



COFFP

Fellowship Program

20
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Yearbook

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COFP

Strategic Plan

2026-2030



COFP
Fellows

CLASS OF
2026

2025-2026 COFP Fellowship Program
Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation & Mediation

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 Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace

 (COFP) Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace



FOREWORD



From the tremors of global instability to the persistent struggles across Africa and the complex realities within Nigeria, humanity stands at a crossroads, one that demands not only reflection but also courageous and deliberate action. The world has become increasingly shadowed by uncertainty, fractured by conflict and burdened by the weight of injustice. The question of peace has never been more urgent, nor more sacred than now.

Where justice is absent, war in whatever form is inevitable. Peace, therefore, is not merely the absence of war. It is the presence of justice, the triumph of truth, and the dignity of every human person upheld. Yet, peace does not happen by chance. It must be cultivated intentionally, nurtured patiently and defended

courageously. This is the mission to which our Fellows have committed themselves. These young men and women, drawn from Nigeria, Ghana, Niger Republic and Somalia, represent more than a graduating class; they embody a quiet revolution of conscience. In a time when violence often speaks louder than reason and division seems more persuasive than unity, they have chosen a different path, the path of dialogue, justice, reconciliation and peacebuilding.

Through our Fellowship program, the journey of formation at COFP is not simply academic; it is deeply moral and transformational. It challenges participants to confront uncomfortable truths, to transcend ethnic, religious and national boundaries and to see in every “other” a brother or sister. In doing so,

they are prepared not just as observers of society, but as agents of change within it and leading the change as well.

As I reflect on the current realities of our continent and our nation, marked by insecurity, economic hardship, political tensions and social fragmentation, I am reminded that the greatest threat to peace is not conflict itself, but indifference. Our Fellows have refused to be indifferent. They have chosen instead to be voices where silence prevails, bridges where walls exist and light where darkness lingers. This YearBook is therefore, not merely a record of activities or achievements. It is a living witness to the enduring power of hope, the resilience of the human spirit and the possibility of a more peaceful world when committed individuals rise to the challenge.

To our graduating Fellows, I say; your work has only just begun. The knowledge you have acquired must now find expression in your communities. The values you have embraced must guide your decisions. The peace you seek must first live within you, before it can transform the world around you.

This milestone would not have been achieved without the unwavering support of our valued partners. I extend my profound gratitude to the Conrad Hilton Foundation, Catholic Relief Services, GHR Foundation, Veritas University Abuja, Nile University of Nigeria, Islamic

Education Trust, Interfaith Mediation Centre and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, alongside numerous other collaborators. Your generous donations, technical support and shared vision have sustained this noble mission and expanded its reach across borders.

At COFP, we equip young Africans who dare to dream of a continent united not by circumstance but by purpose; not defined by its conflicts, but by its capacity for peace. Therefore, as we celebrate this achievement, we remain mindful that the journey toward peace is ongoing. The challenges before us demand stronger partnerships and deeper collaboration. Hence, we continue to seek meaningful engagement with relevant government agencies and stakeholders whose support is indispensable in scaling the impact of peace and embedding them within national and regional frameworks.

Let us never lose faith in the power of peace. For in the end, peace is not only the destiny we seek, but it is the path we must walk, together.

JOHN CARDINAL ONAIYEKAN, CON

Founder and President

Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP)

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

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

Approach

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ABOUT COFP FOUNDATION

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to providing a platform for fostering and strengthening peace and social change in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

Founded in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, one of Nigeria's esteemed faith leaders and a staunch advocate for religious tolerance and inclusivity, the Foundation acknowledges that many conflicts in Africa, despite their ethno-religious nature, stem from deeper structural issues related to various forms of exclusion—be it religious, ethnic, political, economic, or gender-based. These issues can only be effectively addressed through governance structures that are both ethical and just.

COFP's approach to tackling these challenges includes promoting ethical leadership and providing a forum for faith leaders, citizens, and political leaders at all levels to engage in discussions on peace and development. The Foundation also assists conflict parties by equipping them with essential skills for peacebuilding, conflict management, and

transformation within their communities.

Grounded in the principles of inclusive dialogue and the common good, in accordance with the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, COFP draws inspiration from the Nostra Aetate Declaration of the Second Vatican Council on Interreligious Dialogue and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 16 on peacebuilding. The Foundation also leverages decades of experience in addressing social injustice, fostering interreligious dialogue, and promoting collaboration for peace and the resilience of all people.

COFP is committed to engaging with all sectors of society, particularly marginalized groups such as women, youth, children, and others on the fringes, recognizing that peace is a prerequisite for transformative development that requires the involvement of all.

The Foundation's core programs include Interreligious Dialogue, Peace Education, Governance/Leadership Ethos and Development, Community Engagement, and networking with similar organizations, among others.



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: Shaping a Peaceful Africa



Promoting peace in places burdened by ethnic conflict, religious bigotry, bad government, terrorism and insecurity requires both personal dedication and collective action. It demands the united efforts of individuals, institutions and governments alike. The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) remains steadfast in its mission to engage faith leaders and community stakeholders across Africa in fostering inclusive societies grounded in peace and mutual respect.

It is undeniable that sustainable peace cannot be achieved through government efforts alone. The active participation of civil society, faith-based institutions and community organizations is essential. For this reason, we prioritize collaboration with these key stakeholders to boost citizen engagement, promote justice, strengthen community

resilience, enhance security and combat the spread of hate speech, mistrust, and harmful stereotypes. At the heart of our peacebuilding efforts lies a commitment to advance lasting peace and development.

Since the launch of the COFP Fellowship Program in 2018, it has provided a safe and inclusive platform for addressing critical contemporary challenges, particularly violent extremism. This has been possible through open dialogue and building of trust in diverse and often sensitive social environments. The COFP Fellowship has become an enduring initiative, recognized for its unique approach to training, equipping, empowering and engaging leaders and community actors to take active roles in advancing reconciliation and peace within their communities. In 2021, the Fellowship became an international program by expanding beyond Nigeria, establishing itself as a Pan African initiative rooted in the spirit of global solidarity.

The journey of the 2025/2026 COFP Fellowship Program, now in its eighth (8th) year with the Class of 2026, began in July 2025 with a cohort of 35 Fellows. The cohort is predominantly Nigerian, with few participants from other African countries. These Fellows reflect the program's inclusive character, representing various cultural and religious backgrounds across the continent. Over the course of one year, they engaged in a rigorous, tailored and participatory program, completing 150 credit hours of study at the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace. Each Fellow also implemented a community peace project in

their respective states and countries.

Today, May 9th, 2026, these Fellows will be awarded certificates in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation by the COFP Foundation, in partnership with Veritas University of Nigeria (VUNA) and Nile University of Nigeria (NUN). The graduation ceremony also marks their formal induction into the COFP Africa Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP). This platform is designed to promote continued engagement, cross-cultural learning, collaborative peacebuilding and the sharing of experiences among Fellows within Africa beyond the Fellowship period.

We firmly believe that the training in Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation has equipped the Fellows to become effective Peace Ambassadors, poised to take on significant

roles in addressing the conflicts of today. As they embark on this journey, we hope that this initiative will contribute to religious harmony, peaceful coexistence and community development, turning dialogue into meaningful action, which embodies the essence of being a COFP Fellow.

In closing, we remember and honor our late colleague, Rex-Cyprian Aniah, who tragically lost his life in a car accident six years ago while overseeing the peace projects of our Fellows. Rex, your legacy endures, and we find solace in knowing that the noble cause to which you dedicated your life continues to flourish. We trust that you are resting in peace with the Lord, the ultimate rewarder of every good deed and the source of eternal peace.

Agatha Chikelue Sr. DMMM



The COFP Fellowship Program Modules

How It Works

C OFP 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 329 people from 17 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 Fellows Community Peace Projects

The innovative aspect of the COFP Fellowship Program is that before the end of each Fellowship Program, Fellows will be asked to design, develop and implement one peace initiative of their choice in any part of Africa. This exercise will enable them to apply skills learnt to a particular issue or challenge. Through this process, Fellows will demonstrate how peace actors can play an integral role in promoting peace, reconciliation and community resilience in the society. They will also, evaluate themselves, identify and consolidate lessons learned for peaceful coexistence.





Module Three

This session will further concretize training on conflict early warning and response, leadership skills, community resilience building, social media communication and networking. Evaluating lessons learned during Fellows individual projects will enable them to build a visible and practical action plan that would be translated into their professional career at the end of the Fellowship Program.



Biography

AISHA HARUNA KABUGA

Executive Director, Women for Development and Empowerment Kano and Northern Chairperson, National Council for Child Rights Advocates of Nigeria.



Aisha Haruna Kabuga is a Muslim from Kano state. She is the Coordinator responsible for the 19 Northern states at the National Council of Child Rights Advocates of Nigeria. She attended Muslim Community College of Health Science and Technology (MCCHSI), Funtua, Katsina State, where she obtained a Diploma in Clinical Assistant. She currently works with Primary Health Care Management Board in Kano state.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a state of harmony, understanding, and mutual respect that transcends individual differences. Through my experiences and interactions with others, I've come to understand that peace is a multifaceted concept that encompasses various aspects of human life. It was during my time at Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Fellowship that I gained a deeper understanding of peace. After attending the programs and training, I realized the full meaning of peace and its

significance in the lives of human beings. I understood that peace is essential for our well-being, and without it, we can become troubled and unwell - both mentally and physically. In my community, I've learned that peace is about coexistence, tolerance, and empathy.

COFP Fellowship program: An Unforgettable Experience

As a Fellow of COFP Fellowship, I had the privilege of participating in a life-changing experience that has profoundly impacted my perspective on interfaith relations. Prior to this experience, I had limited interactions with people from different faith backgrounds, largely due to the environment I grew up. However, through the Foundation's programs and initiatives, my perspective began to change. One of the most significant lessons I gained was the importance of building bridges between different faith communities. I came to realize that despite our differences, we share a common humanity and a desire for peace and

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understanding. By working together and engaging in open and honest dialogue, we can create a more harmonious and inclusive society.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Faith in Action: Promoting Peace and Understanding.in Kabuga Aisami community

collaboration among people of different faiths. It focused on increasing knowledge of diverse religious beliefs, reducing stereotypes and misconceptions, and teaching effective communication skills such as active listening, empathy, and respectful disagreement, while providing tools for constructive dialogue and conflict resolution.



Project Summary:

Held on January 28, 2026, at the Gwale Islamic Centre, the workshop brought together 50 religious' leaders, community stakeholders, and civil society actors to promote peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding. The purpose of her workshop is to foster mutual understanding, peaceful coexistence, and





Project Outcome/Impact:

Reflecting on the one-day interfaith peacebuilding workshop organized by the National Council of Child Rights Advocates of Nigeria, with support from the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace, I am filled with joy and excitement. What struck me most was the impact on my community. Before the program, divisions and tensions existed between different Islamic sects, including Izala, Tijania, and Kadriya, as well as between Muslims and Christians. After the workshop, I witnessed a remarkable transformation. These groups began to interact, share meals, and build relationships. It was a moment of great joy to see them put aside their differences in the spirit of unity and peace. Today, they pray together in the same mosque, and their relationships extend beyond the mosque into their daily lives.



Biography



AYENE EKPE ETIM

Presbytery Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, Gwagwalada, Abuja

Ayene Ekpe Etim is a Presbyterian Pastor from Cross River State. He works in the North to help educate new pastors posted in the area on how to relate with people of other faiths. He holds a Master's degree in systematic Theology and Biblical studies from the University of Jos, Plateau State.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace is not the total absence of conflict but the

ability to manage conflict without disrupting the activities of the other person.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience:

My time at the COFP Fellowship Program exposed me to gaining awareness about the power of collaboration, as no individual can manage community crises. There must be information sharing.



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My Community Peace Project: Project Title:
Peace Education/peace clubs in schools

Project Summary:

To bridge the information gap among youth and community members and reduce biases and animosity, Etim organized a one-day Peace Education and Peace Clubs event on 7th February, 2026, at Lugbe, Abuja. The event had 118 participants, with 50 beneficiaries.

