



## Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution California State University, Sacramento



### Call for Applications:

## AFRICA PEACE FELLOWS (APF) TRAINING PROGRAM

### **Pilot Training Cohort 2026-2027: *Building Africa's Next Generation of Peace Leaders!***

#### **BACKGROUND**

Africa stands at a critical juncture in its pursuit of sustainable peace and development. The Africa Peace Fellows (APF) Program represents a transformative opportunity to train exceptional leaders already engaged in the field or practice of conflict resolution to acquire cutting-edge knowledge and advanced conflict resolution skills, and join an influential network of peacebuilders shaping the continent's future. This prestigious fellowship, administered by the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) at California State University, Sacramento, offers a unique, 15-month training in advanced peace and conflict resolution, combining academic rigor and practical skills as well as field experience or internship across Africa and the United States. We invite visionary professionals from government, civil society, business, peace and security, and academia to apply for this life-changing opportunity to become certified and inducted as Africa Peace Fellow, with a commitment to serving as peace leaders and architects of Africa's peaceful transformation. The pilot cohort will focus on serious, intractable conflict issues of violent extremism and gun violence in the ECOWAS subregion. Applicants are invited from all African countries and subregions engaged and interested in the said conflict scenarios.

*We seek and welcome sponsorships from individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions, and governments who can provide any level of support, as the APF seeks to increase its endowment for full, long- term funding. The inaugural cohort, pilot phase of the program will consist of 5-7 participants, and participants will be sponsored for the program.*

**You may consider this unique, state of the art training program if you:**

- Share a commitment to the APF vision and mission
- Are available for the 15-month duration of study
- Are already engaged in the peace and conflict resolution field
- Have a compelling interest in intractable conflict of violent extremism and/or gun violence in your workplace, community, or profession

- Want to focus your training for management or resolution, and/or able for international travel
- Are effective in English language instruction
- Can conduct practicum, internship, and committed to completing the program

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

About CAPCR: Established in 1996 at California State University, Sacramento, the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) has emerged as a premier institution for:

- Advanced training in mediation, negotiation, and arbitration as well as alternative dispute resolution and restorative justice;
- Innovative research in conflict transformation;
- Strategic interventions for governments, institutions, and organizations;
- Capacity building across Africa and its diaspora.

The APF Program Vision:

The Africa Peace Fellows Programme addresses critical gaps in Africa's peace architecture by:

- Developing state of the art conflict resolution specialists and practitioners, especially countering violent extremism;
- Institutionalizing sustainable peacebuilding frameworks;
- Creating transnational networks of peace professionals;
- Bridging and advancing theory and practice in complex, intractable, protracted conflict environments, especially countering violent extremism.

## **APPLICANT SELECTION AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Peace Fellow is aimed at senior-mid level officials/officers already engaged in critical sectors in government, nongovernmental, business, peace and security as well as educational institutions, and will represent a fair cross-section of society. We reserve the right to modify the selection criteria and requirements to meet operational or programmatic needs, including target countries and sectors as well as other salient conditions. Accordingly, the trainee or potential Peace Fellows will:

1. Possess at least a Bachelor's degree. Master's/advanced degree or its equivalent value preferred.
2. Be working professionals with both the significant experience and relevant, successful career.
3. Show promise as peace leader and peace ambassador at local, national, and/or international level(s).
4. Demonstrate support of her/his employer as well as other relevant associations or networks.
5. Submit the proper application with supporting documents and references for careful reviews and due considerations by the APF International Steering Committee and Advisory Board as well as the CAPCR Board.
6. Demonstrate commitment to completion of the training and post-training agenda.

7. Capacity for effective learning in the English language and interface via hybrid format—in person and online modules.
8. Ability to work in team environment, with cross-cultural competency.

