

“Creating conditions necessary for sustaining peace in higher learning institutions.”

National Peace Forum

Civic Education in Higher Learning Institutions

Topics of Discussion

Higher learning Institutions

Federalism Relevance of Collage Education	Dire Dawa
Attitude of Youth towards political engagement	Hawassa
Gender based violence	Selale
Reflection on the challenges facing Ethiopian Federation and Future Prospects	Adama
Youth Empowerment and Ensuring Sustainability Development	Arsi
Role of Youth in Local Leadership and Conflict Management The Importance of professional ethics to cope up with contemporary security issues	Wello
Gender Mainstreaming in Academia and Ethic Based Federalism	Jimma college of teachers education
Gender Mainstreaming in Academia Advancement of Youth Volunteerism in Ethiopia Youth Responsibility, Accountability and the rule of Law	Ambo
Ethiopia: polarized and fractured political parties' threat to transition to consolidated democracy under premiership of Abiy Ahmed Analysis of gender sensitive approaches to teaching and demonstrations in south western region universities Gender mainstreaming in science, Innovation, Technology and Engineering	Mettu
The role of Youth Engagement in Human Right, Democracy and Rule of Law	Jimma
Higher Education for Peace Dialogue and National Integration	Mekelle
Youth Engagement in Conflicts Resolution	Wolita Sodo



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CIVICS LEARNING IN SCHOOLS

Civics learning in school programmes is about improving the knowledge, skills and values individuals need to be effective Active Citizens; and Civics Learning in School (CiLS) is simply a democratization programme. An effective active citizen is a person who understands the obligation and undertakes the responsibility to improve community conditions, build healthier communities and address social problems. He or she understands and believes in the democratic ideal of community participation, and the need to incorporate the contributions of every member of the community. Civics Learning in Schools Programme takes place in schools and higher learning institutions.

Youth activism has surged in the last decade, with young groups calling on leaders both on and off campus to right wrongs, erase inequalities and secure the future of our planet. But this is nothing new: Student activists led the charge during the sixties students' movement and were early adopters of democratization. While peaceful protests and petitions are still important parts of students' toolbox, today's young activists are expanding by bringing activism to the web and social media.

CiLS is designed by Initiative Africa to assist undergraduates complete a broad array of training and active participation, which is a combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes and actions to build a healthy society.

The overall objective of the programme is to improve Students' body capacity and sustainability in universities to encourage students' engagement to be key partners in the efforts to empower communities to address the challenges posed by the need for sustainable development. More specifically, the programme will have the following targeted objectives:

- To raise the capacity of students' body in universities to empower and mobilise local communities and to improve their long-term impact and sustainability.
- To increase participation of young people, women and disadvantaged members of communities in the democratic and economic life and self-governance on the local level.

A special feature of the proposed programme is to use media and digital skills, increased media literacy and community media outlets in order to increase impact and outreach of young peoples activities in their communities.

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RELEVANCE

The programme is in line with the national discussion on the crucial role of youths' participation and importance of community development in decision-making process of the State – through measures and/or institutional arrangements – so as to increase their influence on public policies and programmes ensuring a more positive impact on their social and economic lives. The programme is well in line with the government strategy where supporting democratisation, human rights, gender equality, and youth are important factors in creating societies with checks and balances.

The proposed programme responds through its focus to the priorities articulated in the Prime Minister's current roadmap for engagement with the youths. When mapped against the current government's aspirations reflected in the country's human rights strategy and its associated democracy and governance statements, the suggested IA programme fits in with several other actors' strategies already on the scene in a seamless manner.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The High level National Forum for University presidents and Student Council leaders and representatives of Peace Forums is to further strengthen the results achieved and learn from the experiences through discussing on topics of high interest and bigger importance.

The overall objective of the planned program is in line with IA's Theme of Change:

- To increase awareness of University presidents and student leadership and Peace Forum Representatives on issues that constrain the peaceful and productive teaching and learning environment.
- To compile experiences of universities leadership on maintaining relatively peaceful teaching and learning environment.
- To improve students' union and leadership capacity and sustainability to play an active part in the development of active and informed citizenry.
- To Propose potential interventions in order to address potential problems of peace and stability in the context of universities.
- To increase participation of young people, women and disadvantaged members of communities in the democratic and economic life and self-governance on the local level.

