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WEST AFRICA CENTRE FOR PEACE STUDIES 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

STAFF MEMBERS



WHAT WE DO





OUR MISSION

To promote Peace,
Human Rights,
Democracy and
Development through
Training, Research,
Advocacy and
Partnership.

OUR VISION

An International
Centre for Excellence in
Building a Peaceful
African Region devoid
of Conflict and
Injustices

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The year 2021 has been phenomenal for the West Africa Centre for Peace Studies (WACPS). Notwithstanding, the continuous impact of the pandemic globally, the organization has however stepped out to be counted among change makers within the civil society sphere. The organization began the year by commemorating international events, engaging the traditional and social media, engagement with the donor community, diplomatic missions and corporate bodies though we are yet to receive positive feedback with needed financial support.

Additional activities include, Seminar on Violent Extremism, Conference on Africa Security, TV and Radio Talk Shows. WACPS has equally reached out to other liked minded NGOs for partnership and collaboration, more organizations are equally expressing interest in working hand in hand with WACPS in order to see a better West Africa and Africa as a whole.

On the political scene, there has been a great deal of tumultuous events across the continent especially the West Africa sub-region. WACPS finds this development to be unfortunate and to a large extent retrogressive considering our collective resolve to entrench democracy.

The expectation of WACPS in the upcoming year 2022 and beyond is a more peaceful sub-region and the whole continent devoid of conflicts where durable development can take place for the benefit of the current generation and our future leaders.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white rectangular background. The signature appears to be 'E. N. Migyikra'.

Sign.....

Erasmus Ndemole Migyikra

1.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF WACPS

West Africa and Africa as a whole witnessed and continue to experience various form of conflicts.

In his early days as a national and later as an international civil servant, Mr. Erasmus Ndemole

Migyikra, observed uncountable number of conflicts and wars raging in many countries across the

African continent and other parts of the world.

In his quest to contribute to the resolution and management of these social issues, he brainstormed with colleagues across Africa with the same philosophy about peace and the idea of creating an organization which will be at the centre of peacebuilding, conflict resolution, diplomacy and development. This made the founder, Erasmus N. Migyikra to mobilize Africans and peace-loving individuals to come together to create WACPS. The organization was registered in 2005 as a legal entity for non-profit with the Registrar General Department of Ghana.

2.0 IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WACPS OPERATIONS.

For an NGO such as WACPS which is funding its projects and activities internally without the support of any external donor or funding source, the continuous challenges being posed by Covid-19 has had a tremendous effect on its operations.

The cost for running the organization has also skyrocketed due to unforeseen and unbudgeted for expenditures brought about by the Pandemic. In addition, most donors focus has shifted to humanitarian and preventive approach as compared to the period preceding the emergence of Covid.

Other consequences posed by the virus include the necessity for extra personnel and challenges associated in organizing events which must necessarily factor in the number, social distancing and compliance with the protocols.

3.0 ACTIVITIES

3.1 Strategic Planning

The West African Center for Peace Studies (WACPS) headquartered in Accra, Ghana as part of its efforts to streamline activities in a more scientific and logical manner organized a two-day strategic plan workshop in Tema, Accra, Ghana. The mixed residential workshop was held at the conference room of My Choice Hotel in Community 18 Tema on the 5th - 6th February, 2021 respectively.

The programme which took an international dimension brought together 21 experts with long standing experiences in peace keeping and development from across Africa. This included some consultants, sister organizations and voluntary staff members of WACPS.

3.1.1 Purpose of Workshop

In an opening remark, the Director of WACPS revealed that, the purpose of the workshop was to review existing structures and prepare a five-year strategic plan for the organization by the close of the day on 6th February, 2021 as part of efforts to promote peace in Africa. This purpose was to be achieved through a systematic laid programme outline shared for members.

3.1.2 Goals

The group postulated five main goals for the organization under the following headings;

- Establish and strengthen partnerships

- Enhance Advocacy
- Build Capacity of Stakeholders
- Strengthen Organizational Systems and Structures
- Improve Knowledge and Data Management

3.1.3 Workshop Achievements and Recommendations

After the 2-day intensive brainstorming exercise, participants successfully developed and formulated a five-year strategic plan for WACPS to be implemented but subject to review after evaluation in the course of time. This document which included the revision of the mission statements, **SWOT** and **PESTLE** analysis, the set goals, actions and activities and organizational transformation have been detailed.

