enlightened the participants on ways to end religious conflict in their community. At the end of the workshop, Suleja Interfaith Response Network was created to hold monthly meetings in order to address any religious challenges in their community. The interface network comprised of 5 pastors and 5 imams, in order to create a balance. The workshop made it obvious that peaceful co-existence is vital to everyone in the community irrespective of one's religious affiliations.



Dogmo Ruth

Biography



Counsellor, St. Hilary Secondary school,
Polo, Maiduguri.

Hodahentine Ruth is a Dominican Sister from Kebbi state. She is a Counsellor at St. Hilary Secondary School, Polo, Maiduguri. She holds a B. Sc. in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution from the National Open University Nigeria.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means freedom from disturbances. It is a path that leads to growth and prosperity in the society. Peace brings about progress in all ramifications. Peace entails agreement and harmony among people. It also encourages cohesion and accommodation, forgiveness, & respect for others. "We do not need guns and bombs to bring peace, we need love and compassion."- Mother Teresa.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

In our world today there are so many chaotic situations here and there but peace is an essential commodity in our society that can calm the chaos. Before the Fellowship program, I used to live in suspicion and fear of people from other religions, but now, all that has changed. I have learnt to tolerate and accommodate other people's ideas

and ideologies for peaceful coexistence.

✉ ruthdogmo@gmail.com





My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls

Project Summary

Gender based violence is a huge problem in our society and there is need for more awareness campaign against its danger and the need to put an end to it. This was what Ruth did when she organized a one-day project for 42 participants on 19th February, 2022 at Maiduguri. The objective of the program was to build the resilience of women and girls to stand against Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Borno State, by empowering them with some skills on bead making, liquid detergents and pastries and also, to give women who have been abused a voice to speak out in order to forestall subsequent occurrences. The project also aimed at collaborating with the government and other relevant bodies in combating the menace of GBV in Borno state. The participants were happy for the opportunity to attend the program.



Project Outcome/impact

At the end of Ruth's peace project, participants had a better understanding of religious texts and their teaching on the place of women in the society. They improved their knowledge on the damage that GBV is causing women and girls in the society. Their resilience was built not only to identify red flags of GBV but they were empowered to become self-reliant through the skills they were taught. Participants were encouraged to speak out and report cases of GBV so that the perpetrators rather than the victims of GBV will be dealt with. Gladly, some of the beneficiaries had gone ahead to translate the skills they acquired into a means of livelihood for themselves and their families.



Clementine Nishimwe

Biography



Lecturer, University of Johannesburg,
South Africa.

Clementine Nishimwe is a lecturer in the Department of Religion studies at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Her area of research interest are Migration and Religion, African studies, Christian studies (Theology), African women, Theology & Gender studies. She also oversees the departmental Newsletter.

My Reflection on peace

Peace is a concept I struggle to define because it could mean different things to different people, hence, I will reflect on the meaning of peace within the context of South Africa. In this context peace include but is not limited to understanding, tolerance and acceptance of the other. Many instances of lack of peace are related to total misunderstanding of the other which makes tolerance and acceptance almost impossible. I am not suggesting that peace is synonymous with love. Even if people cannot love or do not have to love every person, at least accepting every person as the bearer of the image of God/Allah/ Jehovah would encourage all people to respect and care for this image of God that all human beings carry with them.

✉ cnishimwe@uj.ac.za

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My name is Dr. Clementine Nishimwe. The Fellowship program at COFP has equipped me with the skills on peace, conflict/conflict management and resolution as well as writing up a research project and applying for the research funds. The skills I acquired were demonstrated and enhanced in the success of a mini project I drafted and was sponsored by COFP. I am working on publishing in a scholarly journal what I learned from the people who participated in this research. The COFP Fellowship has not only opened a new research window for me but also allowed me to give back to my Johannesburg community. As I write this, I have a number of people who registered on google to attend the next interreligious conversation.



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Dynamics of Conflict and Everyday Life Religion: Exploring the Religious Underpinning of the Attitudes about Contradiction and Behavior in Conflicts Experienced in Johannesburg

Project Summary

Clementine's one-day peace forum was held on 12th March, 2022 at Johannesburg, South Africa. This workshop gave participants the opportunity to voice out their experiences of conflict especially those that are related to Gender Based Violence, Xenophobic attacks as well as racism. The participants were 20 in number because, Scholars of ethnographic chats suggest that the smaller a group is, the deeper the conversation. The main aim of this project was to understand the contradictions that lead people to conflicts and brokenness and how these conflicts may be affecting people's behavior and attitudes at an individual or community level and how everyday religion may be underpinning these experiences of conflict.

