



Africa's Change Agents

Aiding Community Collaboration for Sustainable Peace & Development



MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY



COHORT 7 REPORT

2025



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Cover: Capstone 5 conference. In February 2024, Cohort 5 Rotary Peace Fellows demonstrated the role of community initiatives in building sustained peace and development at Makerere University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2024, the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University marked increasing efforts in working with communities, together to build Chains-of -Peace. The Centers' approach uniquely focuses on building peace through community involvement and using local approaches to address the complex crises affecting the Indigenous people in Africa and the world at large.

The Center welcomed 21 Rotary Peace Fellows to Makerere University in February 2024. The fellows originated from 19 countries, both in Africa and beyond. The countries included Australia; Botswana Brazil Cameroon Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt Gambia Madagascar Malawi Nigeria, Rwanda Sierra Leone South Africa South Sudan Tanzania Uganda United States of America, and Yemen. Cohort 7 Peace Fellows commenced their study program on 29th February 2024 and ended on 19th April 2024. They have embarked on a nine-month journey to implement their Social Change Initiatives.

Study Programme

While at Makerere, the fellows study for a Postgraduate Diploma in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation for 10 weeks, engaging in both experiential and classroom study. The program emphasizes areas that promote cultural diversity, inclusion, and social development. While at Makerere University, the modules studied included Fundamentals and Approaches to Peace and Development, Human Rights, Governance and Media, Refugees, Migration and Community Cohesion, Identity, Human Security, Resources, and Climate Change.

Experiential Field Activities

Cohort 7 Rotary Peace Fellows conducted experiential field learning trips, engaging with relevant organizations, stakeholders, and communities working to address contemporary issues. The areas visited included refugee settlements, youth organizations countering violent extremism, religious institutions that uphold inter-religious dialogue, informal settlements (urban slums), health, the Genocide Memorial Sites in Rwanda, and communities promoting justice and social cohesion.

Community Engagement

The Rotary Peace Fellows and alumni have continuously developed and worked with the local communities to design community initiatives that address society's most pressing needs and challenges. Through the social change initiatives, the fellows have addressed issues in health, food security, climate change, wildlife conservation, education, security, media, and youth.

Assoc. Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala
Director, Makerere University Rotary Peace Center.

MEET COHORT 7 PEACE FELLOWS



Hensen Seidisa

Botswana

Hensen is a professional teacher in Botswana, working with the Ministry of Education in Botswana. His role involves advising on matters of policy and ensuring quality education delivery. Through the fellowship, he anticipates gaining knowledge on community mediation and negotiation. "The practical experience gained during the fellowship will build on my activism to advance human rights and tackle inequality, particularly across educational settings," Hensen says there's a lot of disparity arising from poor provision of services, such as the implementation of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programs.



Dooa Shabana

Egypt

As a program coordinator and researcher, Shabanas' work involves overseeing rural development projects in Qena-Egypt, conducting research, and building partnerships for community enhancement in Upper Egypt. With a blend of computer science and project management, she uses her skills to design monitoring tools, collect data, and report the outcomes to donors for sustainable impact. "My participation in the Rotary Peace Fellowship is going to be a transformative experience that will deepen my knowledge in the area of peacebuilding and youth empowerment and build an international network with intellectual minds."



Carole St Laurent

Canada

As an experienced IT guru, Carole has been working in Canada, helping clients develop and use online platforms more effectively. With over 10 years of experience in Africa, she is dedicated to developing applications that advocate for peace. The opportunity to study peacebuilding at Makerere University will not only deepen her desire for peace but also expose her to the theories and practicalities involved in building peace. "I am anticipating a life-changing experience." She says, "The opportunity to study with international students in the peacebuilding field, learn more about peacebuilding, and implement peace programs,"



Lukambo Tops Bahii

Democratic Republic of the Congo

To Lukambo, participating in the Rotary Peace Fellowship program holds the promise of significant personal and professional impact. For nearly half his life, the Goma native has been a senior consultant with Organisation des Volontaires pour la Paix et le Développement dans la Région des Grands Lacs (Organization of Volunteers for Peace and Development in the Region of the Great Lakes); working with the organization, he's roles involve designing action plans to mitigate risks, recommend security measures, and develop response scenarios.

Rotary Peace Center's Impact

Rotary Peace Fellows promoting peace and development in a changing world



**Jackson Wenesayo****South Sudan**

As a program manager, Jackson's work at the Arise Socio-Cultural Foundation (ASF) requires him to oversee multi-donor programs in peacebuilding, youth empowerment, and civic education from design to implementation. With over 10 years of experience in project management and knowledge of organizational development, he is passionate about planning, implementing, and monitoring activities on community security and peacebuilding, institutional capacity development, and child protection. While on the fellowship, he is enthusiastic about networking and understanding peacebuilding, "climate change, social and global security, as well as civic education on elections, given that South Sudan is going for its first election by December 2024."

