
Research in the midst of conflict

**Abstracts of 47 studies on peace and
conflict from Sudan and Ethiopia**

July 2024


**Enabling
University
Peace
Education**

[www.britishcouncil.org/
research-insight](http://www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight)



Introduction

Presented here are the summary abstracts of 47 research studies on conflict and peacebuilding produced by Sudanese and Ethiopian researchers between 2023 and 2024.

Each author offers a uniquely grounded perspective on understudied issues in Sudan and Ethiopia, such as women as peacebuilders, the role of youth in peacebuilding, violence against women and girls, and indigenous approaches to peace. Together they make a substantial contribution to new knowledge and provide insights and analyses that deepen our understanding of conflict and peacebuilding in these countries.

The research was produced as part of the [Enabling University Peace Education \(EUPE\) project](#), funded by the EU and British Council, and involved more than 50 researchers from fifteen universities situated in or near conflict zones in Ethiopia and Sudan.

Participating universities

The researchers were based at the following universities and institutions:

In Sudan: the University of Kordofan, Red Sea University, the University of Kassala, the University of West Kordofan, the University of Gadarif, the University of Khartoum, the University of Geniena and Al Neelain University.

In Ethiopia: Bahir Dar University, Hawassa University, Jimma University, Dire-Dawa University, Wollo University, Wolkite University and the Ministry of Education.

The depth and breadth of the research were enhanced by the diverse backgrounds, extensive experience, and varied interests of researchers spanning different academic disciplines and specialties. This included scholars, over half of them women, from Faculties of Arts and Humanities, Law, Education, Economics, Sociology and Anthropology, Women's Studies, and Sustainable Development, as well as those from Departments and Centres of Peace Studies. Training in conducting research in conflict-affected zones was provided in collaboration with Coventry University's Centre for Peace, Trust and Social Relations.

Document guide

For the purposes of helping readers find the studies relevant to their areas of interest, the abstracts are organised by six major themes. Many of the studies overlap with several of the other themes, so we would encourage you to explore the papers broadly. Contact details of each of the principal authors are provided – please do get in touch with them should you want to discuss the research further, access the full paper and make new academic connections in Sudan and Ethiopia. The themes are:

1. Women as peacebuilders
2. Youth in peacebuilding and the role of universities
3. The roles of social media in conflict and peace
4. Traditional/indigenous approaches to peacebuilding
5. Communities, conflict and peacebuilding
6. Gender and violence

Contents

1. Women as peacebuilders

p. 7

- 1.1. Women and peacebuilding: a case study of the Guji-Gedio conflict in Southern Ethiopia
Awol Ali, College of Law and Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia **p. 7**
- 1.2. Women's role in indigenous conflict resolution in the Oromia region of Ethiopia: the case of West Arsi
Mahider Tefera, College of Law and Governance, School of Governance and Development Studies, Hawassa University, Ethiopia **p. 7**
- 1.3. The role and challenges of women in conflict and conflict resolution among the Maale and Banna of Southern Ethiopia
Hanna Getachew Amare, Dept. of Anthropology, Hawassa University, Ethiopia **p. 8**
- 1.4. The role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding: cases from Gurage community
Wubit Delelegn Genjulla, Wolkite University, Ethiopia **p. 8**
- 1.5. The role of women in indigenous peacebuilding: cases from South Wollo, Ethiopia
Fatuma Abdu Ali, Department of Sociology, Wollo University, Ethiopia **p. 9**
- 1.6. The role of women in promoting peace in fragile situations
Marwa Al-Fadil Awad Mohamed, University of Kordofan, Sudan **p. 10**
- 1.7. Improving women's political decision-making in Greater Kordofan States (2018-2022)
Shireen Saleh Hummeida, University of Kordofan, Sudan **p. 10**
- 1.8. The role of girls' songs in promoting peaceful communities in the West Bara locality of North Kordofan
Aisha Ahmed Adam Muhammad, University of Kordofan, Sudan **p. 11**
- 1.9. The role of rural women in peacebuilding in Gadarif: an anthropological perspective
Saad Mohamed Abdalkarem Abakar, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Economics, University of Gadarif, Sudan **p. 11**
- 1.10. The roles of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Kassala State: Analysis of challenges and opportunities
Zuhair Arabi Elamin Alarabi & Haytham Abdelghfar Abdallah Mohammed, Department of Economics, University of Kassala, Sudan **p. 12**
- 1.11. Displaced Women in Peacebuilding: A Case Study in Al-Baram, Sudan
Salwa Alsiddeg Adam Mohammed, University of Khartoum **p. 12**
- 1.12. Women's social and peacebuilding roles in the Al-Abasyia locality (2012-2024)
Abida Adam Altayeb Mohammed, University of Khartoum **p. 13**

2. Youth in peacebuilding and the role of universities

p. 13

- 2.1. Understanding university students' culture of peace and its contribution to their peaceful coexistence: the case of Hawassa University
Akalewold Fedilu Mohammed, College of Law and Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia **p. 13**
- 2.2. The role of female students in peacebuilding in institutions of higher education in Ethiopia: the case of Hawassa University
Andualem Nega, Col. of Law and Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia **p. 14**
- 2.3. Conflict transformation in Ethiopian universities through peace education: the case of Bahir Dar University
Abyssinia Abay, Department of Political Science and International Studies, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia **p. 14**

- 2.4. The role of youth in peacebuilding in Bahir Dar City: Amhara Youth Association in focus
Endalcachew Bayeh, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia **p. 15**
- 2.5. Exploring the role of university students in peacebuilding efforts: the case of Bahir Dar University
Seblewongiel Aynalem Kidanie, Department of Social Work, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia **p. 16**
- 2.6. Peacebuilding initiatives in university spaces in Ethiopia: lessons from Jimma University and Dire Dawa University for future interventions
Abiot Desta Habte, Department of Governance and Development Studies, College of Law and Governance, Jimma University, Ethiopia **p. 16**
- 2.7. The role of youth participation in building peace and peaceful coexistence: a case study of North Kordofan State
Mohammed Badawi Mohammed Ali, University of Kordofan, Sudan **p. 17**
- 2.8. Al-Judiyya as a traditional mechanism for resolving conflicts: applied to youth violence after the December 2018 revolution
Wijdan Fath Al-Rahman, Fac. of Education, University of Kordofan, Sudan **p. 17**
- 2.9. The roles of youth in peacebuilding: a case study of Gadarif State
Islam Mohammed Abdalla Eisa, Department of Journalism and Electronic Publication, University of Geneina, Sudan & **Saad Mohamed Abdal Karem Abakar**, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Gadarif, Sudan **p. 18**
- 2.10. Evaluation of the Peace Studies Centre at Blue Nile University: from the perspective of its faculty and administrators
Abaker Yagoub Adam Logman, University of Khartoum, Sudan **p. 18**

3. The roles of social media in conflict and peace

p. 19

- 3.1. Questioning the social media warfare and its implication on the peaceful coexistence among university students in Ethiopia
Mohammed Seid Ali, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia **p. 19**
- 3.2. The role of radio in promoting peace issues - North Kordofan State Radio (applied to community radio and Peace and Development Magazine programs) (2023 - 2024)
Iman Ibrahim Mohammed Ishag, University of Kordofan, Sudan **p. 19**
- 3.3. Hate speech and its effect on the social fabric: case studies of West Kordofan and North Kordofan states
Abdallah Suliman Adam Ibrahim, University of West Kordofan, Sudan **p. 20**
- 3.4. Analysing the role of Red Sea Radio in fighting hate speech and promoting peace
Marwa Idris Muhammad Ali, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Red Sea University, Sudan **p. 21**

4. Traditional/indigenous approaches to peacebuilding

p. 21

- 4.1. The indigenous culture of peace among the Borana Oromo of Southern Ethiopia: lessons for peace education
Lidiya Dereje Mekonen, Jimma University, Ethiopia **p. 21**
- 4.2. The role of community elders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Ethiopia: cases from North Wollo
Amarech Kebede Mekonnen, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia **p. 22**
- 4.3. The contribution of Sidama Seera for peacebuilding via the Ethiopian National Dialogue and the Transitional Justice Process: the role of women and youth
Yirgalem Geramo, School of Law, Hawassa University, Ethiopia **p. 22**

- 4.4. Indigenous peacebuilding approaches in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia: the case of Shimglinga
Kumilachew Siferaw Anteneh, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia **p. 23**
- 4.4.1. The role of traditional mechanisms in peacebuilding: a case study in Eastern Sudan
Mohamed Ahmed Omer Mohamed Ahmed Osheik, Red Sea Univ., Sudan **p. 23**
- 4.5. The influence of peace on social cohesion
Maha Muhammad Musa Adar Hamwi, Faculty of Law, Red Sea Univ., Sudan **p. 24**
- 4.6. The role of local leadership in peacebuilding
Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Mahmoud, Red Sea University, Sudan **p. 24**