PICTURES AT THE WORKSHOP





3.2 Commemoration of International Women's Day

As part of WACPS' commemoration of International Women's Day, the West African Centre for Peace Studies organized a sensitization program for traders and business women at Mandela Market in Ashaiman, a suburb of Accra.

International Women's Day is a global holiday celebrated annually on March 8 to

commemorate the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women. It is also a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence against women.

The theme for 2021 International Women's Day was, "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world on the way to the Generation Equality Forum".

A great number of women gathered at the market square to take part in the celebration. The organization delivered a solidarity message and congratulated the women on their resilience and tenacity in the face of global challenges.

Some of the topics addressed include; Personal Economic Management/Economic Empowerment, Domestic Harmony and Domestic Violence, Market Peaceful Cohabitation and Covid-19 Protocols.

3.2.1 Personal Economic Management/Economic Empowerment.

A member of the team, Miss Alberta Horlu took the women through some important tips on personal economic management and empowerment. She explained by showing them how to conserve their financial resources by avoiding unnecessary

expenditures for instance, excessive buying of attires or cloths, domestic appliances, electronic gadgets etc. most of these expenditures gradually eats into their capital and as a result render them bankrupt.

Another point emphasized was the crave for financial support that initially looks appealing but has hidden stringent conditions attached. Human relations are important in business, the women were encouraged to increase their courtesy towards their customers since this can boost their profit margin. This point was raised to buttress the importance of showing good manners and building good rapport with their potential customers.

The last point she touched on was the lack of ethical practices in their business these days, they were reminded that it is better to make an average profit with a clean conscience than to rack in massive gains through dubious means. In pursuing their strategy for quick money very toxic and harmful substances are being used to artificially increase the durability of the quantity of produce. One product that is commonly used in the preservation of fresh fish is formalin. The ingestion of formalin contaminated food for a long time can create several destructive health issues such as cardiac, digestive,

respiratory and neurological problems including cancer. Due to these negative consequences, they were reminded to think about the health implications and only serve and present safe and healthy produce to their customers.

3.2.2 Domestic Harmony and Domestic Violence

The next speaker Madam Rebecca Owusua Ampaw on the theme Domestic Harmony and Domestic Violence sensitized the women on the importance of living harmoniously with their families to avoid domestic violence.

She defined harmonious home as a home environment where members treat each other with respect and work through problems together to protect children against emotional, psychological, learning and social problems.

It means the ability to trust and support, communicate differences in a constructive manner and look beyond self. It involves continuous work and constant reflection on actions that keep healthy connections with family. For a harmonious family life, she recommended the following:

Communication: she stressed the need for market women to maintain a healthy

communication with their spouses, children and other family members so that there will be peace. She further entreated the mothers to treat each child differently at each developmental stage.

When people feel unappreciated, discouragement can set in therefore they were urged to show appreciation for the efforts of family members be it husband, children or relatives.

According to Act732 of the parliament of Ghana, domestic violence explained as engaging in any acts that constitutes a form of harassment, threat or harm to a person or behaviors likely result in physical, economic, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse. Its purpose is to gain power and control over spouse, partner, intimate family, and girl/boyfriend.

She cautioned them to look out for the following forms or signs of abuse and speak up to the right authorities if necessary; Control, that is the absence of the freedom to do other things without the approval of the other spouse, Physical abuse, hitting, beaten etc. Sexual abuse; forceful engagement of a person to sexual contact, sexual conduct that, abuses, humiliates, degrades other person or deliberately infecting someone with STDs, Emotional; lack of adequate food, water,

clothing, shelter verbal or psychological abuse; conduct that makes another person feel constantly unhappy, miserable, afraid, ridiculed, depressed, Economic abuse; deprivation of economic or financial resources which a person is entitled by law etc. In Ghana, the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVSU) is the main government agency that deals with many forms of abuse.

