

# NEWSLETTER

The Inter-Religious Council of Kenya is a coalition of all major faith communities in Kenya, namely the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), Organization of African Instituted Churches (DAIC), Seventh Day Adventist (SDA), Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims (SUPKEM), National Muslim Leaders Forum (NAMLEF), Hindu Council of Kenya (HCK) and Shia Ithnasharia Muslim Association (SHIA).

IRCK works together to deepen interfaith dialogue and collaboration among members for a common endeavour to mobilize the unique moral and social resources of religious people and address shared concerns.



## Executive Directors Message

Greetings of Peace.

As we continue grappling with the adverse effects of COVID-19, the delta variant which is even deadlier, we continue to pray for the health of our families and friends. We urge everyone to keep safe and adhere to the MoH guidelines of washing hands, keeping social distance and wearing a mask.

We also continually urge the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine if possible.

IRCK always seeks stakeholder's involvement in planning, implementation and monitoring in all her works. At the beginning of the year, IRCK conducted its Annual review and planning. The 2021 costed annual work plan was formulated to guide the organization's undertakings in the year. And as IRCK, we have continued to find new ways for the faith communities to serve the nation by being involved in various activities but in line with the COVID -19 protocols.

Some of the highlights have been the signing of a peace charter by Senior Religious Leaders to uphold the sanctity of the pulpit; the launch of the SIR back to School report from 5 Counties.

To our members and partners, we commit to keep working in partnership and collaboration with like-minded partners to deepen interfaith dialogue and collaboration.

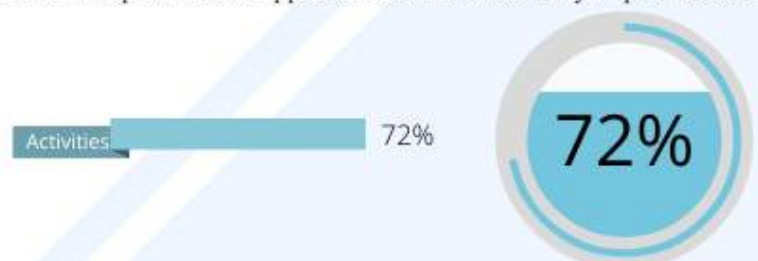
Keep safe.

Dr Francis Kuria

Inter-Religious Council of Kenya conducted its biannual review meeting having successfully completed the first two quarters of the year. The biannual review meeting aimed at reviewing the organization undertaking in the first two quarters of 2021 as well as planning for the remaining quarters.

### Overall IRCK Performance in Q1/Q2

During the first two quarters of 2021, the organization implemented at least 89% of the previously planned activities. Seventy-two per cent of the planned and approved activities were fully implemented.



During this period, a total of 11% of the scheduled activities remained unimplemented.



[www.interreligiouscouncil.or.ke](http://www.interreligiouscouncil.or.ke)

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Inter-Religious Council of Kenya

# PEACE & GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

## Senior Religious Leaders Committed to Secure the Sanctity of Places of Worship from Divisive Politics

A meeting facilitated by the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) in June 2021, alongside heads and members of various Religious Coordinating Bodies (RCB's), saw a consultation and deliberation on the course of action to be taken towards reinforcing peace and cohesion in the country.

The discourse set about to address; the relationship between religious and political leaders primarily within places of worship, their role in the political processes of the country and a dive to transform places of worship into centres of refuge and hope for the downtrodden. Religious Leaders and faith communities have to have a hand in politics but with limits, as many elected officials use these forums and houses of worship to create a narrative that can be seen as that which is not supported nor acknowledged by the varying faith communities.



The Senior Religious Leaders signed a peace declaration charter that seeks to uphold the sanctity of places of worship.

## Peace and Conflict Interventions by Religious Leaders

Through the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya, Religious Leaders consisting of clergy, women of faith and the youth were trained on conducting rapid conflict scans, scenario building and conflict assessments on peace, integration and cohesion, preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). This was done in June 2021.

