











Muslim Peace Network



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If you don't teach your children peace, someone else will teach them violence

2021-2023

ANNUAL REPORT











MPN MANDATE

To advocate and carrying our peace education from Grassroots across ethnic divides to social and elite classes for peaceful co-existence and resolution of ethno-Religion conflicts in Nigeria.



MPN STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2025



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Notes

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A message from the Executive Director.

We are grateful that through the supports of the Board of Trustees, management staffs to reorganized processes, our activities and programs have been going on smoothly.



Despite the meager Resources, we have never lost hope and sight of our vision, mission and our core- mandate at MPN. Instead our service of program has been stable through blessed with human capacity which is the bed rock of our organization through them, we have been able to work within notable capacity with many organizations. such as: Rotary club of Kaduna District 9125, Interfaith mediation Centre(IMC), Cardinal

Onaiyeka Foundation for Peace (COFP), Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), UNICEF Women and children Right and Empowerment foundation (WCREF).

MPN creates and establish peace education programs that bridge the gap and engage new generations in inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue and in the resolution of ethno-religious conflicts. We thrilled with the stories of change that we continually receive from all corners about our programs. This for us, is an evidence that our work is indeed transforming lives and changing communities and society in general.

The understanding cooperation and support of our partners kept us moving for this and many more our special thanks go to them all.

To our Managements Board of Trustees we say thank to you all. Above all we give thank to our creator Almighty Allah as we are making more positive impact for peace in Nigeria.

Wishing you all and MPN Gods blessings this year and year to come.

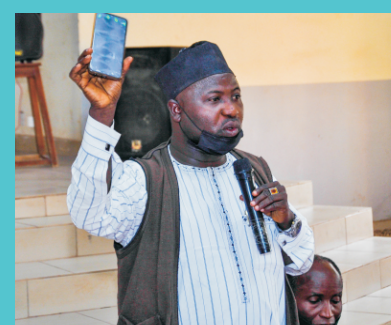


Amb, Imam Hussain Makanjuola
COFP Fellow, IEP Fellow

MPN is a Non-governmental organization NGO that committed to building the processes of peace and social change in Nigeria, formed with objectives of advocating and carrying out peace education from the grassroots across ethnic divides to the social and elite classes for peaceful co-existence and resolution of ethno-religion conflicts in Nigeria.



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**Our Vision:**

To be among the leading organizations calling for Peace, Peaceful co-existence among humanities, nation and to render humanitarian services to the needy.

Our Mission:

To work with schools, community leaders, religious groups, peace Advocates and the media to uphold societal peace by creating an enabling environmental for the emergence of new breeds of leaders that will entrench culture of peace among between and within ethnic and religious groups through peace education.

Our Goal:

Use peace education to promote the knowledge skills and attitudes that will help people and youths higher to prevent the occurrences of conflicts, resolve conflicts peacefully or create social condition conducive to peace.



Our Thematic Program Areas:**To achieve our objective we engage in these thematic areas:**

**Peace education in public and private schools advocacy
and raising awareness for peaceful co-existence.**

**Collaborating and partnering with organization
to sustain a peaceful society**

Growth and capacity building

**Facilitate dialogue and mediation among
various stakeholders.**

**"We build unity that
forms society for actionable
project at MPN"**

Conclusion:

The Muslim Peace Network stands as a beacon of hope and commitment to the ideals of peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and understanding in the diverse landscape of Kaduna State. The initiatives undertaken from 2021 to 2023 have demonstrated the tangible impact that collective efforts can have in bringing communities together and nurturing a more harmonious society.

We offer our deepest gratitude to our donors and partners whose unwavering support has breathed life into our vision and allowed us to manifest our mission into reality. Your generosity has been the driving force behind the positive transformations witnessed in Kaduna State.

As we look ahead, our resolve remains unshaken, and our dedication to our mission is unwavering. We extend an open invitation to all those who share our vision of a more peaceful, united, and inclusive Kaduna State. We invite you to join us in this noble endeavor, and together, we can build a stronger, more harmonious, and more peaceful future for Kaduna State in Nigeria. The journey towards peace is an ongoing one, and with your support, we can continue to make a difference, one step at a time.

we can build a stronger, more inclusive, and more peaceful Kaduna State.

