



WPDI
PLACE FOR PEACE
DINNER AND AUCTION



WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



“

We must plant the seeds
of hope, we must nurture
the seeds of peace.

Together it's possible.

—

Forest Whitaker

”



EVENT

On September 27,
during the week of the United
Nations General Assembly,
WPDI will hold a gala dinner
to raise awareness
on the crucial role of youth
in peace building
and sustainable development.



SVENSK
POSTHOL
STIFTELSEN

#CHILDREN
NOTSOLDIERS

التعليم
فوق

WHITAKER PEACE & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

We live in a time where we have the largest youth generation in human history, with **1.8 billion young people alive today** between the ages of 15 to 29. Of this 1.8 billion, 90 percent live in developing countries, and almost one in four, or **approximately 408 million, are living in settings directly affected by armed conflict or organized violence**. These young women and men are often portrayed as victims or perpetrators of violence.

Forest Whitaker believes otherwise. These youth can be empowered to become **agents of change, peace-makers** and entrepreneurs. They can be supported **to bring peace among communities** in conflict or to create small business that will deliver relevant services while providing jobs to local youth. This is the mission of the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI): providing young people with tools and resources so they can, in turn, take initiatives to bring about the power of transformation into their communities.

This is vital work that we undertake with young people who know what is at stake. Some are former child soldiers; some are war orphan; some live in refugee camps; others have lost years of education to poverty and marginalization. **They are our troops on the ground.** Theirs are stories of resilience; theirs are **stories of dedicated action to change things** for good in communities that have been nearly abandoned by the rest of the world.

Empowering young people is fundamental to peace and development in many of the most fragile and conflict-affected settings in the world today, whether that be the US, Africa, or Latin America, some of the places where WPDI is working and has reached a combined **300,000 people** over the recent years. **This is one of the soundest investment we can make for the future of these places.**

▶ [CLICK HERE TO PLAY WPDI VIDEO](#)



WPDI PLACE FOR PEACE GALA

WPDI Place for Peace Gala is about paying tribute to those young people who fight for peace and development in some of the most difficult and dangerous places around the world.

Participants at the dinner will have the opportunity to live a **unique experience** and contribute to making change happen in vulnerable communities in Africa and the Americas. The dinner will host approximately **250 guests** and feature a **VIP reception, sumptuous dinner,** and an **incredible evening program** with presentations of their successes by our youth leaders, amazing performances by internationally acclaimed artists, and a dazzling display of Uganda traditional dances by **Mizzi Ensemble,** led by **Sam Okello.** The evening will be crowned by a live auction.

Proceeds of the WPDI Place for Peace Gala will help us continue to empower young people from conflict-affected and vulnerable places, providing them **education, trainings, trauma healing, mentorship** and resources for them to develop projects of their own, notably small businesses.

Please join us to learn how you can directly contribute to helping dedicated young people learn technology, find jobs, undertake mediation processes among communities in conflict and create their own businesses.

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We must nurture the seed of peace.
Together it's possible.”
- Forest Whitaker



W P D I

GALA SPONSORSHIP

An evening to support the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative 's mission of helping societies impacted by violence and conflict transform into more safer, prosperous and resilient communities.

Attendees are expected to include a high-profile group of top philanthropists, world leaders, officials, celebrities and WPDI friends and partners.

We invite you to attend, sponsor and be recognized in an evening to remember. We have four varying levels of sponsorship available for this year's Gala. All Gala sponsors receive a commensurate level of benefits before and during the Gala.



PEACE MAKER LEVEL

\$100,000

An exclusive opportunity to be an anchor event partner, with a host of benefits providing maximum visibility.

- 2 prominently placed tables of 10 with name or company branding or one seat at Forest Whitaker's table
- Up to 10 reception tickets (includes a meet and greet with Forest Whitaker)

Corporate visibility and branding moment:

- Onstage recognition and speaking during the program to be acknowledged
- Logo visibility included prominently on the Step and Repeat
- Logo included on all printed material
- Logo included on all email communications in regards to the event
- Full integration into WPDI's social media plan surrounding the event
- Opportunity for one corporate executive to be listed as an Honorary Committee Member in all related materials (program, digital media, press releases, etc)
- Full color one page ad in the brochure of the event
- Opportunity to distribute premium company take aways if desired
- Special recognition in WPDI Annual report
- Top recognition in gala marketing collateral including program, press release, media coverage and e-newsletter
- Brand showcase at the event if desired
- Logo Recognition digitally on screens through the evening.

FUTURE BUILDER LEVEL

\$50,000

You will receive exclusive benefits and VIP status and profiles:

- 1 prominently placed table of 10 with name or company branding
- Up to 5 reception tickets (includes a meet and greet with Forest Whitaker)

Corporate visibility:

- Onstage recognition during the program
- Logo included on the Step and Repeat
- Logo included on all event invitations and communications
- Logo included on all digital communications leading up to the event
- Prominently placed on all WPDI's social media plan surrounding the event
- Full color 1/2 page ad in the event program
- Special support recognition in WPDI Annual report
- Recognition in gala marketing collateral including program, press release, media coverage and e-newsletter
- Logo Recognition digitally on screens through the evening.

