



Peace

International Day of

Sept 21, 2026

**THEME "EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO
PROMOTE DIALOGUE AND PEACEFUL
COMMUNITIES"**

Norve

**Kisii University,
KENYA**

Dato

**MONDAY,
21ST SEP 2026**



The Kenya Scouts
Association



The President's Award - Kenya



KISII UNIVERSITY



#InternationalDayofPeace2026 | #VijanaNaPeace | #Scouts



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2026

Int'l Theme: Invest in Peace For Everyone. Everywhere. Every Day

Local Activity Theme: Empowering Young People to Promote Dialogue and Peaceful communities

Campaign: Silent Strides for Peace 2026

Campaign Message: "We walk in silence so peace can speak."

Date: 19–21 September 2026

Convened jointly by: Kisii University | The Kenya Scouts Association | Kisii University Flamingo Rover Scouts

Project: Kisii University Messengers of Peace Project 2026: PeaceLink 360 | Resonance Nexus Initiative

Target Physical Participation: 2,000+ participants

Principal Audience: Young people, with multi-sector participation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On **21 September 2026**, the world will commemorate the International Day of Peace under the United Nations theme **“Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.”** The UN describes peace not merely as the absence of war, but as the lived experience of safety, dignity, opportunity and cooperation, while highlighting the role of “everyday architects of peace” who build stability through local action. In times of global volatility and local socio-political transitions, peace requires sustained everyday investment rather than passive expectation.

In Kenya, as the nation prepares for the **2027 General Elections**, young people sit at a crucial crossroads. Historically targeted during electoral cycles, youth must be mobilized as responsible citizens, proactive peace-builders, and trusted mediators.

Against this global backdrop, **Kisii University**, the Kenya Scouts Association and Kisii University Flamingo Rover Scouts will jointly convene **Silent Strides for Peace 2026: “Empowering young people to promote dialogue and peaceful communities”**

The initiative will be a national youth peace-building commemoration hosted in Kisii, bringing together more than **2,000 Young people**; Scouts, university students, community members, government institutions, peace actors, security agencies, private-sector partners, media and other stakeholders.

The programme will take place across 17th to 21th September 2026, combining:

1. Dialogue for Peace Workshop & Football peace tournament
2. A Kenya Remembers Candle-Lighting Memorial
3. A Wall of Remembrance
4. The Silent Strides for Peace Walk through Kisii town
5. A nationwide Peace Pledge campaign
6. Peace stickers and public peace messaging
7. A Tree for Peace legacy planting
8. A youth-led Peace Conversation
9. A Youth Peace Digital Campaign
10. A Youth Peace Digital Lounge
11. A national hybrid Youth Peace Townhall

The central premise is simple:

Peace must not only be discussed after conflict. It must be invested in before conflict.



With Kenya preparing for its 2027 General Elections, the programme will position young people not as passive recipients of peace messaging, nor as potential instruments of political conflict, but as responsible citizens, peacebuilders, dialogue facilitators, community bridge-builders and catalysts for non-violent conflict resolution. This positioning is strongly consistent with the current direction of Scouting's Messengers of Peace work, which empowers young people to undertake peacebuilding, civic engagement, community action and dialogue.

THEMES & OBJECTIVES

Global Theme: Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

Campaign Theme: Empowering young people to promote dialogue and peaceful communities”

OVERALL GOAL

To mobilise and empower young people as responsible citizens, peacebuilders and catalysts for non-violent conflict resolution while strengthening a culture of peace, social cohesion and responsible civic engagement in preparation for Kenya's 2027 General Elections.

Key Objectives

- i). **Honoring & Healing:** Pay tribute to victims of conflict, terrorism, and political violence in Kenya and globally through a solemn remembrance vigil.
- ii). **Youth Empowerment & Peace Pledging:** Engage youth, business owners, and motorists in Kisii Town to sign physical peace pledges, fostering civic responsibility ahead of 2027.
- iii). **Institutional Synergy:** Bring together state and non-state actors (NCIC Kenya, Kenya Police, NTSA, NYC, mainstream media, and commercial enterprises) to demonstrate unified leadership for peace.
- iv). **National Youth Dialogue:** Host an intergenerational, hybrid national townhall bridging physical actions in Kisii with virtual youth audiences nationwide.

THE CENTRAL IDEA

We Walk In Silence So Peace Can Speak.