5. Communities, conflict and peacebuilding

p. 25

- 5.1. Conflicts and prospects for peacebuilding in the Western Oromia region, Ethiopia
Damena Tolessa Goda, College of Law and Governance, Jimma university, Ethiopia **p. 25**
- 5.2. The role of urban communities in managing conflicts and building peace: the case of Hawassa City in Ethiopia
Addiswork Tilahun, College of Law and Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia **p. 26**
- 5.3. Community policing and peacebuilding in Jimma Town, Ethiopia: with a special emphasis on the participation of women
Bisrat Gebru Wolde, Department of Governance and Development Studies, Jimma University, Ethiopia **p. 26**
- 5.4. The need for local level understanding of the perceptions, coping strategies and the prospects for peace in the recent war in Northern Ethiopia (2022-23)
Belayneh Taye Gedifew, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia **p. 27**
- 5.5. Conflict between the Gurage and Kebena: exploring the cause and consequence in the Central Ethiopia region, Ethiopia
Mekdes Worku Beyene, Jimma University, Ethiopia **p. 28**
- 5.6. The role of local elders in maintaining peace and harmony: the case of the border area of Nensabo Oromo and Bensa Sidama communities
Melese Tefo Worasa, Jimma University, Ethiopia **p. 28**
- 5.7. The role of armed struggle movements in peacebuilding in Sudan: a case study of the Sudan Liberation Army led by Minawi
Eabdalraazig Altahir, Al Neelain University, Sudan **p. 29**
- 5.8. Exploring socio-economic dynamics and community well-being in Al-Abyad-Kordofan: an in-depth investigation of demographics, living conditions and challenges
Mohammed Ibrahim Mohammed Saadallah, University of Kordofan, Sudan **p. 29**

6. Gender and violence

p. 30

- 6.1. Women, war and violence: experiences from Lay Gayint, Amhara Region, Ethiopia
Adey Belete Mehari, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia **p. 30**
- 6.2. Gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities in Dire Dawa City, Ethiopia
Bezawit Aweke Dires, Department of Psychology, Dire Dawa Univ., Ethiopia **p. 30**
- 6.3. Protracted pastoralist conflicts in Southwest Ethiopia and its impact on women: a critical case study on the Suri area
Rukiya Abdo Yasin, Department of Civics & Ethics Studies, Jimma University, Ethiopia **p. 31**

-
- 6.4. Transitional justice and conflict-related gender-based violence in Africa: lessons for Ethiopia
Azeb Belachew Teklu, Col. of Law and Governance, Jimma Univ., Ethiopia **p. 32**
 - 6.5. Policies and practices of addressing gender-based violence in Ethiopian higher educational institutions: the case of Hawassa University
Meza Haddis Gebeyehu, Hawassa University, Ethiopia **p. 32**
 - 6.6. Experiences of gender-based violence among female university students: the case of Bahir Dar University, Gish Abay Campus, Ethiopia
Meseret Tamir Animut, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia **p. 33**

Women as peacebuilders

Women and peacebuilding: a case study of the Guji-Gedio conflict in Southern Ethiopia

Awol Ali, College of Law and Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: awolali1989@gmail.com

Abstract

This article explores the roles of women in post-conflict peacebuilding, focusing on the Guji-Gedio conflict in southern Ethiopia. The study employs qualitative research methods as well as primary and secondary data sources to explore the complex interplay of factors related to the conflict. The findings suggest that the Guji-Gedio conflict has had severe repercussions for women, displacing 420,027 of them and causing significant hardships. Despite the disproportionately greater effects on women, their involvement in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts remains constrained. Patriarchal norms and traditional gender roles, alongside restricted access to education and economic opportunities for women, contribute to the marginalisation of women in peacebuilding efforts. The findings also highlighted that while women are more commonly portrayed as victims in conflicts, they can also play active roles as participants, instigators, or supporters of violence. The exclusion of women from the peacebuilding process is a significant issue. To address this, the study suggests initiating institutional reforms, promoting women's voices in media, implementing educational changes challenging patriarchal norms, and establishing resource accessibility programs to advance gender equality and empower women.

Keywords: Women; peacebuilding; Guji; Gedio; conflict; Ethiopia

Women's role in indigenous conflict resolution in the Oromia region of Ethiopia: the case of West Arsi

Mahider Tefera, College of Law and Governance, School of Governance and Development Studies, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: mahidertefera2018@gmail.com

Abstract

The aim of this study was to analyse the roles of women in indigenous conflict resolution in the Oromia region of Ethiopia, focusing on the experience of West Arsi, Shashmene. A qualitative research method was employed and data was collected using key informant interviews, focus group discussions and from various documents. The findings indicated that the Siinqee institution is an indigenous conflict resolution mechanism that specifically empowers women, fostering sisterhood to combat patriarchal norms that oppress women. Women are respected and actively involved in resolving conflicts between different social groups, including domestic disputes. However, they face obstacles limiting their role in defending their rights and contributing to society. The study suggests that globalisation, religion, government, urbanisation, and patriarchal societal structures hinder women's roles in conflict resolution and

peacebuilding in Oromo society. The study recommends that Siinqee institutions are strengthened to enable them to improve gender equality, empower women and contribute to sustainable peace.

Keywords: Indigenous; Oromoo; conflict resolution; Siinqee institution; Ethiopia

The role and challenges of women in conflict and conflict resolution among the Maale and Banna of Southern Ethiopia

Hanna Getachew Amare, Department of Anthropology, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: hannaguddo@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper explores the roles and experiences of women in the ethnic conflict between the Maale and Banna of Southern Ethiopia in February 2022. It examined the challenges faced by women, both from the Maale and Banna perspectives, in the process of conflict resolution. The study employed a qualitative approach and used a range of qualitative data collection techniques from a total of 64 informants through including semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and narrative interviews. Secondary sources were used to supplement data analysis and thematic analysis was used to describe, explain and discuss field data. The study revealed that the conflict between the Maale and the Banna ethnic groups in South Omo Zone could be attributed to the interplay of demographic pressures and the ensuing competition for scarce resources. Women played important roles in terms of reducing the damaging consequences of the conflict on both sides. The post-conflict socio-cultural landscape was characterised by the presence of revenge, fear, uncertainty, lack of trust, and having fewer everyday interactions between the two groups. Regarding conflict resolution, while the study found that customary/traditional conflict resolution efforts resulted in longer-term peace, the process excluded women and relegated them to passive observers. The study recommends addressing the exclusion of women in conflict resolution processes by lifting existing socio-cultural barriers to enable them to participate fully.

Keywords: Bann; Maale; ethnic conflict; South Om; Ethiopia; conflict resolution; women

The role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding: cases from Gurage community

Wubit Delelegn Genjulla, Wolkite University, Ethiopia

Contact email: delelegnwubit@gmail.com

Abstract

The aim of this study was to investigate the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in Gurage zone, Central Ethiopia. This research primarily aimed to explore how women contribute to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, the difficulties they encounter, and how stakeholders can support them in preventing violence. A qualitative research method was employed to collect data from two purposively selected districts of Gurage Zone. Data was gathered through in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, individual case studies and

focus group discussions, then analysed using a thematic approach. The study found that Gurage society's traditional structure for managing conflicts (*Yejoka*) has no space for women, who are peace educators in the family. However, while the women of Gurage community have been neglected in the *Yejoka* customary peace process, they have had a large role to play indirectly via various women's groups. Women in the study areas play a significant role in conflict resolution and peace building, particularly at the time of 'antrosket', the mother's day festival in the Gurage community. Patriarchal norms, culture and religion, illiteracy and poverty, lack of funding and capacity among women are some of the challenges that hinder women from participating in peacebuilding processes. Maximising the roles of women in peacebuilding and tackling the challenges and violence they face requires political will, capacity building and funding to empower women and harness their unique perspectives in all the pillars of peacebuilding efforts.