These initiatives have had several significant impacts:

1. **Fostering Peaceful Coexistence among Secondary School Students (Year 2021 and 2022):** These initiatives aimed to promote tolerance, empathy, and interfaith dialogue among secondary school students. The impacts include creating a more harmonious environment within schools, where students learn to appreciate and respect their differences. The long-term impact is the cultivation of a generation that values peace, understanding, and unity, contributing to a more peaceful society.
2. **Community Initiatives in Collaboration with Rotary Club (Year 2021-2023):** These annual programs have provided a platform for dialogue, cooperation, and understanding between Muslim and Christian communities in Kaduna State. The impact is a growing sense of unity and shared purpose among these communities. The sustained success of this partnership demonstrates the importance of ongoing collaboration in promoting peace and harmony.
3. **Religious Teachers Training and Sensitization (Year 2023):** This initiative focused on equipping religious teachers with the tools and knowledge to prevent extremism in schools. The impact is the creation of a safer and more inclusive educational environment. Religious teachers, armed with the skills to recognize and counter extremist influences, become agents of peace, contributing to a more harmonious educational system.
4. **Stakeholders Meeting for Almajiri Children (Year 2023):** The meeting aimed to explore sustainable and inclusive livelihood opportunities for Almajiri children, a vulnerable group in Kaduna. The impact is the creation of pathways to a brighter future for these marginalized children, fostering inclusion and contributing to peace and development in the region.

Overall, these initiatives have contributed to building bridges of understanding, fostering peaceful coexistence, and creating a more harmonious and united Kaduna State. They demonstrate the transformative power of education, dialogue, collaboration, and community engagement in addressing complex societal challenges and working towards a more peaceful future.

Success Spotlight:

- 1,500** Peace education training among the secondary schools students in Kaduna State.
- 25** Religious teachers trained against extremism
- 200** Community initiatives to promote peace among the Muslim and Christian communities in collaborates with rotary club of Kaduna District 9125.
- 50** Stake Holders meeting that comprises youths, woman religious leader, traditional rulers, government agencies and security personnel's on sustainability and inclusive livelihood for Almajiri children.



(MPN) THREE-YEAR REPORT: 2021-2023

CREATING A CULTURE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND
BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING

Introduction:

In a world often divided by strife and discord, the story of the Muslim Peace Network (MPN) shines as a beacon of hope, emanating from the heart of Kaduna State, Nigeria. Here, amidst the rich tapestry of diverse cultures and traditions, MPN has emerged as a force dedicated to cultivating a culture of peaceful coexistence and understanding.

The three-year journey chronicled in this report encapsulates MPN's unwavering commitment to bridging divides, fostering unity, and sowing the seeds of empathy among communities often plagued by prejudice and conflict. As you embark on this voyage through the pages of our endeavors from 2021 to 2023, we invite you to witness the transformative power of dialogue, compassion, and collaboration.

At the core of MPN's mission lies a profound belief in the potential of humanity to transcend differences and embrace commonalities. Through our tireless efforts, we have embarked on a journey that traverses the challenging landscapes of faith, culture, and tradition, forging bonds of unity and solidarity where once there were divisions.

Throughout this report, you will encounter stories of hope, resilience, and triumph over adversity. From fostering peace in schools to bridging religious and interfaith gaps, empowering the youth to creating a brighter future for Kaduna State, MPN's initiatives stand as testaments to the transformative power of collective action.

As you delve into the chapters that follow, you will witness the tangible successes and enduring impact of MPN's endeavors. Each page is a testament to the generosity of our partners, the unwavering support of our donors, and the tireless dedication of our supporters, who have breathed life into our vision and made these initiatives not just possible, but immensely impactful.

We extend our heartfelt invitation to you to join us on this journey of discovery and transformation. Together, let us celebrate the triumph of dialogue over discord, compassion over conflict, and unity over division. Together, let us continue to work towards building a more harmonious, united, and peaceful Kaduna State of Nigeria.

Welcome to the inspiring narrative of the Muslim Peace Network - where the seeds of understanding blossom into the flowers of peace, and where hope shines brightest in the darkest of times.