**Beatrice Acayo****Uganda**

With experience and a vested interest in gender equality, peace, and conflict mediation, Acayo has a vision of forming and mentoring a vibrant cadre of women advocates and youth champions to advance the land rights agenda in their communities. With her work as a program officer at the Young Acholi Girls' Initiative, her daily duties include planning and coordinating field activities for the Community Peace Project, handling conflict mediation, documenting case studies, and networking with organizations for support in resolving complex conflicts. While on the fellowship, Beatrice expects to understand the interconnection between governance, leadership, and peace in society. I expect to also understand the concept of conflict engagement and peacebuilding in the wake of technological advancement.

**Adeola Adefemi Adenduke****Nigeria**

Adefemi, a Nigerian teacher, is participating in the Rotary Peace Fellowship program to enhance her teaching skills and foster a culture of tolerance and understanding. She aims to transform her role into a change agent, focusing on conflict resolution and peacebuilding strategies. The fellowship's focus on peace aligns seamlessly with her goal of influencing positive change in the curriculum department, enabling her to contribute to the creation of an educational environment that promotes harmony, embraces diversity, and fosters catalysts for peace in both our local community and the broader Nigerian context.

**Mugahed Alshaibah****Yemen**

Mugahed's experience in security, peace and conflict resolution, gained while working with UN Peacekeeping Operations in Timor-Leste and Sudan, instilled his passion to start the Madad Foundation for Peace, Relief and Development (MPRD), an organization that focuses on promoting sustainable peace and development with local communities, in developing community-based peacebuilding initiatives and improving conflict resolution and negotiation. He plans to build a community-based educational project, enhance youth and women's capacities for peace, and lead initiatives focused on social change.

Rotary Peace Center's Impact

Rotary Peace Fellows promoting peace
and development in a changing world

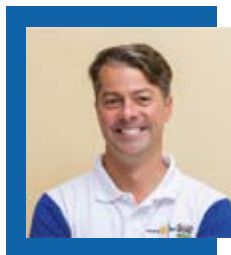




Wilfred Bangura

Sierra Leone

With a background in theology and an interest in governance and development, Wilfred's work at the National Anti-Corruption Strategy Secretariat and the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone involves monitoring and raising awareness to reduce incidences of corruption in ministries, departments, and agencies. Through the Rotary Peace Fellowship, he hopes to enhance his capacity in peace and conflict prevention, which in turn will diversify his experience in conflict and peace nationally and regionally.



Kyle Beaulieu

United States

Kyle, a seasoned international development expert, has led USAID's COVID-19 response, co-authored the CVE Policy, and designed the Peace and Security Council. He currently works as a senior consultant at Guidehouse, LLC. The opportunity to study peacebuilding at Makerere University will not only deepen his desire for peace but will profoundly impact him in three ways, including networking with a wide and deep cadre of peacebuilders from all over the world, being challenged to see problem sets in radically new ways, and experiencing a new culture and new approach to community integration.



Diego Carneiro de Oliveira

Brazil

As the head of the music department and school, Diego oversees concerts, teaches cello, and supports students academically. Through his 15 years of practice, he has directed orchestras, taught music, and implemented projects, which gradually led him to found AmaZonArt, a non-profit organization that provides free musical education to children and young people in poor and deprived parts of the Amazon region of Brazil. He believes music can promote peace. "My long-term goals are to create various music peace centers and to compose music that can build peace."



Sang Isaac Jammeh

Gambia

As a security officer working professionally to bring peace and security to mankind, Sang is a captain in the Gambia Armed Forces, where he handles administrative duties overseeing operations within the battalion. Through the fellowship, he strongly believes that his capacity will be developed for peace and development as a military officer. He says, "The Peace Fellowship has trained lots of professionals who today are contributing to growth and ensuring peace is attained in the world." But having a strong sense of cultural diversity and human rights is only part of Sang's mission. He wants to get both the young and the old generations on board, too.



Sokfa John Francis

South Africa

Sokfa, Deputy Director for the Centre for Mediation in Africa at the University of Pretoria, is pursuing a fellowship to deepen his understanding of peacebuilding in Africa's social, historical, and cultural contexts, while also enhancing his legitimacy as a peacebuilder. "The fellowship will also increase my access and legitimacy as a peacebuilder, creating more room for "service above the self."



Sitithana Kasapila

Malawi

Sitithana, a consultant in Malawi, develops research tools, trains enumerators, and writes reports. She establishes a supportive learning environment for primary school students, especially adolescent girls in Lilongwe, by providing WASH facilities to enable their attendance and participation in classes without barriers. The fellowship offers opportunities to develop effective GBV and WASH interventions in Malawi, promoting sustainable peace and development. She says, "Championing GBV campaigns is a critical step towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, African Agenda 2063, and creating a better world for all."



Ruth Fanny Kinge

Nigeria

Ruth Fanny Kinge is an associate professor and researcher at Gombe State University, Nigeria. With a doctorate in political science, she incorporates cybersecurity and information and communication technology in education. Through the fellowship, she envisions creating collaborations and working with people with disabilities.