Project Outcome/Impact:

The peace project assisted the participants in building trust among one another, irrespective of religious differences. They have now resolved to attend institutions owned by other faiths, unlike before.



Biography



OSMAN ABDIRAZAK MUSE

Head of Field Operations and Government Relations,
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GmbH, Kismayo Somalia

Osman, Abdirazak Muse is a Sunni Muslim from Somalia. currently serves as Head of Field Operations and Government Relations for GIZ Somalia (GIZ) GmbH. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies from Mount Kenya University, Kenya.

My Reflection on Peace

Through the learning and experiences gained from the Fellowship Program, my understanding of peace has become deeper and more practical. For me, peace is not only the absence of conflict or violence; it is the presence of trust, dignity, and opportunities that allow people to live together with mutual respect and shared purpose. Peace exists when communities can address their differences through dialogue, cooperation, and understanding rather than confrontation.

Personally, I now view peace as a continuous and collective effort. It requires creating spaces

where people can listen to each other, addressing inequalities that fuel grievances, and empowering communities, especially youth, to become part of the solution. In fragile contexts like Somalia, peace means rebuilding trust, strengthening social cohesion, and ensuring that even the most marginalized voices are recognized and included in shaping a more stable and hopeful future.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship Program has been a deeply enriching and transformative experience for me both personally and professionally. It provided a valuable platform to deepen my understanding of peacebuilding, conflict analysis, and leadership within the African context. Through sessions, discussions, and exchanges with Fellows from different countries, I gained new perspectives on how communities across Africa face similar challenges related to conflict, governance, and

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resource competition. One of the most impactful aspects of the Fellowship was learning from diverse experiences and practical approaches to peacebuilding. Engaging with colleagues in Nigeria and other regions allowed me to appreciate how dialogue, community engagement, and inclusive leadership contribute to resolving tensions and strengthening social cohesion. The Fellowship also strengthened my confidence in facilitating dialogue and working with diverse groups. Overall, COFP has inspired me to continue contributing to peacebuilding efforts in Somalia by promoting dialogue, empowering youth, and supporting initiatives that build trust between communities and institutions.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Youth Reintegration, Empowerment and Community Dialogue Project for Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities in Kismayo, Jubba land, Somalia





Project Summary:

The Skills Acquisition and Empowerment Peace Project was implemented over a three-day period in Kismayo City, Jubba Land State, Somalia, starting on 14th February 2026. The project involved 15 Youth Dialogue Ambassadors and 35 youth participants in a Sport Integration Event. Its overall objective was to strengthen youth reintegration, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence among returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host community youth in Kismayo. The project's specific objective was to promote inclusive dialogue and cooperation among youth from returnee, IDP, and host communities, build the leadership, peacebuilding, and civic engagement capacity of youth ambassadors, and encourage youth collaboration and unity through community engagement and sport integration activities.

Outcome/Impact:

The project contributed to strengthening trust, interaction, and collaboration among youth from returnee, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and resident host community backgrounds in Kismayo. Through a three-day dialogue training and sports integration activities, participants were able to interact openly, share experiences, and build relationships across community lines that had previously been limited by mistrust. The workshop provided a safe and inclusive space for youth ambassadors to discuss common challenges related to reintegration, access to opportunities, and community participation, while exchanging perspectives and exploring ways to strengthen cooperation. As a result, participants reported a better understanding of each other's perspectives and a stronger willingness to collaborate in future initiatives. The sports integration activity further reinforced social cohesion, as mixed teams composed of youth from returnee, IDP, and host communities demonstrated teamwork, mutual respect, and shared aspirations.



Biography

ANUMUDU

EUCHARISTIA CHIDINMA

Deputy Administrator, Divine Mercy Catholic Hospital,
Plateau state



Anumudu Eucharistia Chidinma is a member of the Dominican sisters of St. Catherine of Siena and hails from Imo State. She is the Deputy Administrator of Divine Mercy Catholic Hospital, Shendam, Plateau State. Chidinma obtained Bachelor's in Medical Laboratory Sciences from Achievers University, Ondo state. She is a certified/licensed Medical Laboratory Scientist.

My Reflection on Peace

Honestly, to me, peace is never an option. It is like the air we breathe; take it off, and life becomes chaos. Peace is power; it starts with you and me. Peace is our gift to one another, radiating through a smile and spreading through kindness. "Shalom" has become my greeting, accompanied by my slogan: Together for peace, together for a better world.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace has left an indelible mark on my heart and has greatly renewed me. I have learned so much, especially about the tenets of Christianity and Islam, which have broadened my understanding of the similarities between both faiths and shown me that we can truly learn from one another and live in harmony. The sessions on conflict and peacebuilding have enriched my knowledge on how to manage conflict and communicate effectively. The strong desire to create and strengthen Peace Clubs in primary and secondary schools, which are essential for instilling the values of peace in pupils and students, is a passion that will not fade. Kudos to COFP for touching so many lives.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Taste of Peace; Economic Empowerment as a Tool for Sustainable Peace.

Project Summary:

The Project was implemented in Shendam LGA, Plateau State, on the 24th of January, 2026, over two days for 77 participants. It was an intentional approach to foster sustainable peace and social cohesion in Shendam by economically empowering young women as

skilled entrepreneurs, thereby reducing their vulnerabilities and helping to bridge divides across communities. The project also encouraged young women, despite prevailing economic challenges, to remain productive through entrepreneurship, while promoting values that support peacebuilding. By integrating peacebuilding with business management training, it fostered dialogue, conflict resolution, and economic development.



Project outcome/Impact:

The impact of this project is indeed an encouraging one, to God / Allah I give the glory. The project has initiated positive social change and encourages a culture of peaceful coexistence. Empowered beneficiaries acquired skills and resources to create wealth and alleviate poverty. A joyful expression of one of the widow beneficiaries who shared how uneasy life has been, could not imagine the unfathomable love of God to visit her with the pastry ingredient/ material. I see a great impact on building a legacy of collaborative Spirit among religions, which tackles the economic idleness, amplifies their innate role as peacebuilders. It changed the stereotypical thinking of both our Muslim and Christian brethren, it brought about the harmonious way of our existence, that we are human, created by God/ Allah.



Biography



ONYEKONWEA ANNA

National Treasurer, Women Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN), Senior Manager, Investment & Treasury Management Department, Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) and Managing Partner, Ramarech Care Initiative.

Onyekonwea Anna is Christian from Delta State, Nigeria. She is the National Treasurer of the Women Wing of the Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN) and the Managing Partner of Ramarech Care Initiative. She holds an MPhil in Business Administration and Management from Ladoké Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoshó, Osun state.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace is about a collective space where everyone feels valued and heard, paving the way for a future marked by unity and

collaboration. It is a continuous journey and a commitment to nurturing a culture of inclusivity.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience:

The spirit of collaboration I developed during the Fellowship Program has inspired me to develop creative approaches to addressing key challenges in my community. The knowledge and skills acquired will also strengthen my effectiveness in implementing community projects.

My Community Peace Project: Project Title
Peaceful Coexistence: Unity through Peace and Education Empowerment

Project Summary

Anna's experience from the Fellowship Program, particularly her understanding of pathways to peace, inspired her to implement a project focused on empowering women through skills acquisition. In addition, she sponsored ten students by covering their NECO examination fees through her project. The project, held on 6th February 2026 at Jiwa Community, FCT Abuja, engaged 75 participants, with 65 direct beneficiaries.



Project Outcome/ Impact:

The impact of this project on the community has been incredibly positive. The women expressed their joy at not having to pay for the skills training, which made a significant difference in their lives. When we visited after the program, the community leader assured us that her daughter-in-law would be starting her own business after Ramadan, a testament to the inspiration our initiative provided. The school authority praised the registration of 10 students describing it as the first of such a generous gesture during the current administration. There are indications that nearby communities are eager to participate in similar opportunities in the nearest future. It is a delight to see such enthusiasm emanate from the empowerment scheme.



Biography

PETER AYAKA

Catholic Priest, CAN Chairman Awe LGA and Parish Priest St. John's Awe, Catholic Diocese of Lafia Nasarawa state.

Peter Ayaka is a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Lafia and hails from Nasarawa state. He is the CAN Chairman of Awe Local Government and also works at St. John's Parish, Awe, Nasarawa State. Peter holds a bachelor's in Theology and Philosophy from the Pontifical Urban University, Rome.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a priceless gift from God, one that He gives but can never force upon us. He expects us

to work and strive for it so that we can fully enjoy all He has created for us.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The Fellowship Program has deeply impacted me, making me a more balanced and effective person in peacebuilding, particularly in interreligious dialogue. I have learned how to build bridges across faiths and gained valuable experience in engaging constructively in dialogue.



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My Community Peace Project:
Project Title: Peace Building; Joint Effort Against Extremism and Conflict

Project Summary:
 With a total of 350 participants, the 3-day community peace project kicked off on the 11th of February, 2026, at Awe Local Government, Nasarawa State. The objective was to bring the Christian and Muslim youth together for the purpose of promoting peaceful coexistence.



Outcome/Impact:

Christian and Muslim youths were able to come together and find common ground for discussions. Many prejudices and stereotypes were challenged and redirected. A Muslim youth named Bulama shared that, due to teachings he had received from the wrong sources, he had never believed that anything good could be found in Christianity. He expressed his appreciation that a fellow Muslim, a mallam, explained to him that Christianity is good and that he has much to learn from its teachings.



Biography



FARIDA ZAHRADEEN

Program Manager, Enlightenment and Empowerment of Northern Women Initiative, and Member, Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria, (FOMWAN) Kano state chapter.

Farida Zahradeen is a Muslim from Kano state. She is currently a final year student of Medicine at Federal University, Dutse. She loves community service and opportunities that give her a chance to serve her community

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, compassion, and intentional responsibility. In Islam, we are reminded that Allah calls us to the Home of Peace (Dar As-Salam) and encourages reconciliation. This places upon us, as women

who will raise families, a sacred trust to nurture patience, mercy, and fairness within our homes.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience:

My experience at COFP so far has been very exciting and impactful. It has given me the avenue to understand peace from a Christian perspective, understand the dynamics of conflict, and also the ability to promote peace through dialogue. I look forward to avenues that will allow me to continue putting what I have learned into good use. Thank you, COFP!



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My Community Peace Project: Project Title:
Harmony in Action

Project Summary:

The interfaith peacebuilding workshop was held at Kumbosto Radion, Kano, on 31st January, 2026, to facilitate a structured dialogue platform for mothers to examine drivers of conflicts affecting families and community stability and to equip them with necessary skills. 40 people were in attendance during the workshop.

Project Outcome/Impact:

As a result of the workshop, there was improved understanding of the mother's role in preventing conflict and increased commitment to non-violent communication practices.



Biography

OLUWASEYITANFUNMI OSUNADE

Professor of Computer Science and Engineering,
University of Ibadan.



Oluwaseyitanfunmi Osunade is a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Ibadan from Osun state. He has two patents, five copyrights, and several peer-reviewed articles to his credit and has won several research grants and awards for his work. He specializes in artificial intelligence, data communication, and educational technology, among others.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace is non-negotiable; we are all contributors to peace in our community and nation. I currently use my information technology background to promote peace by building capacity to fight misinformation that leads to conflict.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience:

The COFP Fellowship Program has brought depth to my understanding of peace, conflict resolution, and interfaith dialogue. The structure of the lectures has been excellent, and the personality of the instructors has been intriguing. The members of my cohort have become more open to interfaith friendships and learning about other faiths. I have remained committed to attending the one-week quarterly trainings, which are both intensive and conducted in a conducive learning environment. Overall, I feel privileged and inspired to grow as a peacemaker.

My Community Peace Project: Project Title
Peacetech Workshop on Anti-Misinformation Strategies for Conflict Resolution in a Multi-Faith Community.