3.2.3 Peaceful Coexistence

The need for peaceful cohabitation both at home and in the market is a necessary element for every human's wellbeing. WACPS' Deputy Programmes Manager, Mr. Godwin Kouwoadan reiterated the point by urging the market women to treat each other as friends and promote peace. Sometimes, very malicious lies are spread throughout the market.

Some quarrels that started in markets spread to other parts of the community. The women were entreated to embrace pacific living. Peaceful living should be protected at all times. The consequences of instability are uncountable and the main victims are women and children.

The need for the strict observation of the COVID-19 protocols should also not be

forgotten he said. The regular hand washing under flowing water, the sanitization of the hand, the wearing of the nose and face masks. The traders were reminded about the vaccination campaign that's currently ongoing and were encouraged to avail themselves when it is their turn. Other members of the WACPS team include, Mrs.Gifty Migykra, Mr. Richard Mensa, Mr. Enoch Bonney, Miss Joyce Asamoah and Mr. Wisdom, the cameraman.

GALLERY OF PHOTOS AT MANDELA PARK (ASHAIMAN)



3.3 Seminar at Pentecost University

Theme: Youth as Agent of Peace in Africa

In response to the current upsurge in youth involvement in violent extremism in West Africa and Africa as a whole, there is the need for awareness creation.

The West Africa Centre for Peace Studies, Amann Centre for Democracy and Counter Terrorism in collaboration with Pentecost University organized a dialogue series to educate, sensitize and engage the youth especially up and coming journalists and communicators of the Pentecost University to become ambassadors and agents of peace. Another objective is to get them involved in countering/preventing violent extremism in the West Africa sub-region.

The programme brought professionals from diverse background including: the Vice Chancellor of Pentecost University Professor Kwabena Adjepong Kodua, General Manager of Accra FM, Kojo Preko Dankwa, Mrs. Caroline Kisato Ogisa from Kenya, Network and Partner Relation Coordinator WACPS, Mr. Erasmus Ndemole Migyikra esq. The Executive Director for WACPS and Dr. Sadiq Adu-Twum, Director of ACDS to speak on the topic from different angles.

In his welcome address the Vice Chancellor



admonished the youth that there is no better time to talk about peace than now. He further challenged the youths to let problems and difficult times bring out the leadership qualities in them. He concluded that it is his expectation that after the forum, the participants will be equipped to find solutions to the myriad of problems. As a Christian institution, on the matter of peace, if it is in our power, we should live at peace with everyone.

The next speaker, was the General Manager of Accra FM, who brought to light the role the media play in fueling or calming violent situations.



He challenged the up-and-coming journalists and communicators to be law abiding, respecting all the directives of the GJA, their respective media houses. They should equally look out for libel, defamation, avoid framing people without giving them the chance to tell their side of the story.

Ms. Caroline O. Kisato specifically looked into the role women play in peace and security. She dwelled on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 that is giving importance of the roles women play in various sphere and sectors of life that were not recognized in the past.



On the part of the youth she said, life passes by so quickly and if they do not seize the opportunity and actively participate in the key issues that concern the society they will be left behind and considering the Sustainable Development Goals that emphasize the inclusion of everybody

especially the youth who are creative and active and whose voice is important when it comes to decision because they are the future leaders. She reminded them that women have a lot of power to mobilize themselves to influence decisions in their favour and for the good of the larger society.

She finally encouraged the young women to get themselves well equipped with the right information in education on topics that concern women and also, they must be positively curious and be prepared to act in order to effect the change that they desire. This will help them to play meaningful roles in the peace building process. Some of these skills include mediation, negotiations, lobbying, alternative dispute resolution and advocacy.

Bringing in a bit of field experience from war torn zones the Executive Director of WACPS Mr. Erasmus N. Migyikra revealed that violent extremism has a lot of negative consequences on the youth as future leaders therefore they should not allow politicians to mislead them into destroying their lives. He prescribed certain tools such as dialogue, education, mediation as a very vital in conflict resolution to avoid violent extremism.