Venant Mligo

Tanzania

Venant Mligo, a Student Services Officer at Mzumbe University in Tanzania, supports student welfare, HIV/AIDS awareness, and mental health support. He joins the Peace Fellowship to mobilize community leaders to address substance abuse and mental health disorders, using local data to guide prevention strategies.



Daniel Nteziyaremye

Rwanda

Daniel is passionate about social change, which led him to peacebuilding, despite his academic background in information systems and management. He works as a program National Field Coordinator at Turning the Tide (TTT) Rwanda, promoting collaboration within communities for change and creating networking opportunities for grass-roots peace practitioners. For Daniel, training young people about dialogue, conflict prevention, and community issue analysis through the use of art is critical to creating peace.



Osueke Chiamaka Juliet

Nigeria

Juliet is the Executive Director of Jully Foundation, a non-governmental organization that empowers girls, women, and youth through daily operations, fundraising, and peacebuilding initiatives.



Herizo Ramanantsialonina

Madagascar

Herizo is a Health Programming and Training Specialist at Peace Corps Madagascar, providing technical sessions and training Peace Corps volunteers to acquire the necessary technical skills to conduct their service successfully. For Herizo, the fellowship will build his capacity and skills during the hands-on activities and field studies to practice his skills.



Rosaline Obah

Cameroon

Rosaline Obah, a Cameroonian residing in the UK, is a seasoned media and communication specialist with over 18 years of experience. She excels as a Peace and Community Development Specialist, serving as a national and international consultant in Strategic Communication, Corporate Crisis Management, Peacebuilding, Public Relations, and Gender/Rights issues. Rosaline is renowned for her expertise as a trainer in Peace Journalism, Conflict Transformation, Do-no-harm principles, and Digital Literacy/Rights. As an ambassador for the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), she actively promotes peace and conflict resolution. Currently, Rosaline holds the position of Communication Head at the UK-based company, Ace Development and Health Consultancy.



Bangoang Gatdet Bol

Gatdet Bangoang is the Assistant Quantity Surveyor- Laing O'Rourke. He handles subcontractor communication, leads procurement processes, and manages contracts. He is deeply involved in scope preparation and ensuring compliance with laws and company policies throughout project completion

South Sudan

Online Course Orientation

The PGD in Peace Building and Conflict Transformation- Cohort 7 peace fellows commenced with their study program virtually. They had a two-week orientation that extensively engaged the fellows in understanding the course program and life at Makerere University and Uganda.

The fellows learnt various topics ranging from societal challenges, Indigenous peacebuilding initiatives, cultural traditions and peacebuilding, and the notion of conflict transformation. The topics of study included;

- i. **People and Culture of Uganda:** During the session, fellows learnt the general overview of the Great Lakes region, Uganda's social etiquette, history, and the political, social, and economic environment of Uganda.
- ii. **Kampala Urban Language variety:** The fellows studied the Ugandan youth linguistic called '**Luyaye Decoded**', an urban Youth language used to uphold peace in respective countries.
- iii. **Safety and Security in Kampala and Uganda:** The fellows were briefed on the security situation in Uganda. The presenter shared basic knowledge on personal security, safeguards on urban crime and a guide on areas of safety around Kampala.
- iv. **psycho-social support:** During the orientation, the fellows also interacted with the Director of the University Hospital who briefed them on the health services offered by the University hospital. The session also included a talk on the psycho-social support services rendered during the fellows' onsite study.
- v. **Foundations of Peace and Conflict Transformation:** This topic explored the basic practical and theoretical foundations of peace and conflict transformation, and the areas of focus included theoretical and practical discussions of conflict management, peace building, and, significantly, the root causes of conflict and war.
- vi. **Introduction to the Positive Peace Philosophy:** Under this session, the fellows were introduced to the philosophy of positive peace, its pillars and mechanisms of determining system that serve the needs of the whole population.
- vii. **Introduction to Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation:** The session highlighted an understanding of conflict, its causes, a conflict cycle, actors, conflict structure, and elements of conflict transformation. The fellows were debriefed on the course study program and interacted with the academic mentors and the Center management. The session guided on managing the fellows' expectations while on the fellowship and the general lifestyle at Makerere University.

WEEK 3-12: ONSITE CLASS STUDY

Fundamentals and Approaches to Peace and Conflict Transformation

Topic: Localizing Peace: Methods and Approaches

The fellows studied the concept of localization of peace, methods and approaches of conflict analysis, and indigenous approaches to conflict management and peacebuilding in Africa. The fellows discussed the relevance of involving the local people in peacebuilding processes.

**Topic: Critical and Academic writing**

Fellows were taken through the concept of good writing which involves carrying out a lot of research, knowing your readers and how they relate to your writing. A good writer does not stop reading and should acknowledge his writing. The **Funnel Method in essay writing** should focus on the main People's approach ideas. It is important to think through the data, make an analysis, and be relevant to the work. Most parts of the essay must be connected, show points of argument and contrast, and use relevant examples.



