**ABOUT ACTION FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE (APN)**

Action for Peace and Nonviolence (APN), is a Community Based Organization (CBO) based in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Isingiro District , Western Region, in the Republic of Uganda, which was founded in 2022 by Gervin Baila Kitwika in response to the dire plight of the youth in Isingiro, Western Region in particular, who are struggling to achieve better life standards due to conflicts erupting in their communities. The founder of Action for Peace and Nonviolence (APN) and the youth themselves deemed it necessary to assist in giving holistic support with the mission to improve their living conditions by being champions of peace. The Organization is established for the purpose of helping the youth, guiding, and mentoring them in making positive living attractive through doing peace promoting activities in their respective communities.

**Vision**

We envision a community where every young person is equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources to be an active agent of peace, nonviolence and community change. Our organization strives to be a driving force in nurturing a generation of young leaders who are passionate about creating a peaceful and inclusive community for all.

**Mission**

Our mission is to provide a supportive and empowering environment where youth can develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to become ambassadors for peace, bridging divides and promoting understanding among diverse communities. We are committed to fostering a culture of inclusivity, empathy and collaboration, in which young people are equipped to address the root causes of conflict, advocate for social justice and contribute meaningfully to the well-being of their community.

**Objectives**

* To provide leadership training and mentorship programs for young people
* To promote conflict resolution and mediation skills among young people
* To foster a culture of nonviolence and tolerance within community
* To offer education and skill-building workshops to enhance youth capabilities
* To create platforms for dialogue and understanding across diverse youth groups
* To organize community service projects led by young people to promote peace and unity
* To advocate for policies and programs that support youth empowerment and peace building efforts
* To facilitate intergenerational activities that encourage dialogue and mutual respect
* To provide mental health and psychosocial support services for youth affected by conflict and violence
* To establish youth-led initiatives for community development and improvement
* To engage in advocacy campaigns against discrimination and social injustice
* To provide opportunities for artistic expression as means of promoting peace and social cohesion
* To offer entrepreneurship training and support for young people to drive economic development in the community
* To create safe spaces for open discussions on social issues impacting youth and the community
* To develop partnerships with local schools and educational institutions to enhance peace education
* To organize cultural exchange programs to bridge divides and celebrate diversity
* To train youth in leadership and peace-building techniques for sustainable community impact
* To promote gender equality and empower marginalized youth groups
* To engage with local authorities and institutions to integrate youth voices in decision-making processes
* To provide access to information and resources for youth civic engagement and activism
* To establish sports and recreational programs to promote teamwork and cooperation among young people
* To support the establishment of youth-led initiatives for environmental conservation and sustainability
* To offer training in digital literacy and technological skills to enhance youth participation in the modern world
* To provide access to mentoring and internship programs to prepare youth for the workforce
* To organize peace festivals and events to celebrate cultural diversity and promote unity
* To establish a network of peer support and mentorship for youth facing social challenges
* To promote mindfulness and mental well-being practices among young people
* To facilitate learning opportunities on the history and impact of conflicts peaceful resolution
* To create a youth volunteer program to address community needs and promote social responsibility
* To partner with local businesses to create economic opportunities for young entrepreneurs
* To establish a platform for youth storytelling and sharing of lived experiences to build empathy and understanding
* To collaborate with youth organizations from other communities to exchange best practices and initiatives
* To develop a mentoring program connecting experienced professionals with young leaders
* To promote awareness and action on social determinants of peace and conflict
* To establish a youth resource center providing educational materials and career guidance
* To organize peace-building campaigns and events to engage the broader community in dialogue and action
* To support the development of youth-led media initiatives for positive storytelling and information sharing
* To offer training in advocacy and public speaking skills for youth to amplify their voices
* To collaborate with law enforcement positive relationships and build trust between youth and authorities
* To empower youth to address systemic issues by advocating for policy changes at local and national levels
* To support the establishment of youth support groups for addressing mental health challenges and trauma
* To create a platform for youth to express their concerns and propose solutions to community challenges
* To offer financial literacy and entrepreneurship programs to empower youth economically
* To promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue among youth to foster religious and cultural harmony
* To establish a network of peace ambassadors who promote conflict resolution and harmony within their communities
* To advocate for inclusive and equitable access to education and resources for all youth
* To cultivate a culture of active citizenship and community engagement among youth, encouraging them to take ownership of their future

**Core values**

* Tolerance
* Collaboration
* Solidarity
* Unity
* Equality
* Diversity
* Respect

**Organization’s motto:** Building bridges, transforming lives**.**

**Aim**

Our aim is to create a supportive environment where youth are encouraged to harness their creativity and passion to address social issues, contribute to peaceful coexistence and actively participate in building a harmonious society. Through mentorship, education and collaborative initiatives, we seek to cultivate a generation of youth leaders who are committed to embracing nonviolence as a peaceful tool for positive transformation, ultimately working towards a community characterized by empathy, respect and unity.

**Purpose**

By providing resources, mentorship and educational opportunities, the organization seeks to create a nurturing environment where youth are empowered to address societal challenges, build bridges of understanding and promote conflict resolution through constructive and peaceful means.