

**NEW ERA EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOUNDATION**

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**REPORTS OF THE 2013 "DO ONE THING FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CAMPAIGN"  
HELD AT CRUDAN GUEST, JOS, NIGERIA ON MAY 21, 2013**

**NEW ERA EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOUNDATION**  
[www.needcsi.org](http://www.needcsi.org)

**and** **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations**  
Many cultures. One humanity.

**PARTNERS:**

Welcome You All to the:  
**2013 "DO ONE THING FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION" CONFERENCE**

To mark the  
**United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**

**THEME:**  
**"Forging Peace Through Understanding and Inclusion"**

**Date: 21st May, 2013 | Venue: Conference Hall, CRUDAN Guest House, Jos, Nigeria**

**do one thing**  
for diversity and inclusion  
World Day for Cultural Diversity 2013

**BACKGROUND**

Nigeria, on the west coast of central Africa, is the most populous nation on the African continent. Muslims and Christians roughly divide the country with only a small minority practicing earlier traditional religions. Nigerians also identify with historic roots in over 250 tribal ethnicities; each maintaining pride in its own culture and distinct language. Nigeria's wealth is in her abundant natural resources, extraordinary human resilience and hospitality, and rich in traditional diversity. Paradoxically her greatest challenges are rooted largely in human disconnection. The resultant ignorance and fear of the "other" perpetuates her citizen's inability to embrace one another, cooperate, and share resources and wealth. The resultant poverty, competition, and disunity fuels conflict –sometimes- brutal acts of violence against the "perceived enemy" that cries out for a new culture of peace that promotes nonviolent human engagement across the land. Rampant violent crimes, armed robbery, hired assassinations and thousands of internally displaced refugees compound inequality and hopelessness. Everyone wants to be heard; few have the will or skills to listen and learn. Desperately needed are skilled artisans of communication and informed innovators.

New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation is a Nigeria-based registered NGO, of dedicated diverse young men, women and community leaders, ushering in a new way of

thinking that demands inclusiveness in the form of sustained human relationships and that dignifies all individuals as equals. We are replacing the old top-down order that separates and fuels the flames of unnecessary separation and exaggerated fear. We understand that “you cannot want misery for someone else without being in misery yourself.”

### **OUR MISSION**

New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation is on a mission to establish cross-cultural leadership teams of young women and men, with skills that will help them emerge from dysfunctional families and a drug-influenced life on the streets, to become peer-leaders and agents of peace capable of helping themselves and influencing their communities for good. We are intentionally teaming spiritual innovators and other



exemplary adults with needful youth to equip them to pass forward all they have learned as valuable, contributing agents of change in their communities. Beginning at the heart, we help young people commit themselves to education and concrete goals, while helping them discover and develop their unique talents, and potentiality. Both self-disciplined and imaginative, these youth are becoming productive citizens and leaders capable of teamwork and shaping a positive, sustainable society that rejects violence and insists on communication excellence and unbridled compassion for all. The youth develop values that include : (1) A sense of belonging to a common and interconnected humanity, (2) Respect and a sense of dignity for all people, (3) A dedication to preserving the natural environment, (4) A strong social service ethic.

As part of our Public Peace Process, since 2007 we have invited and hosted over 500 religiously diverse young women and men of excellence to begin long-term dialogue together. Former adversaries experience that nothing replaces face-to-face relationships; we are each other's best doctors. These innovative Nigerians are beginning to want the best not only for oneself but for the "other," equally. Participants are discovering their equal humanity and unprecedented creativity as they return home with new skills to widen and deepen circles of relationship and reconciliation Nigeria-wide. We are closing distances, healing wounds, experiencing face-to-face forgiveness, and changing the fabric of Nigeria month-by-month, as familiarity and trust increase. The in-nation program supports

Nigerians in their healing process with three components: (1) moving toward forgiveness by giving voice to carefully-listened-to personal life narratives, with the experience that "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard," (2) an educational, intellectual framework of sound psychological, biological and spiritual principles of a life-lived that leads toward forgiveness, and (3) responsible outreach with grass-roots initiatives that includes vastly more citizens awakening to build authentic Nigerian community, beyond war, living as one.