Funding:

The success of the Muslim Peace Network's initiatives from 2021 to 2023 would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our generous partners and donors. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who have invested in our vision, making a significant impact in Kaduna State:

- " Rotary Club of Kaduna District 9125: Their steadfast support has been instrumental in fostering peace among the Muslim and Christian communities, creating dialogue, cooperation, and understanding in Kaduna State.
- " Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP): Their generous funding in 2023 enabled the vital training and sensitization of religious teachers, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to prevent extremism in schools and promote a safer and more inclusive educational environment.
- " Women and Children's Rights and Empowerment Foundation (WCREF): Their

collaboration in 2023 for the stakeholders' meeting marked a crucial step in exploring sustainable and inclusive livelihood opportunities for Almajiri children. Your support has contributed significantly to peace and development in the region.

Their contributions have not only made a difference in the lives of those directly involved but have also sown the seeds of a more harmonious and united Kaduna State. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our cause, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the journey towards a more peaceful future. Together,

Objectives:

1. **Raise Awareness:** The meeting aimed to raise awareness about the challenges faced by Almajiri children and highlight the urgent need for intervention.
2. **Foster Collaboration:** It sought to foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including youth representatives, women, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and security agencies, to address the multifaceted issues impacting Almajiri children.
3. **Identify Solutions:** The meeting aimed to identify sustainable and inclusive livelihood opportunities for Almajiri children, focusing on rewriting their narrative and creating pathways to a brighter future.
4. **Promote Inclusivity:** It aimed to promote inclusivity and social cohesion by emphasizing the importance of providing every child, regardless of background, with opportunities for growth, development, and prosperity.

Outcomes:

1. **Collaborative Action:** The stakeholders' meeting facilitated collaborative action among diverse stakeholders, paving the way for joint efforts to address the challenges faced by Almajiri children.
2. **Awareness and Empathy:** It raised awareness and fostered empathy for the plight of Almajiri children, highlighting the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring their well-being and future prospects.
3. **Strategic Planning:** The meeting led to the development of strategic plans and initiatives aimed at providing Almajiri children with access to education, healthcare, and opportunities for socio-economic empowerment.
4. **Renewed Purpose:** Participants left the meeting with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to effecting positive change, inspired by the collective resolve to prioritize the welfare of vulnerable children in Kaduna.

Recommendations:

1. **Continued Engagement:** Maintain ongoing engagement and collaboration among stakeholders to sustain momentum and ensure the effective implementation of initiatives benefiting Almajiri children.
2. **Capacity Building:** Invest in capacity-building programs for Almajiri children and their communities, empowering them with skills and resources to improve their socio-economic status and well-being.
3. **Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for policy reforms and resource allocation to address the systemic issues contributing to the marginalization of Almajiri children and ensure their rights and dignity are protected.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of interventions targeting Almajiri children, utilizing feedback to inform adaptive strategies and optimize outcomes.

YEAR 2021: FOSTERING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**VENUE: MALKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, KADUNA****BENEFICIARIES: SECONDARY SCHOOL YOUTHS (MALES & FEMALES)****DATE: YEAR 2021****Background:**

In 2021, the Muslim Peace Network (MPN) embarked on a transformative journey to instill a culture of peaceful coexistence among the secondary school students of Kaduna. The setting for this change was Malka International School, where hundreds of young minds converged to learn, grow, and ultimately become the future leaders of their communities.

MPN's project was rooted in the belief that the path to a harmonious society begins with our youth, the inheritors of our world. In Kaduna, a diverse state characterized by a rich tapestry of cultures, religions, and traditions, fostering understanding and respect among its youth was a critical undertaking. This project aimed not only to mitigate conflicts but to plant the seeds of empathy, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue.

At Malka International School, the magic began to unfold through interactive sessions and engaging workshops. These sessions were carefully designed to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and encourage open dialogue. Students, regardless of their background, were invited to share their thoughts, beliefs, and concerns, providing a safe space for the exchange of ideas.