Keywords: Women; peacebuilding; Gurage; Yejoka; traditional peace approaches; barriers; Ethiopia

The role of women in indigenous peacebuilding: cases from South Wollo, Ethiopia

Fatuma Abdu Ali, Department of Sociology, Wollo University, Ethiopia

Contact email: bilalez2014@gmail.com

Abstract

This research explores the role of women in indigenous conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes in the South Wollo Zone, with a focus on the Abagar and Duberty indigenous conflict resolution and peacebuilding mechanisms. A descriptive research design through a phenomenological research approach was used. The research participants were selected by using purposive sampling methods and data collected through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and case studies. The findings show that although the Abagar process is well established, is accepted by the community and is trusted more than the legal justice system, there is no participation of women. Rather the women, through the separate Duberty system, try to resolve moderate conflicts, such as those among family members, wife and husband conflicts, and conflicts among women in their village. The study concluded that women are excluded from the well-established and accepted Abagar structures and their participation in conflict resolution is confined to moderate conflicts around their village within their Duberty (female) structure. Thus, the study recommends collaborative and holistic interventions by all relevant stakeholders to integrate women more comprehensively within the dominant peacebuilding structure by empowering them through awareness training, policy interventions and by engaging community representatives in the process.

Keywords: Abagar; Duberty; indigenous conflict resolution; peacebuilding; South Wollo; Ethiopia

The role of women in promoting peace in fragile situations

Marwa Al-Fadil Awad Mohamed, University of Kordofan, Sudan

Contact email: marwaalfadil1@gmail.com

Abstract

This study, conducted in North Kordofan State, Sudan (2023-2024), focuses on the crucial role of women in promoting peace and security within war-affected environments. Through interviews and questionnaires with 100 women residing in war-affected shelters, the research highlights women's significant contributions to peacebuilding efforts, including counseling, reconciliation, and engagement in peace councils. The results of the analysis demonstrated the important role played by women: 61% of them offer counseling in conflict centers, a strong majority participate in reconciliation (57%) and peace councils (54%), and they effectively promote a culture of peace. The findings underscore the importance of empowering women through leadership training, humanitarian opportunities, and community awareness campaigns to combat hate speech and promote dialogue. Recommendations include supporting women in decision-making roles, providing education and skill development programs, upholding women's rights, fostering respect, and enhancing economic empowerment for sustainable peacebuilding initiatives.

Keywords: Women; peacebuilding; fragile states; conflict; North Kordofan; Sudan

Improving women's political decision-making in Greater Kordofan States (2018-2022)

Shireen Saleh Hummeida, University of Kordofan, Sudan

Contact email: shiriins2011@gmail.com

Abstract

This study investigates the mechanisms and strategies to promote women's political participation and enhance their representation in decision-making processes in Sudan. Through survey data analysis, the research explores Sudanese women's orientations towards political engagement, the impact of geographic, educational, and economic factors on their interest in politics, and the positive effects of women's participation in decision-making roles. The findings highlight the importance of quota systems, mechanisms for promoting women's political engagement, education, and media coverage in fostering gender equality in politics. Recommendations include prioritizing quota system implementation, investing in women's education and skills, highlighting women's political achievements in the media, addressing barriers to women's political participation, and promoting collaboration among stakeholders for gender inclusivity in politics.

Keywords: Political participation; peacebuilding; gender inclusion; women's education; skills; Greater Kordofan States; Sudan

The role of girls' songs in promoting peaceful communities in the West Bara locality of North Kordofan

Aisha Ahmed Adam Muhammad, University of Kordofan, Sudan

Contact email: aishaabbas091@gmail.com

Abstract

This study was conducted in the West Bara locality of North Kordofan State in 2023-2024. It aimed to explore the role of girls' songs in promoting societal peace, combating racism and tribalism, challenging harmful traditions, contributing to changing society's perception of women and breaking the constraints around them. The study followed a descriptive-analytical approach, utilising interviews and questionnaires with a purposive sample of female leaders and youth in the study area. Additionally, interviews were conducted with three heritage experts. The study found that girls' songs serve as a unifying factor and promote social diversity management. Girls' songs are popular and influential in the study area, fostering social cohesion and peace. Governance plays a significant role in enhancing societal peace within the study community. The study recommends the documentation of the cultural heritage of girls' songs in national libraries and local museums, focusing on the positive impact of girls' songs in enhancing social peace. It also suggests raising societal awareness about the importance of preserving culture and emphasising women's cultural involvement. Furthermore, the study advocates for supporting programs that document women's popular cultural heritage and promote peaceful coexistence values in society through girls' songs to strengthen ethnic diversity in Sudan.

Keywords: Girls' songs, peacebuilding; cultural heritage; arts; social cohesion; diversity; West Bara; North Kordofan; Sudan

The role of rural women in peacebuilding in Gadarif: an anthropological perspective

Saad Mohamed Abdalkarem Abakar, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Economics, University of Gadarif, Sudan

Contact email: saad1942017@gmail.com

Abstract

This study is designed to understand the roles of women in peacebuilding, analyse the social norms that prevent their participation, examine the indirect involvement of rural women, and gain insights into women and peacebuilding. The study was carried out in Gadarif State, Eastern Sudan, over five villages in two locations. It is a border state located between Sudan and Ethiopia. The study adopted a qualitative descriptive-analytical methodology. The data collection and analysis approach were based on data gathered primarily through open interviews, focus group discussions and non-participant observation, as well as secondary data from documents and other publications. The research findings indicate that rural women are actively contributing to peacebuilding through women's associations and committees, despite facing challenges such as patriarchal norms, illiteracy, discrimination and poverty. The recommendations include establishing partnerships between Peace Studies Centres and local

communities and to prioritise rural women's peacebuilding initiatives by national and international civil society organisations.

Keywords: Rural women; peacebuilding; barriers and challenges; Gadarif; Sudan

The roles of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Kassala State: Analysis of challenges and opportunities

Zuhair Arabi Elamin Alarabi & Haytham Abdelghfar Abdallah Mohammed, Department of Economics, University of Kassala, Sudan

Contact email: zuhair.alarabi1226@gmail.com

Abstract:

This study examines the roles of women in conflict and peacebuilding in Kassala State, emphasising the obstacles they confront and ways to enhance their contributions to the household and community. Utilising a descriptive-analytical methodology and a questionnaire as the primary research tool, 175 participants from diverse demographics provided their perspectives. The findings indicate the positive and impactful roles in peacebuilding that women provide in Kassala State. Nevertheless, it was found that women also play roles in conflict instigation. The study underscores the importance of supporting women to amplify their positive impact on peacebuilding, addressing challenges, and expanding their influence in the home and family, but also in refraining from contributing to conflicts. Recommendations include empowering women in the household and community, improving their educational opportunities, and promoting a culture of peace.

Keywords: Women; conflict; peacebuilding; Kassala State; Sudan

Displaced Women in Peacebuilding: A Case Study in Al-Baram, Sudan

Salwa Alsiddeg Adam Mohammed, University of Khartoum

Email: salwaalsiddig@gmail.com

Abstract

This study, conducted in Al-Baram locality in the Nuba Mountains in Sudan, focuses on the peacebuilding roles of women displaced from Al Baram to Kadugli City. Using primary and secondary data, it was found that most of the female respondents associated peace with security and stability, and were actively engaging in peace-building activities through organisations such as Umm Sirdiba Women's Association. The respondents, who were between 30-39 years old, had varying education levels, lacked stable income post-displacement, and many were separated from their husbands. The main reasons for their displacement included security concerns, economic hardships, and limited government support. Recommendations included supporting peace activities, improving advocacy to increase public interest in peacebuilding, creating income-generating projects, and enhancing basic services, including education and health, to foster peace, security and stability in the region.

Keywords: Displaced women; peacebuilding, Nuba Mountains, Sudan, Al-Baram locality, Kadugli City, security, Women's organisations, basic services

Women's social and peacebuilding roles in the Al-Abasyia locality (2012-2024)

Abida Adam Altayeeb Mohammed, University of Khartoum

Email: abidaadam Mohammed1995@gmail.com

Abstract:

This research focused on the social roles of women in Al-Abasyia locality in South Kordofan State, examining the obstacles they face and the impact of their participation in peacebuilding activities. Using qualitative methods, data was collected through various means and showed that conflicts have significantly affected women's lives, particularly in rural areas. The study found that although women play key roles in family, education, health services and humanitarian aid, their involvement in conflict resolution and peacebuilding activities was limited. Challenges women face encompass multiple obstacles ranged across cognitive, economic, social and institutional domains. Recommendations include providing education and training programmes for women, strengthening their economic status, ensuring women's representation in decision-making bodies, advocating for legal reforms that promote gender equality, improving access for women to information technologies, educating communities on women's involvement in peacebuilding, and providing support services for women affected by conflicts.

Keywords: Women; peacebuilding; Al-Abasyia locality; social roles; conflict; rural areas; education; economic barriers,;social barriers; institutional barriers; gender equality; decision-making; support services.