Mr. Erasmus challenged the journalists and the communicators to exhibit new attitudes that promote unity and instrument of change for a better Africa so not to repeat the mistakes of past leaders. He singled out the importance of peace as foundation for development. Additionally, he appealed on journalists and communicators at large to ensure that despite the pressures from opposing forces, they should remain steadfast and impartial and committed to their professional ethos and ethical standards.



Dr. Sadiq the moderator for the occasion and the Executive Director of ACDS on the other

hand contributed to earlier panelist's view that security is the vehicle that moves development faster because without it there cannot be mobilization of talents to bring about the expected transformation.

The participants were given the opportunity to seek further clarification by asking more questions on the presentations of each facilitator. Some of the questions posed were; A student wanted to know how relevant and practical the United Nations Resolutions are to the African context and especially to African women. It is against the background that a lot of women are not aware of the promulgation of these instruments. Another student enquired on the measures put in place by Ghanaian leaders to prevent future recurrence of what happened in Rwanda for example. The panelists responded that to maintain peace, it is the responsibility of all and sundry including journalists, communicators and citizens at large. The programme drew participant from the media, communication department of P.U, WACPS, ACDS, 3MCI, Accra FM and the general public. In all, over 100 guests graced the occasion.

SCENES AT THE PENTECOST UNIVERSITY





3.4 Tree Planting

The world's Photography Day which is celebrated on every August 19th is to honour photojournalists globally on their unseen contributions to journalism and preservation of historical moments and memories.

This year's ceremony was observed by the Ghana Photojournalist Network (GPN) in collaboration with Forestry Commission, and

Accra Metropolitan Assembly. In solidarity with the GPN, The West Africa Centre for Peace Studies (WACPS) also deployed its staff to take part in this historic event.

Afforestation or tree planting is of concern not only to NGOs involved in climate change but peacebuilding and good governance organizations as well. The event was aimed at supporting the government's Green Ghana Project, and initiative also aimed at restoring Ghana's depleted vegetative cover through the planting of five million trees across the country.

PICTURES OF THE TREE PLANTING EXERCISE



4.0 ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE MEDIA

4.1 Accra FM

Accra FM in the Ghanaian capital invited WACPS to present its views on the violence extremism activities taking place in the West Africa sub-region especially the G5 Sahel Countries.

This followed the escalating violence in Burkina Faso at the beginning of the year where many people were killed according to

media reports and many more fled their homes for safety. On the night of 4th June 2021, Jihadists assaulted and killed civilians destroying homes and the markets in Solhan in Yagha province in Burkina Faso. WACPS drew the attention of the security services in Ghana and in West Africa and called on the governments to beef up security to mitigate the effects of the spillover of the violence taking place in the Sahel countries.

PICTURES AT ACCRA FM



4.2 Top Radio

WACPS was invited by Top FM on September 1st, 2021 to discuss the activities of the organization and its impact on the Ghanaian community since its establishment. The organization was represented by Miss Caroline Kisato the officer for Networks and partnerships, Miss Alberta Horlu Finance and Administration Officer and Mr. Godwin Kouwoadan the Deputy Programs Manager. This interview was a follow-up on WACPS participation in the tree planting event organized in collaboration with Ghana Photojournalists Network on 19th August, 2021.





4.3 MTA Studios

Another invitation was extended to WACPS to contribute to the security dialogue program on Muslim Television Ahmadiyya (MTA) International to discuss the involvement of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.



5.0 CONFERENCES

5.1 Conversation on African Security (Labadi)

The seminar on Securing Political Order in Ghana was organized by the of Department

of Politics and International Relations University of Aberdeen on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra Ghana.

Background Information

The Conversations on African Security Seminar Series was a platform convened by Dr. Manu Lekunze of the University of Aberdeen to offer the opportunity to leading practitioners and scholars to discuss causes and implications of topical African Security issues to advance innovative solutions.

In his welcome address, the convener of the seminar, Dr. Manu Lekunze, of the University of Aberdeen, said that he decided to bring the conversations to African on the African soil. Similar meetings have already been organized in Abuja, Nigeria and in Bamako, Mali.