Project Summary:

The project was implemented on 12th February 2026 at Abadina Community, University of Ibadan, Agbowo, Ibadan, Oyo State, with 57 participants in attendance. In response to the growing spread of fake news and misinformation in the digital space, which continues to cause significant harm despite regulatory efforts, Osunade organized an awareness session to educate youths on the dangers of misinformation. As an ICT professional, his objective was to equip participants with the knowledge needed to identify and address false information, thereby promoting responsible online behavior within the community.





Project Outcome/Impact:

At the end of the training, participants developed skills to identify misinformation on digital platforms and learned how to use fact-checking tools to address misinformation, particularly on faith-related issues. There was also increased awareness and improved knowledge of conflict resolution and peacebuilding among adherents of the two main religions.



Biography

ONAFOWOPE MARY ADESOLA

Regional Superior, Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Lecturer and Head of the Department, Educational Management St. Augustine College of Education, Lagos State.



Onafowope Mary Adesola is a nun of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception order. She lives and works in Lagos State. Mary is the Regional Superior of her congregation, the HOD Educational Management at St. Augustine College of Education, Lagos, and holds a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the Delta State University.

My Reflection on Peace

With the new learning from the Fellowship Program, I have come to understand peace as more than the absence of conflict or war. Personally, peace means living with a sense of inner stability, emotional control, and a willingness to respond to situations with wisdom rather than anger. I now see peace as a daily decision to act with patience, tolerance, and respect for others. Peace also means creating an atmosphere where people feel safe, valued, and heard. It involves promoting humanity above religion, ethnicity, personality

differences, ego, and other vices that lead to disunity. Through the Fellowship Program, I learned that peacebuilding is not only the responsibility of governments or security agencies; it is a responsibility for everyone. Peace is closely connected to empowerment and economic freedom. Poverty of mind and hands can lead to conflict. When young people are supported, educated, and given opportunities to develop their skills, they are less likely to be drawn into vices such as crime, drug abuse, or harmful peer influence. I now understand that sustainable peace requires addressing both attitudes and underlying social challenges.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship Program has been a transformative experience for me, both personally and professionally. It has deepened my understanding of interreligious dialogue, conflict transformation, and mediation,

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providing practical tools to address conflicts in my community with wisdom and empathy. The program has challenged me to reflect critically on my own attitudes and behaviours, encouraging greater patience, active listening, and openness to diverse perspectives. Through the Fellowship, I have gained insights into how structured dialogue, negotiation, and collaboration can foster peaceful coexistence in communities. I now approach differences and disagreements with a problem-solving mindset, and I feel more confident in facilitating conversations that bridge divides. On a personal level, the program has strengthened my commitment to promoting peace as a daily practice, not just a concept. It has inspired me to be a mentor to young minds and colleagues, more intentionally, integrating conflict resolution, empathy, and ethical decision-making into my teaching and community engagement.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Peace Starts with Me: Training & Empowering Bariga Youth for a Better Tomorrow

Project Summary:

The interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop was executed on the 4th of February, 2026, and had 110 participants at Bariga, Lagos State. The objective was to promote peace consciousness among Bariga youth by helping them understand that peace begins with individual attitudes and behaviour; to train youth in practical conflict resolution skills such as dialogue, negotiation, tolerance, and non-violent communication; to empower participants with life and leadership skills that will enable them to become positive role models and peace ambassadors in their community; to reduce youth involvement in violence and social vices by offering constructive alternatives and positive engagement; and to encourage civic responsibility and community participation by inspiring youth to contribute to community development and peaceful coexistence.



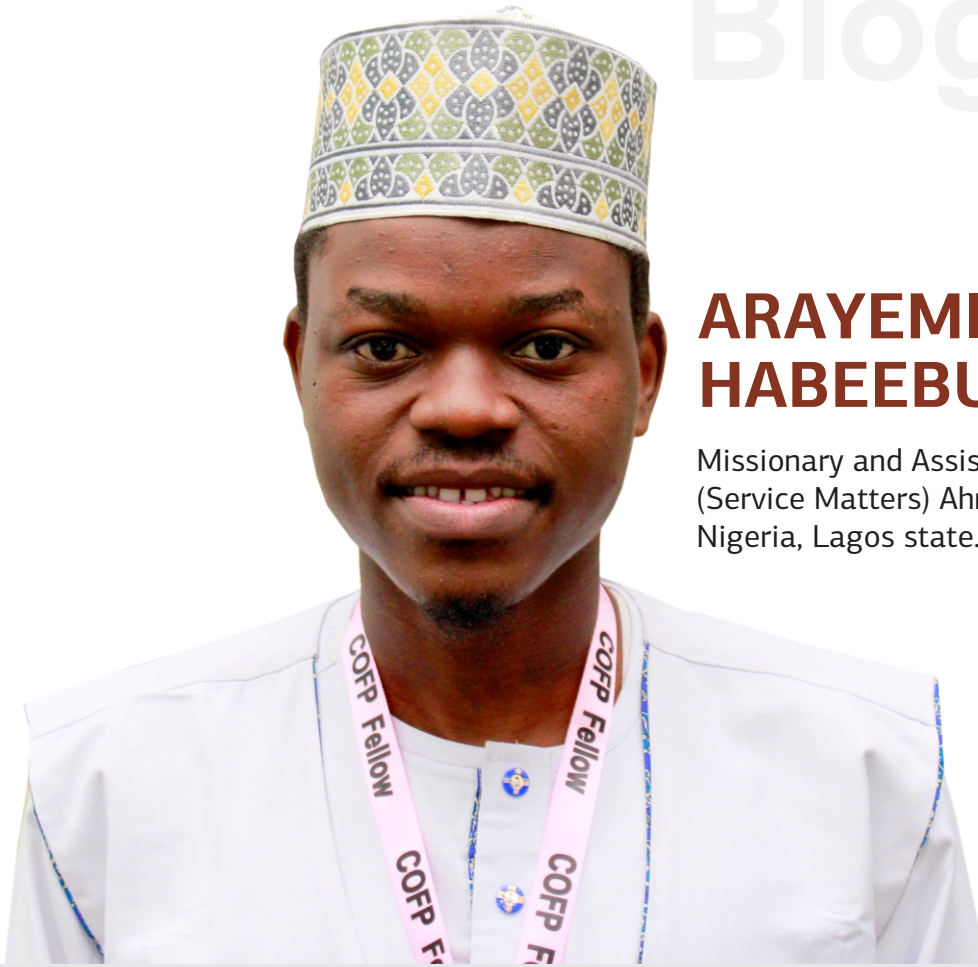


Outcome/Impact:

This project made meaningful and positive changes in the Bariga community, especially among the students, youth, and community representatives who participated in the event. One major outcome of the program was an improved understanding of peace as a personal responsibility. During the feedback session, participants shared valuable insights and expressed their gratitude for the training. They also learned positive ways to handle conflicts on social media and developed a greater understanding of the importance of digital education for youth. Overall, the project increased peace awareness, strengthened conflict-resolution skills, promoted personal growth, and fostered community unity among Bariga youth.



Biography



ARAYEMI HABEEBULLAH ISHOLA

Missionary and Assistant National General Secretary (Service Matters) Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat of Nigeria, Lagos state.

Arayemi Habeebullah Ishola is a Muslim from Lagos State. He is a missionary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat of Nigeria and holds a B.Sc. in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). He is a Lagos State Youth Ambassador and currently the Chief Whip of the Lagos State Youth Parliament, where he contributes to law-making and advocates for youth development and wellbeing.

My Reflection on Peace

To me, peace is a state of inner calm that enables people to live harmoniously together, even amidst challenges, while respecting and understanding each other's differences in beliefs, cultures, and opinions.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience in the Fellowship program has been both enlightening and transformative. I have gained a deeper understanding of peacebuilding in practical, real-world contexts. I learned from facilitators about conflict management, tolerance, and how to encourage dialogue. Through the workshops, outreach activities, and collaborative projects, I gained insights into the root causes of conflicts and the importance of inclusion and grassroots approaches to peace. Learning alongside amazing members from different fields also improved my communication, teamwork, and leadership skills.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Interfaith and Peace Dialogue Seminar-Kosofe

Project Summary:

The One-day Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop at Kosofe, Lagos, Nigeria, on the 5th of February, 2026, attracted 220 participants. The key objective of this seminar was to

strengthen peaceful coexistence in Kosofe by promoting Interfaith understanding, mutual respect, and constructive engagements among youths, students, religious leaders, civil servants, agencies, media personnel, and traditional leaders, and also to reduce misconceptions and stereotypes by encouraging direct interaction and learning between people of different faiths.



Outcome/Impact:

There was an improved understanding of religious diversity and practices at the end of the seminar. Trust and collaboration among religious communities increased, reducing misconceptions and promoting peaceful coexistence in Kosofe. Stakeholders also developed practical conflict prevention skills, including dialogue, mediation, and peaceful conflict resolution.



Biography



AISHAT HARUNA GALADIMA

Translator/News Caster, Rayhaan Radio 99.9 FM
Birnin Kebbi.

Aishat Haruna Galadima is a Muslim from Kebbi state and a Translator/News Caster with Rayhaan Radio 99.9FM, Birnin Kebbi. She studied Hausa Language at Bachelor level at Ahmadu Bello University, (ABU), Zaria.

to speak against injustice. For me, peace now means choosing dialogue over hostility and working toward a society where dignity and human rights are respected, and I now see it as both a personal responsibility and a collective mission.

My Reflection on Peace

Through the COFP Fellowship Program, my understanding of peace has deepened. Before the program, I saw peace mainly as the absence of conflict or violence, but I now understand that it is a deliberate process of promoting justice, dialogue, inclusion, and mutual respect. Peace means creating an environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and heard, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, or background, and addressing root causes such as inequality, discrimination, and poverty rather than simply reacting to violence. I have also learned that peace begins at the individual level through how we treat others, and it requires patience, empathy, tolerance, and the courage

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Through the trainings and engagements provided by the Fellowship, I have come to see peace as a deliberate and ongoing process that involves dialogue, tolerance, justice, mutual respect, and responsible leadership. The Fellowship trainings equipped me with practical skills in peaceful communication, conflict resolution, teamwork, and leadership. These skills have enhanced my ability to manage disagreements constructively, listen to diverse perspectives, and engage positively with others. As a result, I have developed a stronger sense of responsibility toward promoting

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harmony and understanding within my environment. My experience in the COFP Fellowship Program has been highly impactful. Since joining the class last year, the program has contributed significantly to my personal growth, confidence, and leadership capacity. The learning environment encouraged critical thinking, collaboration, and active participation. The mentorship and structured activities further strengthened my commitment to community service and peacebuilding.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Community Awareness and Engagement on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi State.

Project Summary:

A workshop that brought together 40 participants on Gender-Based Violence, Trauma Healing, and Psychosocial Support was held on February 8, 2026, in Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi State. The project aimed at preventing and reducing gender-based violence while improving protection, support, and access to justice for survivors. It focused on raising community awareness, challenging harmful norms, and promoting gender equality and non-violent conflict resolution.



Outcome/Impact:

Workshop participants gained a clearer understanding of GBV, including domestic violence, early marriage, emotional abuse, and sexual violence. Many who previously saw domestic violence as a family matter began to recognize it as a human rights violation. Men and youth are committed to resolving conflicts without violence. A community leader used Friday Mosque gatherings to speak against

wife beating and forced marriage, promoting peaceful conflict resolution. The project reduced stigma around reporting violence, leading more survivors and community members to seek help. Local leaders and women's groups began referring cases to appropriate services, and more survivors approached trained support focal persons for assistance.



Biography



DZELABVEM BUDZEE APPOLONIA

Religious Nun, Tertiary Sisters of Saint Francis (TSSF), and PhD candidate Catholic Institute of West Africa CIWA, Rivers State.