One of the most remarkable aspects of this initiative was its ability to bridge gaps and facilitate meaningful connections. Students, once separated by their differences, began to recognize the shared values and aspirations that bound them together. They found common ground in the universal desire for peace, understanding, and prosperity.

The results of this project were both tangible and intangible. Tangibly, it brought forth a more harmonious environment within these schools, one where students learned to appreciate and respect their differences, where friendships were forged, and where diversity was celebrated. Intangibly, it sowed the seeds of change in the hearts and minds of these young individuals. It instilled in them the belief that peace could prevail, even in the face of adversity.

As these students graduated and moved forward in their lives, the lessons learned during the MPN project continued to influence their choices and actions. The impact of these formative experiences rippled through Kaduna State, contributing to a more inclusive and harmonious society.

The Year 2021 initiative at Malka International School stands as a testament to the power of education, dialogue, and understanding. It is a reminder that transformation can occur, even in the most challenging environments, when we invest in our youth and believe in the possibility of peace.

Objectives:

1. **Mitigate Conflicts:** The primary objective of the initiative was to mitigate conflicts among secondary school students by fostering a culture of respect, empathy, and tolerance.
2. **Promote Interfaith Dialogue:** MPN aimed to promote interfaith dialogue among students, encouraging them to embrace diversity and appreciate different religious perspectives.
3. **Break Down Barriers:** Through interactive sessions and workshops, the initiative sought to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create a safe space for open dialogue.
4. **Facilitate Meaningful Connections:** An essential goal was to facilitate meaningful connections among students from diverse backgrounds, helping them recognize shared values and aspirations.
5. **Cultivate a Culture of Peace:** Ultimately, the initiative aimed to cultivate a culture of peace within Malka International School, where diversity was celebrated, and conflicts were resolved through dialogue and understanding.



hope, illustrating that even the most complex societal challenges could be addressed through cooperation and collective effort. By focusing on the Almajiri children, MPN and WCREP emphasized that every child, regardless of their background, deserved the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.

As the discussions concluded and plans were set in motion, the stakeholders left the meeting with a renewed sense of purpose. The initiative marked the beginning of a journey, one that held the promise of a more inclusive and harmonious Kaduna. It was a reminder that when diverse voices come together with a shared vision, they have the power to reshape the trajectory of their community and create a brighter future for all.



YEAR 2023: STAKEHOLDERS MEETING FOR ALMAJIRI CHILDREN**VENUE: HOTEL SEVENTEEN, KADUNA****BENEFICIARIES: STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING YOUTHS, WOMEN, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, TRADITIONAL LEADERS, AND SECURITY****AGENCIES****DATE: YEAR 2023****Background:**

In the year 2023, the Muslim Peace Network (MPN) in partnership with the Women and Children's Rights and Empowerment Foundation (WCREF) orchestrated an event of profound significance. This stakeholders' meeting, convened at the esteemed Hotel Seventeen in Kaduna, was far more than a mere gathering; it was a crucible for change, a crucible for hope.

The focus of this gathering was clear: the Almajiri children, a group of vulnerable youth who often find themselves marginalized and overlooked in Kaduna. The Almajiri children, representing a segment of the community that yearned for a better future, became the heartbeat of this initiative.

Bringing together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, this meeting was a testament to the power of collaboration and the potential for change when individuals and organizations unite in pursuit of a common goal. The beneficiaries of this initiative extended far beyond the Almajiri children themselves. They encompassed a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including youth representatives, women, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and security agencies.

The meeting was not just about discussing the challenges faced by the Almajiri children but also about finding sustainable and inclusive livelihood opportunities for them. It was about rewriting the narrative for these young souls and creating pathways to a brighter future.

Through dialogue and partnerships, the stakeholders embarked on a collective mission to provide these marginalized children with a chance for growth, development, and, ultimately, a more peaceful and prosperous life. It was a demonstration of what could be achieved when the community, civil society, and local authorities came together to address pressing social issues.