Youth in peacebuilding and the role of universities

Understanding university students' culture of peace and its contribution to their peaceful coexistence: the case of Hawassa University

Akalewold Fedilu Mohammed, College of Law and Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: akalewold2005@gmail.com

Abstract

This article examines how Ethiopian university students' understanding of a culture of peace contributes to their peaceful coexistence. By considering the case of Hawassa University, it explores how students understand their own culture of peace inherited from their home towns and villages, its application on the campus, and the level of its contribution to peaceful coexistence. The study employed a descriptive case study design with mixed research methods combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Findings show that due to a range of

factors, university students' understanding of their own culture of peace is at a poor level. Concerning the students' application of their own culture of peace for peaceful co-existence, some students are inclined to use peace-oriented cultural values to resolve conflicts, while others prefer to use modern legal systems. Underlying challenges facing students in contributing to peaceful coexistence on campus include a lack of respect for diversity and fear of demonstrating one's ethnicity, inability to communicate in different languages, national political turmoil, and the existence of different ethnicity and ethnocentrism. The study recommends that including peace education in the curriculum using short and long-term training can support and improve the application of the students' own culture of peace for conflict resolution.

Keywords: University students; peacebuilding; culture of peace; peaceful co-existence, conflict resolution; Ethiopia

The role of female students in peacebuilding in institutions of higher education in Ethiopia: the case of Hawassa University

Andualem Nega, College of Law and Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: andualemnega1983@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines the role of female students in peacebuilding within Ethiopian universities, focusing on Hawassa University. Historically, Ethiopian university students have been pivotal in democratisation and peacebuilding, although recent conflicts have shifted their roles towards being sources of conflict. This cross-sectional, descriptive study employs both qualitative and quantitative methods, utilising primary and secondary data. Findings indicate that conflicts in public universities stem from politicised ethnicity, ethnic cleavages, mistrust, "us vs. them" narratives, university services, personal issues, and gender-based violence (GBV). Female students, both victims and participants in these conflicts, experience psychological stress, GBV, physical harm, educational disruption, and sometimes death. However, they also contribute to peacebuilding through conflict stabilisation, peacebuilding processes, and influencing competing parties. Empowering female students in peacebuilding is crucial for addressing conflict sources, resolving disputes, and promoting peace.

Key Words: Peace; peacebuilding; female students; university; gender-based violence; youth; Ethiopia

Conflict transformation in Ethiopian universities through peace education: the case of Bahir Dar University

Abyssinia Abay, Department of Political Science and International Studies, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Contact email: abyssiniaabay6@gmail.com

Abstract

Conflict has been a common issue in Ethiopian universities since 2018, prompting the need for peace education interventions. While state-level inquiries have explored the origins of conflict, there is limited research on the causes and impact of peace education within universities. This qualitative study focuses on Bahir Dar University (BDU) to investigate the causes of conflict, available platforms, and the role of peace education in resolving conflicts since 2018. Drawing on the Integrated Theory of Ethnicity and the Conflict Model, data was collected through interviews, focus group discussions and secondary sources. The study identified ethnicity, fueled by factors like collective memory and social media, as a primary cause of conflict among BDU students. Measures such as diversified dormitory allocation and teachings on fraternity by religious institutions were effective in conflict prevention. Additionally, the university offered training programs, such as Sustained Dialogue (SD), and peace clubs in collaboration with external organisations. However, the study revealed a lack of formal peace education in the university curriculum, hindering long-term conflict resolution efforts. The findings emphasise the importance of integrating peace education into undergraduate courses to equip students with the skills needed to address conflicts systematically.

Keywords: Conflict; students; ethnicity; peace; peace education; Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

The role of youth in peacebuilding in Bahir Dar City: Amhara Youth Association in focus

Endalcachew Bayeh, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Contact email: endbayeh@gmail.com

Abstract

This research examines the role of the Amhara Youth Association (AYA) and specifically the Bahir Dar City Youth Association (BCYA) in peacebuilding efforts in Bahir Dar City. Using qualitative methodology and both primary and secondary data collection methods, the study identified key factors compromising peace in the city, including unemployment, hopelessness leading to addiction and crime, and governance issues. The research also revealed that the AYA/BCYA has been involved in the political, security, social, and economic dimensions of peacebuilding. However, as institutions, their impact is limited by challenges such as unemployment, financial constraints, political pressure, political distancing, unnecessary duplication of associations, attitudinal problems, and the problems faced by the youth. Despite these obstacles, there are strengths and opportunities to support the engagement of youth in peacebuilding, such as having supportive policy frameworks, networks with organisations and institutions, a large membership base, and better societal acceptance. Nonetheless, significant efforts are required, particularly from the government, to create a better enabling environment for youth to enhance their role in peacebuilding endeavours.

Keywords: Peace; peacebuilding; youth, AYA/BCYA, Bahir Dar City, Ethiopia

Exploring the role of university students in peacebuilding efforts: the case of Bahir Dar University

Seblewongiel Aynalem Kidanie, Department of Social Work, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Contact email: seblewongiel@gmail.com

Abstract

This study explores the engagement of university students in peacebuilding efforts in Ethiopia, using Bahir Dar University as a case study. The research applies the conceptual framework of inclusiveness, integration, and a holistic approach to peace to examine students' involvement in peace interventions both within and outside the university. The analysis focuses on three themes: experiences, opportunities, and challenges faced by students. Findings reveal that university students are motivated to participate in peacebuilding and contribute through mediating ethnic and religious conflicts, engaging in community dialogues, providing professional and social services, social activism and advocacy, and resource mobilization. However, their efforts are hindered by resource limitations, lack of continuous and genuine platforms, lack of recognition, and misperception as political operatives. The study highlights that peacebuilding is a complex process involving diverse approaches, actors, and initiatives. University students are crucial to these efforts, representing the next generation of leaders. University-based peacebuilding programs can significantly foster social and professional competencies among students, benefiting communities and the nation. Therefore, universities and other stakeholders should invest time, resources, and strategies to enhance students' participation in peacebuilding initiatives in Ethiopia, promoting the development of socially responsible citizens.

Keywords: *Peacebuilding; empowerment; Ethiopia; higher academia; participation; youth*

Peacebuilding initiatives in university spaces in Ethiopia: lessons from Jimma University and Dire Dawa University for future interventions

Abiot Desta Habte, Department of Governance and Development Studies, College of Law and Governance, Jimma University, Ethiopia

Contact email: abiotdesta@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines the engagement of Ethiopian university students in peacebuilding, focusing on Jimma University (JU) and Dire Dawa University (DDU). While conflicts among students of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds are not new, their desire for societal harmony remains strong. Recently, campus conflicts have mirrored the expansion of universities across Ethiopia's regions. This paper investigates whether universities can provide the institutional context necessary for effective peacebuilding. Using a qualitative, comparative approach, the study highlights that JU excels in peacebuilding through student movements, clubs, unions, and associations. In contrast, DDU is less prepared due to institutional shortcomings, leadership gaps, and inadequate infrastructure. The findings suggest that DDU can learn from JU's organized student movements, which act as guardians of campus peace. The study recommends that universities integrate peacebuilding into their strategic plans, making it a core institutional pillar and incorporating peace education.

Keywords: Peacebuilding; peace education; university spaces; Ethiopia; Jimma University; Dire Dawa University

The role of youth participation in building peace and peaceful coexistence: a case study of North Kordofan State

Mohammed Badawi Mohammed Ali, University of Kordofan, Sudan

Contact email: M_badwi21@yahoo.com

Abstract:

This research aimed to explore the role of youth participation in building peace and peaceful coexistence, focusing on the youth in North Kordofan State, El Obeid. Using a descriptive methodology and a purposive sample, data was collected through the distribution of 400 questionnaires (retrieval rate: 95%) and focus group discussions. The results revealed positive relationships between youth participation and support for peace, as well as between youth participation and empowerment for peace. The research recommended the integration of youth in peace-related activities to influence public opinion and civil society engagement, as well as their involvement in structural changes addressing the root causes of conflict, to support their crucial role in building sustainable peace and fostering peaceful coexistence in North Kordofan State, El Obeid.

Keywords: youth; peacebuilding; North Kordofan; El Obeid; Sudan

Al-Judiyya as a traditional mechanism for resolving conflicts: applied to youth violence after the December 2018 revolution

Wijdan Fath Al-Rahman, Faculty of Education, University of Kordofan, Sudan

Contact email: wijda88268@gmail.com

Abstract

The study was conducted in North Kordofan State, specifically in the locality of West Bara, from November 2023 to March 2024, to explore the effectiveness of customary dispute resolution mechanisms among youth. The study explored the issue of frequent conflicts among young people and their unresolved nature despite the presence of traditional reconciliation mechanisms known for their positive impact in resolving conflicts. The research employed a descriptive-analytical approach along with a historical method, gathering data through questionnaires completed by 50 young men and women and interviews with youth leaders. The study revealed a significant positive correlation between traditional mechanisms of dispute resolution and the reduction of violence and conflicts among youth. It was concluded that traditional dispute resolution, particularly through tribal mediation councils, was more suitable for young people in resolving conflicts stemming from ideological differences. However, there was a lack of female participation in conflict resolution processes among youth.