Dzelabvem, Budzee Appolonia is a Cameroonian and a Tertiary Sister of St. Francis and a PhD candidate at Catholic Institute of West Africa, CIWA, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She holds a Master's degree in Organizational Communication from the Advanced School of Mass Communication, Yaounde, Cameroon.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace to me is a common good that every person, irrespective of gender, religion or ethnic origin, appreciates. Everyone values a peaceful and enabling environment where their

initiatives can be expressed and thrive without disturbance of any sort.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience:

The COFP Fellowship challenged me into personal transformation. Not only to preach peace, but to inculcate it in my practical choices, actions and relationships. This practical aspect carries a long-lasting ripple effect on my environment. Without character transformation, peacebuilding remains an outward show, imposed on others without personal commitment.

My Community Peace Project: Project Title: Blending Tools and Skills for Growth

Project Summary:

On 21st February, 2026, Appolonia organized an empowerment session for youth in Obehie to promote sustainable economic stability. Out of 35 participants, 15 directly benefited from the training. The youth were selected as a result of their strong interest in skill development and empowerment, as well as the risks associated with income from oil bunkering and political influence. Start-up tools were provided to the beneficiaries to support their economic initiatives.



Project Outcome/Impact:

The vulnerable were equipped with tools and machinery for vocational and professional output as a source of livelihood. They received goats that are easy to cater for, especially in Obehie where green grass is available all year round for their feed.



Biography

BASHIRU MOHAMMED

Adult Instructor, SAID Academy, & Deputy Chairperson, Local Organizing Community Ghana Office of the International Institute of Islamic Thought, Ghana.



Bashiru Mohammed is a Muslim from Ghana and holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts Degrees in Islamic Studies from the International Open University, Gambia. He is a teacher at S.A.I.D Arabic and English Academy.

My Reflection on Peace:

Personally, I see peace as a quality within a society that indicates it is operating harmoniously. Such a society is grounded in fundamental values that ensure justice is administered without bias and that all

members have equal access to educational and economic resources for shared growth.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience:

The Fellowship Program has impacted me deeply. Beyond the new knowledge gained and the reinforcement of the existing knowledge I came to the program with, the experiences shared by colleagues and instructors has given me a sense of appreciation of our collective challenges as Africans.



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My Community Peace Project: Project Title:
Harnessing Interfaith Cooperation in Addressing the Menace of Drug Abuse in Denkyembour District, Akwatia Ghana.

Project Summary:

On 18th February, 2026, at Akatia in the Eastern Region of Ghana, Bashiru organized a workshop to enlighten students on the dangers of drug abuse, promote interfaith dialogue, and provide empowerment opportunities. The program attracted 200 participants.

Project Outcome/Impact:

Participants showed a greater understanding of the dangers of drug abuse, and group discussions during the seminar helped break down barriers between different religious groups. Student confidence and leadership also improved, as evidenced during breakout sessions where students actively contributed ideas instead of remaining passive.



Biography

UKONU NJOKU CHINENYE MIRIAM

Superintendent Officer, Nigeria Police Force (NPF),
Umuahia, Abia state.



Ukonu Njoku Chinenye Miriam is a Christian from Imo state. She is a Superintendent officer of the Nigeria Police Force and holds an MSc in Information Technology from Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto. Miriam is a peace advocate.

My Reflection on Peace:

Peace to me is not the absence of violence or conflict. Peace is justice, a journey of a thousand miles, and must be taken one step at a time. You must be a person of peace before you talk about peace.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience:

The COFP Fellowship Program has had a profound impact on me, showing that every effort I make toward building peace matters and that the peace process can be a dynamic way of negotiating an end to conflict.



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My Community Peace Project: Project Title:
Intergenerational Dialogue and Empowerment
for peace

Project Summary:

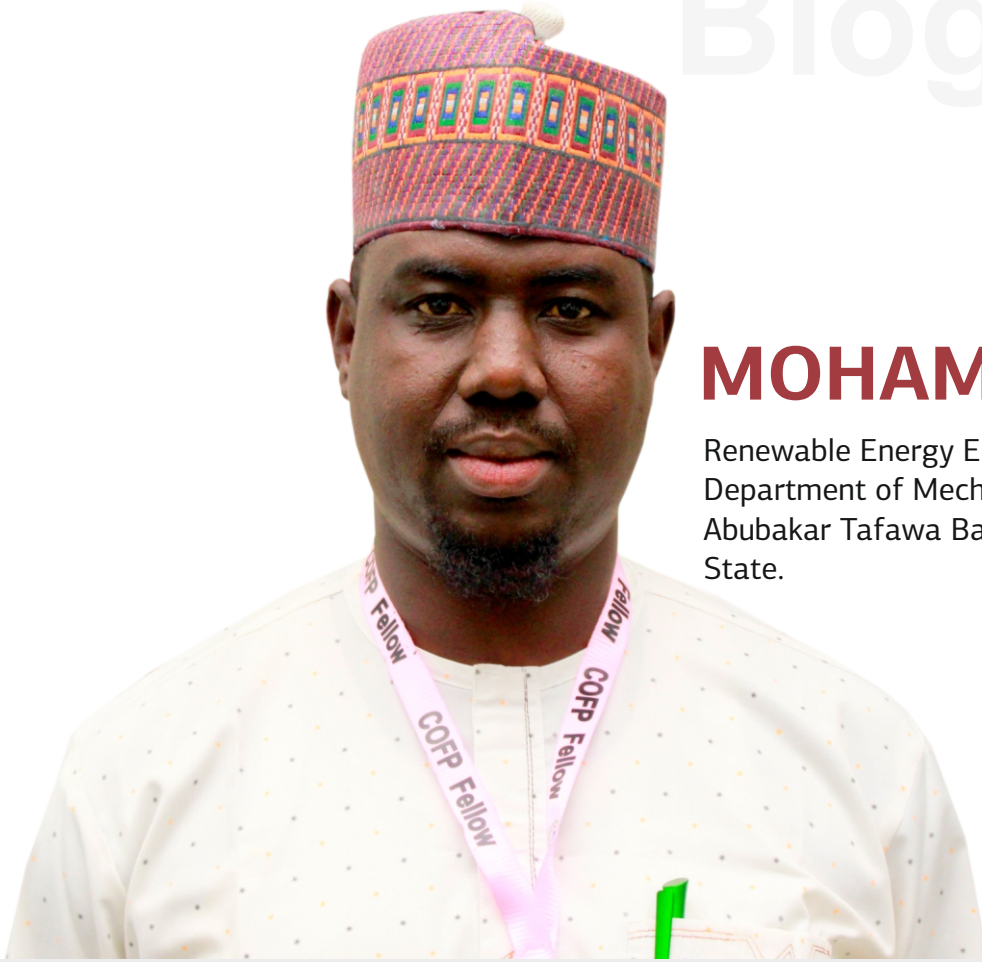
The workshop, aimed at promoting mutual respect, sharing experiences across different age groups, bridging gaps, and finding solutions to common community challenges, was held on 7th January 2026 at Nakata Ibeku/Umuahia, Abia State, with 74 participants in attendance. As part of the initiative, peace clubs were also established in selected schools to sustain dialogue and promote a culture of harmony among students.

Project Outcome/Impact:

The project empowered many teenagers and adults to speak out on issues of gender-based violence. It also increased awareness within the community about the importance of mutual respect and understanding among its members.



Biography



MOHAMMED NUHU

Renewable Energy Engineer and Senior Lecturer,
Department of Mechanical/Production Engineering,
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) Bauchi
State.

Mohammed Nuhu is a Sunni Muslim from Gombe State. He is a Renewable Energy Engineer and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Mechanical/Production Engineering at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), Bauchi, where he currently serves as Head of Department. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering (Energy Studies) from ATBU and an M.Sc. with Distinction in Renewable Energy Engineering from Kingston University, London.

My Reflection on Peace

Before the Fellowship, I saw peace merely as the absence of violence. Now, I understand it as the presence of justice, opportunity, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. Peace is a living system, existing where people feel heard, valued, and economically secure, and where diversity is appreciated as a strength. I have learned that peace must be intentionally built into community structures, including how we share resources, resolve disputes, educate

youth, and create livelihoods. Without fairness and dignity, peace is only a temporary calm. Personally, it means fostering relationships that make cooperation more rewarding than conflict, giving young people hope, empowering parents, and cultivating practical, lasting peace through dialogue, shared livelihoods, and economic interdependence. Through climate-smart agriculture and shared livelihood initiatives, I now see peace as something practical cultivated like a farm, nurtured through dialogue, and sustained by economic interdependence.

COFP Fellowship program: An Unforgettable Experience

The 2025/2026 COFP Fellowship Program has profoundly transformed me personally and professionally. Before the Fellowship, I understood peace largely as the absence of conflict. Today, I see it as an active, intentional practice that must be structured, inclusive, and economically anchored. Peace is not merely

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quietness; it is the presence of justice, opportunity, dialogue, dignity, and shared prosperity. Through developing my Yelwa project, I learned that sustainable peace cannot be imposed but must be cultivated through systems that encourage cooperation and shared responsibility. Linking climate-smart agricultural empowerment with peacebuilding revealed that shared economic assets can foster deeper unity than dialogue alone. Jointly managed poultry or livestock initiatives create interdependence, where diverse groups collaborate daily for mutual benefit, making development a pathway to social cohesion. This experience clarified my life's purpose at the intersection of development and harmony. Integrating economic empowerment with relationship-building has become my guiding philosophy. The Fellowship also strengthened my leadership capacity, refined my strategic thinking, and reinforced my commitment to servant leadership.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Building Peace through Climate-Smart Agricultural Empowerment for Vulnerable Youth and Parents in Yelwa Community, Bauchi State.

Project Summary:

The Yelwa community was engaged on peace project on the 13th of February, 2026, with 50 participants. The objectives of this workshop include empowering vulnerable youths and parents with practical skills in climate-smart poultry and small livestock farming; raising awareness on peacebuilding, tolerance, and cooperation among diverse community groups; strengthening community collaboration through stakeholder engagement and joint project ownership; and improving household livelihoods as a pathway to reducing tension and conflict.





Outcome/Impact:

This project brought joy and smiles to many families, bringing together youths, elders, leaders, women, and security personnel of the Yelwa community. It highlighted the importance of peaceful coexistence and the role of unity in achieving prosperity. Community members agreed that peace is essential for development to reach the area beyond its current level. The project increased

peace awareness and understanding among diverse community members, trained 50 vulnerable youths and parents in climate-smart agricultural practices, and equipped beneficiaries with starter livestock to support income generation. It strengthened cooperation between youths, parents, and community leaders, and improved community harmony by bringing together stakeholders who had not met for a long time.

Biography



JUSTINA IFEOMA IBEBULAM

Regional Superior, Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy (DMMM) Abuja.

Justina Ifeoma Ibegbulam is a member of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy Congregation (DMMM) and hails from Abia State. She holds a B.Ed. in English Education from the Imo State University, Owerri, and a Master's degree in Curriculum Studies. Justina currently serves as the Regional Superior of her DMMM congregation covering Northern Nigeria, Cameroon, and Southern Africa.