In the picture, Dr. Isaac Tibasiima while speaking to the fellows on academic writing

Topic: African philosophy of peacebuilding and conflict transformation

Fellows learnt that African philosophy is deep and goes back into ancient history. One of the key philosophies in Africa is respecting nature. Africa has resources that can help in peacebuilding. African holism looks at a person as a whole entity and respects all aspects of a human person. Peace is built on relationships and building bridges.



In the picture, Dr. Dickson Kanakulya while delivering a lecture on indigenous approaches to peacebuilding and conflict transformation



Topic: Understanding the Rotary Foundation: Fellows had a session on the background of Rotary International and its operations. The Rotary movement in Uganda is a vibrant movement. Engagement of Peace Fellows has been on a bigger scale with host councilors as their key link to the rotary clubs in Kampala. Students were encouraged to visit and address a Rotary club during their time in Uganda.

Topic: Performing arts as Dialogic Space and Methodological Tools for Peace-building in Africa

Music provides space for self-expression and speak about things that can't be openly talked about. In many cultures in Africa, musicians were used as the voice of the people. As we are using music we need to be very careful not to promote conflict or violence. For instance, women act as mediators for peace, through songs that send specific message advocating rights of minorities communities. Widely, music has been used to mobilize people, cause intervention and advocate for change. Skits or dramas can be used to tell a stories or communicate change.



In the picture, Prof. Sylvia Antonia Tamusuza while delivering a lecture on women as mediators of peace through music

Topic: Fundamentals of Presentation Skills

The session highlighted the key principles one must consider during a public presentation, which include engaging the audience and stating the objective or purpose. It also includes an emotional attachment to the story, which allows the audience to become part of the story or connect with it.



PAG Fred Masadde Kabuye speaks to both cohort 5 and 7 peace fellows on public presentation skills

Topic: The Leadership Training by The Julius Nyerere Leadership Centre

The leadership training was conducted by the Julius Nyerere Leadership Centre. The training highlighted three focus areas which included;

- i. Strategic thinking in communication for effective governance, reflecting on the partners and stakeholders involved, plan on what you have to achieve and be clear on the purpose. The message should be structured to suit the needs of the people. It must be intentional and unique.
- ii. Concept of servant leadership/the art of self-leadership and tools needed for influential leadership. To avoid abuse of power, servant leadership is the most flexible style of leadership. A leader has to be strong in competences and sociable in character.
- iii. Ethical Leadership as a question of leadership choices and commitments. The leader has to be an example with ethics, integrity and moral values in order to change people. Ethical leaders act consistently even when they are faced with challenges and advocate for ethical values even when its unpopular.

**Topic: Conflict Analysis and African Framework Tools**

During the session, the concept of conflict was defined, as its analysis and resolution. The fellows were taught that the Tools are models that help analyze a conflict, and identify its significance. Conflict analysis was defined as a process of resolving a conflict. Attitude is very central in looking at the aspect of conflict and how to resolve it. Dimensions in understanding a conflict include; Situation, Attitude, and Behavior.

Topic: Context of a Conflict

In Africa circumstances change but conflicts remain. Skills in analyzing a conflict include: active listening,

empathy, and collaboration. Most peace talks arise when a lot of damage has been done, destruction is the strongest impact that comes out of a conflict. Conflicts affect the emotions and psychology of the people.

Topic: Alternatives to Violence Program

AVP in Uganda is being practiced in the army, Police, and prisons. Focuses on affirmation and uses brainstorming, lectures, skits, drama, pictures, role plays, etc. Distorted messages may lead to violence. When the balance of resources or power is not well distributed the marginalized feel cheated. Every single human being has something good in them and has the ability to change from violence to non-violence.

Topic: Mediation, dialogue, and conflict resolution by Amani communities Africa

During the week, the fellows were trained in mediation and how the process can be used to build peace. Mediation is a voluntary process and it is party-driven. It has a time frame and if it fails to work, end the process and look at alternatives.



Understanding Conflict & the spectrum of conflict resolution mechanisms.

A conflict is an opportunity to foster new relationships, transform people and communities. Sometimes people conflict within themselves. Conflict resolution aims at compromising. As a mediator you go beyond resolving a conflict. Ask parties what they want. In mediation, we learn by doing and should always have an active mind.



- **Negotiation & Dialogue:** Parties move to a system where they decide to involve a third party. At negotiation parties are in full control of what's going on. Mediator doesn't make decision but guides the parties. Arbitrator's word is final and binding.
- **Process of Mediation:** Parties come to mediation because they have a conflict; e.g. family, work place, care for elderly etc. Mediation process include: Preparation, Mediation, Signing an agreement.
- **Key skills, techniques, roles and attributes of a mediator:** A mediator asks questions with curiosity and intelligence not as an investigator. Should know the meaning and when to apply people skills, process skills and problem solving skills. First understand the background of the conflict to help you get details of the issue.



Topic: Drivers of Violent Extremism in Africa

The discussion on extremism highlighted the causes of violent extremism and drivers of violent extremism especially in Africa. In Africa, religion has played a role in distorted ideologies leading to violent extremism. Youths have been manipulated into violence because of poverty.



