



## Concept Note

### Youth in Leadership and Peacebuilding Course

#### INTRODUCTION

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Africa, with 75% of its population under the age of 30, remains the most youthful continent. Youth play a crucial role in shaping the future of societies, particularly in leadership and peacebuilding. With their unique perspectives, energy, influence, and innovative ideas, young people can drive meaningful changes in the community. Despite the potential of the youth in advancing Africa's development, numerous social issues hinder their ability to contribute effectively to progress.

This is evident in limited access to formal education or apprenticeships, a prolonged economic crisis, and high unemployment rates. It is further compounded by a culture that undermines youth leadership, stifles youth innovation, and hinders their contributions to development. Across the continent, young people remain a driving force behind conflicts such as election-related violence, cybercrime, armed robbery, and numerous social issues. Achieving sustainable peace and security in Africa depends on ensuring the active engagement of young people in governance, peace, and security matters.

The significance of involving youth in leadership and peacebuilding initiatives has recently gained global recognition. This has prompted the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, through its Women, Youth, Peace and Security Institute (WYPSI), to develop a course aimed at youth leadership.

WYPSI, with support from the Swedish government through SIDA, organised a Learning Design and Development (LDD) workshop that brought together subject matter experts (SMEs) to share their expertise and insights for the development of the manual. This aimed to ensure that the manual and subsequent training addresses the specific challenges and requirements identified during consultative meetings with various stakeholders.

## **AIM**

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The training recognises a pressing need to build on the insights and skills of youth leaders within the peace and security architecture. Consequently, the course aims to equip young leaders (participants) with essential skills and knowledge to actively and effectively engage in peacebuilding efforts. Furthermore, it seeks to further empower participants with the tools, knowledge, and networks needed to contribute to peacekeeping efforts in their communities.

## **OBJECTIVES**

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1. Explain the nexus between Leadership, Peacebuilding and the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda.
2. Explain the inter linkages between coordination and collaboration for effective communication amongst diverse stakeholders.
3. Discuss barriers to meaningful youth participation in decision-making at local, national, and regional levels.
4. Explain ethical leadership and decision-making models and its importance in peacebuilding.
5. Identify resource mobilisation strategies to sustain youth-led peace projects.

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

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This course is designed for:

- Youth Leaders and Activists: emerging leaders involved in governance, peacebuilding, and community development initiatives.
- Youth-Led and Youth-Focused Civil Society Organization (CSOs) representatives: Members of youth-focused NGOs and grassroots movements working on conflicts resolution, human rights and advocacy.
- Government and Policy Practitioners: Young professionals working in government institution, particularly in youth development, security and governance sectors.
- Academic and Researchers: Youth scholars and students focusing on peace studies, international relations, and leadership.
- Media and Communication Specialist: Young professionals using media as a tool for peacebuilding, countering misinformation, and promoting social cohesion.
- Entrepreneur and Social Innovators: Youth driving socio economic change through innovation, business, and entrepreneurship in conflict-prone areas.

- Regional and International Youth Network: Representatives from youth platforms working on regional and global peacebuilding efforts.
  - At least 60% of participants should be between the ages of 15 and 35.

## METHODOLOGY

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1. **Interactive Workshops:** Engaging sessions that apply learning design principles from the LDD workshop to promote active participation and experimental learning.
2. **Role-playing and Simulations:** Practical exercises that stimulate conflict scenarios, allowing participants to practice negotiations and mediation skills in a safe environment.
3. **Guest Speakers and Panel Discussions:** Inviting experienced leaders and peacebuilding practitioners to share insights, experiences, and strategies for effective leadership.
4. **Mentorship Programs:** Pairing participants with experienced leaders and peacebuilding practitioners for guidance and support.
5. **Group Activities:** Collaborative exercise that promote teamwork and collective problem – solving.
6. **Action Plan:** To guide participants in developing actionable plans for implementing peacebuilding projects in their communities.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

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1. Participants will be able to outline the linkages between Leadership, Peacebuilding, and the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda
2. A network of youth leaders will gain knowledge on coordination and collaboration for effective communication amongst diverse stakeholders.
3. Participants will be able to identify or roll out barriers to meaningful participation in decision-making at local, national and regional levels.
4. Participants will be equipped with ethical leadership and decision-making models and its importance in peacebuilding.
5. Participants will be skilled in resource mobilization in sustaining youth-led peace projects

## VENUE/DATE:

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The Youth in Leadership and Peacebuilding will be held at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) on 12 – 16 May 2025.