The significance of this meeting transcended its immediate impact; it was a symbol of

Outcomes:

1. **Harmonious Environment:** Tangibly, the initiative led to the creation of a more harmonious environment within Malka International School. Students learned to appreciate and respect their differences, fostering friendships across cultural and religious divides.
2. **Empowerment of Youth:** The initiative empowered students to become agents of change in their communities. Equipped with newfound understanding and empathy, they became advocates for peace and tolerance.
3. **Long-Term Impact:** The initiative's impact extended beyond the confines of Malka International School, rippling through Kaduna State. The lessons learned by students continued to influence their choices and actions, contributing to a more inclusive and harmonious society.
4. **Seeds of Change:** Intangibly, the initiative sowed the seeds of change in the hearts and minds of young individuals. It instilled in them the belief that peace could prevail, even in the face of adversity, fostering a sense of hope and optimism for the future.
5. **Celebration of Diversity:** Students celebrated diversity, recognizing the richness it brought to their lives. They found common ground in their shared desire for peace, understanding, and prosperity, transcending cultural and religious differences.

Recommendations:

1. **Sustain Momentum:** It is essential to sustain the momentum generated by the initiative by incorporating peace education and interfaith dialogue into the school curriculum.
2. **Expand Reach:** Consider expanding the initiative to other schools in Kaduna State, reaching a broader spectrum of youth and fostering a culture of peace on a larger scale.
3. **Community Engagement:** Engage parents, community leaders, and religious institutions in promoting peaceful coexistence among youth, emphasizing the importance of tolerance and understanding.
4. **Monitor and Evaluate:** Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of the initiative, gathering feedback from students and stakeholders to refine strategies and ensure effectiveness.
5. **Partnerships:** Forge partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations to secure funding and support for ongoing peace-building efforts in schools and communities.

YEAR 2022: EXPANDING THE CULTURE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE**VENUE: RARE GEM ACADEMY, KADUNA****BENEFICIARIES: SECONDARY SCHOOL YOUTHS (MALES & FEMALES)****DATE: YEAR 2022****Background:**

In the spirit of continuity and the unwavering commitment to nurturing a culture of peaceful coexistence, the Muslim Peace Network (MPN) embarked on another remarkable chapter of its mission in the year 2022. Building upon the successes of the previous year, MPN's dedication to fostering unity, understanding, and tolerance remained undiminished.

The stage for this pivotal endeavor was the Rare Gem Academy in Kaduna, where a fresh group of secondary school students awaited the transformative experiences that had become synonymous with MPN's initiatives. The project aimed to further expand the culture of peaceful coexistence among the youth, emphasizing the values of unity, respect, and understanding.

While 2021 had set the precedent, 2022 was about reaching a wider audience, casting a broader net of influence, and instilling these essential values into the hearts and minds of a new generation of Kaduna's future leaders. Rare Gem Academy, an educational institution that shares MPN's commitment to holistic development, provided an ideal setting for this vital mission.

The project's objectives were clear: to create a space where secondary school students could engage in open dialogue, they could express their beliefs and perspectives freely, and where they could learn from one another's experiences. These interactive sessions and workshops were carefully designed to foster an atmosphere of inclusivity, where every student's voice was not only heard but valued.

Just as in the previous year, the results were both tangible and intangible. On the surface, the project succeeded in creating an environment where the students, irrespective of their backgrounds, could coexist peacefully. Friendships were forged, and bridges were built between individuals who might have otherwise remained strangers.



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Recommendations:

1. Continued Support: Provide ongoing support and resources to religious teachers to sustain the momentum of their empowerment and ensure the long-term effectiveness of the initiative.
2. Community Engagement: Engage the wider community in dialogue and initiatives that promote peace and understanding, leveraging the influence of empowered religious leaders as key stakeholders.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation: Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of the training program, gathering feedback from participants and stakeholders to refine strategies and address emerging challenges.
4. Expansion of Initiatives: Consider expanding similar initiatives to reach other regions and communities within Kaduna State, further amplifying the impact of MPN's efforts in promoting peace and understanding.



Objectives:

1. Empower Religious Teachers: The primary objective was to empower religious teachers with the tools and knowledge to identify and mitigate extremist influences within educational settings.
2. Prevent Extremism: The initiative aimed to prevent extremism by providing religious educators with comprehensive training on recognizing early signs of radicalization and promoting dialogue and tolerance.
3. Create Safer Educational Environment: By enhancing the capacity of religious teachers, the program sought to create a safer and more inclusive educational environment in Kaduna State.
4. Extend Impact: The initiative aimed to create a ripple effect whereby the impact of the training would extend beyond the classroom and into the wider community, fostering a culture of peace and understanding.

