



MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

COHORT 9 REPORT

2026



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Every year, the Makerere University Peace Center receives two cohorts of Rotary Peace Fellows. For Cohort 9, we received 18 peace fellows from 17 countries. This year's Cohort had fellows originating from Africa, US and Asia with professional background in media, education, security, environment, law, agriculture and humanitarian experience.

I am pleased to report that the Center at Makerere University successfully completed the online and onsite study program in March. The sessions comprised of both practical, theoretical and hypothetical case analysis related to peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Our study visits were organized to help the peace fellows acquire knowledge and applicable skills to solving similar situations in their home countries.

Under each theme, the fellows visited organizations and interacted with communities to learn more about grassroots peace initiatives.

Study program

Cohort 9 study program was both virtual and physical. The fellows had a week of class on zoom. They were taught by experts online teaching. Through the sessions, the fellows virtually interacted with the facilitators and their fellow students. The mode of learning was through question and answer, hypothetical case analysis on issues affecting peace and development on the African continent and beyond, break-out room engagements and group discussions.

Onsite Engagement

The Rotary Peace fellows reported onsite for their experiential field learning in January 2025. Throughout their study visits, they practically engaged with relevant organizations that address contemporary issues. The areas visited included; Organizations, traditional and Religious institutions that uphold inter-religious dialogue, Health and institutions of justice.

Capstone Conference

In January, the Center hosted Capstone conference and Peace Symposium

The symposium attracted a distinguished audience, including Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, Makerere University Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Past Rotary Foundation Trustee Geeta Manek, previous peace fellows, academics, and Rotary members dedicated to advancing peace initiatives. The event was attended by over 190 people.

During the Capstone, Cohort 7 Peace fellows presented their social change initiative reports, experiences, challenges and the impact created in their respective communities through the initiatives. 21 Peace fellows extensively projected the topics of their initiatives ranging from Peace journalism, Youths, Women empowerment, Refugees, SGBV, Climate and Leadership.

MEET COHORT 9 PEACE FELLOWS



Agaba Vivian

Uganda

Promoting lasting cordial working relationship between journalists and security agencies for sustainable peace and security before, during, and after elections in Uganda.



Cabanzo Valencia
Miyerlandy

Columbia

Index of resilience in young leaders of Colombia and Uganda



Dhlandhlara Prisca Nyasha

Zimbabwe

Amplifying women's voices and participation in local peacebuilding initiatives in Nyanyadzi, Chimanimani District



Ekah Robert Ekah

Cameroon

Engaging Youth in Conflict Prevention and Sustainable Peacebuilding through Youth-led Peace Clubs in Obili

Rotary Peace Center's Impact

Rotary Peace Fellows promoting peace and development in a changing world



Gqadavama Zuko Luyanda

South Africa

Exploring financial sustainability models for NGOs in Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa.



Hendoka Essome Joel

Cameroon

Empowering Youths in Cameroon for Positive Peace through Sustainable Agriculture



Kithinji Brian Muthuri

Kenya

Leveraging Agroecology to Enhance Sustainable Peace and Social Cohesion in West Pokot, Kenya.



Medard Bashana

Rwanda

Nurturing dialogue and oratory skills in youths in schools to fight against genocide denial and hate speech in order to promote reconciliation process in Nyanza district in Rwanda



Mudima Godasto
Muhumuliza

Tanzania

Strengthening of Ward Tribunal System for efficient and effective mediation process to maintain Peace in Ilemela District Council, Mwanza Region, United Republic of Tanzania



Mumin Said Ahmed

Somalia

Using ICT in Promoting Peace and Peacebuilding.



Musa Safiya Stephanie

Nigeria

Promoting Neuro Health Awareness for Women and Families as A Peace Building Strategy.



Sesinyi Tebello Agnes

Lesotho

'Unlocking the potential of youth through skills development (TVET skills) at Malimong, Berea.



Suwaibou Jammeh

Gambia

Youth Advocacy against post-election violence



Thomas Melvina Yeama

Sierra Leone

Strategies for combating gender inequality, discrimination and gender-based violence in Sierra Leone



Doe Patrick Koffa

Liberia

Harnessing the energies of commercial motorcyclist to promote peace and security in local communities in Liberia



Malaga Jay Gallera

Philippine

A Community-based Dialogue on Peace and Development at Mariapolis Piero in Juja, Kenya



**Morris Kamilio Bagaiwia
John**

South Sudan

Improving Peaceful co-existence through building relationship among IDPs and Host community in Yambio



Lutz Anton

United States

Participatory Education for Change:
Tools to End Sorcery Accusation
Related Violence in Papua New
Guinea



Networking

The Center continues to enjoy cordial relationships with the local Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Uganda and beyond, the University community and different stakeholders. We look forward to sharing our developments as the Center.

SUMMARY OF THE CLASS STUDY

ONLINE CLASS STUDY PROGRAM

WEEK 1: ON-LINE Class Study

The PGD in Peace Building and Conflict Transformation- Cohort 9 Peace fellows commenced with their study program virtually. They had a weeks' orientation that helped them extensively understand the course program, the life at Makerere University and Uganda.

Theme: **General Orientation**

The fellows were introduced to a variety of 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:** The session gave an overview of the great lakes region, the social etiquette in Uganda, history and the political, social and economic environment of Uganda.
- ii. **Day today life in Uganda:** The fellows were oriented on the Ugandan youth lingua, climate, tourist places and food security of Uganda. This helped put the fellows' minds at ease about Uganda.
- iii. **Safety and Security in Kampala and Uganda:** The fellows were briefed on the security situation in Uganda. The presenter further 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. **Graduate Studies at Makerere University:** The fellows were introduced to the graduate program of Makerere University. Dr. Kikooma Julius shared with the fellows the Makerere strategic plan of 2020-2030, the goals, vision and intended impact of the program.
- 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 Community mediation:** ACA mediation center introduced the fellows to community mediation, how it works and the expectations of its outcomes. They were given some reading materials to further read as they wait for the physical training on mediation.
- viii. **Understanding the Rotary Foundation and Meeting your Rotary Host Area coordinator:** Dr. Margret Okello shared the role of the Rotary foundation highlighting how the foundation gets funds. There was a virtual meet and greet between Rotary hosts and the peace fellows.
- ix. **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.