### **OUR WORK:**



Our Interfaith Dialogue Program helps spiritually-based individuals and communities to heal wounds, end wars, and think "whole." This engaged, communicative next-generation of participatory youth is practicing faith-inspired, people-and-planet decision-making that results in social, economic, cultural, and spiritual prosperity for all, excluding no one. Since 2009, our annual Conference gathers women

and men young adults, including representatives of CSOs and faith-based groups in Nigeria and worldwide. They heal face-to-face with tools of mutual discovery and dignity, while rejecting violence and insisting on human engagement to build their common future. They are applying new tools of communication and forgiveness to take back home to their schools, communities, and nations. For four years, the annual International Conference on Youth and Interfaith Dialogue has inspired the annual National Youth Media Summit, and disseminated worldwide 4,000 DVDs of its instructive, award-winning film, *DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future*. Others already replicate its practices in Nigeria, DR Congo, Ivory Coast, and beyond Africa.

Our strongest global impact is from our 2012 how-to film, "***DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims and Christians Creating Their Future***" -- <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeria.htm> - our international co-production with the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group, California, USA. In the first 2012 year over 3,000 DVDs were requested from every continent by citizens in 570 cities of 70 nations, 20 in Africa. This documentary gives voices and faces to 200 courageous Muslims and Christians - diverse young women and men - who we united successfully in Jos, central Nigeria. Refusing to be enemies, they were together during days and evenings of our 2010 International Conference on Youth and

Interfaith Dialogue. They were tense yet excited to finally cross lines of religion, economics, tribe, and gender to transcend the status quo and discover empathy for each other's personal life experiences. Together they realized that "*an enemy is one whose story we have not heard*," while listening-to-learn and thus dignifying themselves and the "others." Face to face and in small circles, they began with ice-breakers and continued in depth to discover one another's equal humanity – fear, grief, needs, hopes, and concrete plans for a shared future. These determined young Nigerians illustrated how others worldwide can successfully connect and communicate to create authentic community.

In 2011, we successfully launched our **Youth Leadership Institute** for young people selected from universities and colleges in towns and cities across Nigeria -- <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/leadershipeducationandpeace/>. The Program is catalyzing the emergence of a new generation of youth leaders who will participate effectively in forging a strong democratic, people-centered development and sustainable economic emancipation in Nigeria. Over 500 Youth have so far received training in leadership, peace building, communication skills, and interpersonal relationship. They now contribute heavily to our Community Development and Peacebuilding Projects, especially in selected crisis areas in Northern Nigeria. This new generation of young citizen-initiators is applying new skills to engage their communities by initiating periodic magazines, soccer tournaments, and cultural experiences -- arts, music, and drama projects often promoted by local radio and television broadcast media.

#### **THE 2013 CAMPAIGN:**

In May 2013, New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation is partnered with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), UNESCO and a wide coalition of partners from corporations to civil society to launch the 2013 world campaign "**Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion**", aimed at engaging people around the world to *Do One Thing* to support Cultural Diversity and Inclusion. Following the adoption in 2001 of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the United Nations General Assembly declared May 21 as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

In Jos, the Plateau State, Nigeria's "**Home of Peace and Tourism**", the "**2013 Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion Conference**", was conducted at the Main Conference Hall of CRUDAN GUEST House, Sabon Barki, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, to mark the United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity and Inclusion for Dialogue and Development, on May 21, 2013, beginning from 8am to 4pm. The theme we chose for this year's event in Jos, Nigeria was: ***Forging Peace Through Understanding and Inclusion***. Three-quarters of the world's major conflicts have a cultural dimension. Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and

necessary for peace, stability and development. The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better. The 2013 campaign, by encouraging people and organizations from around the world to take concrete action to support diversity, aims:

- To raise awareness worldwide about the importance of intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion.
- To build a world community of individuals committed to support diversity with real and every day-life gestures.
- To combat polarization and stereotypes to improve understanding and cooperation among people from different cultures.

Cultural Diversity does matter. Cultural diversity is a driving force of development, not only with respect to economic growth, but also as a means of leading a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life. This is captured in the seven culture conventions, which provide a solid basis for the promotion of cultural diversity. Cultural diversity is thus an asset that is indispensable for poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable development. At the same time, acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity – in particular through innovative use of media and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) – are conducive to dialogue among civilizations and cultures, respect and mutual understanding.

#### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:**



The event was very well attended by over 100 participants, representing the Government, Civil Society Groups, traditional, cultural and religious leaders, teachers and students. Arrival and Registrations commenced as early as 8am. After the prayers and brief introductions of Invited Guests, students of Creative Minds International Academy, Jos

([www.creativemindsacademy.net](http://www.creativemindsacademy.net)),

entertained participants for about thirty (30) minutes in traditional Africa songs and cultural dances. This was followed by the Welcome Address delivered by Dr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba, Executive Director of New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation, on behalf of the Organizers and collaborators. The Opening Statement was the presented by Hon. Elisha Buba Yero, Global Council Trustee for the United Religions Initiative (URI), a US-

based International Organization promoting daily interfaith dialogue and a culture of Peace around the world. Participants then had the privilege to listen to a video Goodwill Message for **Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, United Nations High-Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, from New York, USA. More Goodwill Messages were received from the Hon. Commissioner, Plateau State Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Hon. Barr. Timothy Parlong, Special Adviser to the Plateau State Governor on Peacebuilding, **Mrs. Betty Alaribe**, Founder and Proprietor, Victory International Schools, Mr. Godwin Okoko, Nigeria Country Representative of Apurimac Onlus, among others. Meals were then served from 10:0am – 11am.

A Special Discussion Session on the Theme: ***Forging Peace Through Understanding and Inclusion***, including a Question and Answer Session then followed, facilitated by Ema Miroslava Billings, NEEDCSI's Director of Development, from the Center for Justice and Peace of the Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA. A Keynote Address was also delivered by ***Nnaemego, Nkiruka Stella, BL. Law, MSc Social Work, PNM, MNIM***, Founder/CEO of the Abuja-based Fresh and Young Brains Development Initiative (FRESH). Group Discussions centered on the content of the Paper presented. The paper observed that that for peace to exist, citizens must learn to promote mutual respect, understanding and inclusion. Some of the Key ingredients for forging Peace highlighted at the Campaign include, but not limited to: Right Information, Interfaith Dialogue, Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, Forums on Ethnicity and Religion, Use of ICT in Information Dissemination, Positive Engagement of Migrants, Public Consultations, etc.

An important major component of the 2013 Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion Campaign in Jos, Nigeria, was the Youth Interfaith Service-Learning Activity, to encourage peace through service projects and education among youths of different faith traditions in Plateau State, to help build up and encourage youths and families to live a life of strong moral value, recognizing that the peace of our communities, our nation and the world begins with the peace of the individual and to help participants to socialize across boundaries of culture and faith and to experience volunteerism from a faith-based community of youths, educators and experts.

50 Students, mainly from Christians, Muslims from Creative Minds International Academy and Victory International School, both in Jos, Nigeria participate in a 3-hour Interfaith Youth Street Cleaning Exercise. The Students cleared and burnt garbage along Michael Botmang Street in the Dadin Kowa District of Jos South Local Government Council.

### **KEY DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The women, men and Youth Participants at the 2013 Do One Thing Campaign in Jos, Nigeria, provided recommendations to decision-makers, institutions and individuals for dignifying everyone and our shared values. In a safe space, the Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion Campaign created a living model for prosperity, coexistence beyond war, and restoring friendships and trust. Key Decisions and recommendations included:

- a. A commitment to embracing our common humanity, respecting our differences and positively transforming the world we have inherited.
- b. Advocacy visits to the Ministry of Education to formally request for the creation of frameworks for the inclusion of Cultural Diversity and Inclusion, Religion and Peace Studies, beginning at the Secondary School level in Plateau State.
- c. Participants agreed on the need to conduct the Campaign annually and to get more youth and Organizations actually involved.

### **PUBLICITY:**

Photographs and Videos of our 2013 Do One Thing Campaign in Jos, Nigeria are now available at the following links: .

a. **Facebook Photos:**

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10201310733513455.1073741829.1326326727&type=3>

b. **Youtube Videos:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Him3ymKa7TE>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-xW7t138ew>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbiSfOgzm-Y>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lisLgHHTxQo>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMvrjZgyDKE>

### **GRATITUDE:**

New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation expresses profound gratitude to the UN High Representative at the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), **Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, the Coordinator of the Do One Thing for Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Campaign, **Martha Lopez**, our partners namely: United Religions Initiative (URI-WEST AFRICA), Apurimac Onlus- Nigeria, Plateau Peace Practitioners Network (PPPN), the Office of the Special Advisor to the Governor on Peacebuilding, the Plateau State Ministry of Culture and Tourism, students of Creative Minds International Academy and Victory International School, and everyone who responded positively to the UNAOC's call to Do One Thing to support Cultural Diversity and Inclusion.

New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation

Jos, Nigeria

25<sup>th</sup> June 2013

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