The Religious Leaders were also taught how to assess the immediate, short term and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and how to best align PCVE actions within the COVID-19 context. This was conducted in six counties including Baringo, Mombasa, Kwale, Isiolo, Marsabit, and Kisumu. Other issues addressed were SGBV, child marriages, and FGM. After Peace and Conflict training Religious Leaders have been branded champions of peace

## About Peace & Governance

Inter-Religious Council of Kenya Peace and Governance Program has the mandate of promoting peace, reconciliation and cohesion among Kenyan communities and their neighbours'. IRCK promotes justice and cohesiveness among communities through dialogue, shared values and perspectives for mutual co-existence.

## Reforming the Youth by Mombasa Women of Faith

In June 2021, the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya facilitated a trust-building meeting between security agencies and reformed youth to promote peace, behaviour transformation and change for positive living.

Mombasa Women of Faith Network has seen the transformation of over 300 youth in Mombasa County; but the trust-building meeting was attended by 180 reformed youth, due to the COVID-19 protocols.



Right: IRCK ED addressing the Youth

Left: Reformed Youth at a Trust-Building Meeting with Security Agencies.

Right Down: Mombasa Women of Faith Chair, Shamsa Abubakar Addressing the Youth.



# PEACE & GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

## Interfaith Youth Maskani Visit

IRCK held 30 Maskanis each with approximately 20 young people, 15 interfaith youth members in Mombasa County on conversations highlighting on issues affecting youth, women and men in the society.

The Maskanis held discussions on insecurity, peace, extremism, police brutality, effects of COVID-19, child labor, early pregnancies, lack of job opportunities for the youth, which leads to dependency on drugs, and involvement in gangs. Also cases of young girls getting involved with older men to survive leading to rise of early pregnancies and rape cases as women are out fending for their families thus leaving young girls vulnerable to pedophiles.



With such conversations the youth, women and men are able to be empowered on way they can be able to sustain themselves or get involved in activities in the community to sustain, uphold and maintain peace.

## Interfaith Youth Football Tournaments

Inter-Religious Council of Kenya in collaboration with UNDP through the Transcending Foundations of Peace and Security for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Kenya project organized a tournament in 5 counties.

The tournaments were a platform to discuss issues of mental health awareness among the youth in the community.



## Kiambu Interfaith Network Called for Peaceful Elections in Kiambaa

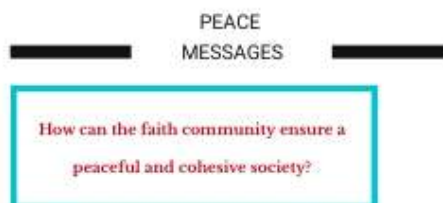
The Kiambu Interfaith Network is calling for a peaceful elections in Kiambaa. 7 of the interfaith members are observers at the by elections. They were also among members who joined the briefing by the IEBC returning officer at Karuri High School.

There as been an increase in incidences of divisive politics and hate speech among the political class. Even religious sanctuaries and pulpits have not spared from political rhetoric. It is the mandate of Religious leaders to call for peaceful elections.



IRCK held online Campaigns through video, audio and Twitter on Peace and Cohesion Messages.

The Objective was to spread messages of hope and peace. The platforms were used to disseminate messages discussed during the peace and conflict resolution sensitization meetings for a more peaceful, inclusive and cohesive Kenya as we approach 2022 General Elections.



**1** "Faith community plays a pivotal role in: calling upon the public to -value, God fearing love for creation and humanity, and respect to the rule of law!"  
 MUSAIDU MUSAIDU, Member, Council for FOM Peace Champions

**2** "The faith community needs to continuously preach peace and encourage communities to live in harmony and coexistence. They also have an important role of intervening among communities in conflict and facilitate the process of peace building!"  
 HAJIYATU DUBI, Member, Council for FOM Peace Champions

**3** "The faith community should use the scriptures to address the causes of conflicts in their counties. They should facilitate dialogues between warring communities in order to enhance a peaceful and cohesive environment!"  
 ISHAQIYI MUSAIDU, Member, Council for FOM Peace Champions

**4** "Dialogue at all structures of the community, Sub-County, County and at the National, Community sensitization of peaceful coexistence, livelihood training for the youths, food production and sustainability programs at household levels."  
 MUSAIDU MUSAIDU, Member, Council for FOM Peace Champions

# ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Inter-Religious Council of Kenya program team Environment and Climate Change commemorated #WorldEnvironmentDay in raising awareness of the importance of forest restoration, water ecosystem management, renewable energy, and global warming advocacy for the benefit of current and future generations. This was done through pre-environmental day activities such as webinar and Twitter chat.