The fellows were debriefed on the course study program and interacted with the academic mentors,

Rotarians and the Center management. The session guided on managing the fellows' expectations while on the fellowship and the general lifestyle at Makerere University and Uganda.

ONSITE STUDY PROGRAM

WEEK THREE

Theme: **CAPSTONE WEEK**

Topic: **Welcoming and meeting with University Management and Interactive session between Cohort 7&9**

Assoc. Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala welcomed the fellows, introduced the management team and RPC staff. This was the start of the on-site classes with topics such as leadership, conflict resolution, and research development talked about by Prof. Hellen. Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo, the head of the Academics Committee and Dr. Charlotte Karungi Mafumbo also welcomed the fellows, and encouraged the fellows to work, walk and do everything as a unit, for a whole some fellowship.

Peace fellows from Cohorts 7 and 9 were encouraged to actively engage in the different activities arranged for the week. The session transitioned into interactive discussions aiming at cross-cohort networking. RPC Fellows from Cohort 7 shared their practical experiences in cultural shocks, peacebuilding, discussing challenges and successful strategies they had implemented in their communities. This exchange allowed fellows from both cohorts to reflect on common themes thus providing a foundation for meaningful relationships, collaborations and engagement throughout the week.





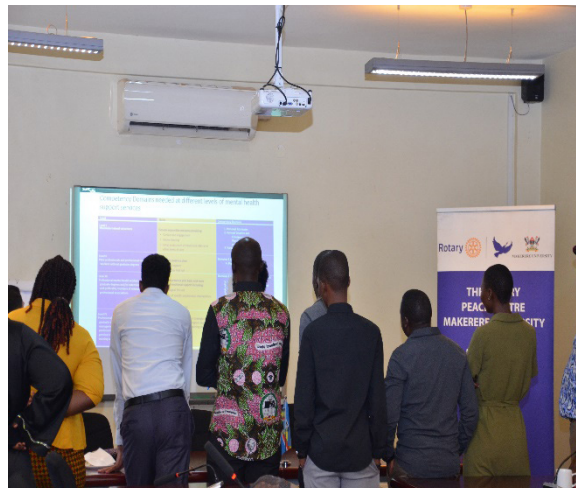
Topic: The Leadership Training by Julius Nyerere Leadership Center

The Leadership Training session by Julius Nyerere training Center introduced the Fellows to Visionary, ethical, inclusive leadership essential for conflict resolution and sustainable peace, utilizing the vast examples from across Africa. A special session by Dr. Nassozi K. Muwanga, provided insights to the importance of tailoring peace building approaches to local contexts. She emphasized the role of leaders in ensuring long term peace. The fellows were introduced to the art of self-leadership, servant leadership and the tools needed for influential leadership. There were team building activities, critical thinking and leadership exercises at the end of the day.



Topic: Theories and Practice for Psychosocial well-being: Models and domain of interventions by Dr Lynda Nakawala.

The fellows were encouraged to share and analyses their life experience and how it has affected the trajectory of their lives. Dr. Lynda emphasized the need for peace builders to deal with the voices in their heads, emotionally present to be able to great peace builders. This session enabled the fellows appreciate emotional stability in Humanitarian situations.



Topic: **Guidelines in minimum response to MHPSS in humanitarian situations by Kikooma Julius.**

Dr. Julius emphasized the need for the fellows to understand themselves as peace builders so as create positive impact in their communities. He showed the fellows how they can mentally and emotionally support other peace builders.



Topic: **Conflict Analysis; Tools, Frameworks and AVP by Dr. Chris Tuhirirwe and Rev. Simon Masiga**

This session was facilitated by Dr. Chris Tuhirirwe and Rev. Simon Masiga, who explained the various conflict analysis tools. They introduced the fellows to the different frameworks of understanding conflict dynamics and root causes. The session was interactive which made the fellows apply the analysis frameworks to live examples using appropriate tools to develop effective resolution strategies.



Topic: **Alternatives to Violence Program by Dr. Patrick Teko Samson**

The Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) led by Dr. Patrick Teko Samson, focused on the principles of non-violence. The fellows engaged in discussions about the AVP Mandala, which emphasizes transformative approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The fellows reflected on their own experiences with violence and exploring constructive alternatives, this equipped them with the tools to promote non-violent strategies in their communities.



Topic: **Capstone Conference**

Cohort 7 Peace fellows exhibited their contribution to transformed societies. The fellows presented their social change initiatives under the theme: **"Collaborative Peacebuilding for Societal Transformation"**

During the event, Cohort 7 peace fellows presented their Social Change Initiative reports, experiences, challenges and the impact created in their respective communities through the initiatives. 21 Peace fellows extensively projected the topics of their initiatives ranging from Peace journalism, Youths, Women empowerment, Refugees, SGBV, Climate and Leadership. The Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick commended the Peace fellows for the work well done, and being a stepping stone towards peace. Their presentations demonstrated the fellow's dedication to implementing sustainable solutions in their respective communities. The SCI's are listed below.



WEEK FOUR

Theme: **FUNDAMENTALS AND APPROACHES TO PEACE AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION CAPSTONE**
 Topic: **Localizing Peace: Methods and Approaches,**
 Topic: **State and Non-State Actors in Peace Building and Development,**
 Topic: **Critical Debates of Political Economy in Africa and Conflict Economies & Peace Building by Dr. Dickson Kanakulya**

The fellows had an engaging and interactive day with several topics facilitated by Dr. Dickson Kanakulya. The session focused on localizing peace strategies. He urged the fellows think critically about how localized strategies could be implemented in their own communities, promoting sustainability in peace initiatives. Dr. Dickson emphasized the importance of adapting peacebuilding initiatives that align with the social, political and cultural of their local communities.

Dr. Dickson further engaged the fellows in a conversation on Africa's political economy, the complexities of conflict economies, and the implications for peace building to foster a better understanding of local conflict dynamics. While concluding this session, Dr. Dickson left them with a reminder of the African Philosophy foundation that is I am because we are and since we are therefore I am.

