



YOUTH, PEACE & SECURITY
PUBLIC LECTURE AND DIALOGUE SERIES
REPORT

NOV. 2022



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Symbol of Peace and Harmony



Security Service
interaction with
students

ACP.


Alhaji Al-Meyao Abass Kwarasey

[DIRECTOR OPERATIONS, POLICE HEADQUARTERS]



Dr. Hakim Williams

[U.S. Fulbright Scholar hosted by
Youth Bridge Foundation, Ghana]



U.S. Embassy Rep.
addressing students

Ms. Laneice Brooker

[U.S. Embassy]



Addressing the
communication needs
of the hearing-impaired

Robert Frimpong Manso

[Sign Language Interpreter]

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1.0 BACKGROUND

Africa today is experiencing the most rapid urbanization in the world with over 70 percent of its 1.4 billion population under the age of 35years. For the Continent to realize a better footprint of Agenda 2063 , it is imperative to strengthen continental Actions that would empower its demographic dividend, either at home or from the Diaspora to become engaging citizens who would own and drive the Continent’s Peace and Security Agenda – requisite for development.

Consistent with AU’s Agenda for Youth, Youth Bridge Foundation has anchored its programs on the belief that Africa’s young people is its greatest asset, so it’s imperative to bring youth issues to the center of Africa’s development agenda and promote the role of youth as equal partners in developing their societies.

Peace and security have been an issue with an observing complexities and threat not only to Africa’s development but more so to the continent’s youth development agenda. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250), the first resolution on youth, peace and security emphasizes the importance of youth as agents of change in the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Whilst Resolution 2250, a thematic resolution, deals with the topic of youth from an international peace and security perspective, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) sets a holistic framework in promoting Peace and Security in/and among African countries. Mirroring the 5 Pillars of UNSCR Resolution 2250 against the 5 Pillars of APSA clearly seem designed to form synergy.

5-Objevtives of APSA	5-Pillars of UNSCR 2250
• Conflict Prevention	• Prevention
• Crisis/Conflict Management	• Protection
• Post Conflict Reconstruction and Peace Building	• Disengagement and Reintegration
• Strategic Security Issues	• Participation
• Coordination and Partnerships	• Partnership

Whilst both Architectures unequivocally promotes new narratives of young people with regards to peace and ensures legitimacy and accountability, **YBF maintains that youth inclusive multi-stakeholder approach in peace building effort must be prioritized.**

Inspired by these narratives and acknowledging that the complexity of conflict issues requires multi-stakeholder engagement, the Youth, Peace and Security Desk of YBF designed and instituted the Public Lecture and Dialogue Series under the broader theme “My Neighbour My Friend, My Neighbour My Enemy”.

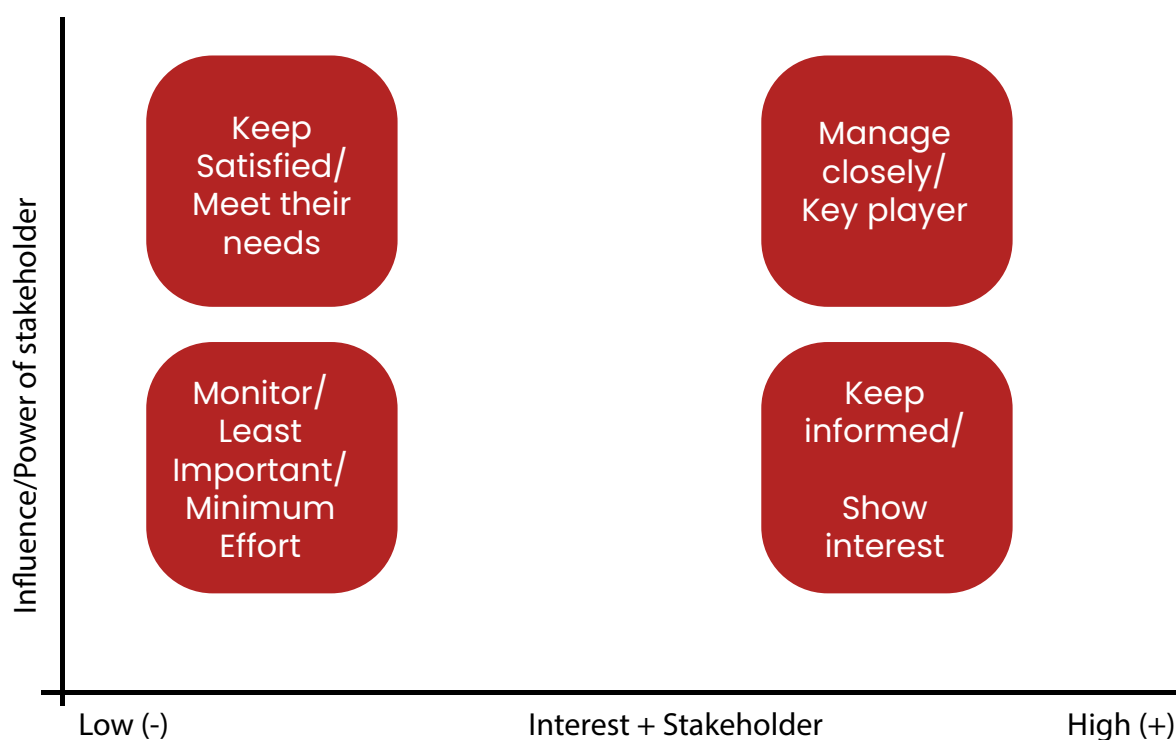
2.0 Stakeholder Mapping – Addressing Youth Marginalization

2.1 Conventional Stakeholder Matrix

Conventionally, key players are said to demand the most attention – we ignore them at our risk. It has also been held that we should make sure we meet the needs of those regarded to have strong influence, but with less interest. We should be ‘considerate’ on the part of stakeholders who have high interest but less clout, but advice not to waste much time on those with little interest, and not much influence.

Fig. 1: Conventional Stakeholder Matrix

High (+)



Whilst this looks systematic and rational, an important consequence of mapping stakeholders this way, YBF maintains, include:

1. Ignoring potentially useful input of the youth who see things differently; and they may not currently be interested, and probably not powerful.
2. Focusing most attention and resources on those individuals and groups who are already highly engaged and will continue to be.
3. Reinforcing the tendency to regard stakeholders more as risks to manage, as opposed to assets to work with and utilise.

2.2.1 Building Relationships

The YBF adopted matrix focuses our effort on building relationships with stakeholders and enquiring into how they might become a valued part of entire process.

Stakeholders in the Peace & Security Agenda:

- I. Youth – engagements with youth (individuals, organized groups and leadership) to understand their issues and invite them to dialogue.
- II. Academia – to decode and explain the research underpinning the issues/triggers and early warning signals/indicators.
- III. Security Services – tap into the mandate to provide security and ensure protection and safety of citizens.
- IV. Recognized Institutions such as National Peace Councils, Traditional Councils, etc. mandated to harmonize and coordinate conflict preventions, conflict management and peace resolutions.
- V. Media – tap into mandate to educate and inform the public.

YBF – YOUTH, PEACE & SECURITY PROJECT REPORT

3.0 My Neighbour My Friend, My Neighbour My Enemy – 1st Youth, Peace & Security Public Lecture and Dialogue

3.1 Introduction

Gravely concerned, as youth-focused NGO, that historical violent conflicts on university campuses have witnessed an escalation in recent times. These conflicts have often been marked by youth agitations and clashes amongst students with resultant spill-overs and damage to lives and properties, as well as student clashes with the security services in their attempt to restore order.

Recognizing that Conflict is inevitable, but violence is not, are the growing on-campus conflicts in Ghana's tertiary institutions signals enough to trigger worry about youth participation in conflict? How do we control a restive youth bulge?

Inspired by the multi-stakeholder pathway in Peace and Security discourse, the 1st Public Lecture and Youth Dialogue which forms the scope of this report was held on November 9, 2022 at the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre, Accra. The event, held with the collaboration of U.S. Embassy (Ghana) and under the chairmanship of Mr. George Amo (Executive Secretary of National Peace Council, Ghana) brought together Ghana's students' leadership front made up of National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) and University Students Association of Ghana (USAG).

Speaking on the Topic "My Neighbour My friend, My Neighbour My enemy: The Youth Peace and Security", Dr. Hakim Williams (a Fulbright Scholar hosted by Youth Bridge Foundation) dwelt on restorative justice and the theory of decoloniality to interrogate:

- What explains youth vulnerabilities to violence?
- Why /how neighbourliness degenerate into violence? and
- How do we navigate the complex pathway to peace between neighbours?

3.2 Broad Objective

Create a platform for mutual dialogue among the youth as the most feasible alternative to violent conflict.

3.2.1 The specific objectives:

- Create a platform for mutual dialogue on the concerns of the youth on one side and the security services and school administrators on the other.
- Train the youth and new generation of youth leaders on alternative mechanisms for students to seek redress in campus conflicts.
- Engage the youth to become transformative social change agents for peacebuilding.