Project Outcome/Impact

This project has created a safe space for sharing and learning from experiences of conflict and brokenness. For instance, the Christian female participants who are in the domain of media shared their experiences of gender-based injustice and abuse they experienced when they were at work and the Muslim male participants responded to this drawing from their Muslim belief to contribute to the debate about cultural expectations on women.



Emmanuel Ekeh

Biography



Coordinator, Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC), Otukpo Diocese.

Rev Fr Emmanuel Ekeh is a Priest, Legal Practitioner and the Coordinator of Justice Development and Peace Commission JDPC of the Catholic Diocese of Otukpo. He is also a community development practitioner who is passionate about helping the poor and THE marginalized in the society.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace means the absence of conflict and violence in the society. It entails friendly coexistence between people and mutual respect for one another irrespective of the religious, tribal, or political affiliation. I believe every action, every voice, every idea, and much determination are needed to bring peace to our society today. Peace is an important message which every Nigerian needs to hear until it reaches every individual.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship program is quite significant and exciting. It has added value to my vocation as a Catholic Priest. The COFP Fellowship has helped me to go beyond beliefs to look at social problems with objectivity and ways to contribute positively to issues

of religious intolerance. Furthermore, the Fellowship has taught me to go into inter religious dialogue with a free mind and not with bias. These will make us all live in peace and harmony.

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My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Capacity Building Program on Dialogue and Conflict Resolution for Selected Religious and Community Leaders in Agatu LGA of Benue State

Project Summary

Benue State has been facing farmers-herders clashes for some time now. That is why Fr. Eje's project brought together 50 religious and community leaders and other community stakeholders in Otukpo, Benue state to build their capacity in dialogue and conflict resolution. At the end of the workshop, a peacebuilding committee was established in Otukpo Local Government area to continue address & discuss how best to resolve crises in their community.



Project Outcome/Impact

Fr. Eje's participants who cut across religious and community leaders had their capacity built on identifying early signs of violence. They learnt how to identify these signs of violence early enough and the appropriate response to take in addressing it. The program led to the successful establishment of a peacebuilding committee at the LGA that will meet regularly to discuss peacebuilding initiatives at the LGA specially to address herders -farmers' crisis and other communal clashes. The participants were educated on the need to embrace dialogue instead of resorting to violence whenever there is disagreement or crises.



Musa Muhammad

Biography



Chief Imam, Concordia College of Adamawa state Council of Imams and Da'is.

Muhammad Musa is a Muslim from Adamawa state. He is the Chief Imam Concordia College of Adamawa state Council of Imams and Da'is. He obtained a Bachelor of Education in English at the University of Maiduguri.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is what everybody should pray, work and call for. Peace is a stage of having a community, state, nation and world free from all kinds of violence or misunderstanding amongst its citizens, with peace people can enjoy their human rights and benefits justly.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I got so much skills and knowledge which I never had before from the program and as an Imam, I will use these skills to disseminate more knowledge about Islam & the Christian religion to my followers

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Religious Tolerance and Understanding; A Road Map to Interfaith Peacebuilding

Project Summary:

Mohammad's event was held on 12th February, 2022 at Yola North, Adamawa state to foster peace among Muslim and Christian students with the aim to educating and enlightening them on how to live in peace with everybody as instructed in the Holy Books. About 80 students from 11 schools participated in the workshop.



Project outcome/Impact

The project targeted young students and teachers from Christian and Muslim Theological schools as well as, private and public schools in Yola. After the program, both the teachers and students expressed their happiness and willingness to preach, advocate, support and sensitize people of both faiths to leave in peace and harmony in their communities, schools and homes.



Mercy Audu Doma

Biography



Mandela Hospital Jos, Plateau state.

Mercy Audu is a Sister of Our Lady of Fatima. She works with Mandela Hospital, Jos and holds a B. Sc. in Nursing from Madonna University, Okija.