The silence is intentional. The silent walk is more than a procession. It is a public peace statement. Thousands of young people walk through Kisii town without chanting, shouting, just silence creating a powerful visual and symbolic intervention. **A generation choosing peace before conflict chooses them.** It represents:

- a). **Reflection:** We remember those affected by violence.
- b). **Respect:** We honour victims without sensationalising their suffering.
- c). **Restraint:** We demonstrate that strength does not require aggression.
- d). **Unity:** We walk together despite our different identities and backgrounds.
- e). **Responsibility:** We recognise that our actions can either escalate or prevent conflict.
- f). **Hope:** We believe Kenya's future can be different.

*We listen. We reflect.
We dialogue. We reconcile.
We walk together.*

OPERATIONAL SCHEDULE

[Sept 16-19] Dialogue for Peace
Training

|

[Sept 20, Day] Peace football
tournament

|

[Sept 20, Eve] 2-Hour
Candlelight Vigil (Kisii
University)

|

[Sept 21, Morning] Peace
Breakfast-Official Flag-Off
- Outbound Silent Walk -
Inbound Interactive Procession

|

[Sept 21, Afternoon] Tree
for Peace Planting - Main
Auditorium Peace Conversation
(KSA & NCIC) - Peace
tournament awarding

|

[Sept 21, Evening] Pre-Townhall
Youth's Digital Longue (7-8
PM GMT+3) - Hybrid National
Peace Townhall (8-9 PM
GMT+3)

THE PROBLEM WE SEEK TO ADDRESS

Kenya's young population represents one of its greatest assets. Yet young people can also be exposed to:

- a). Political Manipulation
- b). Misinformation and Disinformation
- c). Online Hate Speech
- d). Ethnic Polarisation
- e). Identity-Based Mobilisation
- f). Political Incitement
- g). Social Exclusion
- h). Unemployment and Economic Vulnerability
- i). Radicalisation
- j). Community Tensions
- k). Intolerance of Opposing Views
- l). Violent Responses to Disagreements
- m). The Normalisation of Political Violence.

The challenge is therefore not merely: "How do we prevent young people from participating in violence?"

It is: **"How do we equip young people to actively prevent violence, resolve conflicts and build peaceful communities?"**

THE CORE PROPOSITION

The programme is built around five key propositions:

Peace is everyone's responsibility: Peace cannot be delegated exclusively to governments, police, politicians or international organisations.

Peace is built before conflict: Prevention is more sustainable than responding after violence has occurred.

Young people are peace assets: Youth should be recognised as contributors to peace, not merely as beneficiaries of peace programmes.

Responsible citizenship is peacebuilding: How people vote, communicate, disagree, use social media and respond to rumours can affect social cohesion.

Small everyday actions can produce collective peace: A conversation, a refusal to share inflammatory content, a peace pledge, mediation between friends or helping someone in need can be an investment in peace.

PHASE I: PRE-WALK REMEMBRANCE VIGIL (Eve of Sept 20, 2026)

Kenya Remembers

The eve of International Day of Peace will create a reflective space for participants to remember individuals, families and communities affected by conflict, terrorism, extremism and violence. The ceremony will be primarily silent, reflective and musical, with minimal speeches.

Key message:

Remember the people. Remember the pain. Remember the lessons. Choose peace.

Timing: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM (EAT / GMT+3)

Venue: Kisii University Main Campus

Format: 2-Hour Candle Lighting Ceremony & Memorial

Focus: Solemn remembrance of victims of terror attacks, past electoral violence, and regional cross-border clashes. Research insights on conflict mitigation will be shared to ground the ceremony in evidence-based peacebuilding.

Participants: National Rover contingents, Kisii University leadership and students, partner representatives, and local community members.

THE WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Participants will be invited to write:

- Names, memories, messages, prayers, reflections, messages to future generations.

Prompt:

For those we lost, what kind of Kenya will we build, what lesson should we carry forward?

Tonight, we remember. Tomorrow, we walk. Every day, we choose peace.

Phase II: The “Silent Strides for Peace” Walk (Sept 21, 2026) 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM (EAT)

Peace Breakfast & Flag-Off: Kisii University. Officiated by leadership from NCIC Kenya, KSA, and the Vice-Chancellor Kisii University, County & Regional Scout leadership, government representatives: NPS CC & CC, Invited partners.

Vice Chancellor’s Peace Breakfast: Participants will report, assemble and receive breakfast at Kisii University Main auditorium area from 7:30 am. Opening ceremony and remarks from key stakeholders & the Vice Chancellor will take place from 8:00 - 9:00 AM.

