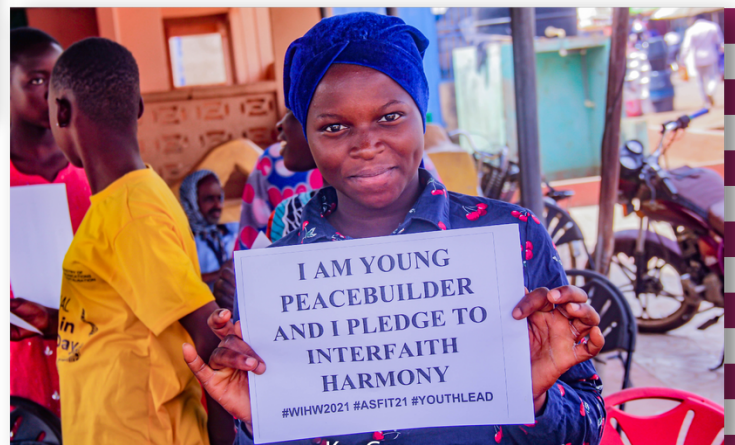




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PEACE AT LUNCH: PEACEBUILDING AT THE LUNCH TABLE

“Eating is so intimate. It's very sensual. When you invite someone to sit at your table and you want to cook for them, you're inviting a person into your life.” - Maya Angelou

As the world commemorated this year's International Day of Peace on 21st September, we supported five (5) recent fellows of the ASFIT Young Peacebuilders Fellowship Programme from five (5) communities to help them implement the maiden edition of the 'Peace at Lunch' initiative with their friends and family in their respective communities.

‘Peace at Lunch’ sought to encourage people to take an interest in peace and security issues in the country, particularly in their local communities. Therefore, while they gathered with their friends and family to enjoy lunch, we encouraged them to talk about personal and community peace.

Unemployment, lack of stakeholder engagement fora, and low public sensitization on peace and security were identified by participants as key areas to be addressed by stakeholders in order to promote peace and security in Ghana.

The maiden edition was a great success and hope to replicate it in other communities as well.



ADDRESSING FOOTBALL-RELATED VIOLENCE: FOOTBALL SHOULD UNITE US, NOT DIVIDE US - ASFIT'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director of African Students For Interfaith Tolerance, a youth-led peacebuilding non-governmental organization (NGO) based in the North East Region of Ghana has called on all Ghanaians especially football supporters, football clubs, and football administrators to leverage the potential of football as a unifying and a peacebuilding tool.

He made this call at the climax of Suhudua Deema (Peace Games) organized in Walewale by his organization for football clubs in the West Mamprusi Municipal.

The final football match was very competitive and was between Bokuduri FC and Wungu Daribio until it was finally settled at the penalties in the favour of Wungu Daribio.



ISSAH TOHA SHAMSOO

Touching on the successful end of the football games, Mr. Issah Toha Shamssoo, the Executive Director of the organization said;

"I am glad to see the successful climax of the peace games. These games were organized as part of a broader project we are implementing known as sports4peace and so even before the games, we held a one-day capacity building workshop for the participating football clubs and the West Mamprusi Municipal Football Association on how they can identify early warning signs and also for the peaceful resolution of grievances. In addition to that, we visited all the participating teams at their training centers to engage with the players and some of their supporters."



"The sports4peace initiative in simple terms recognizes the power of football to unite us as a people for peace. Thus, in so doing, we strive to address violence and hooliganism associated with football so that people can enjoy the game without the fear of violence. I would also like to thank our partner, Euphrates Institute, for their support." He said.

The stakeholders who were present commended the organization for their peacebuilding efforts and admonished the football teams and their supporters to be peace ambassadors.

The climax event brought together key stakeholders including religious and traditional leaders, youth groups, football clubs, the West Municipal Football Association, and Civil Society Organizations such as the North East Regional Secretariat of the United Nations Association Ghana, Northern Innovation Lab, Brave Aurora, and many others.





YOUTH EMPOWERMENT: GRADUATES TRAINED ON CV WRITING TECHNIQUES AND USING DIGITAL TOOLS TO SECURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges confronting young people in Ghana. According to data available on [statista.com](https://www.statista.com), in 2020, the unemployment rate in Ghana was at approximately 4.53 percent of the total labour force, and limited access to the right training on how to find and secure job opportunities using both online and offline tools and techniques makes this challenge a lot more difficult to overcome.

