

See how the football game brought Nigerians together

James Flynn
June 16, 2026
Hyun Jin Moon's Global Peace Foundation



Global Highlights

When young people play together, peace wins



The Independence Under-19 Unity Football Cup brought together young people from across Nigeria to promote teamwork, mutual respect, and national unity. Discover how GPF Nigeria is using sports as a powerful tool for peacebuilding and social cohesion.

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Sports as a Bridge for Unity and Peace in Nigeria

Wairimu Mwangi
December 4, 2025



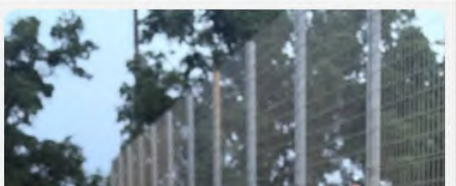
Rimpyen Danjuma Yohana, GPF Nigeria's Youth and Education Development Officer, representing Rev. John Joseph Hayab, the Country Director.

The cheers, chants, and shared excitement of a football match often transcend boundaries of language,

ethnicity, or faith. This spirit of togetherness came alive at the Independence Under-19 Unity Football Cup Final, organized by the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Nigeria in partnership with the Inter-Sports Promoters Association (ISPA). The event celebrating Nigeria's 65th Independence Day demonstrated how sports can unite people in the spirit of shared identity and national harmony.

Held at the National Stadium in Abuja, the tournament drew hundreds of participants and spectators from across the country. In his remarks, GPF Nigeria's youth and education development officer, Rimpyen Danjuma Yohana, who represented GPF Country Director Reverend John Joseph Hayab, emphasized that sports can do more than entertain. "Sport is more than just a game but an avenue for building unity across boundaries of tribe, religion, and background," he said. He reminded the young players that through teamwork and discipline, they were helping to build a stronger and more united nation.

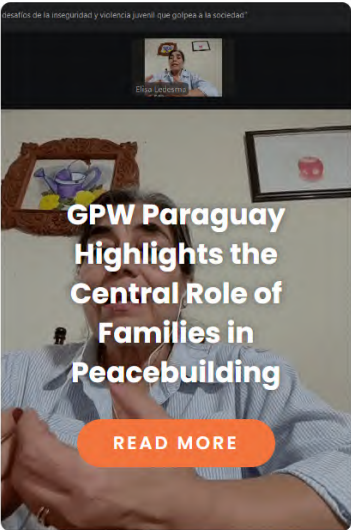
The message of unity was echoed by Rear



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Admiral S. H. Abdullahi, representing the chief of defense staff, General Christopher Gwabin Musa, who described football as one of the



Official presentation of the trophy to the captain of team Imo state, winners of the maiden edition of the Independence Unity Cup 2025.

strongest unifying forces in the country. He noted that on the field of play, differences fade and a shared identity as Nigerians takes center stage. He encouraged the youth to uphold values of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance, not only in sports but also in life, as these are essential for leadership and nation-building.

The Independence Unity Cup event uniquely blended sportsmanship with peacebuilding. Interfaith collaboration, family participation, and volunteerism were showcased as key pillars of unity. Parents and children filled the stands, cheering side by side, while volunteers ensured smooth coordination, displaying service and hospitality. The event became a living example of how shared values can bridge divides and inspire a culture of peace.

Participants shared heartfelt reflections on the experience. Alhaji Salim Abubakar Bayero expressed joy at seeing young people promoting unity through sports, calling for more partnerships to expand the tournament. Kebbi team captain Mohammed Rabiw spoke of how the event helped players “see beyond differences and focus on a shared future,” while spectator Ejike Godswill noted that it reminded him of the golden days of national football that united Nigerians across regions.



Captains of the two teams joyfully pose with the trophy; a true display of sportsmanship underscoring the purpose of the tournament

The impact went beyond the field. The event encouraged greater public appreciation of sports as a tool for peacebuilding, strengthened inter-community relations, and nurtured a

sense of pride in the nation’s diversity. For many, it reaffirmed that peace and unity are values that can be lived and experienced through everyday acts of teamwork and service.