Official Flag Off: Procession Order

- Lead Scouts holding the primary Event Banner
- Scouts Brass Band
- Chipukizi, Mwamba, Jasiri / Rover Scouts
- University Students, Youth Groups, and Partner Delegates

Acoustic & Strategy Execution:

Outbound (Campus to Kisii Town Centre): Executed in complete silence (“Silent Strides”) to project solemn commitment, discipline, and reverence for peace.

Inbound (Town Centre back to Campus): Public address systems and the Scouts Band activate to engage the crowd and engage the public.

Engagement Props & Collateral:

Placards: Displaying messages on youth non-violence, peace, and unity.

Flaglets: Kenya national flags and peace flaglets.

Message Sticks: Portable batons presented to community members and traders to sign physical peace pledges.

Peace Stickers: “I Choose Peace.” Peace stickers affixed to matatus, boda bodas, vehicles, motorcycles, businesses, pedestrians, public spaces.

Phase III: On-Campus Actions & Interactive Dialogue (Sept 21, Midday)

Scouts and dignitaries plant symbolic peace trees on campus, representing environmental stewardship and a rooted commitment to **non-violence ahead of the 2027 elections**.

Why A Tree

The tree represents: **Roots; our shared history.** Trunk; **unity and resilience.** Branches, **diversity.** Leaves; **individual citizens.** Fruit; **the peaceful society we hope to create.** The tree is merely not an environmental activity but **a Living Peace Monument.**

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM: Peace Conversation (Main Auditorium) Led by NCIC Kenya and KSA.

Focus: Equipping youth with practical conflict resolution tools, mediation skills, counter-disinformation strategies, and political neutrality frameworks.

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM: 2026 Peace Pledge

Led by Flamingo Rover Scouts, NCIC and KSA.

Physical: Members of the public sign: Peace Pledge Sticks / Peace Pledge Wall

Digital: A QR code leads to an online pledge form. Participants receive: “I Choose Peace” Digital Badge

I will reject violence, hate and discrimination.

I will respect people whose identities, opinions and political choices differ from mine.

I will not knowingly spread misinformation, hate speech or inflammatory content.

I will use my voice and influence to promote peace.

I will stand against the manipulation of young people for violence.

I will respect the rights and dignity of others.

Before, during and after the 2027 General Elections, I choose peace.

Phase IV: Hybrid National Peace Townhall (Eve of Sept 21, 2026)

Pre-Session: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM (GMT+3) — Youth’s Peace Lounge Roundtable Discussion

Main Session: 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM (GMT+3) — Live hybrid panel discussion.

Venue: Kisii University New Auditorium with national live-streaming access.

Panel Composition: Key leaders from NCIC, KSA, Kisii University management, youth leaders, and civil society partners. community leader security representative civil society/peacebuilding practitioner.

Target Audience: Youth nationwide joined virtually, alongside campus delegates.



COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Digital & Social Media Mobilization

A real-time, multi-platform media strategy will run concurrently throughout the day, driven by content teams capturing live footage, interviews, and infographics.

Primary campaign hashtag:

#SilentStridesForPeace
#KisiiUniversity #Scouts
#MessengersOfPeace
#VijanaNaPeace

Global alignment:

#InternationalDayOfPeace
#InvestInPeace
#MessengersOfPeace

Outputs: Digital peace flyers, livestreaming of the flagging-off and evening townhall, digital pledge cards, and social media photo stories showcasing local peace architects.

Public & Media Engagement

Press kits will be distributed to local and national mainstream media outlets to secure live broadcasts and feature coverage on for the 2026 Silent Strides for Peace initiative.

MEDIA PRODUCTS

The campaign will generate:

Before event:

- Press Release
- Media Advisory
- Campaign Posters
- Countdown Graphics
- Short Videos

- Youth Peace Stories
- Social Media Toolkit.

During event:

- Livestream
- Photography
- Short-Form Video
- Interviews
- Live Updates
- Participant Testimonials
- Drone/Aerial Footage
- Media Briefing.

After event:

- Highlight Video
- Documentary
- Photo Album
- Impact Infographic
- Media Report
- Peace Pledge Statistics
- Participant Stories
- Partner Appreciation Content

SAFEGUARDING & POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

Given the current Kenyan political context, the 2026 Silent Strides for Peace will apply clear nonpartisan principles and responsive participant code of conduct. Core principle: Peace is political in importance but non-partisan in practice.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Output indicators

- Number of Participants, Counties & Institutions Represented
- Number of Peace Pledges
- Number of Peace Stickers Distributed
- Number of Media Posts
- Livestream, Media Stories & Views
- Number of Public Peace Messages Collected.

