



**Interfaith Forum of
Muslim & Christian Women's
Association**
(a.k.a Women's Interfaith Council)

Shop FF9, Matz Plaza,
Adjacent Stadium Roundabout,
Kachia Road, Kaduna - Nigeria.

t: 0805 4812 116, 0803 8947 348
e: interfaithcouncilwomen@gmail.com

Communiqué

Peace as necessary for National Development: Youth as essential Protagonists

Preamble

On the 24th of July, 2013, in the Women's Multipurpose Centre, Kaduna, the Youth wing of the Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women's Association held a One-day seminar on the theme: "*Peace as Necessary for National Development: Youth as essential Protagonists*".

The seminar was organized by Muslim and Christian youth leaders of faith based groups in this Holy month of Ramadan in order to identify concrete ways in which youth can be protagonists of peace and national development in our society and the nation at large. About Eighty-seven (87) participants were present at the seminar, representing diverse Muslim and Christian faith based groups in Kaduna state. Participants reached the following conclusions:

Peace can be ascertained in our Country through the following:

- Good parenting
- Undiluted sermonization
- Provision and creation of basic amenities
- Following the constitutional means of capturing good governance
- Tackling issues of corruption and injustice
- Developing a volunteer spirit among the populace to fight against social ills and vices
- *Everyone, particularly the youth, must be part of the solution*
- *A social environment of justice, tolerance, equality and peace will lead to development.*

Expectation

- Nigerian youth must show solidarity to fight against social ills and vices.
- Nigerian youth must take position as ambassadors of peace who must carry out their actions with the fear of God.
- Nigerian youth should not rely solely on white collar jobs but must learn to be self reliant and practical.
- Government must fight against social vices in a manner that does not lead to religious or political crisis but that helps all citizens to co-exist in peace.

Way forward

- We, as Nigerian youth religious leaders, must *Be the Change* we want to see.
- We, as Nigerian youth, will learn to change our negative and disrespectful attitudes towards other people, their traditions and their religion, respecting the customs, perspectives and beliefs of the people around us.



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- We, as Nigerian youth, will learn to combine our enthusiasm with patience, thereby realizing the importance of living together responsibly and defending the frontiers of peace and non violence.
- We, as Nigerian youth, will learn new skills to deal with conflict in non-violent ways and to create a community that lives by a credo of multi-cultural appreciation.
- We, as Nigerian youth of different religious and ethnic groups, will build links between our groups and popularize the many shared values and shared cultures and traditions which have been handed down to us from generation to generation.

Conclusion

As leaders of Youth Faith based groups, we commit ourselves to bringing this communiqué back to our various faith groups for further discussion and also to implement a similar seminar in our local areas.

We earnestly believe that every youth group present at the seminar will make use of the knowledge acquired and will be actively involved in promoting peace towards national development, bearing in mind that *change starts within us and we are the change*.

Representing state executives of:

Catholic (CYON, NFCS & ZMK); Youth Wing of CAN (YOWICAN); Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) Youth Wing; Baptist Youth Wing; Ansar Ud Deen Youth Association; Youth Wing NASFAT; Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN); Movement for Islamic Propagation (MIP); Muslim Sisters Organization (MSO); Youth Wing Unique Muslim Sisters Association (UMSA); Youth Wing Women in Da'wah; Youth Wing Nasirul Islam Society

Signed on behalf of Youth Interfaith Council:

Mr. Paul Kyumen Mbochin
Christian Coordinator

Ms. Muniratu Usman
WIC Secretary

Mr. Sheriff O. Olutusin
Muslim Coordinator

Signed on behalf of Women's Interfaith Council:

Hajiya Amina Kazaure
Muslim Coordinator

Sr. Kathleen McGarvey
OLA
General Coordinator

Mrs. Comfort Fearon
Christian Coordinator

Kaduna, 24th July 2013