Pathways to Radicalization

The session highlighted how poorly resolved conflicts call for fallback. Opportunistic people are driven by monetary rewards. Persons who go and fight in other countries may be led by ideological reasons. Indoctrination by charismatic and persuasive leaders. Poor influence or abduction.

During the session, fellows discussed the early warning signs of radicalization and violent groups in Africa and the role of stakeholders in preventing, how counter-violent extremism, especially through education, sensitization, and exploring the role of cultural and religious leaders in informing the masses on the dangers of joining extremist factions.

Guest lecture: The Terrorism Threat: Responses & Global Initiatives

The session explored how terrorism is a type of psychological act. The acts of terrorists are more persuasive to the target groups than the government interventions. Fellows learnt how people's grievances against states become radicalized because people are aggrieved, and how the use of persuasion, and deception, convinces people to join terrorism groups.

Topic: Understanding Resilience: Definitions, concepts and mechanisms

During the session, the fellows were trained on understanding Resilience as a concept that is not only against negative things but also against positive things. As a peace worker, one needs a moral concept that can accommodate a broad spectrum of human behavior, build a social network, and set out a goal and with a stand to achieve that goal.



Topic: Human Rights and Governance: Norms & Principles

During the session on Human rights and governance, the fellows discussed the concepts of good governance and people's participation in affairs with freedom of choice. The issue of accountability for the resources, servanthood, and constant checks that hold all institutions accountable. The session also included discussions on contemporary challenges of governance and human rights in Africa, which included weak institutions, political instability, conflict and insecurity, youth bulge and unemployment, and economic mismanagement among others.



Topic: Effects of Climate Change on Conflict Escalation in Africa Climate change has increasingly become a significant driver of conflict in Africa, amplifying existing vulnerabilities and creating new sources of tension. The fellows studied the main ways in which climate change contributes to the escalation of conflicts on the continent. The session also highlighted the livelihoods and sustainable development in Africa, and how the human-induced activities fuel the occurrence of disaster (landslides).



Topic: Demography, youth peacebuilding and conflict in Africa.

The session on demography aimed at understanding the human population and how the relationship contributes to conflict. For instance, key elements in demography include; fertility, mortality, and migration. Fertility and mortality impact migration to affect the numbers in a country. Developed countries survive to high age because of low fertility whereas developing countries have high mortality as the age increases. Conflict impacts a country's demography through fertility, mortality, and migration. Demography, youth peacebuilding, and conflict in Africa highlight how youth bulge identifies young women and men as volatile, increases population, and emerges as a catalyst for internal violence.

Topic: Family and Family dynamics in conflict settings in Africa

Conflict settings in Africa significantly impact family structures and dynamics, reshaping roles, relationships, and survival strategies. The fellows explored the effects of conflict on families, the challenges they face, and their coping mechanisms. The effects included; disruption of family structures, changes in family roles and responsibilities, trauma and mental health, loss of livelihoods, and social disintegration.

Core tools used in Analyzing community situations and the development of action plans to sustain peace.

Peacebuilding and conflict resolution in communities require a systematic approach to analyzing situations and designing sustainable action plans. The session highlighted the core tools and methodologies used to understand community dynamics, identify root causes of conflict, and develop effective strategies for sustaining peace, which included, stakeholder engagement, cost-benefit analysis, and the design of an action plan, mapping the needs with the communities involved to achieve results.



In the picture, Dr. Samson Barigye speaking to the fellows about the core tools and methodologies used to understand community dynamics, identify root causes of conflict

Topic: Using the no-method approach for community peace-building projects

The discussion demonstrated sustainability features, players from diverse fields, diverse experiences, and knowledge and solutions generated from research that contribute to community peacebuilding. Fellows discussed how researchers should present themselves as part of the people to deepen community initiatives. The key issues one should consider must include, understanding the cultural norms, gender practices, and beliefs. Sharing outcomes of the research helps in co-creating solutions and sustainability.



In the picture, Prof. Vincent Muwanika engages the peace fellows on a community-based approach to building solutions

Topic: Justice, Peace, and Accountability: The Political Economy of the AFCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Agreement)

The session was aimed at identifying the linkages between political and economic relations. The most important incentive for the political players is the economic incentive, economic interests as the foundation for popular foreign policies, and this creates conflict. The session also highlighted the need to follow the economic trail in order to understand the political conflicts. In the political economy of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, trade is conducted with foreign countries. The fellows engaged with understanding Agenda 2063, that seeks to eliminate colonial trade barriers, boost intra-Africa trade and enable African countries to trade among themselves.

Topic: Roles, principles, and values of journalism in society


The fellows learnt about the roles of journalism in society and how it has been used to promote peace and conflict in communities, and the relevance of the media in peacebuilding, especially on conflict-sensitive reporting, promoting a peaceful informed society, one needed to follow the principles of reporting which include the 5W and H: Who, What, Why, When, and How



Peace journalism and conflict-sensitive reporting: During the session, fellow learnt how media has been used to cause systemic and systematic violence. They interacted on sensitive media and how it relates to conflict analysis and conflict mapping.