Recommendations include the need to enhance traditional solutions for resolving youth conflicts over resorting to judicial courts, emphasising the importance of voluntary resolution in traditional reconciliation to prevent immediate recourse to police and judicial intervention when violence

occurs among youth. Furthermore, the study suggests training traditional leaders in applying customary reconciliation practices and updating them on modern conflict resolution methods. It also advocates for training youth leaders on traditional mechanisms that contribute to conflict resolution in local communities and emphasizes the involvement of women and young women in conflict resolution mechanisms among youth.

Keywords: Youth; traditional conflict resolution; North Kordofan; Sudan

The roles of youth in peacebuilding: a case study of Gadarif State

Islam Mohammed Abdalla Eisa, Department of Journalism and Electronic Publication, University of Geneina, Sudan & **Saad Mohamed Abdal Karem Abakar**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Gadarif, Sudan

Contact email: islaam3050@gmail.com

Abstract

This study in Gadarif State, Sudan, analyses the crucial roles of youth in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts amidst the ongoing crisis. Findings reveal that youth, facing economic, environmental and security challenges, actively engage in peacemaking through initiatives, emergency rooms and cultural programs, contributing to social cohesion and combating hate speech. Despite their willingness to build peace, they encounter obstacles such as the lack of training programs, limited support and marginalisation in policy-making processes.

Recommendations emphasise the necessity of empowering youth through training programs, enhancing government support, and addressing negative perceptions from older generations towards youth contributions. The study concludes that prioritising youth issues and fostering their participation in peacebuilding initiatives are essential for sustainable peace and social harmony in Gadarif State.

Keywords: Peacebuilding; peace issues; youth contributions; youth initiatives; social cohesion; young people; community; emergency rooms

Evaluation of the Peace Studies Centre at Blue Nile University: from the perspective of its faculty and administrators

Abaker Yagoub Adam Logman, University of Khartoum, Sudan

Contact email: bakeryagoub@gmail.com

Abstract:

This qualitative study assessed the impact of the Blue Nile University's Peace Studies Centre on promoting a culture of peace in the local region from the viewpoint of faculty and administrators. A descriptive-analytical approach was utilised with data collected through interviews, focus groups, document analysis and field observations. The study found that the Peace Studies Centre plays a significant role in spreading a culture of peace in the region through a range of programs and activities, including seminars, forums, workshops, conferences and training courses. The Centre has built successful partnerships with local and international institutions to facilitate the successful implementation of local peace initiatives. The

study recommends increasing the funding of the Centre to enable it to more effectively fulfill its mission, and to support faculty and administrators at the Centre through advanced training courses in order to enhance their skills in promoting a culture of peace culture and rejecting violence.

The roles of social media in conflict and peace

Questioning the social media warfare and its implication on the peaceful coexistence among university students in Ethiopia

Mohammed Seid Ali, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Contact email: mohammedseid1997@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aimed to analyse the impact of social media misuse on the peaceful coexistence among Bahir Dar University students. It also adopts the communicative principles of deliberative democracy to examine the quality and integrity of social media (Facebook was selected for this study) communications among university students. Data was gathered from various sources, including interviews and focus group discussions. A frame and narrative analysis was employed to map the discourses and analyse the communicative dynamics of students' social media communications. The findings revealed that the nature (contents and process) of social media communications among university students has significantly failed to meet the principles of rationality, reciprocity, diversity and inclusion. Consequently, as a forum of hate speech, misinformation, and ethnic, religious and political polarisation, the social media platform has fueled the ongoing violent confrontations and physical and psychological abuses among students. Moreover, the existing repressive styles of social media governance at national and institutional levels have failed to address the ongoing social media warfare. The findings infer that unless Ethiopia navigates a more participatory and inclusive social media governance and social media literacy program at the national and institutional levels, existing social media misuse will continue to threaten the peaceful coexistence among the country's university students.

Keywords: Social media; warfare; misuse; Bahir Dar University; students; Ethiopia

The role of radio in promoting peace issues - North Kordofan State Radio (applied to community radio and Peace and Development Magazine programs) (2023 - 2024)

Iman Ibrahim Mohammed Ishag, University of Kordofan, Sudan

Contact email: imanibrahim388@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to explore the community radio programmes and the radio magazine "Peace and Development" that promote peace in North Kordofan State. It also seeks to contribute to

understanding and communicating the policies, practices and challenges related to how peace is promoted in the state through community radio and the magazine. Furthermore, it examines the need in North Kordofan for a specialised radio station that serves women's issues and peace. The study adopted a qualitative descriptive-analytical methodology and used interviews as its main research tool. The geographic scope of the study was limited to North Kordofan and the study population consisted of the radio authority director, radio program presenters, and the team behind the magazine "Peace and Development." The study found that radio plays significant roles in raising awareness about peace issues in the local community and promoting shared peaceful human values among the diverse communities in North Kordofan. The findings emphasise the importance of having a specialised radio station dedicated to peace issues, and highlighted the continuous evolution of radio programming in response to societal changes, as well as identifying challenges related to the availability of modern equipment.

Recommendations from the study include supporting and advocating for the continuation of community radio and the magazine's programs supporting peace and development, providing modern equipment and training for media personnel to advocate for peace and development issues, and developing long-term policies and plans to serve peace issues through radio without interference from local administrations.

Keywords: Peacebuilding; local radio; communities; North Kordofan; Sudan

Hate speech and its effect on the social fabric: case studies of West Kordofan and North Kordofan states

Abdalrahman Suliman Adam Ibrahim, University of West Kordofan, Sudan

Contact email: bdalrhmanslymanadm@gmail.com

Abstract:

This study examines the impact of hate speech on the social fabric of West and North Kordofan, focusing on the emergence of exclusionary language that undermines acceptance among tribal and ethnic communities. It investigates the role of hate speech in igniting conflicts and its negative consequences on the social, religious, and cultural values of the region. Employing a qualitative descriptive methodology, the research utilised surveys and interviews to gather data. Findings identified two main dimensions of hate speech: "Mistreatment and Conflict Ignition" and "Hate Speech Patterns," accounting for 67.7% of data variability. Pearson correlation analysis indicated weak but significant relationships between hate speech and social cohesion. The results suggest an association between hate speech and the erosion of the social fabric in these regions. Recommendations include avoiding hate speech, promoting inclusive communication, further research on hate speech, developing legal frameworks, implementing educational programs, enhancing media literacy, fostering inter-group dialogue, providing psychological support, and collaborating with stakeholders to combat hate speech and promote social cohesion.

Keywords: Hate speech; tribal and ethnic communities; social cohesion; West and North Kordofan; Sudan

Analysing the role of Red Sea Radio in fighting hate speech and promoting peace

Marwa Idris Muhammad Ali, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Red Sea University, Sudan

Contact email: marwamahdi2811@gmail.com

Abstract:

This research study investigates the effectiveness of community radio programs in preventing hate speech and promoting peace, with a particular emphasis on the Red Sea State's community radio program. Using a descriptive-analytical approach, the study examines the impact of episodes of radio programmes, utilising content analysis and surveys among program listeners and staff. Findings indicate that the program makes a major contribution to combating hate speech, emphasising messages of peace, tolerance, and conflict resolution.

Recommendations include increasing support for community radio programs, enhancing training for program staff, promoting community involvement in program content, and conducting further research on the role of radio in promoting peace. Furthermore, the research emphasises the importance of community radio in promoting peace and advises that governments, international organisations, and civil society should work together to increase its positive influence on society.

Keywords: Community radio; peacebuilding; hate speech; Red Sea State, Sudan

Traditional and indigenous approaches to peacebuilding

The indigenous culture of peace among the Borana Oromo of Southern Ethiopia: lessons for peace education

Lidiya Dereje Mekonen, Jimma University, Ethiopia

Contact email: liddereje@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines the indigenous culture of peace among the Borana Oromo of Southern Ethiopia and its implications for peace education. Utilising a qualitative-ethnographic research design, data were collected through purposive sampling strategy from *Abbaa Gadaa* leaders, councillors, elders, parents, youths, government experts, and educators from local schools. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions revealed that the Borana's concept of peace is extensive, encompassing daily blessings, greetings, rituals, and an emphasis on harmony within the home, in families, neighbours, livestock, grasses, mountains, rivers and forests. Essential principles for practicing this peace culture include adherence to cultural norms, truth, morality, and persistence. Integrating indigenous peace culture into educational curricula promotes respect, empathy, communication, understanding, tolerance, and cultural appreciation among students and their families. Challenges to this peace culture include lack of truthfulness and tolerance, disrespectful language, droughts, theft, alcoholism, urbanisation, and poor socialisation. The study recommends that the government incorporate indigenous peace

cultures into peace education programs to enhance comprehensive peacebuilding understanding.