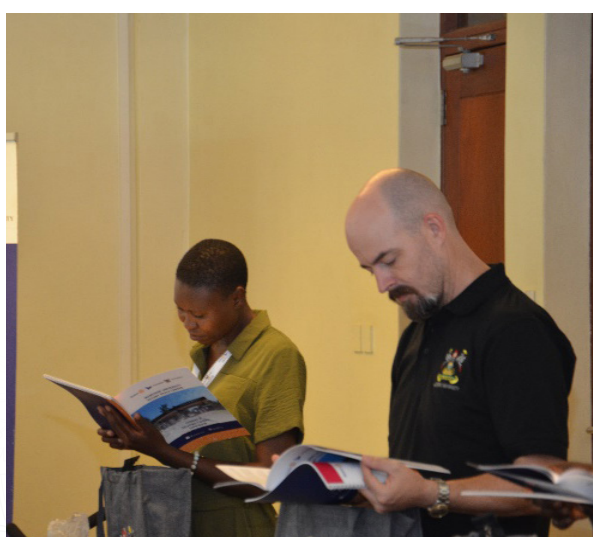


Topic: African Philosophy & Indigenous mechanisms for conflict Transformation by Dr. Dickson Kanakulya

In this session, he encouraged the fellows to consider how the traditional knowledge systems can form modern peace building approaches, and the value of integrating indigenous perspectives in resolving contemporary conflicts, such that the African bias of: Africans are savages, backwards, uncivilized, have nothing to bring to the table is addressed. Dr. Dickson asked the fellows to select one indigenous African Peace building mechanism in the communities and discuss how it could be used as a method of localization of peace. This session was moderated by a fellow Nyasha Prisca, and each fellow shared local peace building mechanisms in their communities and how they can be adopted into the modern day era of peace building and conflict management.

Later in the day, Assoc. Prof Hellen visited the class to check on the settling in progress of the fellows. She came bearing a package for the fellows to make their stay more comfortable which included a bag, reflector jacket, a note book, pens, flash, a cup and program guide.

The fellows received their Leadership training certificates from the Nyerere Leadership Training Center, fellow Patrick Koffa Doe 11 took charge of this session, this gave an opportunity for the fellows to bond more by mentioning a good quality about each other while they received their certificates.



**Topic: Exploring indigenous mechanisms of Peace Building
Study Visit to Bulange Mengo**

The fellows visited Buganda Kingdom which provided them with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role of local leadership and different cultural practices in maintaining a peaceful coexistence among diverse groups. Mr Najib Nsubuga took them through the history of Buganda, roles of the Kabaka and Lukiiko, the Buganda Clan Structures and the kingdoms initiatives. The session highlighted how every bit of Buganda contributes to peace and unity in the modern times.



Topic: Music and Theater as Methodological Tools for Negotiating Peace and Conflict in Africa by Prof. Sylvia Antonia Nakimera Nannyonga-Tamusuza

The different cultural expressions have historically played a role in reconciliation negotiating for peace and healing across African societies. Prof. Sylvia A. Nannyonga-Tamusuza engaged the fellows in different dance and theater experiences and exercises, thus making them experiencing how these forms of ART can bridge cultural divides and promote empathy in post-conflict contexts. It was an interactive session that deepened the understanding of the power of arts in peace building.

The session ended with the Makerere anthem and a dance to the song Jerusalem, this allowed the fellows to bond more but also relate to the session topic.



WEEK FIVE

Theme: **TERRORISM, RESILIENCE, IDENTITY AND HUMAN SECURITY**

Topic: **The Terrorism Threat: Responses & Global Initiatives**

Guest Speaker **Col. Okei Rukogota**

Col. Okei Rukogota PSC (U), provided insights on the contemporary terrorism threat. Heated discussions on terror threats and responses across the globe and examples of radicalization. He emphasized the need for regional cooperation and strategic initiatives to address these pressing security challenges.



Topic: **Discussion on terrorism threats and response strategies.**

Dr. Dickson and the fellows analyzed the IGAD report for Uganda, East African Region and ECOWAS. This discussion led to the analysis of the life span extremist groups. He ended the session with a take home for the fellows which was the biggest fear of humans is the unknown and this has put many people in spaces they aren't supposed to be, thus as peace builders learn to moderate your ideologies.

Topic: **Sourcing literature in different Academic Disciplines by Dr. Isaac Tibasiima**

Dr. Isaac equipped fellows with techniques of critically evaluating and organizing academic sources relevant to research and peace building projects.

The fellows were also introduced to essential research data bases, sourcing literature and effective search strategies by the university Library team. They encouraged the fellows to broaden their perspectives and strengthen the academic foundations of their Social Change Initiatives through interdisciplinary research. This was a practical engagement at the University Library.



Topic: Understanding Resilience: Definitions, Concepts and mechanisms and Models and Approaches for individual and community Resilience Building by Dr. Richard Balikoowa

This session led by Dr. Richard Balikoowa, fellows explored the connection of individual and community resilience. He emphasized how individual strength helps in building stronger resilient communities. The discussion led to the different resilience approaches and how they are a necessity in effective crisis recovery.



Topic: Study Visit The AIDS Support Organization (TASO)

A discussion on resilience building through the experiences of expert clients led by Mr. Kikomeko Godfrey, where they all shared their stories of resilience and the critical role of local knowledge in fostering sustainable peace. The fellows navigated the conflicts that arise due to HIV/AIDS in societies, families or work places. The fellows liked the TASO program of empowering people with disabilities to earn a living and also live positively.

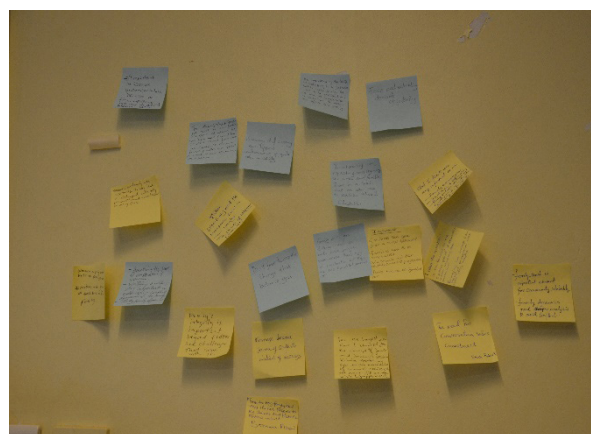
Mr. Godfrey Kikomeko concluded the discussion with a reminder on the importance of community

involvement in every aspect of peace building.



Topic: Impact on families, their resilience and coping mechanisms, Family and Family dynamics in conflict settings by Dr. Christine Mpyangu Mbabazi.