GPF Nigeria plans to make the Independence Cup an annual peace-centered sports festival, expanding participation to more states and grassroots communities. The goal is to deepen youth engagement, foster civic virtue, and build bridges of understanding across the country. Through this initiative, GPF Nigeria continues to show that when young people play, serve, and dream together, they embody the true essence of One Family under God; diverse yet united, strong in purpose and hopeful for a peaceful future.

Learn more: [Nigeria](#) | [Global Peace Foundation](#)

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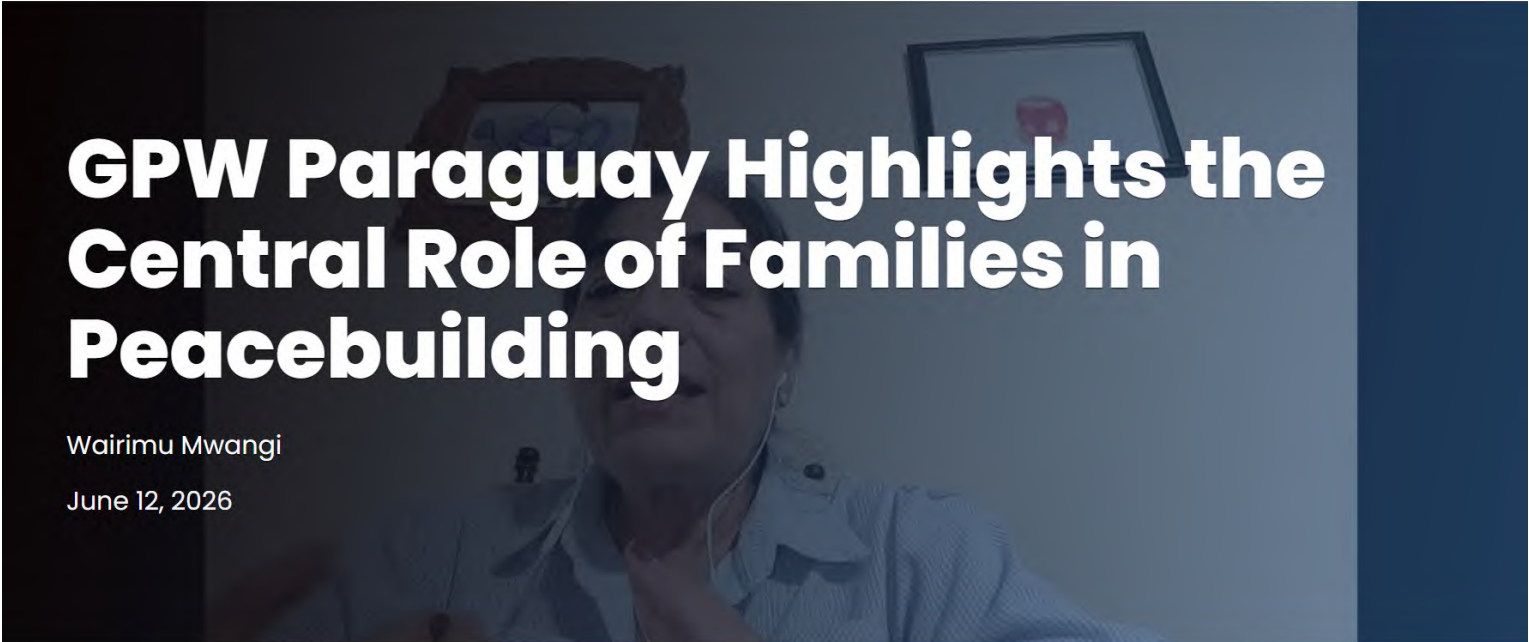
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Wairimu Mwangi
June 12, 2026

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social fragmentation, many are returning to the family as the foundation where values, character, and social responsibility are first formed.

This focus was at the center of a recent webinar organized by Global Peace Women (GPW) Paraguay titled “The Family in the Face of the Challenges of Insecurity and Youth Violence Affecting Society.” Held in April 2026, the event brought together 65 participants from Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay, and Paraguay to examine the role of families and communities in addressing rising social challenges affecting young people across the region.