OUTCOME INDICATORS

Knowledge

- % of Participants Reporting Improved Understanding Of:
 - Resp. Citizenship
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Misinformation
 - Hate Speech
 - Peaceful Political Participation.

Attitudes

- % Expressing Increased Willingness To:
 - Dialogue
 - Reject Violence
 - Challenge Hate Speech
 - Support Peaceful Conflict Resolution.

Commitment

- No. of Participants Pledging & Committing To Specific Peace Actions.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ARCHITECTURE

LEAD PARTNERS

Kisii University: Institutional host, venue, academic participation, student mobilisation, technical/logistical support and institutional visibility.

Kenya Scouts Association: National Scouting mobilisation, peacebuilding leadership, Scout structures, programme leadership and Messengers of Peace alignment.

Kisii University Flamingo Rover Scouts: Youth mobilisation, programme implementation, PeaceLink 360 & resonance Nexus coordination, digital engagement, volunteer coordination and youth leadership.

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Potential: technical input civic education peace messaging youth engagement institutional participation policy perspectives, Trees for peace

- National Cohesion And Integration Commission
- National Youth Council
- County Government
- Kenya Forest Service
- Relevant National Government Representatives County Commissioner, NPS County Comandant
- Education Stakeholders

- Other Relevant Public Institutions.

SECURITY & SAFETY PARTNERS

Potential: route security traffic management crowd safety emergency response road-crossing management safeguarding.

- Kenya Police Service
- St. John Ambulance
- Kenya Red Cross Society
- NTSA
- County security structures
- Emergency/medical response partners.

MEDIA PARTNERS

Potential: national television radio newspapers community radio digital media youth media platforms influencers/content creators.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS

Telecommunications Digital peace campaign, data/connectivity and livestreaming.

Financial institutions Youth empowerment and peace sponsorship.

Transport sector Peace stickers and public messaging.

Businesses Peace pledge stations and community activation.

Technology companies Digital pledge platform, online engagement and responsible digital citizenship.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Religious institutions local leaders schools youth groups community-based organisations traders transport operators residents.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Peace Walk Partner Supports mobilisation and logistics.

Digital Peace Partner Supports digital campaign and livestream.

Tree for Peace Partner Supports legacy tree planting.

Media Partner Supports documentary and media coverage.

Welfare Partner Supports participant water, refreshments, food

Peace Education Partner Supports dialogue and learning materials.



KEY DELIVERABLES & SOCIAL IMPACT

- a). Mobilized more than 2,000 participants for a national youth-centred International Day of Peace commemoration hosted in Kisii.
- b). Created a national platform for young people to reflect on Kenya's history of conflict and violence without sensationalising or politicising victims while promoting responsible citizenship as an essential component of peacebuilding.
- c). Engaged 800+ Young people, Scouts, university students and equipped them with actionable mediation and conflict resolution skills ahead of 2027.
- d). Equipped young people with practical approaches to dialogue, conflict prevention, mediation and peaceful communication.
- e). Multi-platform digital reach targeting over 100,000 young citizens across Kenya while promoting responsible digital citizenship and counter misinformation, hate speech and online polarisation.
- f). Created opportunities for young people and institutions to make public commitments to peace with over 3,000 signed peace pledges on message sticks collected from Kisii Town residents and transport operators.
- g). Strengthened collaboration between Scouts, universities, government institutions, civil society, private sector, media and communities around youth peacebuilding.
- h). Strategic culmination of the Kisii University Messengers of Peace Project 2026 under the PeaceLink 360 and Resonance Nexus umbrella initiatives.

CONCLUSION

Silent Strides for Peace 2026 is more than a walk it is a declaration of the Kenya we choose to build. As the country prepares for the 2027 General Elections, young people must not be viewed merely as voters, followers, or instruments of political mobilisation, but as responsible citizens, bridge-builders, agents of peace and catalysts for peaceful conflict resolution. From the silence of remembrance to the footsteps of unity, from the Peace Pledge to the planting of the International Day of Peace Tree, and from Kisii to the digital spaces where young people connect, this commemoration will turn the global call to "Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day" into action. We will remember yesterday, shape today and protect tomorrow. We will walk in silence so peace can speak but when the walk ends, our voices, choices and actions must continue to speak for peace. The walk ends. The work continues. Kenya's peace begins with us.





KISII UNIVERSITY

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