

**EAST AFRICA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FORUM ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA
ON THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2018
AT ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY**

THEME: “YOUTH AS KEY ACTORS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA.”

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CONCEPT NOTE

The peace campaign this year is focused on having young people express concerns for how they are enabling Peace and Security in their communities through their various initiatives.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Yearning Voices Foundation-YVF is a non-profit membership Pan African oriented organization. It aims at building an empowered and resilient community. YVF is one of Uganda's youth-led human rights and development organization with proven experience laying the foundation for equitable youth transformation and civic participation in Africa. YVF works with local communities, youth led initiatives and state institutions to promote peace, human rights and democracy for youth and women in Africa. For the last three years, YVF has initiated projects aimed at promoting peace and human dignity in Uganda and Africa at large. In 2015 we commissioned a study on the level of Re-offending among high risk youth in Kampala and their level of participation in policy discussions. Furthermore, in 2017 with support from CIVICUS we held a National Youth Empowerment Forum on the International Peace day under the theme: **“Youth for Peace and Security in Africa.”** The forum was attended by 267 youth from 6 countries of Africa i.e. Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Rwanda and DR Congo. It also led to the introduction of **Peace Ambassadors** across Uganda who have been trained and incorporated by IGAD/CEWARN as peace and conflict early warning field monitors.

This year, The Yearning Voices Foundation in partnership with IGAD/CEWRAN and Pan African Movement are rolling out a massive Peace campaign that involves social media awareness and community dialogues. The campaign will climax with the East African Youth Empowerment Forum on peace and security in Africa at the International Peace day on 21st September 2018. The Event will bring together 1,000 youth from across East African, various actors in the security sector and stake holders from different walks of life to deliberate on matters of peace and security concerns in Africa today. This will also make youth more vigilant, concerned and actively engaged in promoting peace and security as we promote regional integration and development.

2.0 WHY THE PEACE CAMPAIGN AND FORUM?

Africa was blessed with a lot of natural resources, good weather conditions that support all economic activities, our traditional culture that is admired worldwide with a lot of values. All these are opportunities for Africa's development. However, African people have not appreciated and embraced these opportunities in Africa. They have remained disunited, radicalized in the line of tribes and religion. Made to hate Africa and some have preferred moving out of Africa as

slaves. Time has come for African youth to take lead of creating the Africa they want. We should actively participant in the peaceful and development process in Africa. Embrace the African agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals which both put youth participation at the fore front.

The Forum will bring out stories of youth who have initiated something in the community to promote peace and development in East Africa. It will provide them with the platform to market their work and also inspire others to do something for their communities. It will bring state actors at the panel to explain various opportunities, challenges and avenues in place for youth in East Africa. It will bring voices from the private sector who are key drivers of peace and development. The forum will strengthen and create more peace ambassadors from different regions of East Africa.

Through these interactions, We shall create a continent that respects rights of all citizens, promotes the values of African culture predominantly Ubuntu which “there exists a common bond between us all and it is through this bond through our interaction with our fellow youth, that we shall discover our own human qualities”, unity, self-determination, integrity coupled with accountability thus empowering African youth to advance a prosperous and sustainable continent.

2.0 MOBILISATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Campaign

In line with mobilizing for the East African Youth Empowerment Forum on Peace and Security, The Yearning Voices Foundation-YVF and The Hangout UG- THO will run a social media peace campaign. It will trend under the Hashtags **#PowerInCare** and **#YVFpeacecampaign2018**. Youth will share messages, stories, videos and photos on peace and development under these hashtags. Different community events and dialogues will be conducted and all will trend under these hashtags.

Use of ICT. As a way of minimizing use of paper and climate change, most of our mobilization will be online. A series of online campaigns will be launched starting June by active participation of youth led and run initiatives across the East Africa where homemade and grown campaigns will be run to suit the local people with slogans in the predominant language with the Hashtags **#PowerInCare**, **#YVFpeacecampaign2018** trending to enable us reach a wider coverage and get views and opinions from communities far and wide.

Spot messages will be developed and run on media channels. Messages will give safety tips, civic action and need for youth participation in peace building.

2.2 The Dialogues

These will focus on schools and communities.

Dialogues will be implemented in partnership with youth led organizations in East Africa, various security organs, Institutions of higher learning, Government Ministries, Leaders at all levels, Small Scale Business Associations, The media, Informal Sector and Religious Leaders in East Africa will hold peace and youth dialogues in their communities before the Forum.

With support from our local peace ambassadors, we shall hold regional dialogues across the country as a way of reaching out to a wider audience and enhance chances of having young people upcountry engage in the campaign and attend the East African Youth Empowerment Forum on Peace and Security in Africa.

To engage school going young people, in-school debates with focus on topics locally generated will be organized with much more emphasis to outcomes and way forward that will all be shared. The discussions will seek to highlight the state of peace and security in East Africa and means to combat violent extremisms, radicalization and youth unemployment in East Africa.

2.3 Events

2.3.1 International Youth Day (August 12th, 2018)

Over the past two years, The Hangout UG has been organizing the International Youth Day discussing the given themes from the United Nations. This year The Hangout UG and The Yearning Voices Foundation intend to jointly organize this year's celebration giving a minute to each represented initiative to discuss the theme in relation to the peace and security. The result will be a paper generated on the role of each initiative in achieving the peace and security of the country. The paper will be presented at the East African Youth Forum on peace and security on 21st September 2018.

3.0 OUT COMES OF THE CAMPAIGN AND FORUM

3.1 Collectivity and ownership (Leaving no youth behind)

A youth for peace campaign will have a collective voice from the various young people on their thoughts on peace and how to ensure sustainability growth for East Africa.

The Forum will add a youth voice on the need for East African Integration and the benefits it come with for young people like unite and common market for products with in East Africa.

Our peace ambassadors will enhance their skills on how to monitor and report peace and conflict issues in their areas.

Youth will be proactive on peace and security issues as they will form peace commits, engage in community policing, report peace and conflict community threats and engage in empowerment activities.

3.2 Civic Empowerment of the young people.

The campaign has been planned in a way to build confidence, provide knowledge and encourage the young people to engage in matters suppressing their rights and freedom to express themselves.

The young people should be empowered to rise at all times and speak for themselves by the time of the Forum. The knowledge and information provided to the young people on how to approach matters threatening peace will boost the quest to address whatever comes their way.

Youth will create networks to share best practices and opportunities within the region and as forums for proactive engagement.

4.0 Benefits to Partners/ Sponsors.

To support the Forum please contact Yearning Voices Foundation on info@yvfug.org, Tel: +256774205450. All funds will be banked on DFCU Bank, Account Name: Yearning Voices Foundation. Account Number: 01443553787207.

Sponsors will have a mention on all our talk shows, mobilization events and at the Forum. They will have their logos printed on all our visibility materials. They will have free space for exhibition.

Gold partners who support above half of the budget will have a slot at the forum to present about their work.

East Africa Youth Empowerment Forum on Peace and Security in Africa

“YOUTH AS KEY ACTORS FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA”

21st September 2018, 09:00 am - 6:00pm

St. Lawrence University- Uganda

8:30-9am	Arrival and Registration	
9am – 9:20am	Welcome Remarks Mr. Newton Balenzi Pan African Movement, Vice Chancellor SLAU and, Mr. Elly Kasirye YVF.	
9:20- 9:50 am	Presentation on youth involvement in Pan Africanism.	Booker Ngesa Omole- Secretary General, Pan African Movement Kenya.
9:50- 10:20am	Keynote address on Youth’s role in promoting Peace and Justice in Africa.	Gen. Jeje Odong (Minister for Internal Affairs)
10:20-10:30	Theme entertainment on peace	Mob Star Dances
10:30- 11:00 am	Guest of honor and Official opening of the Forum.	Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga (Speaker for the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda)
11:00- 11:30am	Café BREAK and Group photo	
11:30- 12:30pm	Panel discussion: The Intersection between peace and development in East Africa. Challenges at hand. What is the missing link?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Daniel Wanyama-Kenya • ASP. Hassan Kasinge- Uganda • Dr. Maggie Kigozi • Hon. Lilian Aber, National Youth Council • Ms. Betty Abebe- IGAD/ CEWARN

12:30- 1:00Pm	Group work presentation on youth opportunities in East African Community and way forward.	Moderator - Grace Ruvimbo Chirenje – Zimbabwe
1:00- 1:30pm	Understanding the East African Integration and its importance to youth in East Africa.	Com. Joseph Ssembatya (Ministry of East African Community Affairs)
1:30– 2:20pm	LUNCH Break	
2:20- 2:30pm	Entertainment/ Energizer	Ms. Nava Gloria
2:30– 3:30am	<p>Discussion on SDGs and Agenda 2063:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intersection between SDGS and Agenda 2063. • What will be the role of youth in the implementation SDGS and the African’s Agenda? 	<p>Our Experts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Albushil Nur (AYM Chairperson Kenya) 2. Janvier Ndayisenga (Founder MyStory Rwanda) 3. Badru Walusansa (LASPNET) Uganda 4. Mr. Malual Bol Kiir (Southern Sudan)
3:30- 4:00pm	Sponsors presentations and Solidarity speeches	Moderator- Grace Ruvimbo Chirenje- Zimbabwe
4:00-4:30pm	Guest at to close the Forum	Capt. Mike Mukula (NRM Chairperson Eastern Region)