My Reflection on Peace

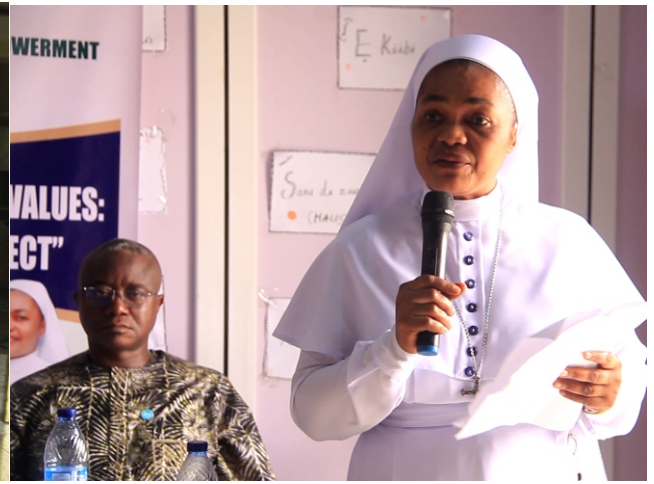
With my new learning from the COFP Fellowship program, I personally define peace as a shared commitment to respect, protect, and celebrate our religious and cultural differences while working together to uphold human dignity, justice, and mutual understanding. To me, peace is not about agreeing on beliefs but about respecting each person's right to believe and practice freely. It is more than the absence of conflict; it requires active engagement across religious and cultural lines. True peace includes justice,

without which coexistence is fragile. Peace is built through attentive listening, learning, and shared experiences, and it is the responsibility of everyone.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship Program has had a positive impact on me. I have learned to appreciate the relationships and shared values among the three Abrahamic religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and their common goals. I gained a better understanding of conflict, dialogue, and mediation, and learned that while conflict is inevitable, it can be managed and prevented from escalating. With these skills, I feel equipped to mediate impartially, analyze the causes of conflict, and identify both visible and hidden actors who may benefit from it. The Hummingbird Analogy reminded me not to be indifferent during crisis because everyone has something to contribute, no matter how small. I also learned the importance of need-to-need

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assessment, which has improved my project planning and implementation. I am now more mindful of my actions to ensure I do not contribute to conflict.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: One Humanity, Different Faiths, Shared Values: Building Peace Through Mutual Respect

Project Summary:

The two-day Skills Acquisition and Empowerment project was carried out on February 6th, 2026, at Dafa/Kundu, Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja, for 160 participants. The objectives were to foster mutual respect and understanding between Christians and Muslims in the Dafa/Kundu community and to improve the lives of families by empowering them to increase productivity through their farming profession.





Outcome/Impact:

The project helped the community change how they view other faiths. Participants were able to openly discuss challenges in their community and acknowledged that the workshop provided practical solutions and new perspectives. During group activities, they identified issues such as staying silent in the face of injustice, unequal treatment in interfaith marriages, and imbalances in religious practices and celebrations. Through discussion, participants learned that everyone has a responsibility to speak out, regardless of who is involved, and that all faiths should be respected equally. The project also had a tangible economic impact. The 16 beneficiaries of goats, farm seeds, and organic fertilizer reported that these resources would contribute to a bumper harvest, improving their livelihoods and supporting their families. Overall, the project strengthened interfaith understanding, promoted mutual respect, and provided practical support to enhance community well-being.



Biography



LONGVWAM NANRIBET SIMON

Team Lead, Plateau state
Peacebuilding Agency, Jos.

Longvwam Nanribet Simon is a Christian from Plateau state. He is the Executive Director of Path for Addiction Recovery and Peace Foundation, Jos. He holds a BSc. Ed, Special Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Jos, Plateau State.

My Reflection on Peace:

To me, peace is not the absence of conflict, but a safe space for ongoing dialogue, negotiation, and reconciliation between diverse ethno-religious groups to sustain social cohesion and

trust. This can be achieved through sustainable peace agreements with clear implementation plans where women, youths, men, and community leaders play substantive roles indiscriminately.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience:

The Fellowship Program has greatly shaped my perception of people from other faiths, especially Muslims, and this has increased my empathy towards others.



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My Community Peace Project: Project Title:
Building Social Cohesion between farmers and pastoralists

Project Summary:

The interfaith peacebuilding workshop, held on 14th February 2026 in Bum, Riyom LGA of Plateau State, aimed to support the development of an implementation plan for 11 peace agreements between farmers and pastoralists. The workshop was attended by 129 participants.



Project Outcome/Impact:

At the end of the project, Bum farmers and pastoralists who have survived over two decades of conflicts came together- men, women, youths, and key community stakeholders, successfully designed clear action plans on the implementation of 11 peace agreements between farmers and pastoralists in Bum, of Riyom LGA.



Biography



EZUE ADAOLISE EMELDA

Chief Superintendent of Corps, Nigeria Security & Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Bwari, Abuja.

Ezue Adaolise Emelda is a Catholic and a native of Anambra state. A graduate of Geology from the University of Maiduguri, Borno State, she currently serves as the Desk Officer- Peace and Conflict Resolution Unit at the Area D Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in FCT Abuja.

My Reflection on Peace

Through this Fellowship program, my understanding of peace has grown beyond the idea of simply avoiding conflict. I now see peace as the daily effort to understand others, respect differences, and choose dialogue over division. Peace begins within the individual and is expressed through patience, empathy, and responsible communication. When people learn to listen, manage emotions, and respond with understanding, peaceful relationships become possible at home and within the community. This Fellowship has also shown me that peace is an active responsibility built through consistent

actions such as promoting inclusion, empowering women and youth, and encouraging cooperation across religious and cultural lines. These lessons continue to guide my approach to peacebuilding and community engagement.

COFP Fellowship program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship has been a transformative experience, deepening my understanding of peace as a daily practice of patience, understanding, and empathy. It has equipped me with practical skills in dialogue, conflict resolution, and community engagement that I apply in both my professional and personal life. The program has strengthened my confidence and sense of purpose, enabling me to engage people from different backgrounds more effectively. It has also inspired me to take active steps in promoting harmony, empowering others, and building positive change within my community.

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My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Strengthening Interfaith Relationships in Ushafa Community, Abuja Through Dialogue and Women Empowerment.

Project Summary:

Adaolise organised a One-day Skills Acquisition/Empowerment peace project on the 22nd January, 2026 at Ushafa Community,

Bwari Area Council, FCT – Abuja for 50 participants and 15 beneficiaries. The aim was to enlighten the women on the importance of living peacefully with one another and building good relationships in the community, to teach them practical skills, such as liquid soap and disinfectant production, that can help them earn money and support their families, and to encourage them to become voices of peace in their homes and community after the project.

Outcome/Impact:

The peace dialogue sessions helped participants from different religious backgrounds understand one another better and communicate more openly, leading to better relationships and everyday cooperation within the community. The skill training on liquid soap and disinfectant production equipped women with practical, income-generating skills, while the starter packages allowed them to begin production immediately. The project enlightened participants on the importance of living peacefully with one another, supporting women's livelihoods, and working together for the progress of the community.



Biography

IMRAN ZAKARIYYA HASSAN

Flight Lieutenant, Nigerian Air Force, and Military Imam 551 Nigerian Air Force Station Jos.

Imran Zakariyya Hassan is a Sunni Muslim from Plateau State. He is a military Imam and a Flight Lieutenant in the Nigerian Air Force. Imran obtained a B.A graduate in Islamic Studies from Bayero University, Kano, and serves as the Imam of the Nigerian Air Force Base in Jos Central Mosque, Plateau state.

My Reflection on Peace

Through this Fellowship, I have come to understand that peace is comprehensive, encompassing every aspect of life. Peace is

found when the heart is stable and pure; it is portrayed through interactions with neighbours rooted in kindness, sympathy, and empathy, it teaches us to engage with other faiths through love, mutual respect, and understanding. True peace also demands fair treatment and justice for all. As the Noble Qur'an states, our differences in tribes and languages are intended to encourage smooth interaction and an appreciation of our diversity. Personally, peace means mitigating social vices that jeopardize lives.



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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

While I was initially sceptical about the program, I have been deeply impressed by its modules. This journey has reshaped my perspective and broadened my horizons on the universal necessity of peace. I have been exposed to advanced conflict resolution mechanisms and peacebuilding principles.

Furthermore, the program has allowed me to build a formidable network of peace-minded individuals and equipped me with the skills to design and implement impactful projects. This training has significantly strengthened both my pastoral duties and my professional growth. Most importantly, it has empowered me to train secondary school students, nurturing moral values at a formative age to shield them from the influence of conflict.



My Community Peace project

Project Title: Students as catalysts for promoting peace in the society: A Case Study of Jos South, Plateau State.

Project Summary:

The community peace project executed by Imran, hosted 50 students drawn from five schools in the local community. It was a one-day peace training workshop designed for school communities, aimed at raising awareness among students in Jos South on peacebuilding and interfaith dialogue. It also promoted tolerance and unity by facilitating interactive discussions among students from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. The workshop was held on 24th January 2026.



Biography



COMFORT NGUYAN ANUM

Area Local Leader, Notre Dame Shalom
School, Kagini, Abuja.

Comfort Nguyan Anum is a sister of the Notre Dame congregation and a native of Benue state. She is the Head Teacher of Notre Dame Shalom School, Guidna, Abuja FCT. Comfort earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Psychology. She also holds a Master of Science degree in Professional Counselling and has a Peacebuilding Certificate from Mount Mary University, Milwaukee, USA.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is seeking to understand others without

judgment. I have come to understand peace as a state of being where everyone's opinion is respected and heard. It is a vital tool for community development, as it encourages collective contribution and shared responsibility. Peace brings inner balance and promotes understanding, respect, and cooperation among people. It goes beyond the absence of war, seeking the good of every person and finding common ground even in moments of difference. Above all, peace is essential.



**COFP Fellowship Program:
An Unforgettable Experience**

The Fellowship program has reawakened my zeal to educate others on the importance of peaceful coexistence and reminded me that peace is essential. It has helped me look beyond religion and tribe to see humanity as one. I now recognize that we are more alike than we are different, and that our differences are gifts that enrich our shared existence. The program has also made me more open and comfortable



engaging with people of other faiths, as I seek to understand their perspectives rather than judge them. It has pushed me beyond my comfort zone, allowing me to sit with discomfort and empathize with others. Overall, it has shaped my understanding of peace and strengthened my commitment to promoting it.

Through this experience, I have also learned the value of service, as well as the importance of commitment and accountability, as demonstrated by COFP.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Strengthening Marriages Through Effective Family Dialogue

Project Summary:

The project was executed on February 7th, 2026, at Guidna Village, Abuja FCT, with 14 participants. The objectives were to strengthen family relationships and enhance dialogue within the home. It also aimed at empowering women at different stages of their personal and economic journeys, raising awareness about the importance of building healthy families that contribute to a healthy society, and encouraging women to take active roles in their homes. The project also emphasized that peace begins at home in the wider society.



Outcome/Impact:

The project sparked a strong desire for positive change in the Guidna community. Evidence of this was seen in the active participation of women, some of whom brought their spouses, showing they were ready to apply what they learned. Many participants wanted more opportunities to talk and receive guidance. The session gave them practical skills that they were eager to use. It also brought together women from different families who were not familiar with each other, helping them form a small support group and build connections.



Biography



OUSMANE MAMADOU ALI TIMBO

Founder, RAUC Initiative and Project Manager & MEAL Officer, Femmes Actions et Développement (FAD-Niger), Niger Republic.

Ousmane Mamadou Ali Timbo is a Muslim from Niger republic. He is a Project Development and Partnership Coordinator Assistant at ONG FAD-Niger Republic and also the Founder and President of (African Network for Union and Cooperation, RAUC), Ousmane holds a Master's degree in Project Management from the School of Economic Accounting Techniques, Niamey, Niger. He serves as a Project Manager and MEAL Officer at the NGO Femmes, Actions et Développement (FAD-Niger).

My Reflection on Peace

Personally, peace means a continuous process of acceptance, dialogue, and collective action, where individuals and communities recognize their shared humanity and work together to prevent divisions and violence. Peace, to me, is

not only the coexistence of different faiths, cultures, and identities but also the creation of inclusive spaces where voices, especially those of youth and women, are heard, respected, and empowered to contribute to decision-making. The Fellowship reinforced that sustainable peace is built through practical engagement: listening actively, documenting lived experiences, promoting mutual understanding, and institutionalizing mechanisms for dialogue and conflict prevention. In essence, peace is both a personal commitment and a communal responsibility. It requires patience, courage, and the deliberate nurturing of relationships.

Through my work in Niger and across the Sahel, I strive to embody this definition, turning dialogue into action, and understanding into sustainable coexistence.

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COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

My experience in the COFP Fellowship Program has been transformative, both personally and professionally. It has deepened my understanding of interreligious dialogue, conflict prevention, and mediation, showing me that sustainable peace is built not only through policies but through human connections, trust, and shared action. The program challenged me to actively engage with religious leaders, community actors, and youth, enabling me to document best practices, identify drivers of conflict, and design actionable projects for coexistence. Personally, it has strengthened my leadership, empathy, and problem-solving skills, and reinforced my commitment to fostering dialogue and social cohesion in Niger and the wider Sahel region. Through COFP, I have gained both knowledge and confidence to

transform ideas into real impact, positioning me to serve as a bridge between communities and to inspire others, especially youth and women, to take part in building lasting peace.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Regional Interfaith Dialogue Workshop for Peace, Social Cohesion, and Conflict Prevention.