## About Environment & Climate Change

The Environment and Climate Change strategize to promote sustainable environmental conservation and climate change management. This is through the development of right policies, institutional framework, awareness creation and mobilisation of resources as recommended by the Kenya National Climate Response Strategy.

Inter-Religious Council of Kenya partnered with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Centre (WEEE Centre) to sensitize youth from Nairobi on safe E-Waste.

The youth were trained on safe E-Waste collection, disposal and management. The objective is to raise knowledge on proactive measures for sustainable and safe management of electronics.



IRCK in partnership with Greens of Africa, Equity Bank Kenya Kenya Forest Service planted trees at Starehe Boys Centre And School. Religious Leaders planted trees in various Counties to commemorate #WorldEnvironmentDay which was themed "Reimagine. Recreate. Restore."

Interfaith Youth are conserving the environment under the IRCK #ReclaimingOurGreen initiative. The Interfaith Youth held a tree planting exercises at across 5 counties; Mombasa, Nairobi, Baringo, Marsabit and Narok Counties .



The planting of trees were integrated with football tournaments branded "Mental Health Awareness Champions" which was integrated with a #mentalhealth awareness campaign.



Above: Nairobi Youth Planting trees  
Right: Mombasa Interfaith Youth Planting trees in different activities.



# HEALTH & SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Inter-Religious Council of Kenya launched a Social Intelligence Reporting (SIR) Back to School Report of 5 Counties. The report is a partnership of Faith Leaders, UNICEF Kenya and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology - Kenya to ensure all children are in school and that schools are safe from COVID-19 infections through community action.

The report gives a broad view of schools and county's status, constraints, opportunities and action points that require attention in addressing the overall progress of schools.

Religious Leaders, the Faith Community, National and County governments, development partners, school communities, were key in addressing the various gaps identified in schools.

Find the full SIR report on: <https://interreligiouscouncil.or.ke/resources/>



The data was validated at the county and facility levels SIR data, inputs were incorporated into the county reports reflecting the true status of each facility and the report was disseminated to over 120 education stakeholders across all counties.

The data is to be used to lobby them to close identified gaps so as to improve the quality of education as well as make schools safe from COVID-19.

Left: Launch of the SIR report

Below: RIs during the SIR Report Launch



## About Health & Social Well-Being

Health and social well-being tend to build the capacity of religious leaders and congregations to address maternal neonatal child health, improved nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues.

Religious leaders at the national and county levels are supported to identify and respond to health policy gaps and also Community health monitoring, evaluation, learning and documentation structures within IRCK are strengthened.

IRCK supported 15 religious leaders to participate in the Faith & Science Conversation virtual Conference on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Healthcare Facilities.

This is in response to a Global Call to Action by the UN Secretary-General that helped highlight the critical need for a collective response to inadequate WASH in healthcare facilities.

A series of sessions were conducted with faith and community leaders in the search of practical ways of involving the faith community in preventing and addressing violence against women and children in our communities.



Religious Leaders recorded messages on back to school and were disseminated across all counties, congregations and communities through local television and radio stations calling on both parents and community to ensure all children return back to school.

Religious Leaders from the IFC disseminated messages on COVID-19 through local media stations.



IRCK has a toll free help SMS number - 23550. The helpline seeks to give psychosocial and spiritual support.

# We Care!

For Help please SMS  
**23550**

Operational day and night to assist those in need of psychosocial and spiritual support.

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Transcending foundations of peace and security for inclusive and sustainable development in Kenya