The webinar reflects the broader commitment of Global Peace Foundation (GPF) and GPW to advancing peacebuilding through values-based education, family strengthening, and community engagement. Both GPF and GPW recognize women

Strong families are increasingly being recognized as essential to building peaceful and resilient societies. As communities around the world seek effective responses to youth violence, insecurity, addiction, and

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engagement both on and off W recognize women and families as central actors in creating peaceful societies and continue to support initiatives that strengthen relationships, encourage intergenerational learning, and promote shared responsibility within communities.

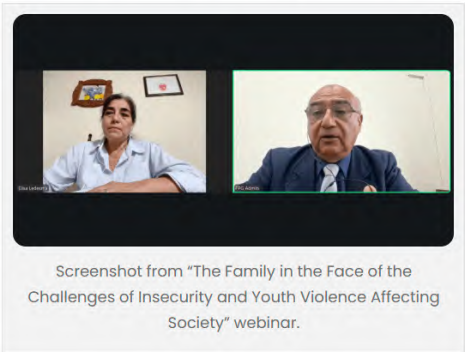
The featured speaker, Dr. Elisa Ledesma, technical advisor to Paraguay’s Ministry of the Interior and recipient of the 2012 Annual “Living for the Sake of Others” Award, emphasized that the family remains the primary environment where children develop values and behavior. She pointed to weakened parent-child communication, family disintegration, and the loss of moral and spiritual guidance as contributing factors to the rise in youth violence and insecurity. Her remarks highlighted the need for families, schools, faith communities, and civil society to work together in creating supportive environments for young people.

Dr. Ledesma also presented the SUMAR program, an initiative that addresses addiction among vulnerable youth through family and

community strengthening. The program recognizes that recovery and reintegration are more sustainable when families and communities are actively involved in the process, rather than treating addiction solely as an individual issue. This approach reinforces the importance of collective responsibility and supportive social structures in addressing the root causes of violence and vulnerability among youth.

Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage in dialogue on issues affecting families and communities across the region. The webinar created space not only for learning and reflection, but also for regional exchange on practical approaches to strengthening family resilience and preventing violence. The participation of attendees from multiple countries

demonstrated a shared recognition that many communities face similar challenges and can benefit from collaborative solutions grounded in shared values and mutual support.



families in peacebuilding. Through educational programs, leadership development initiatives, and community-based dialogue, GPF and GPW continue

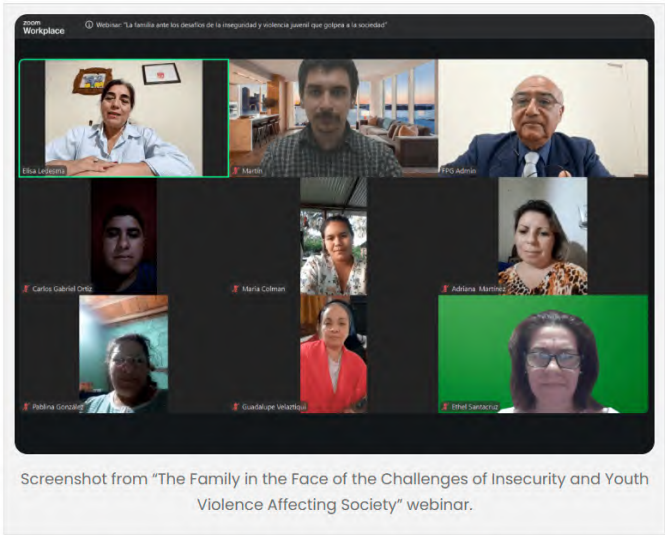
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The themes explored during the webinar align closely with the ongoing work of GPF and GPW in the area of women and

to promote the understanding that peace begins in the home. Our initiatives encourage parents, educators, faith leaders, and community stakeholders to work together in nurturing values and service in younger generations.

The webinar in Paraguay also highlighted the important role women play in fostering peace and stability within families and communities. By empowering women as leaders, educators, and peacebuilders, GPW and GPF contribute to stronger family structures and more resilient communities capable of responding constructively to social challenges.



As communities continue searching for sustainable pathways toward peace, initiatives that strengthen families and promote values-based education remain increasingly important. The work being carried out by GPF and GPW demonstrates that peacebuilding depends on the strength of relationships, shared values, and the capacity of families to nurture future generations.

