

UoN engages universities in building a culture of peace, security

The University of Nairobi (UoN) held a workshop that brought together Deans of Students from public and private universities to discuss the role of institutions of higher learning in building a sustainable culture of peace and security.

Speaking at the workshop, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Amb Dr. Monica Juma highlighted the importance of carrying out research in order to understand the theory of peace and security. She noted that in the process of building peace and security, Kenyan values should be incorporated. Stakeholders need to understand what is causing violence and riots in universities and work with policy makers to address the issues. Dr. Juma welcomed the conversation of universities building a culture of peace and security.

Dr. Ludeki Chweya, Director General, Kenya School of Government, noted that the initiative was important in the face of the threats facing the society and universities. In his presentation, Dr. Chweya said that adults have created problems the society is dealing with and with time, the youth have been constricted into them. He noted that universities cannot be left to deal with problems that come from the national level and are now being replicated in the institutions of higher learning. These problems include tribalism, political instability and violence. To this end, he challenged the participants to address the fact that the youth are not safe from everything that is happening in the world. He called on universities to create opportunities for the youth. Dr. Chweya said that universities need to develop a course on peace and security and inculcate it in the curriculum.

Speaking on behalf of the [Vice-Chancellor](#), the Principal, [College of Humanities and Social Sciences](#), Prof. Enos Njeru, said that Universities have a vantage point of engaging young people at the moment of their critical-thinking development stage. Whereas the education on human rights, inculcation of human values, tolerance, reciprocity and responsibility, mutual respect, and human dignity that constitute our Kenyan value system should begin at a tender age of socialization, higher education institutions play a powerful and crucial socialization role of instilling critical thinking, theorizing and interrogating skills that can enable the young people to transform their communities during and after university education.

Prof. Judith Bahemuka, [UNESCO/ UNITWIN Chair](#), said that universities are central to establishing a sustainable culture of peace in the region. This can be achieved through research, innovative engagement and guided curiosity that instil knowledge and practice among their students to become effective and efficient change agents in their institutions of work, communities, and families.

The workshop was organized by the University of Nairobi, UNESCO/ UNITWIN Chair and UNESCO.