- Engage different stakeholders on the need to have a round table discussion with the youth of today.
- Engage the youth towards community resilience to conflict by creating opportunities to know the repercussions of conflict and why dialogue is a better option.
- Establish a network of youth leaders with the purpose of exchanging ideas on the best practices of peacebuilding.

3.2.2 Strategic Lessons Learnt

- Youth-inclusive multistakeholder approach in conflict prevention is key to the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.
- Students' participation in on-campus policy formulation and decision making processes that affects the students enhances ownership and reduces unrest.
- Peace building is a gradual process so dialogues must be sustained.
- Academia's contribution to the youth-centred conversation on maintenance and promotion of peace and security can help demystify complexities involved.
- Youth leaders' capacity in peace-building mechanisms and restorative justice systems should be built.

Participation of the commander of the Formed Police Unit, a high-ranking Police

- Officer assured the student leaders that the Security Services are friends of all citizens and available to work closely with them when early warning signals are picked up and shared.
- The use of youth-friendly language and the creation of a youth-friendly atmosphere facilitates open dialogue.

4.0 Conclusion

Africa's youth remain the most vital component of Ghana and the continent's peace and security architecture; their continuous involvement, capacity-building, and inclusion in all restorative justice mechanisms are essential to the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and must be prioritised.



5.0 Recommendations: Takeaways

- The platform for youth dialogue on peace and security must be institutionalized.
- A cohesive program to build youth capacity in peacebuilding and restorative justice must be developed.
- Deepen the collaboration with the University Students Union of Ghana (USAG), which has 45 member universities in Ghana to train students primarily on conflict prevention strategies and early warning systems and responses.
- A roadshow, that decentralizes the Peace & Security Public Lecture and youth-centred multi-stakeholder dialogue across the regions and campuses, must be developed and implemented.
- Develop and use audio and videos to sensitize/educate the youth on peace building and restorative justice mechanisms.
- Youth must be included as partners in the peace and security agenda and be involved in the stages of policy creation, formulation, decision-making, implementation, and evaluation.
- In order to achieve a youth inclusive development agenda, Youth Bridge Foundation must continue to act as a mobilizer to advance youth engagement and inclusion in decision-making at the community, national, sub regional and continental levels.

Peace has become a vital commodity in our world today



Mr. George Amoh
Executive Secretary
National Peace Council

We must jealously guide the fragile peace we are enjoying as a country. We all have a part to play.



ACP. Alhaji Al-Meyao Abass Kwarasey
Director Operations,
Police Headquarters

There is no situation in which we cannot negotiate a peaceful settlement that benefits both parties



Dr. Christian Ntsiful Anderson
University Students Association
of Ghana PRESIDENT

There is a high tendency for frustrated youth to resort to aggression. In other to find the best solutions, policymakers will have to dialogue with young people on issues that frustrates them.



Eunice Kisiwaa Gyan
Youth, Peace & Security
Programs Coordinator

Step back from incendiary language because language has a way of priming the body for conflict.



Dr. Hakim Williams
U.S. Fulbright Scholar hosted by
Youth Bridge Foundation, Ghana.

Bring the Ghanaian youth to the table and enlighten them about the necessity of safeguarding our country and heritage.



Mr. Seth Oteng
Executive Director
Youth Bridge Foundation



HEAD OFFICE (GHANA)

P.O. BOX CT 5543, Cantonments, Accra – Ghana
14 Nuumo Kwei Goozi Street, Adjringanor – Accra
GD-166-1621

+233 30 293 6326 | ++233 54 707 7347
www.youthbridgefoundation.org
programs@youthbridgefoundation.org

youthbridge2
youthbridgefoundation

AYGConvergence
African Youth and Governance Convergence

NORTHERN ZONAL OFFICE (GHANA)

Deha Street, Off Zo-Simli Roundabout
Plot No: 114, Kaladan Residential Area,
Tamale, Northern Region
NT-005-2074

+233 37 209 4204 | +233 20 807 4886

SOUTHERN ZONAL OFFICE (GHANA)

AN 03/05 Anibre Street
Agona Nkwanta
Western Region

+233 50 000 6518

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE (ZAMBIA)

Stand CV 16, Comesa Exhibition Village,
D.G Wallace Road, Showgrounds.

P.O. Box 51388,
Lusaka, Zambia

+260776971228

ybfzambia@youthbridgefoundation.org
www.zambia.youthbridgefoundation.org

NIGERIA COORDINATING OFFICE

Youth Bridge Foundation
c/o Youth Development Centre
Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library
Presidential Boulevard, Oke-Mosan Abeokuta, Nigeria

ybf-ng@youthbridgefoundation.org