

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



A Tale of Peace

September 20, NYC

Hosted by Gayle King

DINNER & AUCTION



WHITAKER
PEACE & DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



**Join our efforts
to promote
peace and prosperity
around the world**





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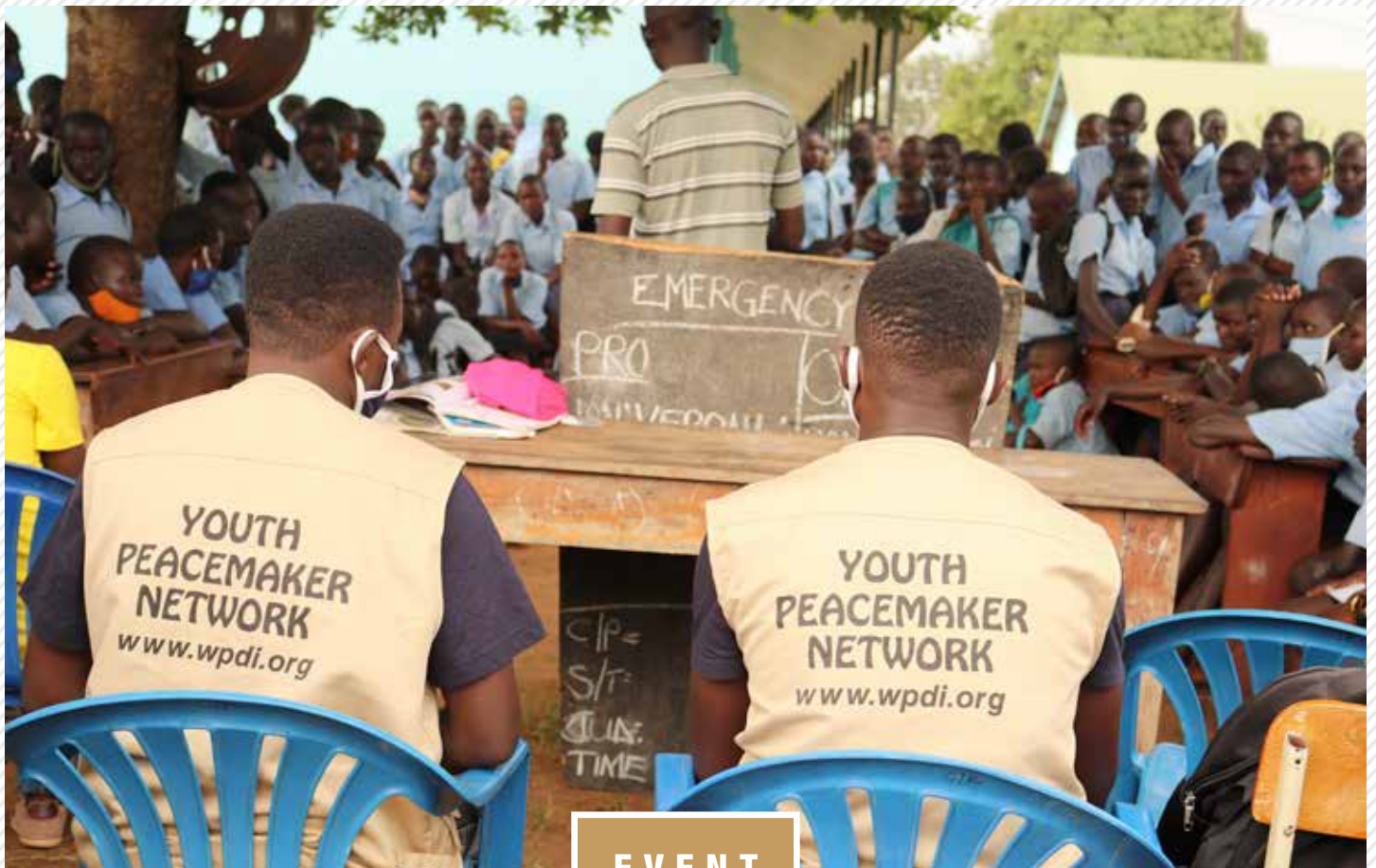
Ten years ago, we proposed that everyday people could be empowered to take the lead with peace building, community building, and social entrepreneurship.

**Today, we can say with certainty:
It can be done.**

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Forest Whitaker

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EVENT

September 20, 2022
Cipriani 25 Broadway, New York

Reception at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM

On September 20, 2022, taking opportunity of the International Day of Peace and the United Nations General Assembly, WPDI will hold a gala Dinner and Auction to celebrate ten years of sparking peace from the grassroots.



The Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative



Forest Whitaker created WPDl to **help young women and men address the challenges of their community** in places plagued by endless cycles of armed violence and poverty.

Too often, we view these contexts as sceneries for stories of victims and perpetrators of violence. But Forest had learnt a different story. Throughout his life, he had met with and listened to **youths who had been drawn into violence, sometimes as gang members or child soldiers**. For many, the stories of their lives had started in utter darkness. But, for most of them, this was not the end of their story as they saw it. They had different, luminous narratives in mind. They refused to be the subjects of narratives imposed on them – they wanted to take the lead of change and transform their communities into better places.

The idea behind WPDl was to **give them tools and resources to enact new stories** of and on their own. Since 2012, with programs in Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Mexico, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and the United States, **WPDl has reached more than 1,500,000 people through trainings, computer and learning centers, peace conferences and small businesses**. We have helped them drive the narrative of their lives.

However, with over 600 million youth living in conflict- and violence-affected around the world, with so many women there victimized or simply ignored despite their immense potential, **the task ahead is immense. So is our ambition**. By the end of the next decade, our goal is to have reached over 3 million people, contributing to spark a global movement that will help create, in the countless communities trapped in cycles of conflict and fragility, a new narrative – a tale of peace.

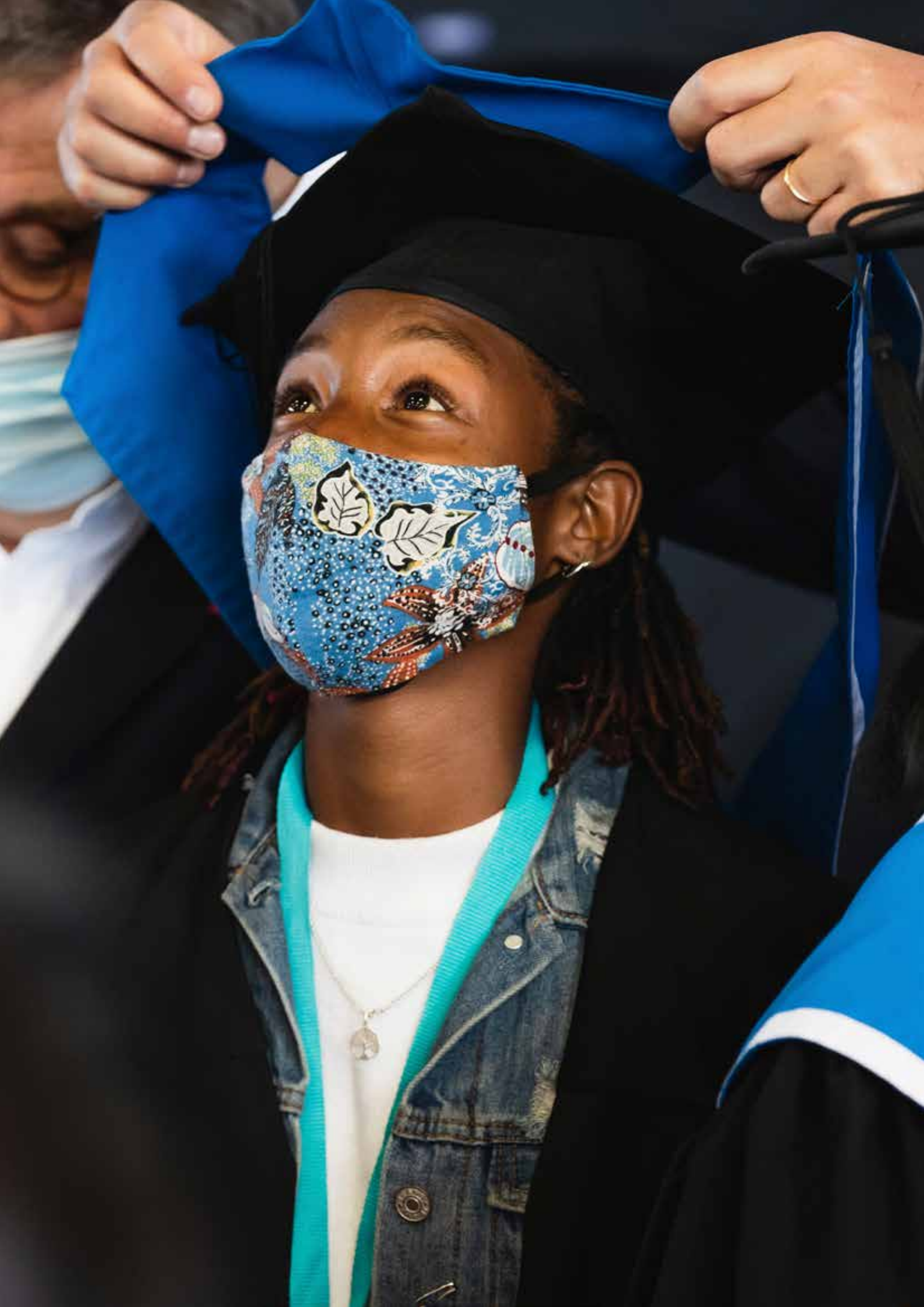


THE WHITAKER PEACE & DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

YOUTH PEACEMAKER NETWORK



**Click here
to play
WPDI video**



WPDI 10-year anniversary Gala



WPDI's 10-year anniversary Gala "A Tale of Peace" is about the stories of unknown heroes who fight for peace and development in some of the most difficult and dangerous places around the world.

Participants in the event will have the opportunity to discover unique tales of undeterred hope and contribute to transform narratives in vulnerable communities in Africa, North America, and Europe. The dinner will host approximately **250 guests and feature a VIP reception, sumptuous dinner,** and an incredible evening program with presentations of our youth leaders' success stories and amazing performances by internationally acclaimed artists. The evening will culminate in a live auction.

Proceeds of WPDI's 10-year anniversary Gala "A Tale of Peace" will help us continue to **empower people from conflict-affected and vulnerable places,** providing them with education, trainings, trauma healing, mentorship, and resources for participants to develop projects of their own, especially small businesses.