My Reflection on Peace:

For me peace is a treasure I must safeguard. And because it is a treasure, I must uphold peace and continue to be a peace ambassador. From the wealth of the COFP Fellowship program I came to realize that both Christianity and Islam teach peace, peaceful coexistence has to do with the ability to enjoy a relatively peaceful community, interpersonal relationships, it does not only have to do with religion. The gospel I preach now is the danger of a single story and the story of the humming bird. I must do the best I can and we should all do the best we can to enjoy peace in our family, neighborhood, community, country and the world. Violence is not an option to think of but we all should love all, engage in dialogue for better understanding.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The one year of my Fellowship program was indeed worthwhile. I have been enlightened, empowered and my horizons have been widened. I have better information and understanding of both Christianity and Islam now. My notion about peace and peaceful co-existence have been modified. Previously I see peace as talking things over but peace can also be achieved when I decide to let some things go. I have a part to play in maintaining peaceful coexistence by doing the best I can from the story of the humming bird and to avoid single stories. Retaliation does not bring peace but dialogue goes a long way to resolve issues especially dialogue with the right persons and

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also the reality of conflict that I have learned to live with daily, in addition to the conflict management styles of accommodating people, avoiding issues, collaborating with people who have interest in peaceful coexistence. All thanks to the COFP Fellowship program & the Hilton Foundation.



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peacebuilding Workshop and Skill Acquisition for Women and Mothers

Project Summary

Mercy's peace workshop was held on the 10th of February, 2022 at Namu, Qua'anpan LGA, plateau state, with about 30 participants. The workshop emphasized on the need for peaceful coexistence in the family and community. It taught women how to be creative and use their talents well. Also, the workshop engaged women in skill acquisition training for economic empowerment.



Project outcome/Impact

Mercy Audu's project made a great change in the lives of the participants and the community. They thanked the Church and the Foundation for reaching out to them. The project has given them the opportunity for growth and the privilege to use their talents to be creative, useful and resourceful.



Yusuf Fatima

Biography



PRO, Muslim Sisters Organization, Kebbi state.

Fatima Yusuf is a Sunni Muslim from Kebbi State, and the PRO of the Muslim Sisters Organization, Kebbi state.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace in the community is like a cell in the human body. For it is only with good functional cells in the human body that we can stay alive. So it is, in relation to peace. It is when there is peace that we have time to cultivate the food that we eat. It is when there is peace that we can concentrate while performing our religious rites. For when there is no peace we cannot sleep with both eyes closed, rather, we will sleep with one eye open for the fear of being attacked. "No peace; no rest".

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I learned that the three major religions in the world are from the same source. (Judaism, Christianity and Islam). The only problem is how the followers embraces them. I learnt about mediation skills, and how to interact with people of different faiths and lots more.

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My Community Peace Project Project Title: Women's Roles in Promoting Peaceful Co-existence among Christians and Muslims in Birnin Kebbi

Project Summary

On the 14th of February, 2022, Fatima brought together 50 women from both Christian and Muslim faiths in the community for a peacebuilding workshop in Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State. The participants examined the role of women in conflicts via early warnings of conflicts and how to resolve it through dialogue. The topic of discussion provoked tears from some participants who have come to realize the need for peaceful coexistence and regretted their actions in the past, which made things to go wrong in the community.





Project outcome/Impact:

Fatima's program changed the perception of many of her participants. It made them question their actions in the past and come to the conclusion that since both the adherents of Islam and Christianity have the same blood flowing in their veins, why the hatred? Her participants also learnt a better way to approach faith issues with neighbors from other faiths. In the course of the lectures some of them got emotional when the truth dawned on them because the facilitators left no stone unturned in exposing certain facts about Islam and Christian religion which most of the participants have never been told.

Ijeoma Denisia Okonkwo

Biography



Communication Secretary, DMMM
Congregation & the Personnel Officer,
COFP Foundation, FCT Abuja

Sr. Okonkwo Ijeoma Denisia is a member of the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy (DMMM). She had her Masters in International Relations from Godfrey Okoye University in 2021. She is currently working at the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for peace as a Personnel Officer. She is the Communication Secretary of her Congregation.

My Reflection on Peace

Literally, the word 'peace' is derived from the original Latin word "pax" meaning, "tranquility, absence of war". It also means a pact, a control or an agreement to end war or any dispute and conflict between two people, or two nations (Khemanando, V. 1995). According to Albert Einstein's view, peace is not only an absence of war, but it means the presence of justice, law, order or good government in the society. Martin Luther King, Jr., a famous human right activist opined that "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: It is the presence of justice.

However, peace to me is the absence of continuous misunderstanding, misrepresentation, prejudice among people of different religions, tribe and ethnicity.