Dr. Christine Mpyangu Mbabazi facilitated a session on family dynamics in conflict settings. She emphasized the importance of patience, empathy, and communication in resolving family disputes. By creating a supportive environment, families can address conflicts constructively while safeguarding the well-being of all members.



Topic: Using the No-Method Approach for Community Peacebuilding Projects by Assoc. Prof. Vincent Muwanika and Assoc. Prof. Charles Masembe

Associate Professors, Vincent Muwanika and Charles Masembe, focused on the No-Method approach to community peacebuilding. This method underscores the significance of local engagement and contextual understanding, moving away from rigid methodologies. Fellows recognized that empowering local groups to identify their own needs and solutions fosters ownership and enhances the sustainability of peace initiatives, ensuring that interventions are relevant and effective. that each community has unique dynamics that necessitate tailored peacebuilding strategies



WEEK SIX

Theme: **MEDIATION TRAINING AND FIELD EXCURSION PREPARATION**

The 40-hour Mediation Course was done by tutors Joy Gitau Muthoni and Joy Thou Mutheta from ACA Mediation Center. They were accompanied by counsel Zubedah Namugenyi.

The fellows were joined by Uganda Police Force in this training. They collaborated, networked and learnt new techniques. They worked alongside each other. This made peace fellows appreciate the role of armed forces in peace building endeavors.

The week was action packed with role plays and various topics as shown below being covered;

Topic: **Introduction to the fundamentals of mediation**, an overview of the what, where, when, why and how mediation is done.

Topic: **Understanding Conflict and the spectrum of conflict resolution mechanisms, Negotiation and Dialogue**, they were introduced to the various dispute resolution mechanisms such as negotiation, arbitration and collaboration. These equipped fellows with tools to navigate disputes in an organized sustainable way with mutual understanding and respect.

Topic: **Nature and Principles of mediation, Mediation Process and Stages, Key Skills, Techniques, Roles and Attributes of a Mediator**. The session began with a recap of Mondays lessons, focusing on deepening the fellows understanding of how mediation comes in conflict resolution frameworks such as fostering dialogues and cooperation. Practical interactive role playing was done in the afternoon to enable fellows and the officers apply, understand and enhance their techniques in different conflict scenarios, this was moderated by Joy Gitau and Joy Thou.

Topic: **Dealing with Prejudices and Emotions, Culture, Gender, Power and Factors that hinder or facilitate Settlement**. An emphasis on self-awareness and emotional regulation in mediation was made by Joy Thou Mutheta. She guided the fellows through a body scan, in order to enhance fellows stress management. Later an engaging role play session with emphasis and attentiveness on gender, prejudices, culture and power, as some of the factors that hinder settlements in mediation. Fellows and officers were given different self-care strategies to increase their self-awareness, address emotional triggers and improve on their resilience in conflict resolution.

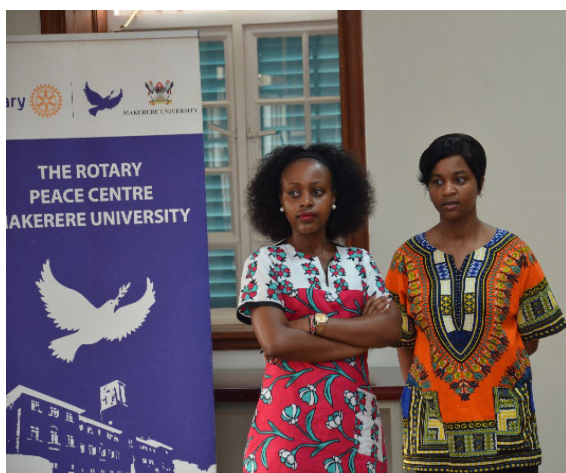
Topics: **Advanced Mediation Settings. Multi-Stakeholder Mediations, Court Annexed Mediation**. The

centering exercises which focused on the five senses, enhanced mindfulness and emotional regulation. Then there was a Q&A session on mediation, clarifying key concepts taught during the week and discussing strategies to improve their mediation skills.

Ms. Zubedda Namugenyi, a lawyer observed role-play sessions, provided constructive feedback to the fellows. These sessions focused on refining their peacebuilding skills, including communication, negotiation, and mediation, in a practical, supportive environment. She also elaborated how law, lawyers and the court works hand in hand with mediation.

Topics: Professional Ethical Standards and Emerging Issues in the Mediation field, Developing Mediation Practice. The fellows were taken through the advancing ethical standards with in the mediation field, maintaining impartiality, confidentiality and respect for diverse perspectives in the processes. The roles of technology, adaptation of the emerging global and cultural shifts, professional development were some of the issues addressed in this session by Joy Gitau.

The fellows and police officers were awarded with mediation certificates for completing the 40hour course celebrating their commitment to peace building.





WEEK SEVEN

Theme: **FIELD EXCURSION 1: REFUGEES, MIGRATION AND COMMUNITY COHESION**

The week long field excursion to Northern Uganda led by Rev Dr. Simon Masiga, the Cohort 9 fellows visited districts Gulu, Kitgum, Adjumani and Amuru. Their understanding of the LRA war and its effects such as forced migration, social cohesion, psychosocial challenges among others in conflict situations, was deepened. This enhanced their practical skills to address conflicts and peace building challenges

The week started off with a visit to the UNHCR Field Office in Palabek Refugee Settlement, during their visit, they interacted with UNHCR officials and OPM on the plight of refugees and host communities in Uganda and Palabek Refugee settlement.



The fellows later visited Palabek Refugee settlement camp Block 3 to explore the question of refugees and host communities in peacebuilding. They got a better understanding of the resilience of refugees to overcome the challenges of displacement.

A visit to Lukodi Memorial site to get a better understanding of the history and ongoing recovery projects in the area. Lukodi Massacre Memorial Site in Lukodi Village, Bungatira Sub County, Gulu District, the Massacre site marks the brutal mass killings that took place on 19th May 2004 when the Lord's Resistance Army raided Lukodi village.



The fellows also had a conversation with LRA Ex-Combatant community in Gulu DDR (women and men), it gave them a better understanding the struggles of reintegration, post war and importance of community support in rebuilding their lives. The ex-combatants shared a brief on their projects, and steps being taken by them as a group to build capacity, resilience, peace and financial empowerment.