He referred to the current security situation in West Africa especially the Sahel area that's Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Chad and Niger. He stated that the spillover effects of conflicts and jihadists activities must be of utmost concern to neighboring countries especially Ghana since it is surrounded by countries that are targets of violent extremists.

In his key note address, Dr. Evans Aggrey-Darkoh, CEO, Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ghana reiterated the importance of securing political order and linked the instability in some of the African countries due to governance challenges. In the face of current demographics (youthful generation and the elderly, new technologies and the new international environment.

The institutional architecture of any country can contribute to the stability of that country.

Dr. Aggrey-Darkoh stressed the importance of resilience of countries and its citizens. He recalled that Ghana since independence has had a patched political history but the country has always sailed through due to this robust system.

He cited the media pluralism, media freedom and the multiparty democracy system as some of the enviable credentials of Ghana.

According to Dr. Aggrey-Darkoh, Ghana since independence went through so many political up and down with many military coup d'états where governments were accused of corruption, bad governance, nepotism. The military's record in government has also left much to be desired because the same vicious cycle is repeated.

He noted that for Ghana to get to where we are now, we had to endure eleven years of unaccountable governance before the 1992 constitution was ushered in. There have since been eight successful elections with the last one being in December 2020.

The next resource person to intervene was Dr. Saddiq Adu-Twum of Pentecost University. He examined the role of the media in conflict prevention and on the other hand the escalation of violence when professionalism and ethics are not respected.

He pointed out that the media as the fourth realm of the state must be given adequate training to know the implications of unguarded sensational journalism. Dr. Adu-Twum was of the view that media practitioners must be sensitive at all times especially when reporting on conflicts or political events in order not to inflame passions and exacerbate already volatile situations.

Mr. Richard Appau, who is a lecturer at Akenten Appiah-Menka University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development, discussed the cybersecurity aspect of the security situation in Ghana and in West Africa.

In Mr. Appau's view, the old method of intelligence gathering where detectives or spies were deployed in the streets of cities or towns to eavesdrop in order to gauge the political temperature is obsolete.

People now gather online and share their ideas and strategize on the way forward. Unemployment has also made it easy for a lot of young men and women to be quickly accessed as they are constantly available in cyberspace where they are fed with extremist propaganda which is clandestinely on Darkwebs, ecochambers.

Security services who want to be abreast with current trends must be conversant with social media engagements and other cyber security. The recent #FixTheCountry# campaign and demonstration in July 2021 were organized and coordinated online by the organizers before the physical gathering.

Cybersecurity and National Security Nexus: Virtual or cyberspace resilience. According to him, there is currently a recruitment drive to entice young Ghanaians to join these violent groups. He called on individuals, security services, NGOs to be alert.

The e-business or digitization of the economy though brings about efficiency, it also exposes the country to cyber-attacks.

Professor N. Awasom, Department of History, University of Ghana, traced the roots of democracy in Africa to pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial eras. According to Prof. Awasom, many African countries are practicing borrowed democracies and there is the need for homegrown versions that align with our values and cultures.

He referred to the herculean challenges that faced the first President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, in his post-independence reconstruction endeavours.

He cautioned African countries to ensure equitable distribution of their resources to cover especially the youth to avoid uprisings seeking justice.

Security cannot be discussed without the perspective of the military. Lt. Col Alex Cann, from the Ghana Armed Forces, who spoke in his capacity only as a soldier, analyzed democracy as a very complicated concept to practice. He attributed the difficulties associated with democracy to the lack of deliberate civic education of the citizens on democracy, security.

He called for a radical transparency in the implementation of activities to restore confidence in the political system. Corruption and the perception of corruption are issues that need serious analysis.

Security must be a joint responsibility of every citizen and not to be left for only the security services. The unkept and the uncountable promises of politicians during campaigns also creates mistrust between the electorate and the politicians according to Lt. Col. Alex Cann.

The meeting was successful and very insightful throwing light on African security issues.