Interested in supporting efforts that strengthen families, empower women, and promote peaceful communities? Learn more about [Global Peace Foundation’s Women and Families in Peacebuilding initiatives and Global Peace Women](#).

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Building a Culture of Constructive Feedback in Peacebuilding: A Reflection from Peace! Project KURMA

Miftahul Khoir
June 5, 2026



Peace! Project: KURMA participants

The Peace! Project: KURMA (Kumpul Ramadhan Anak Komunitas) gathering brought together youth

volunteers and interfaith leaders at Wisma Rahmat Ali in Central Jakarta. Held in the spirit of Ramadan, the program created a warm and inclusive space for participants from diverse religious backgrounds to connect, reflect, and grow together.

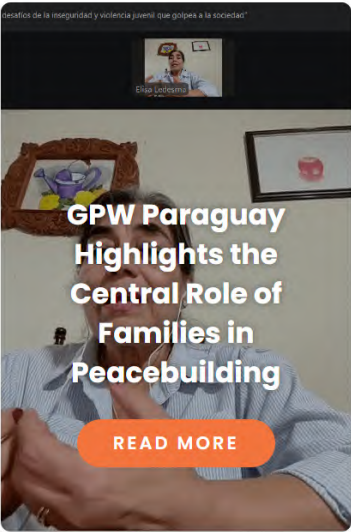
Initiated by the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) in collaboration with Ruang Rasa Indonesia, the workshop was designed to strengthen youth capacity in peacebuilding through the lens of constructive feedback and meaningful communication. The event emphasized the importance of safe spaces where young people can openly share experiences, build trust, and engage in respectful dialogue.

The program featured a series of interactive and reflective sessions. It began with a storytelling session in which participants shared personal experiences that revealed unexpected common ground despite their diverse backgrounds. This moment became a highlight of the event, fostering empathy and a deeper sense of

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connection among participants.

The workshop on growth mindset and constructive feedback equipped participants with practical tools for giving and receiving feedback in a positive and empowering way. This was followed by a practice lab on assertive communication, allowing participants to simulate real-life scenarios and develop confidence in expressing their thoughts respectfully and clearly.

To further energize the sessions, participants engaged in the Spin & Speak Card activity, which encouraged spontaneous sharing and active listening. The program concluded with a cross-community iftar, strengthening bonds in a meaningful and culturally rich setting.

The workshop achieved several key outcomes. Participants remained actively engaged throughout the sessions, demonstrating strong enthusiasm and openness. They showed improved understanding of growth mindset principles and constructive feedback practices, alongside strengthened assertive communication skills. The program also expanded cross-community connections and produced a workshop handbook to serve as a guide for future initiatives.

One participant, Welly, shared:

“The workshop was delivered interactively and engagingly, encouraging two-way communication and incorporating practical exercises and simulations. This approach made it especially appealing for young people, as it kept the sessions dynamic and far from boring.”

Overall, the KURMA gathering highlights the importance of creating safe and inclusive spaces for youth engagement. Through simple yet meaningful interactions, the program nurtured dialogue, strengthened social bonds, and contributed to building a sustainable culture of peace among young people.

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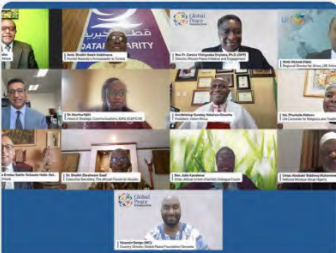
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This July, as America marks 250 years of independence, ten of them will gather in the United States — not as refugees, but as the future founders of a free North Korea.

Campaign Progress

\$16,500 raised of **\$35,000** goal

21 gifts

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Help us reach \$35,000 to send all 10 young leaders to Washington this July.

Founder's Note

This July 2026, the 4th North Korean Young Leaders Assembly comes to America — in the very year America turns 250. Ten young people who chose freedom over fear will gather here to do something extraordinary: to draw the blueprint of the homeland they were forced to flee. They will sit across from lawmakers, diplomats, and human rights leaders, and they will speak for the millions who still cannot. Your gift today is more than a donation. It is the first signature on the founding of a free North Korea. We are \$18,500 away from bringing all ten here. Please stand with these future leaders.