To better understand the role and initiatives taken by cultural leaders to promote mental heal and socio-economic wellbeing of migrants, locals and refugees, the fellows visited Ker Kwaro Palace (Acholi Paramount Chieftdom). The Acholi Prime minister Micheal Otim emphasized the steps that have been taken to ensure peace prevails in the region.



Shiekh Musa Karim the vice chairperson of the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace initiative, highlighted the councils goal of creating a just society where people have all their rights done in a holistic approach.



The week-long field trip to Northern Uganda ended with a visit to Apaa land, this gave fellows a feel of working as a peace builder, the challenges they go through and a view of the regions peacebuilding and recovery efforts.

At the end of each day, the fellows would have a debrief to share what they have learnt and also compare theoretical ideas that have been adopted in Northern Uganda in a bid to manage conflict and peacebuilding.



The week long field excursion gave the fellows an understanding and appreciation of the following:

- Sacrifice and resilience needed to work in a conflict and post conflict region.
- The background, causes and the role of external structures in conflicts.
- The indigenous methods/Approaches used in Post Conflict settings for peacebuilding and reconciliation.
- Uganda's initiatives to foster Amnesty and reconciliation in Northern Uganda, the role of religious and media institutions in building peace.

WEEK EIGHT

Theme: **DEMOGRAPHY, HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNANCE AND MEDIA**

Topic: **Demography, youth Peacebuilding and Conflict in Africa – Dr. Elizabeth Nansubuga**

Dr. Elizabeth Nansubuga engaged the fellows on the role of demographics, particularly youth, in peacebuilding and conflict in Africa. In Uganda, where 77% of the population is under 25, it's essential to involve this demographic in peace efforts. Dr. Nansubuga emphasized how youth are often at the forefront of addressing conflict, offering fresh perspectives and driving positive change within communities. She looked at the recent events in the world and how the youth bulge is contributing to peace building.



Topic: **Human Rights, Good Governance and Contemporary Challenges of Governance by Dr. Zahara Nampewo**

The engaging and insightful session by Dr. Zahara Nampewo emphasized transparency, accountability, and rule of law in protecting human rights and sustainable peace. She explored the relationship between human rights and good governance. She engaged the fellows in another discussion on contemporary challenges of governance. She provided different perspectives on governance to strengthen societal structures and peace building efforts.

Topic: **Application Human Rights Institutions and Mechanisms and Role of Key Actors by.**
Guest Speaker **Hon Muwanga Muhammad Kivumbi**

He emphasized the role of different actors in promoting accountability and safe guarding citizens' rights. His exciting and engaging session ended with an emphasis on the human rights institutions, mechanisms and how they can be utilized by the citizens.



Topic: **Understanding Social Justice and Governance by Dr. Dickson Kanakulya**

Dr. Dickson Kanakulya in an interactive engaging discussion, he explored the intersection of equitable policy-making and governance frameworks. He emphasized the importance social justice, that includes fairness, equity and participation urging fellows to consider all these in a local and global context. The fellows had a moment to do a power walk to with Dr. Dickson so as to appreciate why social justice is vital in this world. They later analyzed as to why some fellows remained behind while others had completed all the steps, this gave them time to appreciate their backgrounds but also vow to fight for social justice more.



Topic: **Roles, principles and values of journalism in society, new journalism paradigms, media for peacebuilding- Dr. William Tayebwa**

Dr. William guided the fellows through an insightful session on the roles, principles, and values of journalism in society. His session equipped fellows with critical insights of the power of media in fostering reconciliation, understanding and a tool for peace.

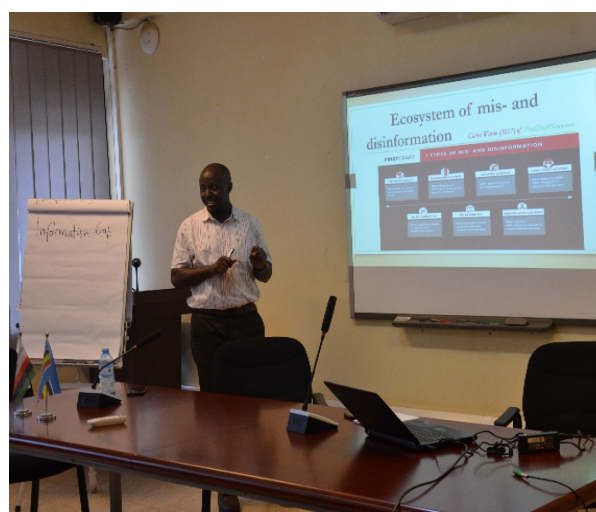


Topic: Digital storytelling in peacebuilding by Edward Tumwine

Edward Tumwine highlighted how digital storytelling can empower individuals, especially in conflict zones, enabling them to share their narratives, thus fostering empathy and promoting social cohesion.

Topic: Concept of news Vs Fake news media and information literacy to curb "Fake news" by Davies Rwabu

He emphasized the importance of media literacy and role of information in peace building. In the age of fake news, how to navigate social media and news to get the right information. The fellows went through the eco-system of mis and dis-information, reporting and media.



Topic: Conflict Sensitive reporting in Action

Site Visit Vision Group with Davies Rwabu

The fellows were guided by Steven Matege, who gave a behind-the-scenes look at the editorial process and the entire news cycle. The questions on how Vision group shapes public perception in times of conflict, were expertly answered by Mr Steven. He emphasized the balance of delivering accurate and timely news while combating the spread of misinformation as journalists is upheld at the group.

Felix Osike member of Rotary International communication committee, working with New Vision, also highlighted how Rotary in Uganda collaborates with New Vision. He further clarified on how

the Vision group is financed and stays afloat in today's changing world.



WEEK NINE

Theme: **POSITIVE PEACE WORKSHOP**

Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) is a global think tank that measures peace and organizes peace indexes globally. It works and partners with Rotary International. The peace fellows participated in a 3-day workshop on the positive peace philosophy from the Institute. Topics such as

- a) **Introduction to the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP)** by Dr. Dan Odaba & Arinolah N Omollo. This was an ice breaker introduction to the institute and the course overview. This eased the fellows in to positive peace.
- b) **Positive Peace Activation in Africa.** The session included projects that have been done in different communities and with both government and private institutions that are aimed at creating a lasting change. The fellows involved in a self-paced online exercise that assessed

their understanding of peace on the IEP website (<https://www.economicandpeace.org>) and, also conducted group discussions to help them understand the practical ways on how positive peace can be upheld.