Outcomes:

1. Comprehensive Training: Participants received comprehensive training on various aspects of extremism, including early identification, prevention strategies, and promoting dialogue and tolerance.
2. Empowerment: Religious teachers were empowered with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively counter extremist influences, thereby becoming agents of peace and understanding within their schools and communities.
3. Ripple Effect: The impact of the training extended beyond the immediate beneficiaries, potentially influencing the wider community and contributing to a more harmonious society in Kaduna State.
4. Legacy of Empowerment: The initiative left behind a legacy of empowerment, where religious leaders were equipped not only to safeguard their schools but also to contribute to the broader goal of building a peaceful future for Kaduna.



understanding began to take root within the hearts of these young individuals. They realized that their differences were not obstacles but opportunities to learn and grow. This project was a testament to the idea that the seeds of tolerance and acceptance, once planted, could flourish and thrive in even the most diverse and complex of environments.

As we look ahead, it is clear that the work of MPN, in collaboration with institutions like Rare Gem Academy, continues to shape a brighter and more harmonious future for Kaduna State. The impact of these initiatives extends beyond the walls of schools and into the communities, where the youth who have benefitted from MPN's vision are poised to become ambassadors of peace and understanding.

Objectives:

1. Wider Reach: The project aimed to reach a broader audience of secondary school students, extending its influence and instilling essential values of unity, respect, and understanding among a new generation of Kaduna's future leaders.
2. Open Dialogue: It sought to create a space for students to engage in open dialogue, express their beliefs and perspectives freely, and learn from one another's experiences, fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity and mutual respect.
3. Value Formation: The project aimed to facilitate the internalization of values such as unity, respect, and understanding within the hearts and minds of participating students, recognizing and celebrating the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives.
4. Transformation: It aimed to catalyze a transformation wherein students would perceive differences not as obstacles but as opportunities for personal growth and collective enrichment, laying the groundwork for a more harmonious and inclusive society.

Outcomes:

1. Tangible Results: The project successfully created an environment where students from diverse backgrounds could coexist peacefully, forging friendships and building bridges of understanding.
2. Intangible Transformation: Beneath the surface, the project instilled values of unity, respect, and understanding within the hearts of participating students, empowering them to embrace diversity and become agents of positive change in their communities.
3. Future Impact: The initiative's impact extended beyond the confines of the school walls, with participating youth poised to become ambassadors of peace and understanding in their communities, contributing to a brighter and more harmonious future for Kaduna State.

Recommendations:

1. Sustained Engagement: Maintain ongoing engagement with participating schools and students to sustain the momentum generated by the project and ensure the continued reinforcement of values promoting peaceful coexistence.
2. Scaling Initiatives: Explore opportunities to scale similar initiatives to reach a wider audience of youth across Kaduna, leveraging partnerships with educational institutions committed to holistic development.
3. Youth Empowerment: Empower participating youth with leadership skills and resources to actively promote peace and understanding within their communities, amplifying the impact of MPN's vision.
4. Evaluation and Adaptation: Continuously evaluate the effectiveness of initiatives, soliciting feedback from stakeholders to inform adaptive strategies and optimize outcomes in future projects.

**Year 2021-2023: Community Initiatives to Promote Peace in
Collaboration with Rotary Club of Kaduna District 9125**

Venue: Hotel Seventeen, Kaduna

Beneficiaries: Youths & Women

Date: Year 2021, 2022, and 2023

Background:

In the pursuit of a harmonious and united Kaduna State, the Muslim Peace Network (MPN) embarked on a strategic partnership with the Rotary Club of Kaduna District 9125 in 2021. Together, these two organizations set forth on a mission to execute an annual program, the impact of which would resonate for years to come. The program's core focus was to promote peace among the Muslim and Christian communities in Kaduna State, fostering dialogue, cooperation, and understanding.