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

With my upbringing as a Christian, I have not really been opportune and privileged to know other religions. But as a Fellow of COFP Fellowship Program, it is a great opportunity to have insightful conversations and learn more about different faiths. It has helped me to become more knowledgeable about different religious traditions and more skilled at communicating with people from other religious backgrounds. I wish also to add that the program has permitted everyone to define their own religious experiences and identity which others must respect.



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Talk and Skill Acquisition Program for the Youths

Project Summary

Sr. Denisia's 3 days' skill acquisition program conducted for 43 youths held from 8th to 10th February, 2022 and was executed at Koton Karfe in Kogi State. It brought youths from the two religions of Islam & Christianity together for a harmonious skill acquisition training on the production of industrial Liquid detergents, bar soaps, organic body lotions, and baking of confectionaries. The objectives of the project were to empower young girls to rise above poverty in order to become self-reliant through vocational skill training and to educate the participants on the need to have a continuous peaceful co-existence and relationship among themselves irrespective of their faith.



Project outcome/Impact

The community of Koton Karfe is predominantly Muslims with a handful of Christians. During the course of Sr. Denisia's 3- days training, adherents of the two religions were brought together and taught the importance of peaceful co-existence through skill acquisition training. This training empowered the young girls especially to be self-reliant because majority of Koton Karfe youths lack self-reliance since most of them are not skilled enough to make a livelihood for themselves. On the first day, most of the participants sat in clusters with only those from their faiths, however, they had a change of mind following the new sitting arrangement wherein they were encouraged to sit together irrespective of the next person's faith. Interestingly, they ended up making friends among themselves, knowing fully well that everything about this project is PEACEFUL coexistence.

The project workshop created and built a bridge among the two religions & also empowered the participants because some of them had since started small businesses from the starter kits that were provided for them at the end of the training according to their choices, either for industrial and household detergents production or for bakery. They are now earning some income to sustain themselves and their families.



Algoni Jidda

Biography



Community Liaison Officer,
Neem Foundation, Borno State.

Algoni Jidda is a Tijjania Muslim from Borno state. He is the Community Liaison Officer of Neem Foundation. He holds a B. Sc in Conflict Studies from the University of Maiduguri.

My Reflection on Peace

In my opinion, Peace is a collective responsibility. We don't need to wait for the security officers or a community platform to make peace for us. We all have a duty towards peace building wherever we find ourselves.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

In fact, recounting the experience I got from the Fellowship program and how it helped me in particular, and the society that I am living in generally, is a thing of joy. The program gave me a lot of measures and ways on how best to interact with my fellow Nigerian Christians. Also, it has taught me how to understand the differences & respect each other's religion, which I didn't know before I joined the program. Furthermore, it taught me how to manage conflict situations to a large extent. Those are just a few of my experiences. Keep up the good work COFP! Thank you COFP FELLOWSHIP.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Interfaith Dialogue among Religious Leaders, Youth and Women Groups on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Goni kachallari

Project Summary

Youths and women numbering 50 from different groups participated in the one-day program held at Jere Local Government on the 13th of February, 2022. The core objective of the project was to use interfaith dialogue to bring people of different faiths, professions and social standing together for conversations since religion is and will continue to be a powerful contributing factor in violent conflicts, therefore it is essential to include religion and religious actors in diplomatic & peace efforts.



Project outcome/Impact

In the course of Algoni's workshop, the 50 participants were educated on interfaith dialogue so that they will become agents of dialogue for change & thereby contribute to peacebuilding processes in their various groups and social engagements.



Angela Ekwutosi Odunukwe

Biography



**Chief Executive Officer,
Prime Age Development Initiative
& National Secretary, National Association
of the Catholic Lawyers (NACL), Abuja**

Angela Ekwutosi Odunukwe is a legal practitioner and children advocate and mentor. She is known for her special interest and call in children ministry. For her, the young shall grow and to grow responsibly, the young must be nurtured properly.

She is the National Secretary of National Association of the Catholic Lawyers, NACL and the Chief Executive Officer of Prime Age Development Initiative. She holds LLB from ESUT and BL from Nigerian Law School.

My Reflection on Peace

For me, peace is not just concept of lip service and cannot be a quick fix rather an issue of inner disposition. So, it is not about state of excitement but a mind that is quiet and satisfied amidst all situations, which enables one to not only wish to have peace but also to give or help others find peace for a peaceful environment. It is this disposition that makes a person hunger for harmony, shun violence and tolerate others idiosyncrasies, have compassion for others even at the face of provocation. I see peace therefore as living in harmony with one another irrespective of our differences.

