A plethora of literature as well as popular discourse exists on ethnic and religious relations in Africa and her diaspora. These existing works and rhetoric call attention to both the positive and negative manifestation of the intertwined phenomenon of ethnic/racial and religious claims and counter claims. On the positive side, the works call our attention to some communal or civil society initiatives through interethnic or interfaith dialogues and networks as well as official national legal or economic-political interventions aimed at promoting a healthy working relationship between or among peoples of different cultural backgrounds. On the negative side, it is a popular knowledge that many lives and property are still being lost in many parts of Africa on the account or claims of ethnic and religious differences. The recurring incidents of sectarian violence raise questions about the state of peace and development in Africa, including the enduring nature of the continent’s ethnic-religious co-existence as well as the sustainability of downward trend in reduction of violent conflicts and increasing trend in the overall human development index.

The purpose of the conference is to take stock of the constant, and changing correct analysis of attitudes toward ethnic-religious relations, examine the state of knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of inter-ethnic/religious relations, assess best global practices for promoting peaceful co-existence, and articulate new or promising programs and policies for managing Africa’s complex, diverse cultural and religious milieu under a democratic framework. In sum, the conference seeks to raise and attempt to address certain critical questions on recurring issues of ethno-religious relations in Africa: Which of the old or known types of ethnic and religious crises have given way and which new types have been birthed? What are the (both internal and external) factors responsible for the escalation and/or de-escalation of ethnic and religious conflicts? What policies, programs and strategies exist for effective cultivation and management of interethnic/religious relations? What are the global (Africa centered) best practices and lessons for managing ethnic/religious diversity? What are the
new strategies, socio-legal framework and programs for prevention, management, and resolution of interethnic-religious extremism and violence in a democratic societies? What is the role of the African diaspora, both in ethno-religious escalation and mitigation?

We invite papers that address these issues from different disciplinary perspectives, theoretically or empirically, and through proper research methodology, rigorous data analysis and thoughtful recommendations. We strongly encourage submission of proposals that are based on case studies and best practices pertinent to the conference theme, with both strong problem analysis and recommendations for program or policy solutions. We will be especially interested in papers/proposals that address one or more of the following issues:

Theoretical & Epistemological foundations of race, ethnicity and religiosity;
Ethnic and religious identity;
Religion and wealth/prosperity
Socio-cultural issues;
“Boko Haram” crisis in Nigeria
The Sahel and Maghreb conflict issues
Lessons in reconciliation from post genocide Rwanda and new South Africa
Ethnicity and resource control/discovery;
Land tenure and ethnicity
Ethnic militias
Understanding religious terrorism;
The politics of ethnicity/race and religion;
Corruption, crime and conflict
Cross Border/Migrations and conflict dynamics
Social Media
Gender Issues
Youth development and leadership
Interethnic networks
Interfaith organizations and peace-building
Nationality, citizenship and ethnicity;
The law/constitution, ethnicity and religion
Responding to ethno-religious violence/conflicts

Please include the following in your proposal: name, current position and institutional affiliation, paper title, abstract (150 words maximum), your mailing address, email, phone and fax number. You will be notified of acceptance by email. Selected papers will be considered for publication and inclusion in the conference proceedings. We prefer presentations and proposals in English; but can accommodate French speakers.

Participants are responsible for the conference registration fee of $100.00 USD (per person), plus their travel and lodging costs. Registration fee is payable upon acceptance of a proposal.

Email your proposal to: Prof. Ernest Uwazie, Director, Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution at Uwaziee@csus.edu (916) 278-6282. For more information visit us at: www.csus.edu/org/capcr

Deadline for submission of proposals is NOVEMBER 30, 2013