The session also handled the concept of news versus fake news media, and information literacy to curb 'Fake news'

Topic: Understanding inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.

The session demonstrated the importance of religious dialogue in solving misunderstandings between sects in communities. The fellows understood that Interreligious dialogue refers to cooperative, constructive, and positive interaction between people of different religious traditions at individual and institutional levels. It highlighted the types of dialogue, which included,

- Dialogue of life: In which people of different faiths and spiritual traditions strive to live in an open and neighborly spirit – includes socializing and hospitality
- Dialogue of action: In which people of spiritual commitment and faith collaborate with others in building a just society – includes service and working for justice



Topic: Religion & culture as sources of peace and conflict. Religion and culture are the largest groupings we have and are the main sources of morals and values in all our societies. Communicating using religious texts makes it easy for people to understand and believe. Religion is good for healing, reconciliation and forgiveness. Religion & culture can be a source of conflict but can also be a source of peace. Sometimes we find that our human hope is insufficient and all we have is prayer. Sometimes religions have been compromised by politicians and used to marginalize women. We need to educate ourselves about our own cultures and religions for the sake of peace.

**Topic: Positive Peace Workshop- The Institute of Economic and Peace**

The fellows indulged in a one-week session of understanding the concept of positive peace. It highlighted the eight pillars of positive peace and how they are interrelated and affect each other about positive peace. The presentation highlighted the core areas of focus for IEP, detailing that the institute acts as a global think tank that measures peace and organizes peace indexes. In addition, topics addressed included; Positive peace systems, understanding the factors that sustain peace, application of positive peace, and understanding negative peace.



On the second day, the online sessions niched on aspects of positive and negative peace. The fellows learnt how Positive peace entails attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies while negative peace is the absence of violence or fear of violence.



The fellows also learnt the indicators of IEP, and how over 40,000 people in various peace academies have been trained, and relevant work with the partners in peace development.

Topic: Introduction to Gender and Gender Concepts

While at Makerere, the fellows engaged in a discussion on Gender, how some societies have strong cultural institutions, and how anything contrary to culture and tradition causes negativity. The fellows further learnt how culture, tradition, and gender issues have a long history from colonial times, which was grounded on the concept of creating equality for men and women.

During the session, fellows watched a documentary titled: **Sanai Women and FGM**, a short documentary about the role of women in combating the female genital mutilation practice in Northern Uganda. For instance, the role of women in Northern Uganda in advocating for equality and the girl child education.



Guest Lecture: Women combatants: Among the non-civilian staff, the women are more than men in Uganda Police Force yet they are not many in the senior positions due to the perception that women are a weaker sex which limits them being involved in some positions. Women still work in male dominated structures in the police force despite the negativity portrayed in offices, where they are considered to belong to the kitchen. Women face sexual abuse and harassment as they carry out their duties. Women were previously placed in child and family units, and community issues, but now there are commissars and major generals. The government has taken up the intervention of gender inclusion in police facilities. Women offer civic education so that society doesn't degenerate into violence. They are involved in patrols, territorial border security, investigations, etc., and have been involved in creation of neighborhood watch which improves security in communities.



In the picture, Dr. Barbara Alugant, while speaking to the fellows on the role of women combatants in peacebuilding

Topic: UN system and the genesis of UNSCR 1325 & Women Peace and Security Agenda in Africa

The fellows also learnt how women's empowerment has contributed to peaceful communities. Highlighting that the United Nations (UN) system plays a pivotal role in fostering global peace, security, and development. A critical component of its agenda has been addressing the impact of armed conflict on women and ensuring their participation in peace processes. Africa has been at the forefront of implementing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, driven by the continent's experiences with protracted conflicts and the active participation of African women in peacebuilding.



Natasha Butorac, a guest lecturer from the UN-Women Uganda office while speaking to the fellows about UNSCR1325

Experiential field Learning Experience

Urban study visits

THEME: Youths, Urbanization and Peacebuilding

Introduction:

While at Makerere University, Cohort 7 Peace fellows conducted study field visits to relevant institutions that work with communities to solve the challenges faced. The institutions included; slums, cultural institutions, rehabilitation institutions, and minority communities.

1. **The Aids Support Organization (TASO)-** The fellows visited TASO, a non-governmental organization in Africa providing support, treatment, and advocacy for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. The fellows learnt how the organization has been instrumental in addressing the challenges of HIV/AIDS in Uganda by offering a comprehensive range of services and empowering communities to fight the epidemic.



2. **Kiteezi Landfill-** The study field trip aimed at demonstrating the People as contributors to Climate Change. The fellows learnt the broader discussion on climate change impact of the pollution and emissions on open landfills, and how environmental factors lead to conflicts, especially in Africa. Peace fellows at the study site at Kiteezi Landfill, a garbage recycling centre in Kampala
3. **Namuwongo Slum-** The fellows visited Namuwongo slum, one of Kampala's informal settlements. During the visit, the fellows interacted with the slum dwellers, and the local leadership on models

used in crime prevention and how the community approach has helped reduce the number of crimes committed and built trust among communities.



