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Youth Power for Peace: Breaking Barriers and Building Change

Episode 2 of International Dialogue Centre KAICIID's Youth Webinar Series "NextGen TALKS" Faith in Action: Youth-led Projects Making a Difference

A vibrant blue promotional graphic for a webinar. At the top left, a red pill-shaped button contains the text 'NextGen TALKS'. To its right, the main title 'Faith in Action: Youth-led Projects Making a Difference' is written in white and yellow. Below the title, a smaller red pill-shaped button reads 'Episode 2: Youth Power for Peace: Breaking Barriers & Building Change'. The graphic features two circular portraits of women: Harriet Atieno Ahalo on the left and Malaz Yousif on the right. Between them is a plus sign and a play button icon. On the right side, there is a stylized graphic of a human head profile with three bees flying around it. At the bottom right, the CIID logo and 'KAICIID' text are repeated.

NextGen TALKS **Faith in Action:**
Youth-led Projects Making a Difference
Episode 2: Youth Power for Peace: Breaking Barriers & Building Change

Harriet Atieno Ahalo
KAICIID Fellow, Kenya
SPEAKER

Malaz Yousif
Programme Officer, Africa Region, KAICIID
MODERATOR

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This event was the second episode of the International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID youth webinar series **NextGen TALKS**, titled " **Youth Power for Peace: Breaking Barriers and Building Change**" a collaboration between its **E-Learning Unit and Africa Region Programme**. This 30-minute session highlighted the work of **Harriet Ahalo**, a KAICIID Fellow and founder of "We Rise" from Mombasa, Kenya, in fostering interfaith and intercultural dialogue as a means to **counter violent extremism, promote peace, and strengthen social cohesion**. The session brought together young peacebuilders, faith leaders, and



experts to discuss challenges and opportunities in **youth-led interfaith engagement**, particularly in Africa.

Harriet's initiatives focus on **youth empowerment, religious literacy, and cross-faith collaboration**, aiming to **break down stereotypes and create inclusive dialogue spaces**. She shared innovative approaches such as **Scriptural Reading** and **Welcoming the Other**, enabling young people to engage with different faith traditions and recognize shared values.

The event also addressed **barriers to youth participation in peacebuilding**, particularly restrictive selection criteria that exclude young practitioners due to **formal education and experience requirements**. Alternative strategies were discussed, including **grassroots engagement, mentorship, and leveraging digital platforms** for wider reach.

Through an interactive **Q&A session**, participants explored how young people can **navigate challenges, find alternative pathways, and create sustainable peace initiatives**. The session underscored the **importance of interfaith dialogue in preventing radicalization and fostering trust** among religious communities in Kenya and across Africa.

“Sometimes young people shy away from participating in these conversations of interfaith, because religion is actually a very sensitive topic. And so sometimes we'd go right into the heart of community and find the youth.”

Harriet Ahalo

Impact Assessment

This event strongly aligned with the mission of **World Interfaith Harmony Week** by **promoting interfaith collaboration, challenging religious misconceptions, and empowering youth-led peacebuilding initiatives**. Key impacts included:

✓ **Strengthening Interfaith Dialogue** – By showcasing successful models such as **Scriptural Reading** and **Welcoming the Other**, the event demonstrated **effective ways to bridge religious divides**.

✓ **Empowering Youth for Peace** – The discussion underscored the role of **young people as change-makers**, emphasizing the need for **inclusive spaces and alternative pathways** in peacebuilding.



✔ **Raising Awareness on Structural Barriers** – The event brought attention to **exclusionary selection criteria** in peace initiatives and encouraged the adoption of **mentorship and community-driven models** to ensure broader youth participation.

✔ **Encouraging Regional Replication** – The approaches presented were identified as **scalable**, with potential replication in **Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, and South Africa**, where similar interfaith challenges exist.

✔ **Fostering New Partnerships** – The event provided a platform for networking among **youth leaders, faith-based organizations, and policymakers**, setting the foundation for **future collaborations**.

By amplifying youth voices and showcasing **innovative interfaith practices**, this event contributed to the **global movement for peace and harmony**.

[Event recording and resources](#)