5.2 All Africa Media (virtual Dialogue on Cameroon)

All Africa Media invited experts from the Positive Peace Group (Cameroon) and West Africa Centre for Peace (Ghana) on the theme: Focusing on Peace by Peaceful means on Cameroon crises. Both organizations are on a mission to build lasting peace in the work that they do. WACPS was represented by three (3) officials including the CEO three (3) experts from the Positive Peace Group as well. All Africa Media team enquired about the peacebuilding role of WACPS in the turbulent region. The CEO responded that WACPS has formed partnership with likeminded organizations, foundations and also a member of other networks working towards peacebuilding. On the question of the role of NGOs in peacebuilding, the

Deputy Programmes Manager Mr. Godwin Kouwoadan stated that,

NGOs have a lot to do, because when they play the role of mediators and the parties involved in a conflict see them as neutral, they are able to bring people together. He further reminded the audience that, after every conflict, there is so much to be done, because systems are disrupted in terms of government at the local level, trade is disrupted, dialogue is destroyed, there's mistrust. So, NGOs must bring the different actors together, especially the youth to conscientize them about the ramifications or the consequences of conflict, they must involve everybody, from the governments, civil society, traditional rulers, schools and other stakeholders to put the right structures in place and make sure that peace and justice prevail.

An additional question concerning how women and children's rights especially during conflict are respected, was also brought up for WACPS analysis. In response, Miss Alberta Horlu the Finance and Administration Officer reiterated that women and children's right are normally not respected in situation especially since they are the most vulnerable in armed conflicts. She also added that even government have a

lot to do in giving more recognition and space for women to operate. She further called for more advocacy and mediation roles for women in peacebuilding processes.

5.3 International Network to End Violence against Women and Girls (INEVAWG)

Report on workshop organized by International Network to End Violence against Women and Girls (INEVAWG) on the

Theme: Repoliticising Violence against Women and Girls; A call to action

Tuesday, 27th April, 2021 at Mensvic Grand Hotel, East Legon, Accra.

The INEVAWG National Consultation in Ghana brought together experts and practitioners from a variety of fields including academia, government agencies, women's right organizations (WROs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), the media, civil society organization (CSOs) and development partners (DP) to:

- Gather relevant and current inputs, insights and information related to VAWG in the context of Ghana.
- Discuss new and innovative ways of dealing with VAWG in the context of a global pandemic
- Develop an action plan to implement these new ideas and the possible resources that may be needed for implementation.
- Recruit new members for the network with special focus on the recruitment of young women, and women from the various marginalized and vulnerable groups.

The program started with registration of participants and introduction of guests by the moderator Lawyer Shiela Minkah-Premo of Apex Law Consult.

The first presentation of the day was done by Dr. Deda Ogum-Allangea of School of Public Health, University of Ghana, Legon on findings of a study on economic and social impact of Covid 19 on women and girls in Kumasi and Accra.

The second presentation was done by a representative from Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVSU) of the Ghana Police Service on Responding to violence against women and girls: role of DOVSU.

Presentation done on behalf of Chief Superintendent Owusua Kyeremeh, Director of DOVSU revealed that DOVSU investigates all abuses including sexual offences, cases of harassment, all harmful traditional practices, force marriage, threat and damages

Ms Latifa Abobo Siddique, Principal Programme Officer from the domestic violence secretariat of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) made a presentation on effective implementation of domestic violence act role of metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies (MMDAS). She mentioned that MoGCSP is playing the leading role in fighting gender-based violence together with other stakeholders like the judiciary, Ministry of Health, Attorney General Department and the Local Government.

Some of the recommendations made were:

- Domestic violence fund should be reactivated with management board in place to manage the funds.

- The various stakeholders must share information among themselves.
- Government should take the medical bill of victims.
- The state should train prosecutors and investigators to work on gender-based violence issue.
- Teach girls to defend themselves.

6.0 Research and Fact-Finding Mission

WACPS undertook fact finding mission to Krachi Nchumuru district in the Oti region to familiarize themselves with the happenings on the ground. A close door meeting was held with Nana Kanya, the Paramount Chief of Bejamse traditional area. The discussion focused on inter and intra clan conflict and extension of Northern Ghana conflict. The chief also express serious concern about the rate at which girl children are abandoning school for multiple reasons. He appealed for the support of all stakeholders and NGOs to reverse the trend. Other areas the traditional rural identified for assistance include the lack of a library facility and a resource centre to accelerate the learning process of students in the district. The Paramount chief requested WACPS intervention for solutions to these challenges.

