

Communiqué de Presse - Presse release -



UNIVERSITY OF PEACE IN AFRICA

UPA – 2024 Campus of Panafrican Peace Training

New Drive: Campus 2024 launched this week

After the 20-year anniversary of UPA in Burundi in 2023, **17 leaders** of NGOs, associations for integral development and human rights, training institutes, Reconciliation Centres and Justice and Peace Commissions, from **7 African countries** are getting together to acquire new skills in working for social cohesion, de-escalation, mediation and positive management of conflicts, violence and trauma. By the end of October, they will be **Pan-African Peace Builders**.

5 international trainers from Benin, Rwanda, Belgium and Germany teach 6 modules: **biographical work, conflict management** (module 'DIAPOS'), **mediation and negotiation, non-violent communication** and "The **Real Inner Power**". For 2 days, the participants leave the Campus for an **immersion visit** to initiatives grouped around the local co-organising partner, the Peace Tree Network (PTN), Nairobi.



Forum: Rethinking African Security

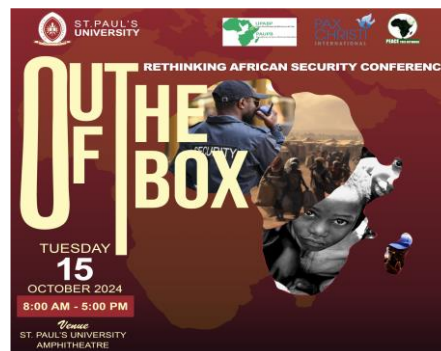
Through the Campaign "Rethinking African Security" (RAS), UPA training supports skills and strategies for **moving from the interpersonal Peace work to the socio-political Peace work**: empowering Peace Builders to achieve a systemic impact in society and communities, in politics and among the security forces in their respective countries and environments.

To this end, with its partner St. Paul's University, the UPA has organised this week the 1st **RAS University Forum**, bringing together UPA Peace learners with African academic Peace research and training.

There is enough evidence to see that the current political and societal systems, as well as international mechanisms and behaviours, remain stuck in militarised and violent (re)actions: whatever the continent, this only produces counter-violence and, increasingly, a terrorist counter-violence. Even in UN peacekeeping, the paradigm of violence prevails, reaching a maximum lull of '**Negative Peace**', **trapped in the narrow thinking of the myth of redemptive violence**, which only benefits the arms industries and arms dealers.

International pacifists, African politicians, professors, agents of international organisations and civil society activists are creating spaces for innovative thinking, systemic action and courageous advocacy for a **'new Africa'**, which is the target of the African Union's promise of a **'weapon-free Africa'**.

Copying evil and blindly sticking to it gets Africa nowhere. So, the RAS Campaign's initiative is designed to get peacebuilders thinking and acting differently: **'Out of the Box'**



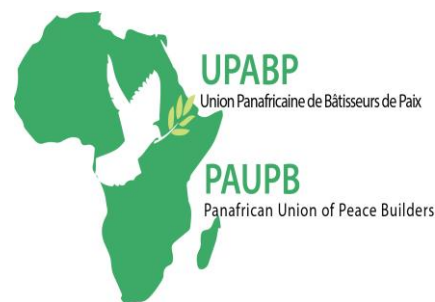
University of Peace: an annual opportunity

The UPA Campus is offered each year, at the invitation of a peace partner in a particular country: **hosted by the Mary Ward Centre of the Sisters of Loreto, Nairobi/KAREN, Kenya** is the 15th country that UPA has visited since Senegal in 2003. In a context that is still complex and violent in Africa, UPA continues to send out a strong signal to local men and women of goodwill to continue their commitment and their actions for Peace in their countries, with their respective communities and in the world. So, **350 laureates from 30 countries have been trained**, applying their new knowledge (**to know**), their new skills (**to know how**) and above all their new attitudes as Peace Builders (**to be**).

Their training is funded by their organisations and partners, and they have all understood that sustainable peaceful social cohesion cannot be built simply by conventional political diplomacy, and especially not by the usual (violent) political manipulations. It can only be achieved through changes of vision, through creative approaches, through resilience of society and grassroots communities.

Panafrican Union of Peace Builders: UPA Alumni

The UPA alumni network is active throughout Africa. PAUPB is registered in Cameroon. It organises continued Peace education, advocacy and synergy between the actions of its members and their institutions. It is in the process of becoming an interlocutor for the African Union and international organisations and donors. PAUPB acts on **the primacy of active non-violence** and in societal environments that seek to overcome the history of violence by strengthening inclusive social cohesion and resilience: **'Who wants Peace - prepares Peace'**.



DIRECT CONTACT

- for more details and information
- for to register in next year Campus 2025
- for interview meetings with organizers and participants

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