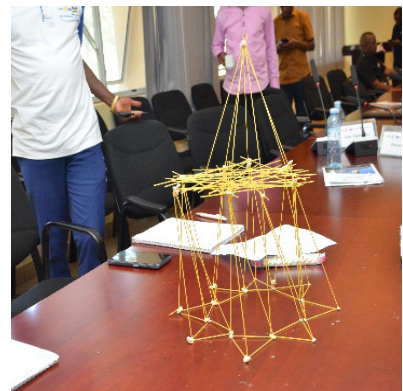
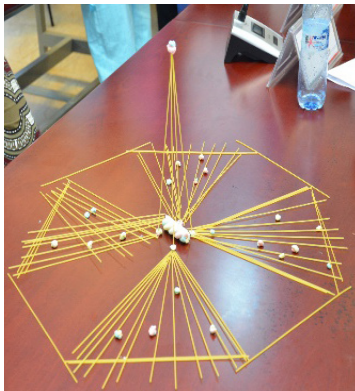
- c) IEP Research: Global Peace Index.** A deep dive into global peace and security trends with Dr. David Hammond, Director of Research at the Institute for Economics and Peace, who presented the Global Peace Index (GPI). He highlighted the decline in global peace, noting the rise in militarization and ongoing conflict in several nations. He also gave an in-depth analysis of the Positive Peace Index (PPI), a comprehensive measure evaluating the factors that contribute to peaceful societies. Dr. Odaba and Ms. Omollo then guided the fellows through an exploration of the PPI for their respective countries, linking its tools to their Social Change Initiatives (SCIs).



- d) Global Terrorism Index,** Serge Stroobants, Director for Europe and the MENA region at IEP, provided insights into the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), shared an annual report ranking countries based on terrorist activity and informing policy responses to global terrorism trends.
- e) Partnerships,** the importance of partnerships in peace building and conflict resolution was covered by Patricia Garcia AO, the Institute's Partnerships Development Manager, her session emphasized how strategic alliances are crucial for amplifying peace initiatives
- f) Pillars of Positive Peace,** to make learning easier and fun, the fellows participated in interactive peace games, that is yarn game demonstrating the interconnectedness of the pillars of peace and how performance affects their operation. And a marshmallow challenge, which required them to apply these pillars to case studies in media, civil society organizations, and higher education institutions. These hypothetical peace game described the indicators and pillars of peace which include:

- Sound business environment
- Respect of Rights of others
- Free flow of information
- Equal distribution of Resources

- High level of human capital
- Low levels of corruption
- Good Relations with neighbours
- Well-functioning government



The session concluded with a certificate award ceremony, recognizing fellows who successfully completed the course. Dr. Eric Awich Ochen and Assoc. Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala presented the certificates, celebrating the fellows' dedication to peacebuilding.





Topic: **Mentor Mentee Consultations and submission of final SCI proposal.**

The mentorship team, led by Assoc. Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, included Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo Karungi, Dr. Umar Serunjogi, Dr. Dickson Kanakulya, Rev. Simon Masiga, Dr. Chris Tuhirirwe and Dr. Eria Serwajja. Their expert guidance helped fellows address potential challenges, enhance feasibility, and align their projects with sustainable peacebuilding strategies.



This was an intensive and productive day for the fellows because of the rigorous discussions and collaborative reviews, ensuring that each proposal was well-structured and impactful. Fellows participated in group mentorship sessions, where they received valuable insights and feedback to refine their approaches and strengthen their initiatives. The valuable insights and feedback helped the fellows to refine their approaches and strengthen their initiatives.



WEEK TEN

Theme: **NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, LIVELIHOODS AND INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE**

Dr. Eriya Serwajja took the fellows through different sessions on natural resources, environment and livelihoods. He encouraged the fellows to share their country's experiences and their thoughts in regards to the following topics

Topic: **Natural Resources and Conflicts in Africa.** Dr Eriya's discussion underscored the need for equitable resource management to mitigate conflict and support sustainable development. He highlighted the link between natural resources and conflict in Africa using examples such as Democratic Republic of Congo's untapped mineral reserves. The discussion was heated and engaging for the fellows.

Topic: **African Models for Environmental Sustainability and Peace Building and Effects of Climate Change on Conflict Escalation in Africa.** He continued engaging the fellows in exploring African models for environmental sustainability and peacebuilding. He emphasized strategies such as governance frameworks, renewable energy projects, community-driven approaches, and leveraging technology. The discussion transitioned into how climate change acts as a “threat multiplier,” intensifying conflict risks by exacerbating resource scarcity, migration pressures, and socio-political tension. The critical relationship between climate change and conflict escalation in Africa sparked a heated discussion, with a conclusion that these models combine ecological responsibility with social stability, promoting resilience and peace.

Topic: **Livelihoods and Sustainable Development.** The link between livelihoods and sustainable development, how it ensures long term resource availability, providing a foundation for secure livelihoods. These livelihoods play an important role in promoting economic growth and social development, also contributing to sustainability and poverty reduction. Dr Eriya highlighted the intersection of these concepts and their importance in a peaceful resilient and inclusive future.



Topic: **Ecological and carbon footprints in Africa by Dr. Paul Mukwaya.**

Together with the fellows, Dr. Paul measured their carbon footprints. He explained how the individual's consumption or habits contribute to their carbon foot print in the world. He explained how the ecological footprint measures the land needed to support an individual's consumption and waste, while the carbon footprint focuses on greenhouse gas emissions, particularly CO2 equivalents. These metrics serve as essential tools in sustainability efforts, helping to quantify environmental impacts and guide strategies for a greener, more sustainable future.



Topic: Understanding Interreligious and Intercultural dialogue & Religion and culture as sources of Peace and conflict by Hajj Abdu Katende and Dr. Umaru Serunjogi.

A discussion led by Hajj Abdu Katende and Dr. Umaru Serunjogi on how the inter-religious dialogue foster understanding, and inter-cultural dialogues bridge ethnic and cultural differences to promote social cohesion. It was an interesting discussion, because the fellows got a chance to explore the different superiority complexes in society. In the end, both emphasized the importance of these dialogues in a peace building.