Project Summary:

The Tahaoua community in Niger republic benefitted from the One-day Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop organised by Ousmane for 30 participants on the 7th of February, 2026. The workshop aimed at bringing together Muslim and Christian religious leaders to strengthen dialogue among religious and traditional actors, and promote best practices for peaceful coexistence.



Outcome/Impact:

Relationships and trust among religious leaders improved, as interactions that were previously limited to formal occasions became more open and collaborative. Through the workshop and facilitated dialogue sessions, participants discussed shared values such as peace, dignity, and mutual respect in a safe and structured setting. One Christian pastor noted

that it was the first time he had openly discussed community tensions with an imam, and both leaders subsequently agreed to jointly intervene to calm rumours and prevent misunderstandings. The project also increased the confidence and visibility of women peace actors, with mediators reporting greater ease in engaging with religious and traditional authorities.



Biography

AGWUNOBI JOYCEMARY OBIAGELI

Sister-in-charge, Congregation sewing centre
Owerri, Imo state.

Agwunobi Joycemary Obiageli is a religious sister of the Congregation of the Compassionate Heart of Jesus from Anambra State. She is in charge of the congregation's sewing centre and holds a Bachelor's degree in Educational Psychology (Guidance and Counselling) from Rivers State College of Education, Port Harcourt, affiliated with the University of Ibadan.

My Reflection on Peace:

For Joycemary, peace is a virtue that one must possess, without which he/she cannot love. It has to do with being accommodating, trouble-free, and being human.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience:

COFP has allowed me to become a peacebuilder. I used to be quick-tempered, but through this program, I have become calmer and more reflective. I now understand that agitation does not pay but can cause us to lose our integrity, and that true peace begins within ourselves and extends to others. COFP has also taught me to be more generous, remembering that freely we receive and freely we should give, even in small ways. I have also learned to be mindful of the danger of a single story, as it has contributed to misunderstanding and conflict in many homes.

My Community Peace Project:
Project Title: Peacebuilding and Empowerment of Women in Owerri, Imo State.

Project Summary:

The project was implemented on 14th February 2026 in Owerri, Imo State, where Joycemary engaged 19 beneficiaries in a session focused on peacebuilding, skills acquisition, and empowerment. The initiative aimed to promote peaceful coexistence within the community through peace education while equipping participants with practical skills to support their personal and economic development.



Project Outcome/ Impact:

The project increased the number of independent women, as well as improved peaceful coexistence in the community. It also reduced gender-based violence as the beneficiaries are no longer idle or jobless.



Biography



SARAH KAJERE PETERS

Senior State Counsel, Kaduna State
Ministry of Justice.

Sarah Kajere Peters is a Pentecostal Christian from Kaduna state. She obtained an LLB from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and a Master's degree in Conflict, Peace, and Strategic Studies from Kaduna State University. Sarah is a Barrister of Law with a qualification from the Nigerian Law School, Bwari, Abuja. She currently serves as a Senior State Counsel at the Kaduna State Ministry of Justice.

My Reflection on Peace

My experience of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Fellowship has deepened my understanding of peace as both a moral and social responsibility. Peace goes beyond the absence of violence; it involves the intentional

promotion of justice, dialogue, reconciliation, and respect for the dignity of every person. It is rooted in faith and expressed through actions that foster understanding and coexistence. The Fellowship helped me appreciate that Christianity and Islam share core values such as love of neighbour, compassion, justice, and respect for life. Emphasizing these shared values allows faith to become a bridge rather than a source of division. Peace is built when religious leaders and community members create safe spaces for honest encounter, listening, and collaboration. For me, peace means being a bridge builder, promoting dialogue, tolerance, and reconciliation, and contributing to sustainable coexistence in Kaduna State.



seeking understanding and reconciliation rather than judgment or confrontation.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Faith As a Bridge: Interreligious Dialogue for Peaceful Coexistence in Kaduna State

Project Summary:

The 2-day Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop was implemented in Zone 2 Senatorial District, Kaduna State on the 28th of January, 2026, and had 137 participants in attendance. Below are overall goal and objectives of the workshop; to promote peaceful coexistence through

**COFP Fellowship Program:
An Unforgettable Experience**

My experience in the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) Fellowship Program has been both enlightening and transformative. The lectures from the first and second cohort modules have reshaped my understanding of religious beliefs, peace, leadership, and faith, while also deepening my personal commitment to dialogue and reconciliation. The Fellowship has helped me see peacebuilding not as an abstract ideal, but as a practical, faith-driven responsibility that must be lived daily. The Fellowship challenged my assumptions and broadened my worldview, especially on how religious identities can either fuel division or serve as powerful tools for healing when grounded in shared values such as justice, compassion, and love of neighbour. The Fellowship has also strengthened my leadership and personal growth. Lessons on servant leadership, moral courage, and responsible citizenship have encouraged me to be more intentional, patient, and reflective in my interactions with others. I now approach conflict with a greater sense of responsibility,



sustained interreligious dialogue and collaboration among Christian and Muslim communities in Zone 2 LGAs of Kaduna, to promote a culture of peace, dialogue, and mutual respect among Christian and Muslim communities in the area; to encourage faith leaders and community members to become agents of peace, reconciliation, and non-violence, and to strengthen interreligious collaboration as a tool for early conflict prevention, peaceful dispute resolution, community resilience, and social cohesion.





Outcome/Impact:

The perspectives of the youths and other stakeholders in attendance shifted positively, with many requesting that the dialogue be sustained as a continuous and ongoing engagement. Directors from various Ministries, Departments, and agencies commended the insightful nature of the dialogue, noting that it exposed them to new understandings of one another's religions that they had not previously appreciated.



Biography

ESTHER JOHN

Principal, Our Lady of Consolation Girls Secondary School, Jalingo, Taraba State.



Esther John is a Catholic Sister from the Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus congregation in Kaduna State and currently serves as the Principal of Our Lady of Consolation Girls Secondary School Jalingo. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Kogi State University, Anyigba.

My Reflection on Peace

Through my training in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and my understanding of the Abrahamic religions, I have come to see peace as something that begins deep within the heart of a person. When I am at peace within myself, I am able to control anger, overcome fear, and let go of prejudice. This inner calm helps me listen with empathy and respond to others with

patience, even in challenging situations. Peace, in my experience, is also about relationships. It means choosing respect, fairness, and understanding in the way I relate with others, especially those who are different from me.

From conflict resolution, I have learned that peace grows when people are willing to talk honestly, listen carefully, and address the real causes of misunderstanding and injustice rather than avoiding them. Learning about the similarities and differences among the Abrahamic religions has deepened my appreciation of peace as a shared value of faith. Whether we call it peace, Salaam, or Shalom, it points to harmony with God and love for one another



story, while building empathy and openness. At the same time, the experience has strengthened my appreciation of my own faith. I have improved my communication skills and learned how to mediate disputes and respond to tension in a calm and constructive manner. I remain committed to working hard and contributing meaningfully to peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and social harmony.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Skill acquisition and employment of women and youths in Shavon Mile, Jalingo, Taraba State.

Project Summary:

This project had 50 people in attendance and was held on the 24th of January, 2026, in Jalingo. The aim was to promote community peace through empowerment by teaching women and youth how to peacefully coexist, work together, and build their capacity with livelihood skills that can help them earn a decent living.

**COFP Fellowship Program:
An Unforgettable Experience**

The Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Fellowship has had a profound impact on me as an individual. Through this program, I have developed greater inner peace, emotional stability, and self-awareness, which have helped me manage stress, anger, and fear in more positive and constructive ways. It has also deepened my respect and understanding of people from different religious and cultural backgrounds, reducing prejudice and the tendency to judge others based on a single





Project Outcome/impact:

The beneficiaries expressed that the livestock and vocational tools received will enable them to become self-reliant, reduce poverty, and improve their livelihoods, while their improved skills in peacebuilding will help them to prevent violence, crime, and idleness within their communities. Overall, this initiative will strengthen families, build a peaceful and stable society, and serve as a sustainable model for faith-based development and empowerment. Some beneficiaries testified that they have also learned to be charitable to others through this project. One of the invited guests was deeply touched by the initiative and donated the sum of 150,000 naira to empower more people.





JIBRIN SALEH SARKI

Deputy Regional Safety and Security Advisor
EARO and SARO, Catholic Relief Services
(CRS), Abuja.

Jibrin Saleh Sarki is a Muslim from Borno State. He is the Deputy Regional Safety and Security Advisor EARO and SARO at the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Abuja. He obtained a Professional Diploma in Enterprise Security Management from the International Academy of Disaster and Safety Professionals, Nigeria.

My Reflection on Peace

To me, peace is about healing and restoration. It involves creating safe spaces where people can share their pain, reconcile differences, and

repair relationships that conflict has strained. It requires confronting the root causes of insecurity, such as injustice, poverty, exclusion, and harmful narratives, while promoting fairness, dignity, and mutual respect. In the end, peace for us is a complete way of life rooted in personal integrity, strengthened through service to our communities, and sustained by collective commitment. It is the daily choice to listen, to heal, and to build bridges that allow individuals and communities across Borno to live together in dignity, harmony, and the fear of Allah.

**COFP Fellowship Program:
An Unforgettable Experience**

Through high-quality training, workshops, and mentoring sessions, I have gained strong competencies in conflict transformation, dialogue facilitation, emotional intelligence, and ethical leadership. These experiences have expanded my self-awareness, enhanced my confidence, and equipped me with practical tools that I actively apply in my work with youths, religious leaders, and community groups. One of the most enriching aspects of the Fellowship has been interacting with a network of Fellows from diverse backgrounds. These engagements broadened my worldview, challenged my assumptions, and deepened my appreciation for diversity and inclusive leadership, sharpening my approach to peacebuilding and problem-solving.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Building Bridges: An Interfaith Community Support Group Initiative for Sustainable Peace in Borno State.

Project Summary:

The one-week Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop took place in Maiduguri with 105 participants. The objectives were to build a cadre of 18 skilled local trainers from diverse religious and community backgrounds, establish and launch 12 active interfaith Community Support Groups (CSGs), strengthen the capacity of at least 360 youths and religious or community leaders, initiate community-led advocacy and dialogue actions to improve interfaith trust, and create a sustainable framework for the bi-weekly operation, monitoring, and learning of the CSGs.



Outcome/Impact:

The workshop strengthened local peacebuilding leadership, with certified ToT graduates demonstrating improved facilitation and mediation skills and forming a functional network of peace facilitators. It established fully operational Community Support Groups with balanced participation of youths, women, and religious leaders, fostering inclusive interfaith collaboration. Participants reported measurable improvements in interfaith trust

and social cohesion, reflected in increased joint Muslim-Christian initiatives. The project also enhanced community capacity to prevent radicalization by raising awareness of extremist recruitment tactics and encouraging youth engagement in positive social activities. By integrating these structures into local peace mechanisms, the initiative laid the foundation for sustainable peacebuilding and long-term community cohesion.



Biography

OYEOBADO JANET CHINEDU

Carmelite Missionary,
Saint Paul Schools, Abuja.



Oyeobado Janet Chinedu is a religious sister of the Carmelite Missionary serving at St. Paul Schools, Karshi, Abuja. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya.

My Reflection on Peace:

I understand peace as those little efforts made to make a neighbour comfortable. Kindness is the best way to express love, give hope, and promote peace.

COFP Fellowship Program:

An Unforgettable Experience:

The COFP Fellowship Program has instilled in me the courage and desire to impact lives, showing that love and peace can overcome all difficulties. Through the my peace project, I learned to be resilient, optimistic, and courageous when faced with challenges. The lectures, shared experiences, and guidance from the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Fellowship Program have enabled me to overcome the hurdles of organizing a peace project. It has been a truly transformative experience. In just a few months, I have gained practical social, negotiation, and management skills.