Hotel Seventeen, located in the heart of Kaduna, became the epicenter of these transformational community initiatives. It was here that a diverse gathering of individuals, representing different faiths, cultures, and traditions, converged with a shared purpose: to build bridges and strengthen the bonds that tie their communities together.

The beneficiaries of these initiatives extended to both the youth and women, recognizing their pivotal roles as the backbone of any society. This inclusive approach aimed to create lasting change that would ripple through all strata of the community. Throughout the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, these annual programs acted as catalysts for peace, serving as platforms where dialogue and understanding were nurtured. The initiatives brought together individuals who, for too long, had been separated by misunderstandings, misconceptions, and mistrust. Within the walls of Hotel Seventeen, these barriers began to crumble, and the common humanity that bound these communities together started to shine through.



The year 2023 initiative at Mold Treasury was a testament to the belief that education can be a powerful weapon against extremism. By investing in the capacity-building of religious teachers, MPN and COFP embarked on a journey that held the promise of safer, more inclusive schools and, by extension, a more peaceful Kaduna State.

The impact of this program, with its focus on training and sensitization, was not just limited to the immediate beneficiaries but had the potential to influence the wider community. It was a demonstration of the power of knowledge and the ability of individuals to become change agents in the pursuit of a more harmonious society. As the program concluded, it left behind a legacy of empowerment, where religious leaders were armed not with weapons, but with wisdom, to safeguard the future of Kaduna.



YEAR 2023: RELIGIOUS TEACHERS TRAINING AND SENSITIZATION AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

VENUE: MOLD TREASURY, KADUNA**BENEFICIARIES: YOUTHS & WOMEN**

DATE: YEAR 2023

Background:

The year 2023 bore witness to a significant milestone in the ongoing mission of the Muslim Peace Network (MPN) to promote peace and understanding in Kaduna State. The stage for this remarkable initiative was set at the Mold Treasury, a place where valuable insights and knowledge would be shared, and where the seeds of change would be sown.

This pivotal endeavor was made possible through the generous funding provided by the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP). The goal was clear: to equip religious teachers with the necessary tools and knowledge to prevent extremism in schools. It was a targeted effort to empower those at the forefront of religious education with the skills to identify and mitigate extremist influences, thereby contributing to the creation of a safer, more inclusive educational environment in Kaduna.

Religious teachers play a crucial role in shaping the hearts and minds of young learners, and their influence extends far beyond the classroom. Recognizing this, MPN sought to create a transformative program that would not only educate but also inspire religious leaders to become agents of peace and understanding.

The training program was carefully designed to be comprehensive and engaging, offering insights into the intricate dynamics of extremism, as well as strategies to counter its influence. Participants were exposed to a range of topics, from recognizing early signs of extremism to promoting dialogue and tolerance within their communities.

By providing religious teachers with the knowledge and tools they needed to prevent extremism, MPN aimed to create a ripple effect, where the impact of this initiative would extend beyond the classroom and into the community. These teachers, armed with the skills to recognize and counter extremist influences, could foster a more inclusive and harmonious environment within their schools and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Through interactive discussions, workshops, and collaborative projects, attendees discovered the shared values, hopes, and aspirations that transcended religious and cultural boundaries. The result was the blossoming of a sense of unity and shared purpose among these communities. The partnership between MPN and the Rotary Club of Kaduna District 9125 proved that sustained success could be achieved through ongoing collaboration and that the quest for peace and harmony was not a one-time endeavor but a commitment to be renewed year after year.

As we look back on these years, it is evident that the Hotel Seventeen gatherings were not just meetings; they were milestones in the journey toward unity and understanding. They were the embodiment of the belief that dialogue, cooperation, and shared experiences can bridge gaps, mend divides, and lead to a brighter, more peaceful Kaduna State.

The continued success of this partnership serves as a reminder that when communities come together with a shared vision of peace and harmony, the possibilities are endless. The enduring impact of these annual programs is a testament to the power of collaboration and the potential for transformation in even the most complex and diverse of environments.