Keywords: Borana Oromo; culture of peace; Gadaa system; indigenous; peace education

The role of community elders in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in Ethiopia: cases from North Wollo

Amarech Kebede Mekonnen, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia

Contact email: bemni1995@gmail.com

Abstract

Ethiopia is grappling with multiple crises, including human rights abuses, loss of life, displacement and resource destruction, due to political and ethnic conflicts. The conflict between the Federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front was the worst scenario that brought severe destruction and loss of human and physical resources. The study aimed to investigate the role of community elders in conflict resolution and reconstructing peace using an exploratory qualitative case study. Findings highlighted community elders are respected and trusted in their community; they were the ones who protected and saved the lives of the community during the war; they served as mediators between the rebel groups and the local community. However, they often retreat due to disrespect, lack of recognition, political interference, and vulnerability. The study suggests strengthening indigenous conflict resolution and peacebuilding techniques by integrating them into the formal legal system and capacitating community elders.

Keywords: Community elder; conflict; peacebuilding; post-conflict

The contribution of Sidama Seera for peacebuilding via the Ethiopian National Dialogue and the Transitional Justice Process: the role of women and youth

Yirgalem Geremo, School of Law, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: yirgalem45@gmail.com

Abstract

This study evaluates the participation of women and youth in the Ethiopian National Dialogue and transitional justice process through the "Seera" Cultural Justice System of the Sidama people. Traditional knowledge, characterised by collective ownership, involves the elderly who hold legitimacy within the community, facilitating negotiation and dispute resolution. The research is exploratory and employs a qualitative methodology for data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Primary data were obtained from legislative instruments and informants via structured and semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, and observations, alongside secondary sources. The study includes stakeholders such as government bodies, elders, community leaders, and societal elites.

Findings indicate that traditional conflict resolution mechanisms significantly contribute to sustainable peace but are not inclusive of women and youth. The study recommends that the Sidama "Seera" system incorporate women and youth in decision-making processes and restructure the elders' composition to ensure their participation. This could involve establishing youth and women councils within the institutional framework of the Seera traditional justice system.

Keywords: National Dialogue; peacebuilding; Seera; Sidama; transitional justice; traditional approaches; Ethiopia

Indigenous peacebuilding approaches in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia: the case of Shimglina

Kumilachew Siferaw Anteneh, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Contact email: kumilachew.siferaw@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines Shimglina, an indigenous peace practice in Ethiopia, using rapid ethnography to understand its role in peacebuilding. Through key informant interviews with elders, community leaders, and youth, as well as focus group discussions, the research uncovers Shimglina's comprehensive traditional conflict resolution system. Shimagles, who are respected for their moral and spiritual integrity, mediate disputes involving betrayal, insults, alcoholism, and land conflicts. The Shimglina process involves halting hostile behaviour, facilitating dialogue and reconciliation, and performing oath-taking ceremonies, all aimed at fostering social integration and long-term peace. By working alongside the formal criminal justice system in Bahir Dar, Shimglina promotes community cohesion, shared responsibility, and effective communication, rooted in local culture and traditions for sustainable conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Keywords: Shimglina; indigenous peace practice; peacebuilding; community cohesion, Ethiopia

The role of traditional mechanisms in peacebuilding: a case study in Eastern Sudan

Mohamed Ahmed Omer Mohamed Ahmed Osheik, Red Sea University, Sudan

Contact email: mohamedahmed@gmail.com

Abstract

This research study focuses on examining the traditional social practice of arbitration known as "Al-Qaldi" in the Bejaoui community in East Sudan to settle conflicts, resolve disputes, and maintain peace and security. The objective of the research is to understand the concept of Al-Qaldi, its role in contributing to peacebuilding efforts, and the potential for formalizing Al-Qaldi as a recognized judicial platform among the Bag tribes. Utilizing a descriptive and analytical approach, interviews were conducted to gather information on the effectiveness of Al-Qaldi in its social role. The results indicate that Bejaoui communities are familiar with and value Al-Qaldi as a significant social mechanism for resolving conflicts and ensuring social cohesion. The study

suggests that Al-Qaldi could be formalised as a trusted local legal court and relied upon for conflict resolution within the Bejaoui community. The study recommends implementing targeted awareness programs for local leadership and indigenous communities to strengthen the role of Al-Qaldi as a social mechanism for peacebuilding and conflict resolution. In order to enhance the effectiveness of local leadership in promoting harmony, cohabitation, and tolerance in the community, institutional support, which includes financial, medical, vocational, and economic assistance, should be provided.

Keywords: Traditional peace process; Al-Qaldi; Bejaoui; conflict resolution; social cohesion; Sudan

The influence of peace on social cohesion

Maha Muhammad Musa Adar Hamwi, Faculty of Law, Red Sea University, Sudan

Contact email: mahamousa.2025@gmail.com

Abstract

This study investigates the importance of peacebuilding in mitigating violence and fostering community harmony, with a focus on the pivotal roles of women, youth, and cultural diversity. Employing an analytical descriptive approach within a quantitative research framework, using data collected through observations, questionnaires, and interviews with key community stakeholders, the study highlights the effectiveness of peace in enhancing social cohesion and inter-community relations. The findings reveal that customs, traditions, and peacebuilding efforts significantly contribute to mutual understanding, social cohesion, and cultural diversity. The research emphasises the roles of education, national reconciliation, and democratic engagement in peacebuilding. The recommendations stress the value of integrating customs and traditions into peacebuilding strategies to enhance social cohesion and manage cultural diversity, underscoring peacebuilding's essential role in promoting inclusive and sustainable post-conflict development.

Keywords: Peace; social cohesion; peacebuilding strategies; customs; traditions; post-conflict; Sudan

The role of local leadership in peacebuilding

Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Mahmoud, Red Sea University, Sudan

Contact email: abou.ameeray@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to enhance the competencies of local leadership to promote peace values and combat behaviors, such as the use of hate speech, that fuel conflict. Utilising a descriptive, analytical, and historical approach, the study highlights the significant role of local leadership in fostering peaceful coexistence. The absence of effective local leadership can lead to unresolved issues and increased tensions, emphasising its crucial role in conflict resolution and the importance of community belief in its abilities. The study found that improving collaboration and

knowledge-sharing with local leaders is necessary due to the limited references and contacts that exist, and difficulties faced in accessing information from local communities. Recommendations include supporting local leaderships' skills through providing training to enhance political acumen and community leadership.

Keywords: Local leadership; peacebuilding; conflict resolution; communities; Sudan

Communities, conflict and peacebuilding

Conflicts and prospects for peacebuilding in the Western Oromia region, Ethiopia

Damena Tolessa Goda, College of Law and Governance, Jimma university, Ethiopia

Contact email: ibsaabbageda2006@gmail.com

Abstract

This study seeks to investigate the conflict in the western part of Oromia and the prospects for peacebuilding. The study employed a qualitative descriptive research design and data collection that involved a comprehensive range of primary and secondary sources. Purposive sampling was applied to select participants, comprising community representatives, government employees, academicians, and representatives from various organisations such as NGOs, faith-based institutions and peace projects. The data collection methods include interviews, focus group discussions and document analysis. The findings of the study reveal the complex and multifaceted nature of the conflict in Western Oromia, rooted in historical grievances, political marginalisation and governance issues. A diverse array of actors are involved in the conflict, ranging from armed groups to political parties. The study underscores the role of social media in escalating conflicts and highlights problems in media impartiality. The consequences of the conflict are profound, affecting social, political, economic, and security aspects, gravely impacting the civilian population and necessitating focused attention on peacebuilding efforts. Recommendations include the need for undertaking urgent actions addressing historical grievances, political marginalisation, and governance issues to pave the way for sustainable peace, and addressing challenges faced by the youth in taking part in meaningful inclusion in peace processes.

Keywords: Peacebuilding; conflict causation; communities; Western Oromia, Ethiopia

The role of urban communities in managing conflicts and building peace: the case of Hawassa City in Ethiopia

Addiswork Tilahun, College of Law and Governance, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: adihabesha50@gmail.com

Abstract

The pursuit of peace requires addressing both negative and positive aspects to establish a harmonious society. It is crucial for peacebuilding initiatives to recognize the interconnectedness of various levels of governance and the value of incorporating local perspectives. Despite continuous efforts in peacebuilding, achieving complete peace remains elusive in contemporary Ethiopia, with persistent repercussions of war and conflict. Recent conflicts have emerged even in towns and cities that were previously considered peaceful. Recent conflicts in previously peaceful towns highlight the critical need for research on local peace structures that have sustained peaceful coexistence for centuries.

