



Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa
Programme des Relations Islamo-Chrétiennes en Afrique



KADUNA COMMUNIQUE

Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders together for Peace Building ,Conflict Management/Prevention and Reconciliation:

**6th – 9th October 2010
at Jacaranda Retreat and Conference Centre
Kaduna, Nigeria**

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We, Christian and Muslim religious leaders from 5 Northern and Middle Belt States of Nigeria namely: Bauchi, Plateau, Kano, Kogi and Kaduna, assembled together by the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) Nigeria North Area Committee, at the Jacaranda Retreat and Conference Centre in Kaduna from 6th to 9th October 2010, under the theme '*Christian and Muslim Co-operation for Conflict Prevention/Management, Peace Building And Reconciliation*'

Concerned that these 5 states among others in the region, are experiencing intermittent violent conflicts that militate against the peace of the states and peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims.

Recognising that Islam and Christianity wield the largest following in our regions and constitute the 2 major religious faiths in Nigeria.

Certain about the multifaceted causes of violent conflicts that range from political, economic, social, ethnic, religious and various machinations bordering on land ownership and power struggles.

Wary that in spite of the multiple causes, violent conflicts are often portrayed in national and international media as Christian and Muslim conflicts to the exclusion of all other causes.

Conscious of the need for justice, peace and reconciliation for the development of the region.

Aware that the solution to violent conflicts of any kind in our states and in Nigeria at large, cannot appropriately be resolved without the active involvement of the leadership of Church and Mosque.

Perturbed by polemical utterances from both Christians and Muslims emanating from prejudices, stereotypes, militancy and extremism, political

incitement and misinterpretations of the Bible and Quran, as well as the traditions of the two religions.

Alarmed by the infiltration of internal and external forces outside the area of violent conflicts, exacerbated by ethno-religious negative solidarity and how ethnicism easily finds an ally in religion.

Determined to uphold the principles of justice, peace and reconciliation rooted in our respective scriptures and traditions.

Convinced that ethnic, religious, social, cultural and political diversities are part and parcel of our African heritage which if harnessed properly can be more enriching and not divisive as is currently the case.

Do hereby:

Commit ourselves to engage with one another to set in motion proactive measures to uphold justice, safeguard peace, foster reconciliation and promote development.

Resolve to team up with all stakeholders and all people of goodwill within our dear country and others who have Nigeria at heart, to ensure that collectively we work towards sustainable peace in our states.

To this end we call on:

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

- To take stern action against inciters and perpetrators of violence
- To work towards the entrenchment of equality and social justice
- To comprehensively address the issue of indigene and settler, as embodied in the Nigerian constitution and which is interpreted in a manner that militates against national unity.
- To uphold the principles of good governance

- To be in the front line in supporting peace initiatives providing necessary fora for arbitration, peacebuilding and reconciliation.
- To strongly reprimand the perpetrators of violence without fear or favour.

Christian and Muslim Leaders

- To facilitate Christian-Muslim cooperation and collaboration for peace and peaceful coexistence.
- To translate the good precepts for peace in Christianity and Islam into everyday living.
- To look introspectively and address the issue of negative perceptions, prejudice and stereotypes that exist between Christians and Muslims.
- To avoid in all manner and forms polemical preaching and inconsiderate language used against one another.
- To condemn publicly perpetrators of violence in the name of Islam and of Christianity.
- To facilitate knowledge-exchange forums to dispel notions of negative solidarity.
- To constantly engage with government, traditional rulers and all stakeholders to prevent violent conflicts and set up a mechanism for peace making.

Christian and Muslim Women as the primary caregivers in the homestead and society and the bulk brunt bearers of violent conflicts;

- To establish a women's network for support and advocacy, predisposed to further root the crucial role of family in the community.

Youth

- To refuse and avoid being used as tools for violence.

Non-governmental Organisations

- To take initiatives and support proactive measures to forestall conflict in the region

Adherents of the two religions

- To embrace the principle of unity in diversity and to demonstrate love, sacrosanct value for life, good neighbourliness and respect for the other's religion.

Media

- To play a unifying role in the country through the dissemination of information that promotes nationhood, rather than promulgating conflict creating information.

We articulate our sincere gratitude to PROCMURA for organizing such an invaluable forum and implore her to continue to engage with Nigeria to foster capacity building at the grassroots and national level with regards to Christian-Muslim constructive engagement for peace and development. In addition, to accompany us as we commit ourselves to replicate the values of this conference in our various states.



Signed by: The participants from the Northern and Middle Belt States in Nigeria at the '*Christian and Muslim Co-operation for Conflict Prevention/Management, Peace Building and Reconciliation*' Conference.