Meaning that though I might not like completely the view or behavior of my siblings, neighbors, friends or other people, I should be able to tolerate them, try to listen to their explanations and find a compromise for peace to reign.

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

I cannot quantify what the Fellowship program has done for me but permit me to say that it has greatly affected my life and work. Though I had been an advocate of peace, COFP Fellowship program brought in the dimension and understanding of interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding. It has helped me to see the dangers of a single story that most times is used to describe an individual group, when in actual sense no group has a single story. It has raised my consciousness that every effort counts. This experience has left me with unalloyed, all-inclusive consideration of people from diverse regions and religious lines with a common lens. Like a humming bird, am resolute to do the best I can.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Children in Peacebuilding and Conflict Management: Panacea for Peaceful Co-existence

Project Summary:

Angela in the display of her love for children brought together 70 of them from Kadokuchi FCT, Abuja for a one Day peace education summit on the 26th of February, 2022. Participants cut across two neighboring communities consisting of Muslims and Christians. The objectives of the program were to inculcate in children the spirit of tolerance, good neighborliness and peaceful co-existence. Equally, the workshop was to help children understand that they can resolve conflicts without violence and to learn how to build peace especially in their immediate environment and to be a peace ambassador.



Project Outcome/Impact

The program brought two neighboring communities together as children were drawn from Kadokuchi and Jayi. On the part of children, they were able to understand that conflict is part of everyday life, which can be resolved without violence. They learnt that listening to the other person in a conflict will help them to understand the problem and to resolve their problem amicably, and that they can help people in conflicts resolve their differences. At the end of the program, each of them was willing to be part of the peace club established for their various communities. They left with conviction that their faiths shouldn't be a reason for conflict rather, they should see themselves as one irrespective of their religious differences.



Idris Mohammed

Biography



Founder, Sulhu Development Initiative (SDI)
& Lecturer, Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto.

Idris Mohammed is an Investigative Journalist, Extreme Terror and Violent Crimes Researcher. He is a data enumerator and member of Nigerian Network of Peace Facilitators of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). He is the Founder of Sulhu Development Initiative (SDI) and holds M. Sc. in Mass Communication from Bayero University, Kano. Currently, Idris is a lecturer at Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto Nigeria.

My Reflection on Peace

As for me, it's a life time opportunity, I used the platform for meaningful cost by building the capacity of numerous people to promote peaceful coexistence in my community. I felt very fulfilled and satisfied.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

As a young person and peace ambassador, COFP contributed to my deeper knowledge of interfaith dialogue and it is important in societal building. Through this journey and for the first time, I came to recognize and embrace the significance of having a multi ethnic and religious society. I am inspired by the dedication and commitment of the COFP team to better Nigeria and create positive

change through a religious lens.

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My Community Peace Project
Project Title: Youth Inter-faith Dialogue against Banditry in Funtua LGA of Katsina state.

Project Summary

Idris Mohammed gathered his community members together in Funtua, Katsina State to deliberate on how to put an end to banditry in the State. Armed banditry has been a major source of concern in the state as lives and properties could no longer be secured because of the activities of these men. Thus, his project was held on the 19th of February, 2022 and attracted 43 participants. The overall goal of the program was to strengthen the capacity of local actors and relevant stakeholders in applying dialogue to address the banditry issues in their various communities

Project outcome/Impact

Key outcome of Idris's community peace project is the creation of a tailored grassroots movement with the sole aim of promoting peacebuilding and countering violent narratives capable of creating and escalating violence.



Titiloye Josephine Mary

Biography



Vulnerable Children's Home,
Oghara, Delta state

Sr. Titloye is a Religious Sister of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. She holds a B. Sc. in Theology/Psychology from St. Mary's College, Omaha, USA. She worked in Plateau state but was recently transferred to work with vulnerable children in Oghara, Delta state.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is the result of living a virtuous life. There must be peace with God, peace with ourselves, peace within communities, families, and even peace with enemies. Shalom (Jewish greeting meaning peace) wishes inner peace of God to all those we meet. Jesus teaches us to make peace with everyone (Mt 5:24). To be peacemakers we must not ignore or avoid conflict. If we do, we do not build a healthy community and we are not peacemakers. Conflict happens around us. It should be seen as an opportunity for peace, and not as a problem. When conflict occurs only purity of heart will dissipate our anger, fear and make our intentions and responses not to lose objectivity.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Mt 5: 9)