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My Community Peace Project: Project Title: Strengthening Neighbourhood Watch as Agent for Peace and Unity

Angwan-Dikko, Karshi, FCT. These participants were provided with seed grants to enhance their agricultural activities and improve their livelihoods.

Project Summary:

The project focused on fostering peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims through skill acquisition and empowerment. Fifteen women and several children representing a local school benefited from the peace project held on 7th February, 2026, at

Project Outcome/Impact: Through the projects, participants learned practical ways to promote peace in the community. A sense of friendship and mutual understanding was fostered, and participants exchanged contacts as a sign of their commitment to peaceful coexistence.



Biography



FUNEBI KEI

Detachment Commandant, Nigeria Red Cross Society and Chief Superintendent, Elite Elitesheriff Corps of Nigeria, Bayelsa State.

Funebi Kei is a Christian from Bayelsa state. He is the Detachment Commandant of the Nigeria Red Cross Society in Yenagoa. Funebi holds a B. Sc in Insurance & Risk Management from Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island.


My Reflection on Peace

For me, peace is a situation where people live with understanding, accept the differences, work in harmony with mutual respect and grow together, not necessarily without disagreement but with the sense that we are all humans created by God.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship Program has been tremendously impactful, strengthening my self-awareness and deepening my understanding of others. Engaging with Fellows from diverse faith backgrounds and countries across Africa has broadened my perspective and reinforced my belief in the power of collective efforts to build a better nation and a more resilient continent for peaceful co-existence.



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leadership, and community engagement for enhanced community peace.

Outcome/Impact:

Communication between community leaders and other actors has significantly improved after this workshop. The empowerment of 26 beneficiaries, compared to the initially planned 15, reflects strong interest in the program and has contributed to increased skills and confidence among youths, children, and community leaders. Another notable impact is the economic independence achieved through socio-economic engagement, as participants apply the skills they have learned.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Promoting Peaceful Co-Existence Through Leadership, Inclusion, and Human Development Program.

Project Summary:

With the total of 53 participants in attendance, this project kicked off on 14th February 2026 at Bumoundigbene, Yenagoa LGA, Bayelsa State to build the capacity of ten traditional and Christian leaders in conflict management, mediation, and the promotion of tolerance; empowering 15 youths and children in real-time, in-demand skills, entrepreneurship,



Biography



BIBI BABA HENAH

Senior MEAL officer,
Catholic Relief Services (CRS),
Borno State

Bibi Baba Henah is a Pentecostal Christian from Borno State. She is a senior MEAL officer at Catholic Relief Services, Maiduguri. Bibi holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Hons) in Public Administration.

My Reflection on Peace

Through the Fellowship Program and our peacebuilding work in Borno State, my understanding of peace has deepened. We now see peace not just as the absence of violence, but as the presence of justice, trust, healing, and meaningful relationships. In conflict-affected communities, it must be intentionally built through dialogue and inclusion. Personally, peace means having the inner strength to respond to challenges with patience, wisdom, and empathy. The Fellowship reinforced that lasting peace begins within the individual and is sustained through self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and respectful communication. Our work with youths, religious leaders, and

displaced populations showed how fear, trauma, and misinformation can divide communities. Nonetheless, we have also seen how sincere dialogue, interfaith collaboration, and community-led initiatives can rebuild trust and foster coexistence.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

From the beginning, the Fellowship program provided a supportive environment that encouraged learning, reflection, and practical action. It strengthened my understanding of leadership, peacebuilding, and community engagement in meaningful and applicable ways. Through trainings, workshops, and mentoring, I gained valuable skills in conflict transformation, dialogue facilitation, emotional intelligence, and ethical leadership. These experiences enhanced my self-awareness, confidence, and professionalism, while equipping me with practical tools I now

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apply in my work with youths, religious leaders, and community members. One of the most impactful aspects of the Fellowship was engaging with Fellows from diverse backgrounds and fields. These interactions broadened my perspective, challenged my assumptions, and deepened my appreciation for diversity and inclusion.

Project Summary

The one-week Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop was held from February 7th, 2026, in Maiduguri. The objective was to promote sustainable peace and community resilience in Gubio, Jere, Magumeri, Kaga, Mafa, and MMC by establishing interfaith support groups to rebuild social cohesion and counter extremist ideologies. It focused on developing a cadre of skilled local trainers from diverse religious and community backgrounds, establishing active interfaith Community Support Groups (CSGs), and strengthening the capacity of youths, religious leaders, and community members.

The workshop also initiated community-led advocacy and dialogue actions to enhance interfaith trust and created a sustainable framework for the bi-weekly operation, monitoring, and learning of the CSGs.



My Community Peace Project:
 Project Title: Building Bridges: An Interfaith Community Support Group Initiative for Sustainable Peace in Borno State.



Outcome/Impact:

The project successfully strengthened local peacebuilding leadership by training the trainers with enhanced facilitation and mediation skills and establishing a functional network of peace facilitators. It created inclusive and operational interfaith Community Support Groups with active participation from youths, women, and religious leaders, fostering improved interfaith trust and social cohesion through increased joint Muslim-Christian

initiatives. The initiative also enhanced community capacity to prevent radicalization by raising awareness of extremist recruitment tactics and promoting youth engagement in positive social activities. Finally, it institutionalized community-led advocacy and problem-solving, with documented cases of grievances resolved through dialogue and strengthened engagement with local authorities.



Biography



OBIALO MODEST NGOZI

Head Teacher, Our Lady's Nursery & Primary school, Bauchi.

Obialo Modest Ngozi belongs to the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena. She holds a degree in Theology of Religious Science from Italy and a diploma in secretarial studies from the Federal Polytechnic, Oko, Anambra State. Ngozi is a Part-time lecturer at the Don Bosco School of Philosophy, Ibadan, and currently, the Head Teacher of Our Lady Nursery/Primary School, Bauchi State.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is a gift from God. It is more than simply the absence of war; it is a state that cannot exist without justice, nor can justice exist without truth and love. I am convinced that true peace requires a profound respect for human life and dignity, solidarity among all people, and a firm rejection of violence and hate speech. The peace that Christ offers differs from the peace of the world. Because Jesus Christ is the source of our peace, it is only through God that we can truly become peaceful. As stated in the

Gospel of Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers". Therefore, building peace is not just an effort; it is a divine calling.

COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: An Unforgettable Experience

Participating in the COFP Fellowship Program has been an enlightening and transformative experience. It has served as an eye-opener, particularly in deepening my understanding of the Muslim and Christian faiths. Through this program, I have discovered that we share a significant amount of commonalities. It is inspiring to realize that what unites us is far greater than what divides us; both are Abrahamic faiths that fundamentally promote peace and unity. This experience has reinforced the importance of prioritizing our shared humanity in all endeavours. I have also gained invaluable practical skills. I learned how to resolve conflicts at their latent stage through constructive dialogue and the program has provided excellent networking opportunities.

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Furthermore, the training in project management, fundraising and mediation has been incredibly enriching and will be vital to my future work.

MY COMMUNITY PEACE PROJECT

Project Title: Hate Speech - A Major Trigger of Communal & Religious Conflicts Among Peasant Farmers in Dandango, Bauchi State.

Project Summary:

The project was carried out on the 17th of January, 2026 at Dandango, Bauchi State, over a 2-day period for 30 participants, with the aim to training and mentoring farmers to improve their capacity in managing financial and human resources, while fostering positive relationships through constructive dialogue, regardless of their diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. The initiative also provided education on conflict resolution and ways to prevent hate speech. Ultimately, these efforts were designed to enhance the overall livelihoods in the community.



Project Outcome/impact:

The beneficiaries expressed hope for the future through their participation in the program and support received. Many noted that no one, including local politicians had ever spoken to them so clearly about the implications of hate speech or the roots of violence. One participant summarized the sentiment of the group, stating that while the gifts were appreciated, it was the message of peace, solidarity and reconciliation that truly mattered most.



Biography



SAJJAD ABUBAKAR

Founder, Al- Muntazar Foundation, and Lecturer Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Kaduna State.

Sajjad Abubakar is a Shi'it Muslim from Kaduna State. He is the Founder of Al-Muntazar Foundation for Peace, Guidance, & Development. He holds a Ph.D in Arabic Language from the University of Bakht AL-Ruda, Sudan. Currently, Abubakar is an Associate Professor /lecturer of Arabic Education at ABU Zaria.

My Reflection on Peace

My understanding of peace is that it is achieved by promoting mutual understanding through

dialogue between people of different religions or ethnic groups, while respecting one another and working together.

COFP Fellowship program: An Unforgettable Experience

The structure and system of COFP have greatly changed my mindset. I now see that I can live peacefully with anyone, engage in dialogue, understand others, and be understood without harassment or hatred.



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My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Fostering Peaceful Coexistence in Religions Diversity in Zazzau Emirate, Kaduna state

Project Summary:

The two-day Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop was carried out on 14th January 2026 for 68 participants at Zazzau Emirate, Zaria, Kaduna State. The objectives were to explore common values and principles that promote peaceful coexistence, enhance understanding and appreciation of different religious beliefs and practices, foster dialogue and cooperation among religious leaders and adherents, and develop strategies for promoting peaceful coexistence in Zazzau Emirate.

Outcome/Impact:

Indeed, the project presented in Zazzau Emirate made a significant contribution to enlightening diverse participants about peaceful coexistence. Considering that the attendees included teachers, lecturers, government officials, district heads, Imams, and Pastors, the program brought a sense of joy and satisfaction to everyone involved. Many participants remarked that if programs like this were organized more often, numerous problems in the community could be resolved.



Biography



NZENWA OGECHI ONYENONACHI

Legal Practitioner and Assistant Chief
Legal Aid officer, Legal Aid Council of
Nigeria, Abuja FCT

Nzenwa Ogechi Onyenonachi is a Christian from Imo State. She is a Lawyer by profession, a Chartered Mediator and conciliator, and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators. Nzenwa Ogechi holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from Obafemi Awolowo University and a Master's degree from the University of Abuja. She serves as Principal Legal Aid Officer with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, Abuja, and holds LLM from the University of Abuja.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace, to me, is more than the absence of

conflict; it is the deliberate promotion of dignity, care, and responsibility. It is evident when people can access justice and healthcare without fear, live within a protected and sustainable environment, and when communities are safe, heard, and respected. Peace is anchored in accountability, prioritizing dialogue over division, understanding over judgment, and service over indifference. When individuals and institutions act with integrity, trust is strengthened, and societies become more resilient. At its core, peace is sustained by healthy people, just systems, and environmental stewardship.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

Participating in the COFP Fellowship Program has been an intellectually stimulating and transformative journey. The program has expanded my understanding of peacebuilding by providing practical tools, strategic insights, and a strong ethical framework for effective community engagement. Through intensive training sessions and hands-on project implementation, I have developed both professionally and personally. I now approach peace initiatives with enhanced confidence, strategic focus, and a nuanced appreciation of community dynamics. The Fellowship has not only strengthened my leadership and problem-solving skills but also deepened my commitment to service and human-centred development. This experience has reinforced my belief that sustainable peace is built through inclusive, participatory, and actionable interventions. It has inspired me to design and implement a program that is replicable, impactful, and aligned with global best practices in peacebuilding, health, and

My Community Peace Project

Project Title: Peace Awareness Program & Medical Outreach in Dutsen Alhaji, Bwari Area Council, FCT, Abuja.

Project Summary: The community peace and medical outreach project had 81 participants, and was a 1 -day program which took place on the 22nd of January, 2026 at Dutsen Alhaji/ Bwari Area Council FCT Abuja. It was aimed at Promoting Peace and Social Cohesion by fostering understanding, dialogue, and collaboration among community members, reducing tensions and building sustainable social harmony, and also enhancing access to basic healthcare by providing free medical services and medications to underserved populations.