HOPE RAISER LEVEL

\$25,000

You will be distinguished for your standout support:

- 1 gala table of 10 with name or company branding
- Up to 5 reception tickets

Corporate visibility:

- Recognition from stage during the program
- Recognition in WPDI Annual report
- Integration into 1-2 tweets on WPDI social media and 1 Facebook post
- Recognition in gala program and e-newsletter
- Full color 1/4 page ad in the brochure of the event

CARE GIVER LEVEL

\$10,000

You will be celebrated for helping us:

- 1 gala table of 10 with name recognition

Corporate visibility:

- Your name included in the program



W P D I

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

SOUTH SUDAN



Hidita Scovia



I was born during the conflict between the north and the south of Sudan. When I was four, my family was forced to move to Uganda, where we lived in a refugee camp. I still remember how tough this journey was. My mother had to carry both me and my younger brother as we walked. I later came back to South Sudan to complete primary school. But there were no resources for education in South Sudan, so I had to move back to Uganda where I studied agriculture at the university.

Since joining the Youth Peacemaker Network, I have learned many things and have connected with new friends all over the world through Facebook, Twitter, and email. I have developed my ICT skills, and I am now an ICT consultant for my colleagues at home, in school, and in my community. WPDI's trainings have taught me how to mediate conflicts and resolve disputes in our communities. These skills have given me a new confidence that makes me feel great. This is very important for me as a woman: people are sensitive to the fact that I have been trained in these areas, so my being a woman does not get in the way. I have become a resource and a role model.

I have always wanted to be a peacebuilder, and WPDI has helped me become one. It was a great honor for me to have been enrolled as a mediator by the newly elected governor of Imatong State to help him foster dialogue at a series of peace conferences he organized in the state. We have done some mediation on land and other territorial issues. In some villages, the fighting had been going on for some time because revenge killings had become regular. Our mediation can help put an end to the bloodshed. Recently, an armed group killed a young boy, which started a cycle of conflict between two communities. The two communities have accepted a mediation process that is still ongoing, but we have managed to put an end to the fighting.



As promoters of peace, we also worked to inform people on the peace agreement that was signed between the conflicting parties of the 2013 civil war. This was important because many people did not know that a peace process had been started and that an agreement had been reached.

When I go to communities, I advise young people to be peaceful. They must see that if they engage in violence, people will not listen to them. Problems are solved by forgiveness and by sharing ideas. It is very important to educate youth and people in general on the value and dignity of every human being – and especially, to promote values of gender equality.

We see that much of the violence results from the widespread poverty in our country. One of my fellow peacemakers and I are developing a community-building project to help reduce this poverty. We realized that food in our state is expensive because lot of it is imported from Uganda, and there are shortages in South Sudan. The conflict has pushed people out of their land. Because many have not returned, the land often remains uncultivated. Our idea is that young people can provide food and generate income for themselves. Everyone will benefit and this will help create peace. ”



UGANDA



BENSON

Benson joined our program in 2017 at the age of 22. He was a child soldier during the civil war that tore apart northern Uganda until the early 2,000s. His parents were killed. His home was burned down. And he was abducted. At seven. He stayed for two years within the ranks of the LRA – the Lord Resistance Army – and escaped during the Barlonyo Massacre in Lira district where more than 200 civilians were killed. For many years, he had to live with the trauma of life within the most violent group in recent history.

For Benson, joining the ranks of WPDI was a transformative experience; being trusted with the mission of promoting peace and reconciliation made him realize that – those are his words – *“There is life after war”*. He also told us that:

“Life would have been hell and stormy if I hadn’t joined the WPDI program. As a former child soldier who was abducted and forced to do many things against his will, whose parents were killed and properties destroyed, I did not think there was a future for me. When I heard of the program WPDI was launching in the region of Acholi, I thought that maybe there was a path for me, something else. I had the chance to formally join the team and go through intensive trainings on peace building, conflict management and business skills. I have become a youth of influence in my community. I have been able to conduct mediations and community dialogues. I have even been invited by local authorities to train other young people in business skills. Today, I feel privileged because I am in a position where I can foster peace and empower youths from my community with skills in peace building and entrepreneurship. I was able to have an impact on their lives. I thank WPDI for giving me this once in a life time opportunity and I will live to impact my communities.”



**PLEASE JOIN US AS WE WORK TO EMPOWER
A GENERATION OF YOUTH LEADERS
TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD**

**Peace is not a solitary project – it is a collaborative enterprise.
The Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative relies on support
from committed global citizens to deliver its programs
and services around the world. WPDI is an established
501(c)(3) non-profit entity.**

**Donate to WPDI online at www.wpdi.org
or mail donations to: Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative
1000 North Alameda Street, Suite 104 - Los Angeles,
CA 90012 - United States of America
Phone: 213-625-0410 | Fax: 213-928-4182
Email: info@wpdi.org**

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