Therefore, on Saturday, 25th June, 2022, African Students For Interfaith Tolerance in partnership with Northern Innovation Lab and with the support and participation of Captain Jamaldeen Tonzua Seidu successfully held a one-day training workshop for graduates, NSS Personnel, and students of tertiary institutions in Walewale, North East Region.

The training workshop focused on building the capacity of participants in writing standard and appropriate curricula vitae, preparing for interviews, creating and managing attractive LinkedIn profiles, and an introduction to other digital tools in order to enhance their chances of securing jobs.





AFRICAN STUDENTS FOR INTERFAITH TOLERANCE ENGAGES YOUNG GIRLS ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The prevailing economic conditions in Ghana and in addition to the obnoxious and burdensome import tax of 20% and a value-added tax of 12.5% on disposable sanitary pads and products have resulted in their prices skyrocketing hence making access to these basic necessities in the lives of women and girls hard to access.

This negatively impacts the lives and confidence of girls as some school girls often miss out on school whenever there are in their periods to avoid any 'messy' situation in school.



In partnership with the headmistress of Onwe Methodist JHS Mrs. Afua Akyiaa Gambrah, the Minister in charge of Onwe Methodist church, Revered Philip Osei Antwi, and the entire staff for Onwe Methodist JHS, our Women's Affairs Coordinator, Madam Nathlaine Matilda Marfo engaged students of Onwe Methodist JHS.

Over 120 students participated in this engagement. The girls were taught how to correctly fix their sanitary pads and were also encouraged not to miss out on school when they are on their periods. We also made a donation of sanitary pads to the girls.

The boys on the other hand were engaged in addressing some of the misconceptions they have about mensuration.

We would like to thank all our supporters for making the engagement a success.





ADDRESSING FOOTBALL VIOLENCE AND HOOLIGANISM: AFRICAN STUDENTS FOR INTERFAITH TOLERANCE LAUNCHES SPORTS4PEACE INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

We are witnessing a rising occurrence of violence and hooliganism in Ghanaian football with many fearing the reoccurrence of the unfortunate Accra stadium disaster which sadly took the lives of 126 people, making it the worst stadium disaster ever taken place in Africa.

Despite football often being described by most people as the nation's passion, it attracts hooliganism and violence at match venues which sometimes leads to reprisal attacks.

Thus, Ghanaian football has been significantly tarnished over the years by the almost regular violent activities at the various stadia without proper solutions.

This initiative – Sports4Peace thus recognizes the power of football to unite people around a common goal and at the same time has the potential to be exploited by people to foment trouble and undermine our peace and security.

OUTCOMES

- Clubs management demonstrates a greater understanding of the effects of violence in football and how to prevent them.
- Sessions with football clubs at their training centers result in players having greater awareness of the types of violence and their negative consequences.
- 'Suhudua Deema' (Peace Games) organized in an atmosphere of peace and togetherness.

This initiative is implemented with the partnership and support of the Euphrates Institute.





FREEDOM, DIVERSITY, AND RESPECT: LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER

To commemorate this year's Ghana Interfaith Solidarity March, African Students For Interfaith Tolerance, a youth-led peacebuilding non-governmental organization brought together over 100 people consisting of youth, children, religious leaders, etc. on Sunday, 22nd May, 2022 to march on the streets of Walewale in the North East Region of Ghana under the theme: Freedom, Diversity and Respect: Learning to Live Together.

In an address to the gathering, the Executive Director of the organization, Mr. Issah Toha Shamsoo called for unity and inter-religious tolerance.

"The purpose of our today's march is to strengthen interfaith harmony and also promote freedom of religion or belief while uniting against religious intolerance, discrimination and hatred. I am so happy to see a lot of young people, children, and religious leaders in attendance. We all belong to the human race, therefore we should work hard to strengthen the peace we are already enjoying. One of the key outcomes of today's event is the signing of a peace pledge by religious leaders and other members of our community."

Ghana is widely hailed as one of Africa's model democracies and the second most peaceful country in Africa according to the latest ranking by the Global Peace Index.

The march was also an opportunity to draw the attention of stakeholders to the need to support local peacebuilding efforts.

Link to youtube video: <https://youtu.be/VMck9K0WKdo>



Remarks at UNITAR's event on 'Peace, Education & Dialogue'

Issah Toha Shamsu, the Executive Director of African Students For Interfaith Tolerance addressed a high-level conference organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Co-existence.

"Our ignorance of others, their beliefs, struggles, aspirations, and culture usually leads us into conflict with them. If not managed properly, this conflict then progresses into a violent or armed conflict." He said.

Find his full remarks [here](#).