With all my heart,
Hyunseung Lee, Founder, NKYLA

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From Tradition to Connection: Indigenous Voices Lead Cross Community Reconciliation

Naomi MacMurdie
May 29, 2026



Montana State Senator Mike Yakawich, founder and project manager of Montana CCR, opens the gathering.

Participants in the Cross Community Reconciliation (CCR) project assembled in Billings, Montana, for their regular monthly gathering for an evening

centered on cultural understanding, respectful dialogue, and shared human connection. The April meeting featured guest speaker Josiah Hugs, an elder of the Crow Nation (also known as Apsáalooke), who offered both personal insights and cultural teachings that deepened the group’s appreciation for Indigenous traditions and contemporary expression.

Josiah began by sharing the origins and evolution of powwows, describing them as vibrant celebrations that have adapted over time while continuing to serve as spaces for community, identity, and honor. He emphasized that culture is not static—it grows alongside the people who carry it.

A key theme of the evening was respectful curiosity, particularly for non-Native individuals seeking to engage with Indigenous cultures in a thoughtful way. Josiah offered general guidance on how to approach these interactions with humility and openness. When admiring what someone is wearing—referred to as regalia or outfit, not “costume”—he encouraged people to ask questions in a respectful, transparent manner. Small gestures, such as offering water and using inclusive, considerate language, can go a long

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using inclusive, considerate language, can go a long way in building trust. Rather than asking abruptly, “What are you wearing?”, he suggested framing questions in a way that reflects genuine interest and respect for the person and their cultural expression.

Participants asked about the symbolism and traditions behind various forms of regalia, including dresses and beadwork.



Josiah Hugs, an elder of the Crow Nation (also known as Apsáalooke), speaks to the group.

Josiah addressed ongoing debates about what is considered “traditional,” sharing a humorous but insightful story about a woman criticized for using Velcro in her regalia. Her response: “If our ancestors had access to this material, don’t you think they would have used it?” The room responded with laughter, but the message was clear: adaptation does not diminish tradition; it reflects resilience and innovation. He noted that even commonly used beads today are not originally “traditional,” as they were introduced through trade, yet they have become integral to cultural expression.

Josiah also spoke about the historical use of elk teeth in traditional dresses, explaining their significance as symbols of honor and status. Because only two teeth can be taken from a single elk, dresses adorned with elk teeth reflect both the skill of the family’s hunters and the esteem of the woman who wears them.



Josiah Hugs, an elder of the Crow Nation (also known as Apsáalooke), leads the group in a friendship dance.

Color symbolism also sparked discussion. In response to a question about bright colors, Josiah shared that within his tribe, hot pink is considered

a powerful color—reminiscent of the vivid streaks across the sky at sunrise or sunset. He pointed to a participant with bright pink hair, drawing a connection that brought smiles and a sense of affirmation to the room.

One of the most powerful moments of the evening came when Josiah introduced a traditional handmade drum. He explained that each beat represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth, and with that comes responsibility: those who carry the drum are called to live honorably—avoiding addiction, and treating themselves and others with dignity and respect.

The gathering concluded with a moving friendship dance. As Josiah sang and drummed, CCR participants joined hands in a circle, embodying the spirit of unity and reconciliation that defines the

program.

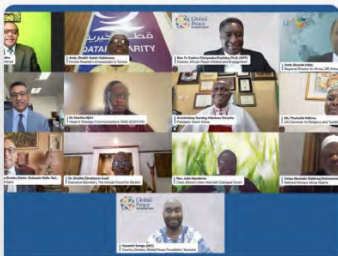


Group photo from the April 2026 CCR gathering.

The Cross Community Reconciliation initiative, supported by the Global Peace Foundation, plays a vital role in communities like Billings and across the United States. By creating space for honest dialogue, cultural exchange, and relationship-building, CCR helps bridge divides that often stem from misunderstanding or historical trauma. In a nation marked by diversity, programs like CCR remind us that reconciliation begins not with grand gestures, but with listening, learning, and shared experiences.

April’s gathering was a testament to that mission—bringing people together not only to learn about one another, but to walk, quite literally, in a circle of mutual respect and peace.

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