Peace fellows walk through Namuwongo slum in Kampala during the field visit on studying the crime in urban slums

4. **Mengo Young Development Link (MYDEL)-** The fellows paid a study visit to Mengo Young Development Link (MYDEL), an organization dedicated to restoring the lives of minority groups. These include people with disabilities, women engaged in prostitution, street children, and terminally ill individuals living on less than one \$1 a day in the Kisenyi-slum in Kampala, Uganda, slums. The purpose of the field research in Kisenyi was to introduce the peace fellows to the lives of those who survive and live in the slums. Additionally, it sought to assist the fellows in creating community-relevant social projects.



5. **Study visit to Vision Group**—The fellows learnt on the roles of journalism in the society and how it has been used as a tool to propagate conflict. The topics covered included;
- Roles, principles and values of journalism in society
 - Peace journalism and conflict sensitive reporting
 - Media in peacebuilding and media in propagating hate rhetoric



Fellows during the field visit to the Vision group in Kampala.

THEME: Religion and Peacebuilding

While on the program, the fellows study how religion is used as tool to build peace and promote social cohesion. Cohort 7 Peace fellows visited organizations in Uganda that use religion as a foundation for building peace, promoting dialogue and social cohesion. The places visited include;

1. Namugongo Martyrs Shrine

The fellows also visited the Uganda Martyrs' Shrine in Namugongo, Kampala, a site where 22 Uganda Martyrs were killed between 1885 and 1887 by Kabaka Mwanga for their Christian faith. During the visit, the fellows learnt how the Martyrs' sacrifice promoted inter-faith dialogue and co-existence among the Muslims and Christian in Buganda kingdom.



Fellows during visit to the Uganda Martyrs, Shrine, Namugongo

Excursion Two: Field visit to Kyaka II Refugee Settlement and Kigali-Rwanda

Cohort 7 fellows conducted study field visits to the Western part of Uganda. During the visit, they engaged with the traditional leaders in the Rwenzururu region and visited the resettlement village, Kyaka II refugee settlement. The study sites included;

- 1. Visit to Office of the Resident District Commissioner-** At the Kasese Municipal Headquarters, the fellows met with Lt. Joel Walusimbi, the Resident District Commissioner for the Kasese District. He briefed the fellows on governments' initiatives of providing security within the communities, and how community policing has been used as a means of sensitization against terror groups.



In the picture, cohort 7 peace fellows pause for a picture with a cultural representative of the Busongora Kingdom



In the picture, peace fellows interact with the community in at Kilembe mines in Kasese that was affected by the flooding caused at River Nyamwamba. The fellows also discussed the initiatives by the government and NGOs to restore livelihoods through community projects.



2. **Visit to Muhokya Resettlement Village and Community (Camp).** The Fellows visited the victims of the flooding caused by River Nyambwamba in Kilembe. The resettlement village was established to accommodate communities displaced by natural disasters, such as floods and landslides, particularly from areas like Kilembe. The settlement also supports vulnerable populations, providing shelter, basic services, and community integration. The fellows also visited Bwera United Women with Disabilities (BUWD), a community-based organization for women that supports families with psychosocial support to children who were kidnapped in the terrorist attack at Lhubirha Senior Secondary School on June 16, 2023.



Community engagement at Mukhokya settlement camp in Kasese District

3. **Visit to Kyaka II Refugee Settlement-** The fellows visited one of Uganda's largest refugee settlements, located in Kyegegwa District in western Uganda, which serves as a home to thousands of refugees, primarily from neighboring countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan. During the study, the fellows also visited TPO (Uganda), an organization that provides psychosocial support to refugees.



4. Study Visit to Rwanda: Theme- Ethnicity and Indigenous methods of conflict resolution

As part of the fellowship at Makerere, Peace Fellows travel to Rwanda to study issues of mass atrocities, identity, ethnicity, and indigenous methods of conflict resolution, particularly the Gacaca System. While in Rwanda, the fellows interact with communities that benefitted from the Gacaca system and conduct a tour of the museum for the Campaign Against Genocide, which illustrates in detail the unilateral decision to stop genocide and rescue victims in 1994.

The study focused on issues of mass atrocities, identity, ethnicity, and indigenous methods of conflict resolution, particularly Gacaca. The fellows also learnt the field practicalities as regards peacebuilding and lived realities of violence and the various peacemaking initiatives being undertaken in different areas to bring about peace in society.



In the picture, Cohort 7 Peace Fellows pose for a photo with the Director of the Rotary Peace Center, Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, and Dr. Dickson Kanakulya at the Museum for Campaign against Genocide in Rwanda

Cohort 7 Peace Fellows join the 30th Kwibuka in Rwanda

On 13th April 2024, Cohort 7 Peace Fellows joined the people of Rwanda during the #Kwibuka30, a commemoration for the victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994. The ceremony took place at the Rebero genocide memorial in Kicukiro district, Kigali, where wreaths were laid on the graves of 12 prominent politicians.

