

UNESCO CHAIR ON PEACE AND CITIZENSHIP

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AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY, ADO EKITI (ABUAD), NIGERIA

THE YEAR 2022 ACTIVITIES REPORT

For Further Details, Contact:

**UNESCO Chair on Peace and Citizenship,
College of Social and Management Sciences,
Afe Babalola University,
PMB 5454,
Km 8.5, Afe Babalola Way,
Ado Ekiti,
Ekiti State,
Nigeria.**

Tel: +234 (0) 80 57702787

+234 (0) 8062646295

Email: unescochaironpeace2020@abuad.edu.ng

2022 Afe Babalola Agenda for Peace and Citizenship (ABAPEC)

ABAPEC is an initiative to build new and strengthen existing infrastructure of peace in Nigeria starting with Ekiti State. It is hinged on the logic that violence, discord, dissent, fear, and most negative energies thrive in society when the fabric and infrastructure of peace and nonviolence in society is weak or dilapidated. The Agenda is, therefore, an attempt to promote the culture of peace and nonviolence, and active citizenship in the nooks and crannies of our society by strengthening local capacities for peace. It currently has four components:

1. Afe Babalola Ambassadors for Peace and Citizenship Network (ABAPEC) Network:
2. Traditional Rulers Initiative on Culture of Peace and Active Citizenship
3. Publications
 - a. Afe Babalola Journal of Peace and Active Citizenship (ABJOPAC)
 - b. Peace and Active Citizenship Bulletin
4. Who's Who in Peace and Active Citizenship in Southwest Nigeria

The Chair successfully developed a concept note for ABAPEC in February 2021. This concept note is still running in the 2nd or 3rd phase in 2022 and to continue its implementation throughout the lifecycle of the Chair. The ABAPEC project has commenced and yielding positive results.

2022 Breaking the Infrastructure of Violence in Ekiti State, Nigeria (BIVES)

Politicians find a fertile recruiting ground for political thugs among road workers who are later rewarded for their services through political appointments and contracts. This has encouraged a thriving career choice in political thuggery and violence entrepreneurship. Nigerian youth, especially those engaged in the public transport system, now consciously aspire to choose this career path by outdoing themselves in acts of violence to impress their clients. It is on these premises that BIVES was conceived to break the infrastructure of violence in Ekiti State by turning the main agents of violence in the state into agents of peace. BIVES achieves this goal by supplanting the culture of violence among public road transport workers with a culture of peace in Ekiti State. This has deprived politicians of their recruiting grounds for political thuggery. This has shown potential thugs why and how a culture of investment in peace yields better dividends for all than investment in violence. The BIVES programme, which commenced in September 2021 has continued in year 2022. In realizing the objectives of this project, the Chair

contacted and discussed with the Executive members of the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), and the Okada Tricycle Association of Ekiti State (OTAES) to dialogue ways of avoiding violence and promoting peace in Ekiti State, particularly during elections. The Chair hopes to continue with the implementation of this project beyond 2023 so as to make it more sustainable.

2022 Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding Intervention in Farmers-Fulani-Security Agents' Low-Intensity Conflict in Ekiti State

Conflicts between farmers and Fulani herdsmen are a common feature of the Nigerian State and these conflicts become rampant in Nigeria since 2010. Ekiti State experiences this type of conflict in some rural communities with negative consequences on the economy of the State and the well-being of the people. This intervention is hinged on the need to transform the conflict and prevent its exacerbation by the activities of unscrupulous elements and immigrant herdsmen. Representatives of the Fulani community in Ekiti State brought to the attention of the Chair some perceived grievances in their relationships with the people, government, and security agencies in Ekiti State. The dry season increases tension between the Yoruba farmers and immigrant Fulani herdsmen in the State due to incessant bush burning that can adversely affect the climate and destroy farm produce. Therefore, the Chair's intervention in the conflict is to (i) build a more harmonious relationship between the two groups; (ii) strengthen the relationships to withstand the external threats and divisiveness that might be occasioned by the changing season and incursion of immigrant herdsmen; and (iii) build a conflict transformation and peacebuilding infrastructure to manage farmers-herders-security agents' relationship in Ekiti State (iv) provide advocacy on the effect of bush burning to our climate change. The impact of this intervention in 2022 has brought peace to the State. This intervention was commended by the Governor of the State, Governor Biodun Oyebanji. It is very hopeful that the next dry season will bring about lasting peace and tranquility in the State.

Project's Future Activities for 2023.

- Project Review/Media Planning Meeting for the Year 2020. 2021 and 2022.
- Continuation of its intervention in Breaking the Infrastructure of Violence in Ekiti State, Nigeria (BIVES)

- Continuation of the Nigeria EndSARS Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (NECTAP) project
- Continuation of the Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding Intervention in Farmers-Fulani-Security Agents' Low Intensity Conflict in Ekiti State's project.
- Publishing and public presentation of books on readings on conferences on EndSARS and BIVES
- Meeting with identified positive leaders and high public officials
- Continuation of the ABAPEC project
- Organisation of International Conferences in Nigeria on 'Non-violence', 'Peace and Active Citizenship' and 'Ethnic Conflicts in Nigeria'
- Project review meetings
- Media planning meetings and campaigns
- Participatory workshops on Nonviolence in Southwest Nigeria
- Publication of Books on 'Non-violence', 'Ethnic Conflicts in Nigeria' and 'Peace and Active Citizens'
- Training workshops on Peace and Active Citizens in the selected communities in the six geo-political zones of Nigeria
- Mentoring programmes for youth
- Planning and publication of Afe Babalola Journal of Peace and Active Citizenship (ABJOPAC)
- Commencing the MSc programme in Peace and Citizenship