



UNITE4PEACE PROJECT REPORT

an initiative supported by individual donors

As Ghanaians prepare to exercise their democratic rights in the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections on December 7, 2024, **African Students For Interfaith Tolerance (ASFIT)**, with the support of individual donors led by Mohan Panicker, launched the **Unite4Peace** initiative in support of ASFIT's mission to mobilize, equip, advocate for, and connect communities to foster a more peaceful and inclusive society.

ASFIT, a youth-led local peacebuilding NGO, was founded in the aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks in New Zealand and Sri Lanka in 2019. The **Unite4Peace** initiative is grounded in the belief that sustainable peace is achievable through the cooperation and active engagement of diverse community members, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or political affiliations.

Through **Unite4Peace**, ASFIT has raised awareness of potential conflict risks, facilitated intergenerational dialogues, and trained community members on recognizing and responding to hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation.

This initiative has been key in engaging communities to stand together for peace.

Activity 1: 3rd Annual Ghana Interfaith Solidarity March

Religious tensions and violent conflicts continue to affect many parts of the world, fueled by hatred, discrimination, and oppression in the name of religion. Ghana, like other pluralistic societies, faces these challenges. As part of the third annual Ghana Interfaith Solidarity March, sixty community members—including youth, women, and religious and traditional leaders from diverse faiths, ethnicities, and political backgrounds—came together to raise awareness against religious oppression and violence.





Under the theme, "Beyond Politics: Strengthening Interfaith Harmony for Peaceful Elections," participants marched to promote freedom of worship and belief, advocating for unity and peace across communities. ***"In this coming election, we must demonstrate that our religions teach us to be peaceful and love our neighbours." - a participant at the 3rd annual Ghana Interfaith Solidarity March held in May, 2024.***

It was made clear that;

- Our religious and ethnic differences are the will of God.
- Beyond elections, we need one another.
- Standing against religious discrimination and oppression is the right thing to do.



Activity 2: One-day capacity building workshop

As Ghana's elections approach, rising tensions and the spread of disinformation and misinformation across social media, television, and radio increasingly threaten national peace and security. These false narratives can erode public trust, incite violence, and ultimately destabilize communities. To address this urgent challenge, the **Unite4Peace** initiative provided specialized training to 30 local youth, women, and religious and traditional leaders, equipping them to recognize and counter disinformation both online and offline. A key outcome of this training is that participants have actively shared their knowledge and tools with their communities, increasing the impact and reach.





Shot from the one-day workshop on disinformation and misinformation

One of the participants said, "I will now verify before I share information online."

Activity 3: Community dialogues

Peacebuilding is local and sustainable when it is locally-led. As part of our community dialogues, we create safe spaces for dialogue, trust, and relationship building, as well as an opportunity for stereotypes to be broken down. The 'Unite4Peace' initiative enabled us to hold community dialogues in Tinguri and Wulugu, these dialogues are part of a larger, interconnected effort, strengthened by the Youth Interreligious Parliament, which brings young leaders together across faiths to advocate for and uphold peace. Together, these initiatives are creating a culture of peace and resilience that empowers communities to actively sustain peace from within.



Group picture at Tinguri after a community dialogue



Group picture at Wulugu after a dialogue

Individual Donors Who made this project a success:

1. Mrs. Irene Jacob
2. Mr. Mohan Panicker
3. Mrs. Maureen Fung
4. Ms. Francesca Toso
5. Mrs. Lethika Reveendran

Gratitude

ASFIT expresses gratitude to all the individual donors who contribute to sustaining our grassroots peacebuilding efforts. ASFIT work since 2019 has been made possible through the generous contributions of individuals locally and internationally. You can support our ongoing locally-led peacebuilding work via our website.

Please visit our website: <https://www.asfitnetwork.org> to learn more about our work.



Leadership and advocacy training for youth MPs



Section of Youth MPs



ASFIT at YPS strategic planning retreat



Training for community actors on dealing with disinformation and misinformation online and offline.



ASFIT took part in a clean-up exercise in Wungu



ASFIT Board of Directors - Group picture



Youth MPs brainstorming



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Peace is a possibility

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