Cohort 7 Peace Fellows pause for a group photo at Rebero genocide memorial in Kicukiro district during the commemoration



Center: Cohort 7 Peace Fellows in a group photo with the Director-Makerere University Rotary Peace Center, Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala



In the picture, a peace fellow reads the names of the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

Peace Center Highlights

IMPACT STORIES: FELLOWS' SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVES



In April 2024, our Peace Fellow alum, Megan Lavery (2023), partnered with a team of young engineers from Uganda to participate in the VEX Robotics World Championship, an event that brings together talented young engineers in robotics from over 50 countries. While on the fellowship at Makerere University, Megan implemented a social change initiative that focused on supporting young women in Uganda to excel in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) field.



In the picture above, the Young Engineers Uganda Team arrive in Texas to participate in the Vex World Robotics Championship in Dallas, Texas, USA.

Far-left: Megan Lavery in a photo with the Young Engineers from Uganda team ready to showcase their Robotics skills at the Vex World Robotics Championship in Dallas, Texas, USA.

Celebrating World Refugee Day

The Cohort 1 Fellows held a dialogue hosted by Makerere University Rotary Peace Center to commemorate World Refugee Day. During the dialogue, the speakers shared their camp experiences and resilience. Thereafter, a soccer peace tournament finals was held to promoting peace and togetherness. A total of 12 teams competed.

This years' World Refugee Day 2024 Theme was: Solidarity with the Refugees Peace Dialogue.



37 Rotary Peace Fellows graduate at Makerere University

On February 2, 2024, the Makerere University Rotary Peace Center successfully graduated its third and fourth cohort of peace fellows during the 74th graduation ceremony of Makerere University.



Left-Right: Tom Okoth Omondi (Cohort 4), Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala (Center Director) and Richie Olaka (Cohort 4) pose for a picture during the 74th Graduation ceremony at Makerere University.



A total of 37 Rotary Peace Fellows attained the award of a Post Graduate Diploma in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation. Among the fellows were 19 from cohort three and 18 from cohort four, with a percentage of 40% female and 60% male.

5th Capstone Conference: 20 Cohort 5 Peace Fellows present their Social Change Initiatives

From February 19–23, 2024, the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University hosted its fifth capstone conference. During the weeklong program, Cohort 5 Peace Fellows presented reports on the social change initiatives they had implemented in their respective local communities for a period of nine months



In the picture, Cohort 5 Peace Fellows pose for a photo with a cross-section of representatives from Rotary and Makerere University.

The fellows also engaged in a series of events centered on networking, building resilience, and creating change agents for their respective communities. During the week, fellows engaged in a one-day leadership seminar trained by the Julius Nyerere Leadership Center. The 5th Capstone Conference was held under the theme of ***“Achieving Peace through Collaboration and Community Engagement.”***



Mak-Rotary Peace Center Participation in the 99th Rotary District Conference

Diego De Carneiro, a Rotary Peace Fellow at Makerere University plays the Cello during the 99th Rotary District Conference in Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda.

From 18–20 April, the Rotary Peace Center participated in the 99th Rotary District Conference, an event organized annually by Rotary-Uganda for club members to learn about what’s happening in Rotary and their district. During the event, the Center participated in the exhibition, where it sensitized about the Rotary Peace Center and the Fellowship. Also, at the conference, our peace fellow, Diego De Carneiro, a cellist from Brazil, played the Cello, as an interlude during the conference.

VISITORS OF THE PEACE CENTER

In March 2024, a group of visiting Rotarians from the Rotary District 9212, Kenya and South Sudan, paid a courtesy visit to the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University. During the visit, the Rotarians visited the Rotary Peace Center, where they learned more about the works of the alums and the Peace Program at Makerere University. Thereafter, they interacted with Cohort 7 Rotary Peace Fellows, Rotaractors and staff members of the Center.



In the picture above, Rotarians from Rotary Districts 9213 and 9212 (Kenya and South Sudan) in a group photo with Makerere University Rotary Peace Center management during the visit.

Visit by Trustee Brenda Cressey, Rotary International President's Personal Representative

In April, the Center received Trustee Brenda Cressey at Makerere University. During her visit, she visited the Rotary Peace Center, interacted with Cohort 7 Rotary Peace Fellows, and paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Makerere University-Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe. While interacting with the Vice Chancellor, Trustee Brenda revealed that opening up a Peace Center on the African Continent was aimed at creating a center where African problems are addressed using African solutions. She was accompanied by a delegation of Rotarians and Dr. Urs Herzog.



Left-Right; Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Urs Herzog and Trustee Brenda Cressey, pose for a photo with the Director- Rotary Peace Center, Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, DG Francisco Ssemwanga (D9214) and Rotarians from D9213 and D9214.



Rotary Peace Center's Impact

Rotary Peace Fellows promoting peace and development in a changing world

 Rotary Peace Center

 Makerere Rotary Peace Center



MakerereRotary



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