**HOHF REPORT ON WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2024**

Benue state for the last 14 years have experienced communal clashes between farmers and herdsmen with the destruction of lives and properties worth millions of naira, and displacement of people living in refugee/IDP Camps.

According to the State Emergency Management Authority, over 1.9million IDPs (SEMA 2022) are resident in the state and sadly there is an upward rise and influx of internally displaced persons. Currently the state hosts over 25 camps for internally displaced persons (official camps and unofficial camps).

The Benue state government signing into law the Anti-open grazing bill. The herdsmen noted that there will be no peace in the country unless cattle colony is established. The consequence of this crisis is that the idle youths have become instrument of violence and using hate speech in the communities.

To Mark the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, House of Hilkiah Foundation (HOHF) organized Harmony Kick, using sports as a tool to raise awareness about the need for peace within and among communities with different religious, ethnic and political beliefs. The event focused on how the youth, media and social activist can and should play critical roles in actively encouraging and amplifying narratives that *rehumanize* the other side, increasing the chances for sustainable peace.

The activity focused on interfaith peace amongst the youth through sports. The project used sports as a tool to promote intercultural and interfaith dialogues, and empowered youth to become agents of change in their communities. The project targeted youth from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, with a particular focus on marginalised communities.

The project consisted of several activities, including interfaith and intercultural sports tournaments, sharing a meal, talk on interfaith dialogue, and hate speech that leads to violent extremism.

A total of 30 youths aged 18-30years from different interfaith directly participated in the sport activity and over 200 benefited indirectly through knowledge sharing.

**Activity Outcome**

1. To create a safe and inclusive space for youth from different culture and religious backgrounds to come together, interact, and build relationships through sports,
2. Youths were empowered to become agents of change in their communities
3. Increased awareness and appreciation of different religions and cultures amongst the youth.
4. Improved communication and collaboration amongst the youth of different faith and culture.
5. Reduced incidents of religious intolerance and violence amongst the youth.

**Activity output**

1. Creation of a sports league for the youth of different faiths.
2. Organizing regular inter-faith sports tournaments and events
3. Development of training programs and workshops to promote interfaith dialogue and tolerance