Project outcome/Impact:

The Community Peace and Medical Outreach Project made a significant impact in the community. Through peace awareness talks, health talks, and the provision of free medical services, the initiative successfully strengthened trust among residents and collaboration between the community and service providers. Beneficiaries expressed profound appreciation for access to essential healthcare, particularly those who had previously delayed treatment due to financial constraints. The combination of healthcare service and peacebuilding demonstrated that peace is rooted in access to care, dignity, and inclusion.



Biography



MOSES UFELI VERONICA

Sister in Charge, St. Peter's Clinic,
Jauro-Yinu, Taraba State

Moses Ufeli Veronica, a native of Kogi state, belongs to the Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus. She is a nurse and serves as the in-charge of St. Peter's Clinic, Jauro-Yinu Taraba state. Veronica holds a Certificate in General Nursing from the School of Nursing, Sacred Heart Hospital, Lantoro, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace is not the absence of war but a learned behaviour that continues till death. It is not the absence of difference; it is the presence of understanding. It means handling disagreement with respect, choosing dialogue over divisions and compassion over pride. In our families, friendships, communities and nations,

peace is built through small daily decisions, to listen carefully, to speak kindly and to forgive sincerely. Peace is one of the most powerful choices we can make in a world that often moves quickly and loudly. Peace is strength under control. Peace is a state of being. It is the calm in the middle of uncertainty, the steady breath taken before responding instead of reacting. The choice to understand when it would be easier to judge. Peace begins within.

Peace is courage without aggression and it is love expressed through patience. Peace is not something we wait for, it is something we practice. Every act of patience, every moment of understanding and every gesture of kindness brings us a step closer to a more peaceful world.

**COFP Fellowship program:
An Unforgettable Experience**

The Fellowship program has had a significant impact on me, broadening my knowledge of the other major religions practiced in Africa, especially Islam. I used to view Muslims as people who did not want to live peacefully and were always causing trouble, but through this Fellowship, I have come to realize that those who engage in conflict often lack full understanding of their own religion and only focus on what they want to hear. The three Abrahamic religions share many common principles, though their modes of worship differ. They all believe in a Supreme Being but connect with Him in different ways. Once we understand this, the world can become a more peaceful place where everyone has the space to live and thrive without infringing on others. By knowing our rights as citizens, no one can exploit us or use us as instruments to create chaos in society.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Better Ways of Peaceful Coexistence Between Christians and Muslims in Jauro-Yinu, Taraba State

Project Summary:

The project was implemented on 7th February 2026 for 42 participants with the objectives of encouraging peaceful coexistence between Christians, Muslims, and various ethnic groups; provide suitable skills for women; promote knowledge of and respect for different religions; reduce stereotypes, prejudices, and misconceptions about other faiths; encourage collaboration for the common good; and learn from the values, teachings, and practices of other religions.



Outcome/Impact:

The project brought smiles to the faces of the beneficiaries and helped them start businesses and improve their skills, contributing to household income. It has also reduced poverty and increased financial independence for families, while enabling them to educate their children on the importance of peaceful living.



Biography

INALEGWU ABI

Legal Practitioner and Broadcast Journalist:
Controller of Programs, Federal Radio
Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Abuja



Inalegwu Abi is a Pentecostal Christian from Benue State. She works with the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), where she produces and presents programs focused on justice reform, human rights, and social development. She holds an LLB and BL (Barrister at Law) from the University of Abuja and the Nigerian Law School, Enugu campus, respectively.

My Reflection on Peace

Peace, to me, is not simply the absence of violence. It is the presence of justice, dialogue, and mutual respect. Through the Fellowship Program, I have learned that peace requires intentional listening, empathy, and courage. It demands that we confront prejudice within ourselves before addressing conflict in others. Peace is built in everyday interactions through how we speak about those of other faiths, how we resolve disagreements, and how leaders use their influence. I now understand peace as a continuous process that requires patience,

humility, and structured engagement. Sustainable peace must involve community leaders, women, youth, and traditional institutions working together.

COFP Fellowship Program: An Unforgettable Experience

The COFP Fellowship has significantly deepened my understanding of interfaith dialogue and conflict sensitivity. It has strengthened my ability to design and implement community-based peace initiatives responsibly and ethically. The program has also reshaped my approach to storytelling and community engagement, ensuring that I prioritize humanity, dignity, inclusion, and do-no-harm principles. Personally, the Fellowship has challenged me to reflect on my own biases and to become more intentional in promoting peace both professionally and privately. It has expanded my network of peace advocates and increased my confidence in facilitating dialogue within sensitive environments.

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My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Strengthening Peaceful Coexistence Through Inter-Religious Dialogue in Jiwapeyi–Ruga Madaki, Nasarwa state

Project Summary:

The one-day community peace project was carried out on 5th February 2026 at Jiwapeyi–Ruga Madaki Community, Karu, Nasarawa State, for 60 participants. The

objectives were to promote peaceful coexistence between Christian and Muslim residents of Jiwapeyi–Ruga Madaki; create a safe space for dialogue and mutual understanding among faith groups; strengthen trust between community leaders and residents; expose participants to practical examples of successful interfaith collaboration in Nigeria; and encourage community-driven solutions to prevent religious tension and violence.





Outcome/Impact:

The workshop brought together approximately 60 community members across different faiths, ages, and backgrounds, creating a safe and inclusive space for dialogue. The participation of women, including mothers who attended with their babies, reflected the community's openness and willingness to be part of conversations that shape a peaceful future for their families. The workshop created an open and respectful atmosphere where community members freely shared concerns

and expectations regarding peaceful coexistence. The presence of both the Pastor and the Imam speaking on the same platform demonstrated unity and modelled cooperation for the community. Participants engaged in a question-and-answer session that allowed them to clarify misconceptions and discuss practical ways to reduce suspicion and conflict triggers. The traditional leader, the Angwa of Jiwapeyi, reaffirmed his commitment to fairness and equal treatment of all residents regardless of faith.

Biography

YATEGHTEGH SIMON FAEREN

Catholic Priest, Lieutenant Officer Nigeria Army
and Military Chaplain St. Matthias Military
Catholic Church, Gwagwalada, Abuja



Yateghtegh Simon Faeren, a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Gboko, Benue State, holds a Bachelor of Philosophy and Theology from Urbaniana University, Rome, and a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Abuja. He currently serves as the Military Chaplain at St. Matthias Military Catholic Church, Dukpa, Abuja Archdiocese.

My Reflection on Peace

With my renewed understanding from the Fellowship Program, I see that peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice, understanding, and love. In a world marked by violence and division, peace often seems fragile, yet it begins in the human heart and in everyday relationships. Being an agent of

peace means choosing dialogue over anger, forgiveness over revenge, and understanding over prejudice. It requires courage to listen to those who think differently and humility to accept that no one holds the truth alone. Peace is not about ignoring differences but learning to live with them respectfully. Our world needs people who build bridges instead of walls, speak words that heal, act with compassion, and refuse to let hatred define their response to conflict. Small acts like helping a neighbor, defending dignity, and calming tensions, can create ripples of hope. Peace is also a responsibility, calling us to challenge injustice, promote fairness, and protect the vulnerable. True peace is active and demanding, requiring patience, consistency, and leading by example in our families, communities, and workplaces.



religious diversity as a source of unity rather than division. This has greatly influenced my personal outlook and professional work, enabling me to promote peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims with greater confidence and understanding.

My Community Peace Project:

Project Title: Interfaith Dialogue: Promoting Peaceful Coexistence Between Christians and Muslims in Barracks Communities.

**COFP Fellowship program:
An Unforgettable Experience**

The Fellowship program with the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) has been a deeply enriching and transformative experience in my journey as a peacebuilder. The Foundation has helped me understand peace as a process rooted in dialogue, justice, and mutual respect, rather than merely the absence of conflict. Through trainings, workshops, and practical engagements, I have gained essential skills in conflict resolution, mediation, and interfaith dialogue, while broadening my perspective on the causes of conflict and the importance of addressing them through communication, empathy, and community participation. COFP has also emphasized interfaith harmony, helping me appreciate

Project Summary:

The Interfaith Peacebuilding Workshop was held on 17th February 2026 in Gwagwalada, Abuja, for 200 participants. The dialogue brought Christian and Muslim women together to foster a common understanding, challenge preconceived notions about each other, and build new relationships within the barracks community. The project aimed to identify factors that promote peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims, examine the major challenges affecting peaceful living and mutual understanding, and explore how interfaith dialogue and community activities can strengthen unity and harmony among residents.



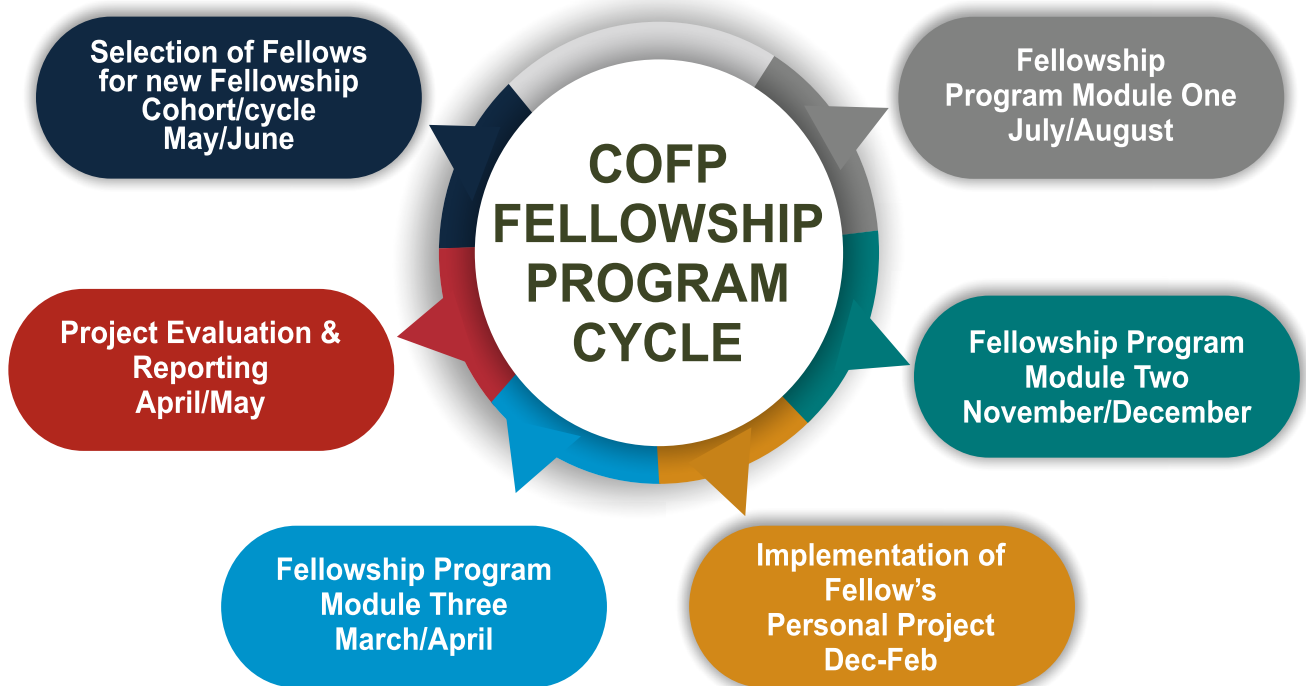
Outcome/Impact:

The workshop significantly increased participants' understanding and awareness of each other's beliefs, values, and practices, reducing ignorance, stereotypes, and fear while promoting respect and understanding. It strengthened relationships and trust among Christians and Muslims in the barracks, fostering friendship, cooperation, and more open interaction. Participants also learned peaceful ways to resolve disputes, helping to

reduce religious tension and prevent conflicts. The workshop encouraged a stronger culture of dialogue and communication and led to the formation of interfaith peace committees responsible for promoting harmony and addressing conflicts early. Shared values such as respect, love, justice, and unity were reinforced, resulting in attitudinal change, practical peace-building strategies, and long-term harmony within the community.



COFP Fellowship Program Cycle



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

COFP



*“ There was never a good
war or a bad peace ”*

Benjamin Franklin



Partners:



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