Please join us to learn how you can become part of their stories by helping them drive change for peace and prosperity.



Gala Sponsorship



An evening to support the Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative's mission of helping societies impacted by violence and conflict transform into safer, prosperous, and resilient communities. Attendees are expected to include a high-profile group of top philanthropists, world leaders, officials, celebrities, and WPDJ 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

\$150,000

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

- Up to 2 prominently placed tables of 10 with name or company branding
- 2 seats at Forest Whitaker's table
- Up to 10 VIP 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
- Opportunity for one corporate executive to be listed as an Honorary Committee Member in all related materials (program, digital media, press releases, etc.)
- Top recognition in gala marketing collateral including program, press release, media coverage and e-newsletter
- Logo visibility included prominently on the Step and Repeat
- Logo recognition digitally on screens through the evening
- Logo included on all printed material
- Full color one page ad in the brochure of the event
- Full integration into WPDI's social media plan surrounding the event
- Special recognition in WPDI Annual report

FUTURE BUILDER LEVEL

\$100,000

You will receive exclusive benefits and VIP status and profiles

- 1 prominently placed table of 10 with name or company branding
- 1 seat at Forest Whitaker's table
- Up to 4 additional tickets
- Up to 5 VIP reception tickets (includes a meet and greet with Forest Whitaker)

Corporate visibility

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

HOPE RAISER LEVEL

\$50,000

You will be distinguished for your standout support

- 1 prominently placed table of 10 with name or company branding
- Up to 4 additional tickets

Corporate visibility

- Onstage recognition during the program
- Full color 1/4 page ad in the event program
- Recognition in gala marketing collateral including program and e-newsletter
- Recognition in WPDJ Annual report
- Integration on WPDJ's social media plan surrounding the event

CARE GIVER LEVEL

\$25,000

You will be celebrated for helping us

- 1 gala table of 10 with name recognition

Corporate visibility

- Logo included in the program



W P D I

In their own words



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SOUTH AFRICA



Khadija Mayman



**Youth Peacemaker and Conflict Resolution Education
trainer in Cape Flats, South Africa**

Khadija Mayman joined WPDI in 2019 when she was 23 years old. She started as a Youth Peacemaker, and in 2021 she joined the staff team as a Conflict Resolution trainer.

Khadija comes from Bonteheuwel, one of the most violent communities in the Cape Flats. After being exposed to so much violence on a daily basis as a young girl, she developed a strong desire to bring change to her community. Joining WPDI has been a life-changing experience. We have witnessed her transformation, especially when she went through our peacebuilding training.