Visit from DGND Rtn Michelle Coradetti

The fellows had the opportunity to meet Rotarian Michelle Corradetti, District Peace Chair for Rotary District 5110, on a friendly exchange visit to Rotary Club of Kampala Metropolitan, who is also the Applications Evaluator for Rotary International and the District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) for D5110. Michelle's visit provided a chance for the fellows to interact with a key figure in the Rotary Peace Fellowship network. She was escorted by Rotarians Marion and Sarah.



Study Visit: United Religious Initiative led by Dr Umaru Serunjogi

Topic: Exploring Inter-faith dialogue in action and the role of inter- religious initiative

The fellows visited the United Religions Initiative (URI), where Ms. Despina Namwembe, the Regional Coordinator for URI's Great Lakes, guided them through a discussion on interfaith dialogue in action. She gave a brief history of United Religious Initiative and its different offices around the world. She

emphasized the importance of understanding different faiths and beliefs, highlighting how interfaith activities foster community cohesion and peace.



Topic: **The component of Justice, Peace and Accountability by ICC**

Cohort 9 had the privilege of hosting Jimmy Otim from the International Criminal Court (ICC), who spoke to the fellows about the ICC's work in Uganda and globally. He highlighted the role of the ICC in promoting justice and accountability, particularly in the context of Uganda's efforts to address war crimes and crimes against humanity. He highlighted how the reparations by ICC are done.

Topic: **Political Economy by Dr. Niringiyimana Julius**

He led an engaging session on the political economy, focusing on Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) and their impact on Uganda's economic development. His insights shed light on how global economic forces shape national policies and local communities.

Topic: **Field Visit to Religious Sites**

The peace fellows visited 3 significant religious sites to explore the relationship between religion and peacebuilding.

Namugongo Martyrs Shrine

The visit started with Uganda Martyrs' Shrine in Namugogo, Kampala, a site where 22 Uganda Martyrs were killed then by the King between 1885 and 1887 for their Christian faith.

During the visit, the fellows learnt the sacrifices of the Martyrs and how this action instilled the need to build peace through inter-faith dialogue and co-existence. This visit covered certain nuances in the histories of both Buganda Kingdom and Uganda as a whole.



The fellows also visited **the Bahai Temple**, the first in East Africa, they learnt its history and how religion is influencing peaceful co-existence amongst communities with various religions. This faith emphasizes and thrives on the teachings of peace, equality and unity.

Finally, a visit to **National Mosque** in Old Kampala gave the fellows an insight on how Interfaith dialogues are also organized to promote mutual understanding and respect among different religious communities. At the National Mosque, fellows explored its role in community outreach, interfaith dialogue, and education, highlighting the importance of religious collaboration for peacebuilding. The visit provided valuable insights into how religious institutions contribute to fostering unity and reconciliation.



WEEK 11

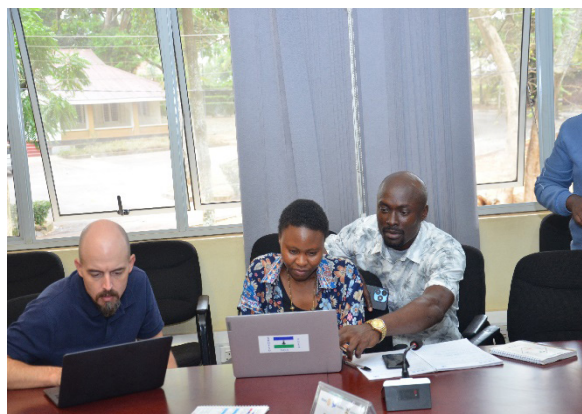
Theme: **GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY; SCI PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS**

Topic: **Introduction to Gender and Gender Concepts Dr. Micheal George Kizito**

Dr. Michael engaged the fellows in a session on the importance of gender in peace building, and how it influences conflict dynamics and peace processes. He enlightened fellows on gender-sensitive approaches to enhance effectiveness and sustainability of peace building initiatives based on age,

gender and ethnicity. He looked at the gender framing, conflict and peace nexus.

He ended the session by engaging the fellows in a discussion about strategies for gender sensitive peace building. The fellows gave examples of stereotypical proverbs in their cultures and how they contribute to peace, conflict and conflict management.



Topic: **Women Combatants and Non – combatants in providing security**

Guest Speaker **ACP Dr. Barbara Alungat**

ACP Dr. Barbara explained the involvement of women in armed conflicts, where many serve as combatants, leaders, nurses or support staff. She highlighted the roles of women in security sighting examples from around the world. She used her personal experience to emphasize the need for all of us to empower women both home and away because they are the cornerstone of peace in the world

Topic: **The UN system and the genesis of UNSCR 1325 & WSP Agenda in Africa by Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo**

Dr. Charlotte discussed the UN System and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Africa, focusing on UNSCR 1325, which recognizes women's essential role in peacebuilding and security efforts.



Topic: **Presentation of the SCI proposals**

Guidance and collaboration by Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo Karungi and Dr. Samson Barigye to the fellows in refining their Social Change Initiative Proposals for sustainability. They emphasized the use of proper language, SMART goals, realistic projects, timelines and involvement of marginalized groups

such as women and the youth for comprehensive and effective implementation. Both Dr. Charlotte and Dr. Barigye emphasized collaboration and partnerships between each other as fellows but also other organizations.



Topic: **Accessing MUELE**

A hands on session for the fellows in accessing and navigating MUELE for online content. The team from the Institute of Open and Long distance eLearning were guided the fellows through to get their log-ins right and ready for use.