Objectives:

1. **Expand Reach:** The primary objective of the initiative was to expand the reach of MPN's efforts in fostering peaceful coexistence among the Christians and Muslims, reaching a wider audience and casting a broader net of influence.
2. **Emphasize Core Values:** MPN aimed to emphasize core values such as unity, respect, and understanding among the community members, instilling these essential principles into the hearts and minds of our community leaders.
3. **Create Inclusive Space:** The project aimed to create a space at community level where Christians and Muslims could engage in open dialogue, freely express their beliefs and perspectives, and learn from one another's experiences in an atmosphere of inclusivity.
4. **Facilitate Meaningful Connections:** Just like the previous year, the initiative aimed to facilitate meaningful connections among the community members from diverse backgrounds, fostering friendships and building bridges between individuals who might have otherwise remained strangers.
5. **Promote Transformation:** The initiative sought to promote a deeper transformation within the hearts and minds of the community members, encouraging them to realize that differences are opportunities for learning and growth, and that the seeds of tolerance and acceptance can flourish in diverse environments.

Through interactive discussions, workshops, and collaborative projects, attendees discovered the shared values, hopes, and aspirations that transcended religious and

cultural boundaries. The result was the blossoming of a sense of unity and shared purpose among these communities. The partnership between MPN and the Rotary Club of Kaduna District 9125 proved that sustained success could be achieved through ongoing collaboration and that the quest for peace and harmony was not a one-time endeavor but a commitment to be renewed year after year.

As we look back on these years, it is evident that the Hotel Seventeen gatherings were not just meetings; they were milestones in the journey toward unity and understanding. They were the embodiment of the belief that dialogue, cooperation, and shared experiences can bridge gaps, mend divides, and lead to a brighter, more peaceful Kaduna State.

The continued success of this partnership serves as a reminder that when communities come together with a shared vision of peace and harmony, the possibilities are endless. The enduring impact of these annual programs is a testament to the power of collaboration and the potential for transformation in even the most complex and diverse of environments.

Objectives:

1. **Expand Reach:** The primary objective of the initiative was to expand the reach of MPN's efforts in fostering peaceful coexistence among the Christians and Muslims, reaching a wider audience and casting a broader net of influence.
2. **Emphasize Core Values:** MPN aimed to emphasize core values such as unity, respect, and understanding among the community members, instilling these essential principles into the hearts and minds of our community leaders.
3. **Create Inclusive Space:** The project aimed to create a space at community level where Christians and Muslims could engage in open dialogue, freely express their beliefs and perspectives, and learn from one another's experiences in an atmosphere of inclusivity.
4. **Facilitate Meaningful Connections:** Just like the previous year, the initiative aimed to facilitate meaningful connections among the community members from diverse backgrounds, fostering friendships and building bridges between individuals who might have otherwise remained strangers.
5. **Promote Transformation:** The initiative sought to promote a deeper transformation within the hearts and minds of the community members, encouraging them to realize that differences are opportunities for learning and growth, and that the seeds of tolerance and acceptance can flourish in diverse environments.

Outcomes:

1. **Comprehensive Training:** Participants received comprehensive training on various aspects of extremism, including early identification, prevention strategies, and promoting dialogue and tolerance.
2. **Empowerment:** Religious teachers were empowered with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively counter extremist influences, thereby becoming agents of peace and understanding within their schools and communities.
3. **Ripple Effect:** The impact of the training extended beyond the immediate beneficiaries, potentially influencing the wider community and contributing to a more harmonious society in Kaduna State.
4. **Legacy of Empowerment:** The initiative left behind a legacy of empowerment, where religious leaders were equipped not only to safeguard their schools but also to contribute to the broader goal of building a peaceful future for Kaduna.

Recommendations:

1. **Continued Support:** Provide ongoing support and resources to religious teachers to sustain the momentum of their empowerment and ensure the long-term effectiveness of the initiative.
2. **Community Engagement:** Engage the wider community in dialogue and initiatives that promote peace and understanding, leveraging the influence of empowered religious leaders as key stakeholders.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of the training program, gathering feedback from participants and stakeholders to refine strategies and address emerging challenges.
4. **Expansion of Initiatives:** Consider expanding similar initiatives to reach other regions and communities within Kaduna State, further amplifying the impact of MPN's efforts in promoting peace and understanding.

