

The University holds a Public Debate on a Culture of Peace

Date and time:

Mon, 2013-04-29 14:30

Location / Venue:

Vice Chancellor's Parlour and at the Multipurpose Hall



The University held a public debate on the theme "***Wajibu Wetu: Universities for a Culture of Peace***". The keynote presenter was Prof. Goran Hyden, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in Political Science, University of Florida at Gainesville USA. Other panelists during the debate were Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Dean, School of Law, Prof. Winnie Mitullah, Director, Institute for Development Studies, Prof. Michael Chege, Advisor Treasury and Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, Associate Director, Institute for Development Studies. The debate which was aired live on KTN was moderated by Louis Otieno.

Pointing out that one step does not make a path, Prof. Hyden noted that Kenya has a long way to go in nurturing a culture of peace with the key pillars being: good governance, respect for the rule of law, respecting life, preserving the environment, rejecting violence, exercising power together with others as opposed to using power over other. He challenged students to play a role in nurturing a culture of peace through research, teaching and community service. Prof. Hyden also gave two practical suggestions to the universities.

1. to create a culture of peace barometer which could be used to gauge how people understand and appreciate a culture of peace.
2. To reward champions of peace.

Contributions from the Panelists

Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote in her response pointed out that many wars have been fought over access to resources. She therefore highlighted the importance of addressing issues of sustainable development, rule of law and integrity.

Prof. Karuti Kanyinga underscored the need to critically examine and address the threats to sustainable peace pointing out that it is closely linked to social justice. He also noted the importance of inclusive governance and correcting all forms of inequality.

Prof. Mitullah's response dwelt on the interplay between peace and development laying emphasis on how we manage change while expanding opportunities to ensure that everyone participates in the process.

Prof. Chege called for research on the factors that cause war and those that sustain peace and that one of the key lessons to be learnt is how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence.