

JUBA CALL FOR PAPERS

From Violent Conflict to Beloved Communities: Pathbreaking Pan African Peace Leadership

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Foreword by the Hon. Betty Achan Ogwaro, with an Introduction by Moses Monday John

Deadline: 31 March 2023; email to: internationalpeaceresearch.sg@gmail.com

After more than a quarter-century of burgeoning peace research from African academics and students across the diverse continent, the field of African Peace Studies is reaching a point of increasing maturity. Networks of peace and conflict transformation programs in faith-based institutions, the social sciences, and community-based civilian alternative education schools have begun to cross-fertilize, sharing strategic approaches on pedagogy, historiography, indigenous practices, and effective social change movement-building. Facing the challenges of Pan African unity have positioned the leaders of these networks to expand their work and extend their lessons to a global constituency which has otherwise faced fragmentation and failure.

A turning point in this maturational development and expanding networking process took place in the capital of the world's youngest nation – Juba, South Sudan – where, over a three-week period late in 2022, representative leaders met to review what research and practice was most urgently needed. Working with the theme “Inter-disciplinary and Transnational Perspectives on African Peacemaking,” the biannual conference of the African Peace Research and Education Association (AFPREA) held panels and reviewed papers on indigenous women peacemaking, gendering peace studies, the legacies of Archbishop Tutu and Franz Fanon, and the continuing fight against direct colonialism, neocolonialism and France-Afrique. The International Peace Bureau, Association of Catholic Universities and Higher Institutes of Africa and Madagascar, Social Science Research Council's African Peacemaking Network and Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Program, Occupied People's Forum, Pax Christi International, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, War Resisters' International and others joined the regional associates of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) to take part in these unprecedented gatherings.

AFPREA, in cooperation with IPRA and our colleagues, will be compiling this book of the “best of” the Juba presentations. Whether in person or virtual, eligibility to submit manuscripts is open. However, we aim for this compendium to be more focused than a random assortment of disparate reports and studies presented at a biannual conference. We will certainly include a multigenerational array of scholars and students, academics and activists, and a multinational collection of leaders from Arab-dominant, Francophone, Lusophone and English-speaking regions of the continent—with an understanding that Indigenous languages, like Indigenous peace practices require greater emphasis and support in the coming period. We will not, however, prepare this as a book “of IPRA or AFPREA,” but will aim for broader and deeper reflection on potential real-life solutions to the issues facing the unaffiliated masses of African working peoples.

This “Juba moment” of African peace studies maturity must be centered on practical applications of well-researched African experiences. It must be a work of praxis, still unusual even within the larger field of peace academia. A convergence of African theory and practice, sprung from African voices and leadership, will endeavor to provide direct paths for positive impact. Pathbreaking Pan African Peacebuilding must be driven by action-driven academics.

Some questions to ponder, to inform contributions to this book project, will include:

1. What transformational work do I need to do on myself to actualize peace and nonviolence in my community?
2. What educational programs do we need to develop and implement, in order to support peacebuilding efforts among the youth across national borders?
3. How can faith-based, interfaith, and spiritual work be synergized to move nonviolence and peacebuilding towards more practiced priorities?
4. What activities do governments need to do—on national, regional, and community-based levels—to promote, advance, and prioritize peace and nonviolence?

Please send submissions in the form of a Word document of between 4000-6000 words. For academic papers, please conform to the basic style guidelines of the the Chicago Manual of Style (15 ed); we will also accept non-academic papers by organizer/activists which include narratives outside of this academic form. Submissions must be received no later than 31 March 2023 and should be emailed to: internationalpeaceresearch.sg@gmail.com