Topic: **Understanding Mass Atrocities and Genocide**

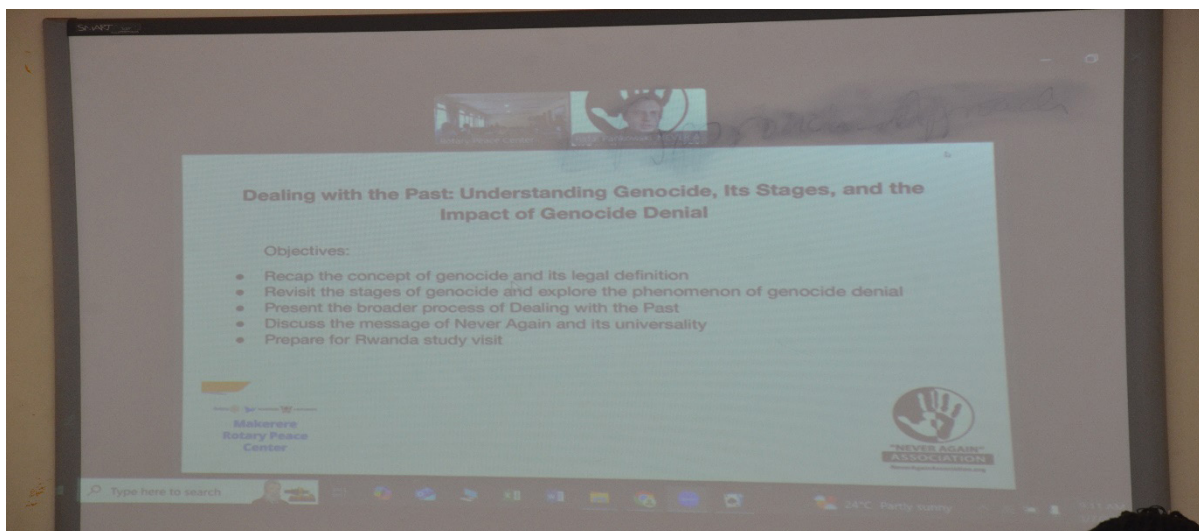
Dr. Dickson Kanakulya and Dr. Hutheifa Busuulwa introduced the fellows to the differences between war, crimes against humanity, genocide and mass atrocities. They further dissected the different conflicts and how they can be categorized. This allowed the fellows appreciate and understand the Rwanda genocide, Ukraine-Russia war, the Anglo-Francophone conflict in Cameroon.



Topic: **Stages of Genocide and Genocide denial**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Rafal Pankwoski

A cohort 8 fellow, Dr. Rafal, engaged the fellows in a discussion about the stages of genocide and genocide denial. Together they analyzed several genocides and their lifespans to drive the point home on the stages and genocide denial. He ended the session with an introduction to different Never Again associations all over the world and question there an event or period in your country that the term never again applies?



WEEK TWELVE

Theme: **EXCURSION TWO: VISIT TO RWANDA**

The week long field excursion to Kigali, Rwanda led by Assoc. Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, alongside Dr. Samson Bariye and Dr. Dickson Kanakulya, Cohort 9 fellows had lectures and also visited various memorial sites.

The journey to Rwanda, was filled with sight-seeing and learning more about the western part of Uganda. Rwanda's well maintained roads, plastic ban enforcement and disciplined governance hugely contrasted with Uganda's infrastructure. The fellows experienced the city's cleanliness and organization settling at Karisimbi Hotel.

They had a lecture on post genocide peacebuilding, highlighting Rwanda's initiatives like Imihingo, Umuganda and Itorero. Later the fellows watched the 600 film (Soldiers story) in the end they shared how the film made them feel and lessons they learn from it.

The fellows also visited Murambi Genocide Memorial a school that was turned into a memorial site, in the southern province of Rwanda. Kings Palace museum, Campaign against genocide museum and Ntarama Genocide memorial

To deepen their understanding of Rwanda's reconciliation efforts, the fellows also visited Mayanga- Unity and reconciliation village. And to appreciate Rwanda's economic strategies, they explored Gisozi market, cooperative farming and institutions.

Reflections on Rwanda's transformative governance and development model, considering how these lessons can be applied in the fellows' respective communities/countries marked the end of the excursion. This excursion allowed the fellows to understand and appreciate the following:

Rotary Peace Center's Impact

Rotary Peace Fellows promoting peace and development in a changing world



- The importance of memory, truth and mercy
- Understood the background, causes and the role of external actors in conflicts
- Understood the indigenous methods/ approaches used in post conflict settings from peace building and reconciliation
- And most importantly appreciate Rwanda's efforts in truth and reconciliation process in peace building, supporting co-existence between perpetrators and the victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis.





ON-SITE CLOSING MEETING

RPC management and Staff

A session facilitated by Assoc. Prof. Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala, Prof. Grace Veneranda Mbabazi, and Dr. Dickson Kanakulya. Fellows shared reflections on their learning experiences, highlighting key takeaways from the excursions, field trips, life in Uganda and suggesting improvements for future programs. Dr. Dickson commended the fellows for their active participation, while Assoc. Prof. Helen encouraged them to incorporate insights gained into their Social Change Initiatives while relaying her gratitude to the staff for the effort rendered in smoothly running the Center. Melvina Thomas on behalf of Cohort 9 fellows commended the Director and the staff for the work they have put in to ensure that the program runs smoothly.

Rotarian Damuzungu Willy joined in, and encouraged the fellows to keep in touch with their hosts, to be useful in society and raise the Ugandan, Makerere and Rotary Peace center flag high.

The session fostered a collaborative dialogue, reinforcing the program's commitment to mutual learning and growth.





EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The fellows were involved in several extra-curricular activities that were, meant to build unity amongst themselves, network with others and also create partnerships.

- They had a tour of Kampala learning of the history of Kampala and the sites visited, and the relevance of sites to Uganda's history. Among the sites toured include; 7 hills of Kampala, the Buganda Kings' palace and the Buganda traditional heritage sites in Mengo. For easier navigation of the city during their stay in Uganda.
- Both Cohort 8 and 9 fellows attended the Rotary Peace Concert, organised by Rotarians and Rotaractors in D9213 and D9214. This concert aims at raising funds for the Rotary Peace Center attracted Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends of Rotary, this was an opportunity for Cohort 9 and 8 fellows to network but also meet their hosts who were in attendance. Diego De Carneiro a cohort 8 fellow performed at the concert.
- The first peace walk held at Makerere University, hosted by the Makerere Rotary Peace Center was attended by many dignitaries, Rotarians and Rotaractors. The chief walker was Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. This was another opportunity for both Cohort 8 and 9 fellows to network. It was a fun, relaxing and healthy activity.
- The fellows organised themselves and during the weekends they continued exploring Uganda. They visited Ugandan beaches in Entebbe, source of the Nile in Jinja, Murchison National Park and Ndere Troupe Center. These visits gave them a wholesome experience of Uganda and its beauty.
- Attended different Rotary/ Rotaract fellowships. Some fellows presented on different topics in regards to peace building and conflict management

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