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful" (Co. 3: 15). With this quotation, permit me to say that my going for the 1st and 2nd module of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Peace Foundations which was centered on the Inter-Religious Dialogue, as well as Conflict Transformation and Mediation was an eye opener for me. This program broadened my knowledge more on the teachings about Islamic belief in God (Allah), and Christian belief in God. Both religions centers on peace and unity, and of the fact that we are all from the same Father in faith, Abraham. My experience of meeting with Fellows from different religions and background, coupled with various educational knowledge and skills, both within Nigeria and other African countries, gives me a true judgement of the reality that living in harmony among ourselves, (Christians and Muslims alike), is 100% feasible by having free minds and sincere fraternal love for each other. For this reason, I am longing to be an ambassador of peace wherever I go, and whenever the opportunity arises. May Almighty God continue to bless the Foundation to grow from strength to strength, Amen. Thank you Hilton Foundation and God bless.



My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution in Oghara

Project Summary

The two days' skill acquisition and empowerment workshop was held on 18th February, 2022 with 53 beneficiaries in Unoghovo-Oghara, Delta state. The objectives of the project are to educate the participants on skills acquisition and empowerment through soap and perfume making. Also, to educate them on the necessity of peaceful living and how to collaborate with family members, neighbors, and the entire community. To imbue in them the spirit of calmness, understanding, and maturity and to inculcate the need for cordial relationships with people of other religions.

Project Outcome/Impact

The participants learnt the act of conflict resolution, and the beauty of peaceful co-existence. They also acquired skills on making liquid bathing and dish washing soap for increased income and improved economy. The program was also a fulfillment of the Gospel mandate: that they may be one. (Jn:21)



Adam Ahmad Tijani.

Biography



Coordinator, Interfaith Mediation Center, Kano.

Ahmad Tijani is a Muslim from Kano state. He is the Kano State Coordinator of Interfaith Mediation Center. He holds a B. Sc. in Mass Communication from Bayero University, Kano.

My Reflection on peace

For me, Peace means living with people in a harmonious way.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

During this one-year training of the COFP Fellowship program, I learned a lot especially on mediation skill processes and how to tolerate one another without being biased against his/her religious and ethnic background.

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My Community Peace Project Project Title: Religious Tolerance for Community Development

Project Summary

The one-day program was held at Badawa community Kano on the 19th of February 2022. It brought together 78 participants comprising of Muslims and Christians, which in itself is an indication that it achieved its objective for community peace and sustainability as most of the participants sat & dialogued closely with people of other faiths for the first time in their lives.

Project outcome/Impact

Ahmad's peace workshop brought positive change in his community. Before the workshop, there was a lot of mistrust and even hatred between Muslims and Christians in his community, however in the course of the peace training and teaching from both the Islamic Scholar and Christian Pastor, the participant's perceptions dramatically changed for the best. In fact, one of the Muslim participants confessed that it was the first time in his life seating and discussing with Christians under the same roof.

Fatima Lawrence

Biography



Busar & Teacher, Christ the King Nursery & Primary school, Gwada, Niger state.

Rev. Sr Fatima Nungnaan Lawrence is from Quaan Pan Local Government Area of Plateau state. She had her primary and secondary school education in Quaan Pan before joining the Our Lady of Fatima Sisters Congregation in 2014. She is presently working at Christ the King Nursery and Primary School Gwada as the School Busar and Doctrine teacher in Minna Diocese, Niger State.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace to me is the highest value every human being and every society on earth need. Peace is more than just the absence of war and violence; peace is not the absence of conflict but the ability to manage conflict constructively as an important opportunity for change and increased understanding. Peace for me is a commitment to understanding, celebrating, and learning from our differences, it is also a commitment not to harm but to nurture all individuals.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Wow! The Fellowship program has equipped me to look at life differently and to also think differently, when it

comes to peace. It has helped me in my relationship with my immediate community and the society in which I work. The Fellowship has also given me more understanding on steps to take when it comes to peace building. I am more grounded in my understanding of other religions especially, Islam and Christianity.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peacebuilding Workshop and Skills Training for 30 Youths

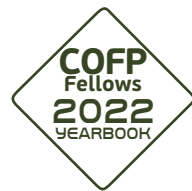
Project Summary

Thirty youths consisting of Christians and Muslims gathered at Gwada community in Niger State for the above workshop. They underwent training in ICT, Tailoring and catering. Most of the participants became aware for the first time that they could actually interact with youths from the other religions and thereafter resolved to live in peace with one another.