My journey with WPDI started in 2019. I had been unemployed for 3 months when I found out about this amazing opportunity for young people who wanted to bring change in their communities. After reading about the Trainer of Trainees (ToT) opportunity, I did some research about the work that WPDI does and I was immediately intrigued. I've always been passionate about uplifting my community. At the time I was volunteering with a couple of community organizations and that experience only enhanced the love I had for my community and wanting to make it a better place. The opportunity to become a Trainer of Trainees came at the best time.

My experience as a ToT in training was empowering. I learnt how to be a better leader, I was encouraged to be more confident in my capabilities, to be firm in my opinions



and beliefs as a woman, I improved on my public speaking skills and most importantly I became part of a team that acknowledged and supported my growth. Through the guidance and teachings of my trainers and fellow ToTs I saw myself become a better version of myself. As much as I was here to improve my community, I experienced so much personal growth that made me better equipped to serve not only my community, but my family and the greater society.

In December of 2020, I graduated as a Trainer of Trainees and this is where the real work started. I started training in schools and training local youth in 2021. My experience as a trainer was not always easy, especially with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the support of the staff team and managers, we were able to overcome the challenges and the highlight was witnessing the local youth graduating last year. It was a reminder of why I joined WPDI and why the work that the organization does is so important. Seeing the impact that the training had on my group of local youth made me proud to have been able to train them.

In September of 2021, I was employed by WPDI as a Conflict Resolution Trainer and it has been one of my greatest achievements. I am grateful that I get to work in a space that allows me to learn, grow and strengthen my ability to be an effective trainer. I'm able to learn from the rest of the team every day. But I also get to positively contribute to my community through my trainings. I know that this is only the beginning of my journey at WPDI but I am proud of the progress I've made since starting the journey in 2019. I look forward to reaching many more great achievements at WPDI and continue to make a positive impact in the lives of others. Becoming a part of the WPDI family has really been a life changing experience for myself and so many others.

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U G A N D A



Emad Rajab Said



Youth Peacemaker in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

Rajab was born in the Nuba Mountains in Sudan. Son of a rebel soldier, he was sent to South Sudan to get an education when he was seven. He had to follow a group of people he didn't know, without anyone to take care of him. Living in the bush, he faced many challenges such as hunger, disease, lack of clothing and resources. When war broke out again in South Sudan, the people he was living with fled the country and he found himself completely alone and hungry. After three days of wandering, he found a group of South Sudanese running away to Uganda because of the tribal conflicts that forced thousands of people to flee for their lives.

He found shelter in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, where he joined WPDl at the age of 20. Since then, he has become one of our best Youth Peacemakers, training pupils and community members in peacebuilding, conducting mediations to resolve conflicts within the settlement, and even taking the lead of a major campaign to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a peacebuilder, Rajab is now also part of national discussions to protect children affected by armed conflicts in Uganda.



My name is Emad Rajab Said, a Sudanese living in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda. I came to the refugee settlement in Uganda when I was 16 years old. It was not easy for a kid like me to survive in a refugee camp without his family



members around. Everything was hard but I was lucky to go to school and complete secondary education. In the settlement, there were too many tribal conflicts which resulted in brutal fights that caused death. I was alone and I was always scared for my life because I didn't have someone to protect me. Some refugees mocked me because I lived in a very poor house alone, they even accused me of theft. Sometimes they even called the cluster leader to throw me out, but fortunately he didn't.

WPDI arrived in the settlement in 2017. When I heard about the program they had for the youth, I loved it and I promised myself to give all my best to become a peace ambassador. I joined the program in 2017 and I became a certified Trainer of Trainees and youth peace ambassador in the community. Since I became a youth peace advocate, my life has never been the same again. I have always dreamt of spreading peace to my community so that we can have a peaceful community. Today I train and teach peace in schools, in the community and even in the media. I feel confident whenever addressing people locally or in international forums. I learnt how to care for others and help every person without discrimination. I also learnt different cultures while working with the different communities.

WPDI gave me the opportunity to get exposure and participate in high-level summits and discussion of internal matters. I also keep working to bring positive change in my community. I hope one day I will go back to Sudan and help my own community in the Nuba Mountains. They are so much in need of these services and I feel that I need to help my people to come out of the darkness of all types of violence. I am so happy that I got an opportunity to learn and practice what I have learnt from the WPDI program. I am very sure that everyone who got the same opportunity would be very grateful, the way I am today.



**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.



For any questions about the Gala, reach out to us at
gala@wpdi.org

Visit www.wpdi.org to learn more



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