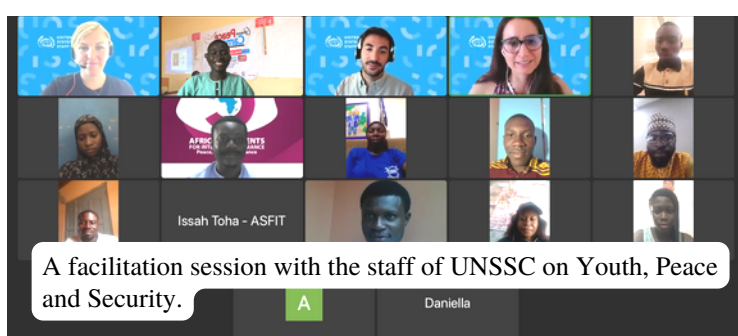
Bridging the gap between Early Warning and Early Response for a peaceful West Africa

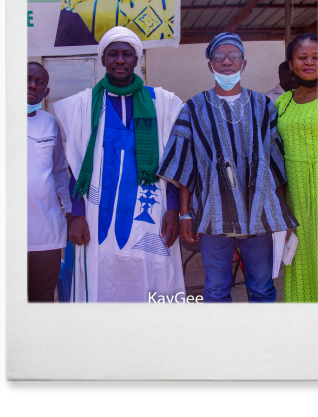
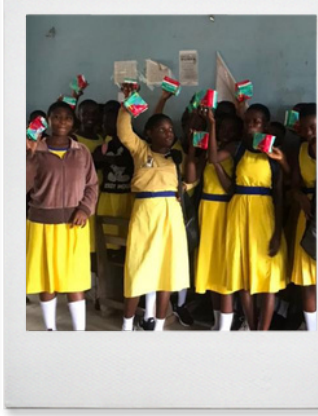
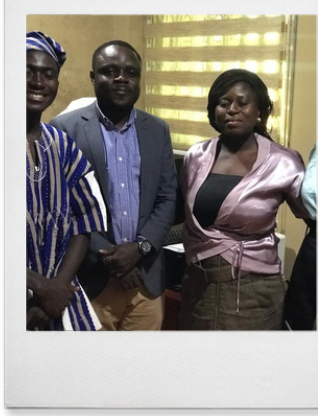
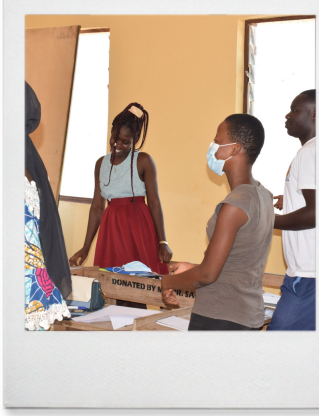
The Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), through the Conflict Prevention unit of the Mediation and Coordination of Regional Political Affairs Division, and the USAID Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data Program in West Africa II (USAID REWARD II), convened a three-day Collaborative Planning Exercise (CPX) at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana. Read more [here](#).



ASFIT YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: ELEVEN YOUNG PEOPLE CERTIFIED

Eleven (11) young people comprising five women and six men have successfully completed the second edition of the ASFIT Young Peacebuilders Fellowship Programme. ASFIT Young Peacebuilders Fellowship Programme is designed to offer young people who are interested in peace and security work and also those who are already into peacebuilding to be mentored, coached, and trained by seasoned experts in conflict management, dialogue, youth, peace, and security, etc. The program is completely virtual and participants can enjoy the full programme experience regardless of their present location.





HIGHLIGHTS:

Movie Night: Forgiveness: The Secret of Peace

Forgiveness: The Secret of Peace is a documentary film on the life and work of Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, a 57-year-old Catholic priest in Rwanda. In this film, Fr. Ubald shares his message of forgiveness as a pathway to reconciliation and peace, a message he has steadfastly shared with thousands of his fellow Rwandans in the aftermath of the unspeakable horror of their country's 1994 genocide.

Being inspired by the work Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga we screened the documentary for the benefit of our larger community in Walewale, North East Region of Ghana on international day of peace - 21st September, 2022.



Suf-yan Alhassan adjudged as the best volunteer of the month

Mr. Alhassan Y. Suf-yan has been adjudged as the best volunteer of the month for his significant contributions and service to the organization, especially in the 'Sports4Peace' initiative.

He diligently coordinated the peace games and supported other activities to a successful end.

As a volunteer-led organization, the services and commitment of our volunteers are at the heart of our work.



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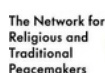
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