Project Outcome/Impact

Sr. Fatima's project created awareness in the lives of many youths in Gwada community both from the Islamic and Christian Faiths, it helped them to comprehend the importance of peace and also expanded their awareness about people of other faiths. Through her project many of the participants were given the opportunity for the professional skill acquisition training and most importantly they were able to identify and put to good use their untapped God given talents through the training they got during the skill acquisition classes, while those who were affected by the communal crisis were finally able to voice their pains and see the need to forgive those who hurt them so deeply so they can gain an inner peace in spite of what had happened to them.



Napoleon Emuchay Otuonye Biography



General Secretary and Head of Administration,
Cherubim & Seraphim Church, Lagos

Napoleon Otuonye is a Cherubim & Seraphim Christian from Abia State and resides in Lagos. He is the General Secretary & also Head of Administration of the Church in Lagos. He has an M. Sc. in Shipping and Maritime Studies from Liverpool.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is prevalent where individual rights and privileges are respected and protected. It is a state where people's opinion, values, culture and beliefs are respected and protected. True peace is knowing that we belong to one another. We can achieve this if we let go of all sentiments and prejudices in our hearts. Dialogue is critical to peaceful co-existence particularly where there are ethnic, tribal and cultural diversities.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Program has armed me with good knowledge and skill in Mediation, Dialogue and Peacebuilding. I now have a better understanding that Muslims and Christians have commonalities notwithstanding our ethnic, religious and cultural differences, we are bound by common humanity, and that we

belong to one another.

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My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Inter-faith Peacebuilding Workshop for 60 Religious Leaders, Women & Youth in Surulere Community, Lagos State

Project Summary

The above interfaith peacebuilding workshop was held on the 7th of February, 2022 at Surulere, Lagos. The objectives of the workshop were to achieve at least 25% increase in religious tolerance among Christian and Muslim in Surulere Lagos by the end of February 2022 and an increase in the membership of peaceful advocates who would use the new developed approaches for peace in their work among religious communities in Surulere. A total number of 60 people participated in the workshop including religious leaders, women and youth.





Project Outcome/Impact

Following the execution of this peace project, there was an increased awareness on inter-religious tolerance and understanding on the dangers of single story in inter-religious dialogue. The religious leaders that participated in the workshop developed approaches for sustainable peace. One interesting outcome is that the Chief Imam and Head of Mission, Ansar-Ud Deen Society of Nigeria - Imam Abdul Rahaman Ahmad who was one of the Guest Speakers at the workshop invited the Christian participants to their Islamic Inter-faith workshop organized by Ansar-Ud Deen Society of Nigeria by the end of April 2022. This is a prologue to sustainable peace within the two religious' faiths (Christians and Muslims) in Surulere Community Lagos, Nigeria.



Augustine Ngode Anyio

Biography



Program Officer, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Center, Abakaliki, Ebonyi state.

Anyio Augustine is a Catholic and the Program Officer at Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Center, Abakiliki, Ebonyi state. He holds a Masters in Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies from ABU, Zaria.

My Reflection on Peace

For Augustine, Peace is a process through which everyone must contribute his/her bit to ensure a peaceful world and so he came up with this affirmation on peace "I AM A PEACE MAKER, I STAND FOR PEACE, I WILL ENSURE PEACE, I WILL PROMOTE PEACE, AND I WILL SHARE PEACE IN MY LOCALITY".

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP has not only increased my knowledge in interreligious dialogue, but has also provided me with the necessary guidance for meaningful consultations and dialogue with critical stakeholders. The COFP program has created in me the discipline of promoting respect, diversity, and development for a more cohesive community, restoration of trust and reduction of the feelings of threat as a result of intentional encounter and interaction among

members of different faiths. This Fellowship course in all, has changed my perspective about other religions and to assume good intentions from all, at all times.

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My Community Peace Project Project Title: Inter Communal Dialogue and Forum for Peace and Understanding.

Project Summary

Augustine's project took place in Abakiliki on the 15th of February, 2022. The project aimed at improving the capacity of selected community representatives across the 13 LGAs of the State in order to help them develop effective strategies and increase action for effective conflict early warning signs and response. It was intended that knowledge and skills gained will help to empower participants in conflict prevention efforts in the state. About 26 participants were in attendance including 18 males and 8 females.