This study examines local peace structures in heterogeneous urban communities, focusing on Hawassa. Using a constructivist perspective and qualitative methods, the research explores the architecture, functioning, and intergenerational dynamics of peace structures in the Bahil Adarash and Addis Ketema sub-cities. The study identifies two main types of peace structures: quasi-formal structures operating alongside the court system and customary dispute resolution processes functioning independently. Both play significant roles in maintaining community peace. The findings suggest integrating sub-national governance with local peace structures through a functional framework for comprehensive and effective peacebuilding, promoting sustainable peace.

Keywords: Peacebuilding; quasi-formal peace structures; customary dispute resolution; urban community; Hawassa; Ethiopia

Community policing and peacebuilding in Jimma Town, Ethiopia: with a special emphasis on the participation of women

Bisrat Gebru Wolde, Department of Governance and Development Studies, Jimma University, Ethiopia

Contact email: wgsoru@yahoo.com

Abstract

The aim of this research was to investigate the practices and challenges of community policing in peacebuilding in Jimma town, giving special emphasis to the participation of women. For this study eight zones were selected from four kebeles in Jimma town. The study used a qualitative research approach and a descriptive cross-sectional research design. Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources using key informant interviews, focus group discussions and document analysis. The study involved a total of 57 participants. The findings of this study reveal that community policing is structured from town level up to household levels and there is good level of community participation. Community policing is found to be an important instrument in ensuring peace through peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding activities. Though women participate in community policing in Jimma town, their participation is either inadequate or very much limited. Women's participation is found to be advantageous in many respects. However, women face some difficulties in their participation in community policing relating to their physical situations, household burdens, lack of awareness and stereotyping, and lack of appropriate leadership. The practice of community policing in Jimma town is faced with multiple challenges, such as inadequate budget and resources, rules and

procedures, leadership and coordination, awareness and commitment, and gender-related issues.

Keywords: community policing; Jimma Town; peacebuilding; women; Ethiopia

The need for local level understanding of the perceptions, coping strategies and the prospects for peace in the recent war in Northern Ethiopia (2022-23)

Belayneh Taye Gedifew, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Contact email: belayneh3415@gmail.com

Abstract

This study investigates the war in Northern Ethiopia (2020-22) from a bottom-up perspective. Although the war received remarkable attention from the perspective of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, studies thus far employed a top-down approach, giving exclusive consideration to institutionalised, formal, and organised actors and discourses during the war. This not only limits our understanding of the causes of the war but also hampers prospects of building lasting peace. To fill this research gap, this study analysed local perceptions, focusing on the residents of Woldya City, regarding the causes of the war, coping strategies the residents employed during the war, and prospects for lasting peace. This study followed a qualitative research design based on the phenomenological hermeneutics research method. Primary data was collected through in-depth interviews with residents of Woldya City, and secondary published and unpublished documents were critically examined using a hermeneutic approach. The findings show that it is difficult to find articulated top-down causes of conflict among the majority of the local population and elite-based polarisations that are interpreted in daily socio-cultural, economic, and political interactions among the members of the local communities. The fact the adversaries during the conflict relentlessly worked to portray their enemies as enemies of the states and the public aggravated division among communities, eroding social fabrics that enabled peaceful coexistence possible. Nonetheless, from the coping strategies and the prospect for peace from the locals in Woldya, we can understand that the two communities in the two regions have a long history of living together with shared culture and religion. Moreover, the division and difference between the two communities from the two regions are not as wide as that portrayed in the top-down approach, which would lead to further conflicts caused by the communities themselves. Thus, following a bottom-up approach to understanding the cause of the conflict, the experience and coping strategies of the local people during the war and their attitude toward future peace from their lived experience gives us an opportunity to understand the war from a different perspective and in settling issues sustainably through community-to-community engagement.

Keywords: Conflict; war; peacebuilding; Ethiopia; Woldya City

Conflict between the Gurage and Kebena: exploring the cause and consequence in the Central Ethiopia region, Ethiopia.

Mekdes Worku Beyene, Jimma University, Ethiopia

Contact email: mekdesr1619@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examined the conflict between the Gurage and Kebena by exploring the cause and consequence in Central Ethiopia region, Ethiopia. An exploratory research design approach was used in this study as the issue was being studied for the first time. Purposive sampling was used to identify elders, religious leaders, women, government officials, and other individuals from the study area as research participants. The data was collected using unstructured in-depth interviews, observations and focus group discussions. The study shed light on indigenous dispute resolution structures used to settle conflicts between the two communities, identifying three mechanisms: the Yejoka Shiimagile in the Gurage ethnic group, the Uuget Shimagile in the Kebena, and Abba Gedas in the Oromo. While Shimgilena is also widely used in other communities of Ethiopia, Yejoka and Uuget are indigenous to Gurage and Kebena communities respectively. The study found that the major types and causes of conflict in Kebena and Gurage ethnic communities include boundary demarcation disputes, governance issues, and grievances over the recognition of a special district for Kebena while refusing the granting of a regional recognition for the Gurage community. Economic and social consequences of the conflict were identified in both ethnic groups and in Wolkite town.

Keywords; *Conflict; Kebena; Gurag; ethnicity; Ethiopia; cause; consequence*

The role of local elders in maintaining peace and harmony: the case of the border area of Nensabo Oromo and Bensa Sidama communities

Melese Tefo Worasa, Jimma University, Ethiopia

Contact email: melesetefo12@gmail.com

Abstract

Conflict is an inherent aspect of human society. Understanding traditional conflict resolution mechanisms is crucial for managing conflict effects before they escalate into economic, social, political, and cultural crises. This study assesses the role of elders in maintaining peace and harmony at the border area of the Nensabo Oromo and Bensa Sidama communities. Using semi-structured key informant interviews, focus group discussions, observation, and document review, the research identifies illegal rural land transactions, land expansion desires, and cross-border criminal activities as primary conflict sources. Elders and religious leaders facilitate peace through regular discussion forums every 10 and 8 days, respectively, imposing indigenous cultural punishments on criminals. However, the presence of cross-border armed groups, lack of connecting roads, and scarcity of essentials hinder these efforts. The government supports local elders' conflict management systems and NGO-provided peace and security training. Recommendations include further training on peace and security, encouraging the involvement of elders, youth, religious leaders, and media in conflict prevention, supporting indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms, ensuring security for elders, and strengthening law enforcement.

Keywords: *Elders; peace and harmony; traditional conflict resolution; border conflict; Oromo; Sidama; Ethiopia*

The role of armed struggle movements in peacebuilding in Sudan: a case study of the Sudan Liberation Army led by Minawi

Eabdalraazig Altahir, Al Neelain University, Sudan

Contact email: bdalrazqaltahr4@gmail.com

Abstract:

The research focused on the role of armed struggle movements in peacebuilding, with a case study on the Sudan Liberation Army led by Minawi. The study aimed to understand the movement's efforts in peacebuilding, the nature of programs offered, and the challenges faced in Sudan. Using a descriptive-analytical approach and a case study method, data was collected through surveys and interviews. The findings indicated that while the effort exerted by the Sudan Liberation Army in peacebuilding is acknowledged, it lacks genuine will, resources, and political commitment. The study recommended increased efforts from all parties, genuine commitment, and political will, as well as a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding and reassessment of peacebuilding strategies and previous agreements related to power and resource sharing negotiations.

Keywords: Armed struggle movements; peacebuilding, Sudan Liberation Army; challenges; political commitment

Exploring socio-economic dynamics and community well-being in Al-Abyad-Kordofan: an in-depth investigation of demographics, living conditions and challenges

Mohammed Ibrahim Mohammed Saadallah, University of Kordofan, Sudan

Contact email: secondfox112@gmail.com

Abstract

The research aims to examine the role of climate change in unplanned migration, investigate how migration contributes to conflicts, explore the impact of population stability in unplanned areas on social conditions, analyse the influence of housing environments on residents' economic well-being, study how stability within unplanned settlements affects community behavior, and understand the negative consequences of housing stability in local communities. This study delves into the complex interplay between environmental factors, migration trends, and resulting social and economic challenges in unplanned settlements. Findings from the Al-Abyad neighborhood highlight predominantly female demographics, an aging population, limited educational access, poor living conditions, and migration driven by job prospects and environmental issues. Health challenges, financial constraints, and high crime rates further compound the socioeconomic landscape. Recommendations include broad initiatives to enhance education, healthcare, housing, and economic prospects for community welfare, emphasising the need for urgent interventions to address environmental degradation, promote balanced development, and improve essential services. Measures such as skill development programs, educational enhancements, healthcare services, sanitation upgrades, job creation, and crime prevention are crucial to uplift the community and foster sustainability.

