

Our Ref: GH/33/24

Your Ref

17th February, 2024

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A PARLIAMENTARY SESSION OF THE YOUTH INTERRELIGIOUS PARLIAMENT AT THE WEST MAMPRUSI MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY HALL IN WALEWALE ON SATURDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 2024 ON THE THEME: “FOSTERING INTERFAITH AND INTERCULTURAL HARMONY BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER GHANA’S 2024 ELECTIONS”

We, members of the Youth Interreligious Parliament having convened and deliberated on the theme: “Fostering Interfaith and Intercultural Harmony Before, During and After Ghana’s 2024 Elections”, appreciate the efforts of the government, youth groups, UN Institutions, CSO partners, the Kofi Annan Foundation, Greycells, ASFIT and the Municipal Security Council of this Assembly in strengthening peace and tolerance in this locality and Ghana as a whole.

We do hereby issue this communique as a reflection of submissions and discussion of the Youth Interreligious Parliament for consideration of the government, CSOs and other partners.

1. This Youth Interreligious Parliament is a vibrant group of young people from varied ethnic, political, and religious affiliations all driven by a shared passion to foster a peaceful and prosperous Ghana.
2. This parliament is facilitated by a 2023 Kofi Annan Changemaker and ASFIT, a youth-led peacebuilding NGO with the support of the Kofi Annan Foundation and Greycells, the parliament serves as a safe space for constructive dialogue and convenes young people to co-create ideas and share recommendations with the relevant stakeholders.
3. Before we go to the polls in December, let us commit to raising conversations above conflicts, to embracing dialogue over dispute. Our societies need not divide over political affiliations; instead, let us create a fabric of comprehension, where diverse viewpoints enhance our shared knowledge.
4. Peace can be built gradually and strategically. We should all commit to peace in our individual lives and endeavors. Peace starts with us.
5. To our fellow young people and everyone in this hall; let's stay watchful against falsehoods, violent language, misinformation and aggression. Our messages should be about peace and hope and inviting others to vote in peace.
6. We invite the media to please engage with youth groups and young people in their deliberations.
7. We also wish to use this platform to emphasize the need for a National Plan or Roadmap toward the localization of the UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security.
8. The Police and other state security agencies are also encouraged to with youth and foster a cordial relationship with youth groups as we prepare for 2024 elections.
9. We also want to humbly call on political parties and politician to be mindful of their campaign messages and always preach peace.
10. To all well-meaning Ghanaians here and outside of this hall, let's see each other as one and remember we are one people with a common destiny. Whenever there are differences or conflicts, let's choose dialogue and non-violence.
11. Thank you for your audience and remember, ‘PEACE BEGINS WITH A SMILE’ – Mother Teresa.

ISSUED BY: RT. HONOURABLE SPEAKER MANLOKI GAFARU

PRESENTED BY: HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER ABUBAKARI KASHIFATU