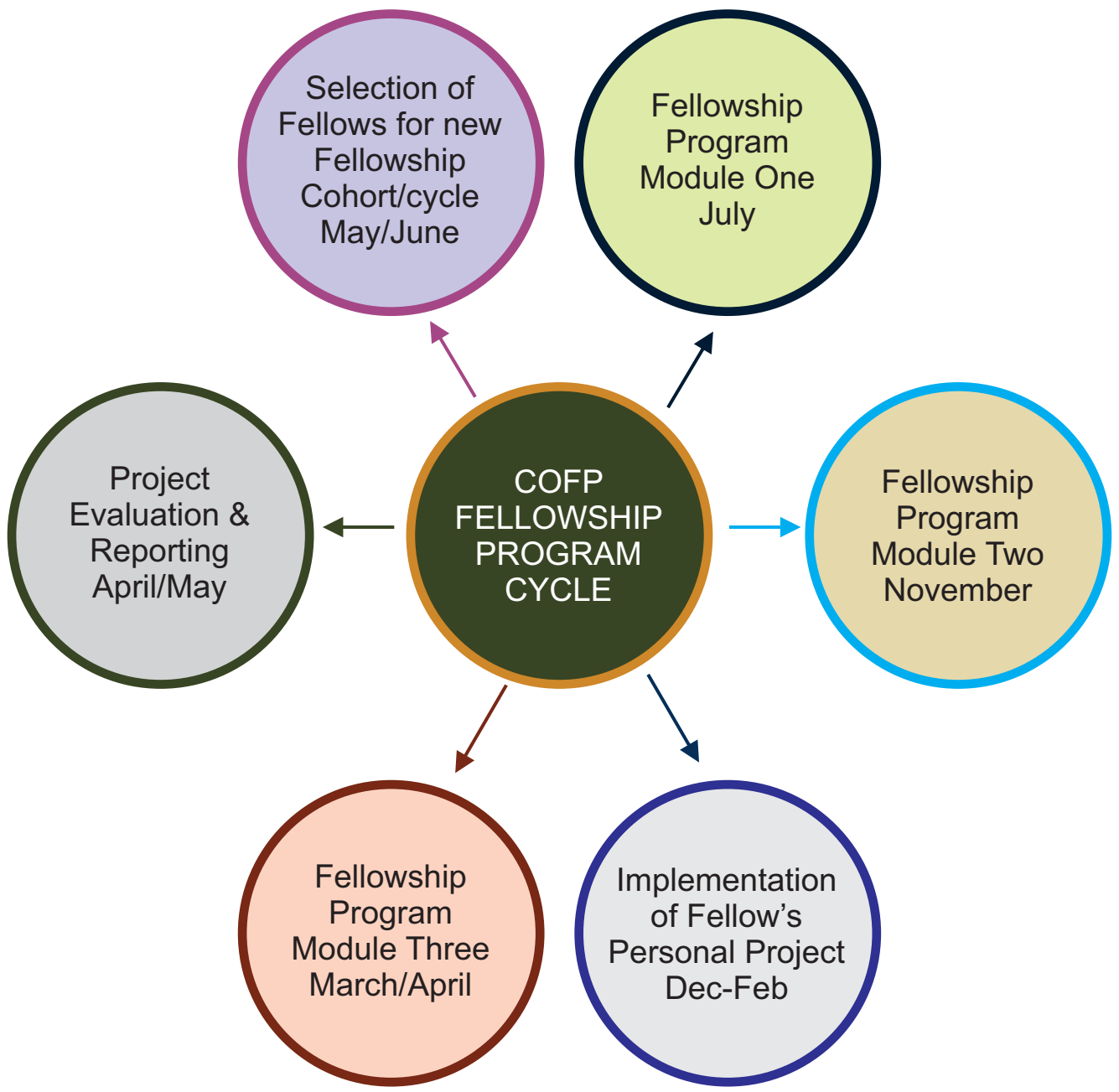




Project outcome/Impact

The participants in the workshop did acquire more knowledge and skills in conflict mitigation and transformation. The action plan drawn up by Augustine's participants was that each community would set up community peace observers that will monitor early conflict signs and report to the appropriate authority for response. It was expected that knowledge gained will ensure proactive measures and action in dealing with issues of conflict arising within and around their communities.

COFP Fellowship Program Cycle





COFP

Fellowship Program

2022
YEARBOOK

“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





Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace

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