7.0 Capacity Building and Internal Training for Volunteers

The peace and security sector keeps on changing because of so many events and activities taking place by the minutes. It is therefore, necessary to equip the staff with the needed knowledge and relevant information.

WACPS therefore instituted an internal training section for volunteers once a week where resource persons both internal and external are invited to share their expertise from different backgrounds. Some of the topics discussed include: International Humanitarian Law, Strategies for Resolving Conflict in an Organization, Refugees and IDPs, Importance of Teamwork, Theory of Change, Health Tips and Research Methods.

8.0 REPORT ON THE EVENT ORGANIZED BY WILDAF AND OXFAM IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNUAL 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM.

The event took place on the 30th of November 2021 at the hall of Alliance Françoise to premiere a short movie on rape: titled “SHAME”.

The evening programme brought together experts, victims of rape, women rights organizations, civil society organizations

such as West Africa Centre for Peace Studies, practitioners including media houses to contribute their support for their effort against gender-based violence.

Rape is most often condoned by our social norms and cultures especially in our Ghanaian context which in return makes it more tough to address. therefore, participants were urged to speak up when abused and as well watch out for their young girls back home for unusual changes.

The representative from the French Embassy a sponsor of the occasion revealed the reality from perspective of France. She mentioned that the GBV is far from marginal where every three days in France a woman dies because she is beaten by her husband and another raped in every seven years.

Oxfam on the other hand said it was an honour to be part of the sponsors in premiering such wonderful film and they will continue to offer support for organizations advocating for justice of victims and raising awareness of gender-based violence.

The West Africa Centre for Peace Studies through this interaction with Wildaf and other organizations, came to the realization that a collective effort will be needed to see a greater number of the societies women and girls getting more freedom and protection

from societal vices such as rape, early marriages and other forms of violence against women and girls.

Finally, the producer of the film “Shame” informed participants that, the film was made with tears because everyone engaged were in one way or the other abused in that manner. He further added that though they did not have all the legal detail notwithstanding the film would serve as a tool of encouragement to make past and future victims speak up. “What will give me much satisfaction and accomplishment is the practicality of victims treated in hospitals without a fee” he added.

Some of the suggestions made by participants were:

- a) To negotiate with the ministry of health to consider the free medical care for victims.
- b) To share quotes and create awareness on our various platforms with the aim of informing the society to end GBV at all level.
- c) To involves everyone in the fight of GBV because its effect affects all.
- d) To look out for our young girls and ladies and encourage them to speak up early enough.



showed appreciation and called for more of such engagement between WACPS and the surrounding communities.



9.0 Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV.

As part of the United Nations global efforts at combating domestic violence, a 16 day of activism against gender-based violence was set aside from 25th November to 10th December every year to create awareness about the global phenomenon of violence against women and children who are considered as the most vulnerable.

The West Africa Centre for Peace Studies mobilized its staff and many volunteers for a community outreach programme to sensitize the community members about the negative effect of gender-based violence. Many of the people the team came into contact with



10.0 WACPS Paid a Courtesy Call on Kenya Ambassador

The CEO of WACPS paid a courtesy call on Kenya ambassador to Ghana and discussed issues on democracy and consolidation of peace in Africa



commemorate some international days, correspondence was sent to a number of these missions in Ghana for assistance and partnerships. Some of these bodies that were contacted include: European Union Mission in Ghana, The United States Embassy in Ghana, The French Embassy, Norwegian Royal Embassy, Italian Embassy, Saudi Arabia Embassy, Kenyan High Commission, Canadian High Commission and Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Most of them express their willingness to partner WACPS in future endeavors.

12.0 Partnerships

The year 2021 also saw a substantial expansion in the network building and partnership drive of the West Africa Centre for Peace Studies. For NGOs to have greater impact it is most of the time very necessary for them to form alliance/ collaboration with same minded organizations. It is in this vein that Progressive Peace Group (PPG) of Cameroon and WACPS signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to put their efforts together to promote lasting peace on the continent.