Keywords: Conflict; climate change; migration; urban; stability; Al-Abyad; Sudan

Gender and violence

Women, war and violence: experiences from Lay Gayint, Amhara Region, Ethiopia

Adey Belete Mehari, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Contact email: adeye2003@gmail.com

Abstract

The war between the Tigray Peoples' Liberty Front (TPLF) and the Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia has had devastating humanitarian impacts, particularly for vulnerable groups like women. This study aims to explore the specific consequences of the war between the Tigray Peoples' Liberty Front (TPLF) and the Federal Democratic Government of Ethiopia on women in the Lay Gayint district of the Amhara region. A mixed methods research design was applied integrating both qualitative and quantitative data. A range of data collection methods were employed, including surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Findings show high rates of gender-based violence, loss of livelihoods, death of family members, injury, psychological trauma, loss of assets and shelter, displacement, and food insecurity as a direct impact of the recent civil war. Despite such crises, women play active roles in peacebuilding in different ways. However, efforts for post-conflict recovery were limited. The study recommends that targeted programs and interventions for vulnerable and marginalised women be provided to support them to fully recover and rebuild from the chaos in the aftermath of the war.

Keywords: Women; violence; war; Lay Gayint; Ethiopia

Gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities in Dire Dawa City, Ethiopia

Bezawit Aweke Dires, Department of Psychology, Dire Dawa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: dagimaweke@gmail.com

Abstract

Gender-based violence (GBV) is the most common form of violence mostly experienced by women and girls. This study explores the nature and implications of gender-based violence on women and girls with disabilities in Dire Dawa City in Ethiopia. A qualitative research approach with a case study design was employed and primary data were collected through in-depth interviews and key informant interviews. The study site, 25 women and girls with disabilities and three key informants were identified through purposive selection. The study revealed that the major types of violence experienced by women and girls in the study areas were physical, economic, psychological, and sexual violence. In addition, attitudes towards women and girls with disabilities, compounded by their inability to protect themselves, their barriers to communication and the presence of high substance abuse, lead to physical, psychological, and

health-related consequences for them. The study identified existing gaps and approaches in addressing gender-based violence. These included a lack of institutional expertise and assistance, and undermining the needs of disabled women and girls, including their economic empowerment, access to basic services, and creating awareness in society. Thus, the study recommends that governmental, non-governmental organisations, religious leaders, and community leaders work jointly to prevent GBV on women and girls with disabilities and strive to improve their opportunities, well-being and safety.

Keywords: Gender-based violence; women and girls; disabilities; Dire Dawa City; Ethiopia

Protracted pastoralist conflicts in Southwest Ethiopia and its impact on women: a critical case study on the Suri area

Rukiya Abdo Yasin, Department of Civics & Ethics Studies, Jimma University, Ethiopia

Contact email: rukiyaabdu16@gmail.com

Abstract

Protracted conflicts significantly impact women and children, a concern that is receiving increasing attention from researchers and policymakers. This study focuses on the impact of prolonged pastoralist conflicts in southwest Ethiopia, specifically in the Suri area. The research explored the causes and dynamics of the conflict and its repercussions on women. A qualitative research approach was employed, incorporating key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis to gather relevant data. The study identified competition over resources, weak border control and proliferation of small arms, cultural practices related to dowry, cattle rustling, and revenge/retaliation as causes of conflict. Historically, conflict dynamics included rules that prohibited raiding without warnings, raping or killing women, burning pasture, poisoning wells, and killing cattle. However, these rules have changed, and such actions are now seen as symbols of honor and bravery. This study examines the physical, psychological, economic, and social impacts of conflict on women, including instances where women were given as restitution in intra-Suri conflicts. The findings highlight the need to provide security to citizens in border areas of South Sudan and to implement continuous awareness programs within Suri communities about the harmful effects of cultural practices that fuel conflict and affect women. Addressing the impact of pastoralist conflict on women requires a multifaceted approach prioritising their protection and empowerment. This includes creating economic opportunities, supporting access to education and enforcing laws that protect Suri women.

Keywords: Pastoralist; conflict; conflict dynamics; women; Suri; Ethiopia

Transitional justice and conflict-related gender-based violence in Africa: lessons for Ethiopia

Azeb Belachew Teklu, College of Law and Governance, Jimma University, Ethiopia

Contact email: azeb.bela@gmail.com

Abstract

Transitional Justice (TJ) is a process that involves prosecution, reconciliation, truth-seeking, reparation, and institutional reforms. This research advocates for gender and victim

inclusiveness in the TJ process in Ethiopia to achieve effective justice for survivors. As a method this paper employed both doctrinal and non-doctrinal approaches. Methods of data collection included key informant interviews, observations, focus group discussions, and comparative case analysis.

TJ was practiced since the times of ancient Greece and its modern origins trace back to the post-World War II era. These early efforts were gender blind. For a long time, conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (CRSGBV) was largely viewed as an unfortunate side-effect of war. Today in our world, CRSGBV is intentionally used as a tool of war and military units view women's bodies as "spoils of war." During the northern Ethiopian conflict, a report released by the OHCHR/EHRC documented the fact that women and girls were victims of SGBV. After the conflict is over and the signing of the Pretoria peace deal a new 'TJ policy' aimed at ascertaining the truth, accountability, redress for victims and reconciliation has lead Ethiopia to face the devastating but necessary task of the TJ process. In order to be successful, the TJ process requires ensuring that victim's rights/views are fully respected in the TJ processes, through the use of victim-sensitive procedures that guarantee victims' safety. These lessons and the findings from this research study highlight the importance of the design, implementation and monitoring of TJ initiatives be grounded on internationally accepted basic values, human rights standards and based on the Ethiopian context. The crucial lesson for Ethiopia is that no mechanism can work in isolation and the study advocates for a holistic approach model of TJ for Ethiopia.

Keywords: Transitional justice; conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence; holistic approach; lessons; Ethiopia

Policies and practices of addressing gender-based violence in Ethiopian higher educational institutions: the case of Hawassa University

Meaza Haddis Gebeyehu, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Contact email: meazahaddisgebeyehu@gmail.com

Abstract

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a critical global concern encompassing various forms of violence, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse, disproportionately affecting women. It is also a significant public health concern in Ethiopia, with 23% of women aged 15-49 experiencing physical violence and 10% experiencing sexual violence. This study focused on female students at Hawassa University to assess the effectiveness of existing GBV prevention measures. A case study approach was utilized, employing both quantitative and qualitative methods. Qualitative research tools included interviews, questionnaires, and observations. Purposive sampling was used for interviewees, through which 333 respondents were selected, while random and availability sampling was used for subjects of research addressed by questionnaires. Four campuses of Hawassa University were selected: Main, Awada, Medicine and Health, and IoT. The study found that male students were the primary perpetrators of GBV against female students, followed by teachers and security personnel, with sexual assault being the predominant form of violence. GBV on campus were addressed through the collaborative efforts of the Gender Directorate, the Students' Affairs Bureau, and student clubs to implement prevention measures such as suspending perpetrators and providing counseling support. The study recommends that these bodies should prioritise

preventive measures, create awareness, develop GBV reduction initiatives, and enhance counselling services for victims.

Keywords: Gender-based violence; women; university; Hawassa; Ethiopia

Experiences of gender-based violence among female university students: the case of Bahir Dar University, Gish Abay Campus, Ethiopia

Meseret Tamir Animut, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Contact email: meserettamir9@gmail.com

Abstract

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a widespread issue and a violation of human rights that affects women worldwide, including female university students. This study explores the experiences of gender-based violence among female university students at Bahir Dar University (BDU), Gish Abay Campus. A qualitative research method with a case study design was employed. The participants, totaling 49, were selected using purposive sampling, snowballing, and convenience sampling from various academic fields and batches. Primary data sources such as in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions were used to collect data, which was then analysed using thematic analysis methods. The findings revealed that female students experienced various forms of GBV, including sexual violence, psychological violence, and physical violence, with causes attributed to peer pressure, low academic performance, and alcohol abuse. The study highlighted the psychological, health, and educational consequences of GBV. Based on the findings, it was concluded that female students at BDU, Gish Abay Campus are exposed to different types of GBV committed in diverse settings and by different offenders. It is recommended that comprehensive institutional policies should be developed and implemented to address all forms of GBV, including sexual, physical, and psychological violence, to ensure the safety and well-being of female students on the university campus.

Keywords: *Gender-based violence; female students; experience; Bahir Dar University; Ethiopia*