## **PROGRAM ARCHITECTURE**

### Core Components

1. Academic Residency and field visits (Sacramento, California, USA)- 2-3 weeks.
  - Intensive coursework at CSU Sacramento.
  - Masterclasses with global peace experts.
  - -Robust online Learning and instructions.
2. Field Practicum:
  - Institutional visits to leading peace and conflict resolution organizations.
  - Comparative study of conflict systems in Africa and USA.
3. African Internship
  - Immersive placement with partner institutions.
  - Applied peacebuilding projects.
4. Executive Mentorship
  - One-on-one guidance from senior practitioners.
  - Leadership development coaching.
  - Support for major problem resolution.
  - Continuous professional development and networking.

## **CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK**

The Fifteen-Pillar Curriculum equips fellows with:

1. Advanced Conflict Analysis and translational methodologies
2. Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
3. African Peace and Security Architecture practice expertise
4. Traditional African Conflict Resolution dynamics
5. Advanced Public Policy Mediation and Negotiation skills
6. Cross-cultural strategies in conflict resolution
7. Peace Leadership ethics and values
8. Environmental Justice and Natural Resources Management
9. Restorative Justice and Trauma informed response.
10. Institutional Protocol competencies
- 11: Conflict Early warning and response
12. Violent Extremism/terrorism phenomenon
13. Small arms and light weapons dynamics in violence
14. The role of technology and social media in violent extremism and gun violence
15. Evaluation and Assessment of interventions and practices.

## **FELLOWSHIP IMPERATIVES**

### Strategic Goals

#### 1. State of the art Leadership Development and direct practice

Cultivate senior/mid-career professionals continuously as certified conflict resolution specialists.

#### 2. Institutional Capacity Building

Establish permanent centers of excellence and cadre of practitioners with advanced level skills and continuous practice across Africa's sub-regions.

## **Transformational Outcomes**

- Enhanced national conflict prevention and response systems;
- Integrated peacebuilding in public policy;
- Robust sub-regional peace networks;
- Documented best practices repository and development of long term, strategic research infrastructure;
- Strengthened diaspora engagement.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### Eligibility Criteria

We seek candidates who demonstrate:

- ✓ Minimum Bachelor's degree (advanced degrees preferred)
  - ✓ 5+ years of professional leadership experience
  - ✓ Proven commitment to peacebuilding
  - ✓ Institutional endorsement
  - ✓ National and Continental vision with real, direct local or institutional impact
- Proposed ongoing major conflict of choice for resolution or mitigation from the training knowledge.

**Selection Timeline(tentative)—Subject to change as programmatic and operational needs determine.**

- Application Deadline: September 30, 2025.
- Review Period: October 2025
- Interviews: November 2025
- Final Decisions: January 2026
- Program Commencement: April 2026

## **HOW TO APPLY**

### Application Package Requirements

#### 1. Completed Application Form incl.:

##### a. Personal particulars

##### b. Statement of Purpose (500-750 words)

- Please explain your interest in the Africa Peace Fellows program and how it aligns with your career and professional goals.

- Describe your experience in conflict resolution, alternative dispute resolution, public policy, governance, or related fields.
- Outline how you believe you can contribute to promoting a culture of peace and non-violent dispute resolution in Africa, especially regarding the focus on countering violent extremism and gun violence in the ECOWAS region.
- Describe your peace project of an intractable and emerging public policy conflict in your country, institution, or community that you hope to resolve or address during the course of your training, and your level of confidence for success.

## **2. Supporting Documents**

- CV/with photo of headshot
- Provide two professional references/letter of recommendation from current employer and professional organization.

## **3. Submission Guidelines**

- Deadline: September 30, 2025
- Submit via: Email/Online Portal
- Contact: Email: [capcr@csus.edu](mailto:capcr@csus.edu)
- Attention: Professor Ernest Uwazie, Executive Director

## **INVESTMENT IN PEACE**

The APF Program represents a continental investment in sustainable peace. Selected fellows will receive:

- Tuition coverage
- International travel support
- Opportunities for project partnership and collaboration
- Lifetime network access

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

APF Selection Committee  
Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution  
California State University, Sacramento

**Applications must be submitted electronically on or before *September 30, 2025*.**