11.0 Sponsorship Letters

One of the key components of the strategic plan is to deepen our bilateral relationship with the diplomatic community and international foundations operating in Ghana and beyond. In WACPS quest to

Other organizations and institutions which also expressed interest in forming alliances with WACPS to carry some specific programmes include; Pentecost University in

Accra, Amann Center for Democracy Security and Counter Terrorism and Ghana Photojournalist Network.

13.0 Educational Sponsorships

An unequipped youth can be vulnerable and easily recruited into dangerous groups to threaten and destabilize the security of their country and the continent as a whole. Notwithstanding the financial challenges confronting WACPS as a result of lack of donor support many young men and women are benefiting from the organizations scholarship scheme. Some of the schools where the students are being sponsored include; Ghana Institute of Journalism, Accra Technical University, Nursing Training College – Lawra in the Upper West Region and post WASSCE candidates who are awaiting results.

14.0 International Volunteers

The organization has also hosted three international volunteers to add additional expertise and skills to the activities of the organization. They are Miss Ronnah Nkunda from Uganda, Miss Carroline Ogisa Kisato from Flinders University of Australia and Miss Wendy Debra Minyika from Kenya.

The organization is appreciative of the support rendered by each one of them for the growth of the organization.

15.0 Projections for 2022

WACPS actually took steps to raise funds in order to achieve the projections slated for the year 2021. Even though the organization did not get the expected financial assistance, more concrete projects have been designed and it is our firm believe that the year 2022 will yield better results.

These projects include; The Girl Child Educational Improvement Project, The Library/Resource Center, Peace Clubs in Tertiary Institutions, Youth Peace and Security Dialogue, Male Porters Skills Acquisition and Sensitization on Plastic, Health and Environment.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



**Migykra Erasmus Ndemole
(Ghana)**



Madam Janet Adama (Ghana)



**Dr. Inusah Abdul-Nasiru
(Univ of Ghana Dept of psychology)**



Sam Muhumure (Uganda)



Dr Abiodun Onadipe (Nigeria)

16.0 THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- ❖ Migyikra Erasmus Ndemole (Esq)
- ❖ Euphemia Akos Dzathor (Mama Awanyo)
- ❖ Augustine Yao Dzathor (Prof)
- ❖ Amina Abugdanroka Kaguah (Esq)
- ❖ Vera Lynnette Yawa Adomako-Nyantakyi (Mrs)
- ❖ Thelma Osei (Mrs)

17.0 FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2021				
Budget Line	Budget Amount (GH₵)	Actual Expenditure (GH₵)	Variance in GH₵	Variance in Percent
	General Expenses			
Educational Sponsorship	17,000.00	15,080.00	(1,920.00)	11.3%
International Women's Day (Mandela Market)	7,000.00	5,700.00	(1,300.00)	18.6%
Pentecost University	3,500.00	2,500.00	(1,000.00)	28.6%
Tree Planting	2,500.00	1,700.00	(800.00)	32.0%
Subtotal General Expenses	30,000.00	24,980.00	(5,020.00)	16.7%
	Administrative Expenses			
Volunteers Allowance	25,000.00	23,800.00	(1,200.00)	4.8%
Renewals (Postal Box & Website)	2,389.08	1,789.08	(600.00)	25.1%
Strategic Plan Meeting	23,061.74	22,574.30	(487.44)	2.1%
Miscellaneous Expenses	19,549.18	19,249.20	(299.98)	1.5%
Subtotal Administrative Expenses	70,000.00	67,412.58	(2,587.42)	3.70%
Grand Total	GH₵ 100,000.00	GH₵ 92,392.58	(GH₵ 7,607.42)	7.6%

OUR LOCATION AND CONTACTS

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18.0 CONCLUSION

The year 2021 despite its challenges still saw an expansion in WACPS activities and more joint projects with other organizations. The organization is hopeful that many financial partners will lend their support for greater achievements and improvements towards peacebuilding, democracy, good governance, human rights and a greater capacity building for the youth and the future leaders.

