



# Call for Papers

## Religions - Sciences - Ecology and Politics in the Promotion of Peace and Reconciliation

*Interdisciplinary approaches to the role of religion, science, ecology, politics and non-state actors in promoting peace, reconciliation and sustainable development*

### 1. Context

Diplomatic efforts and peace processes initiated to end war and conflicts going on all over the world have in some cases ended in failure. Some examples of these conflicts occurred in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen, triggered by the Arab uprisings in 2011. The political instability in Libya has spread southwards, fuelling an ongoing crisis in the Sahel Region. A new wave of serious confrontations broke out in 2020: the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh; the bloody fighting in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, which began few weeks later. There were other conflicts that took place in Myanmar in 2021, which was provoked by the military takeover, and the Russia's attack on Ukraine in 2022. There was also the devastation in Sudan and Gaza in 2023, not to mention the decade-long conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Across the world, the number of people dying from the conflicts and wars and those being forced to leave their homes or needing urgent help to survive is increasing daily (Crisis Group 2024)<sup>1</sup>. Similarly, the Great Lakes region of Africa is faced with cyclical wars and violence. These have very harmful consequences for individuals and hinder development. Most of the people affected by these wars and conflicts live in precarious conditions, and very few have access to food, quality education and healthcare. In the case of Burundi, the crises have been recurring for a number of years since independence; such as those of 1965-69, 1972, 1988, 1993 and 2015 (RESEN<sup>2</sup>, 2020). Various initiatives, have been put in place to address this problem, including the development of the NDP

<sup>1</sup> Crisis Group. 2024. "10 conflicts to watch in 2024. Accessed 17 April 2024 (<https://www.crisisgroup.org/global/10-conflicts-watch-2024>).

<sup>2</sup> RESEN: State Report on the National Education System





(PND 2018-2027: 2018)<sup>3</sup> and alignment with regional and international guidelines. Leading politicians and researchers affirm that quality education is a powerful weapon for achieving development. As Pope Paul VI affirmed, development is the new name for peace (Paul VI 1967)<sup>4</sup>. Religions and the sciences can and must play an important role in this situation. With the aim of contributing to a positive change, the Department of Caritas Studies at the University of Freiburg, in collaboration with the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Fathers (ISch) and the University of Burundi, and with the support of the State of Baden-Württemberg and the Dioceses of Freiburg and Rottenburg-Stuttgart through the "Work for Peace" cluster, want to set up an Institute for Peace and Reconciliation Research. It is with a view to setting up this institute that this call for papers has been launched on the theme:

### **Religions - Sciences - Ecology and Politics in the Promotion of Peace and Reconciliation**

#### *Interdisciplinary approaches to the role of religion, science, ecology, politics and non-state actors in promoting peace, reconciliation and sustainable development*

This call is intended for researchers with a varied profile of academic discipline (sociologists, political scientists, mathematicians, anthropologists, economists, ecologists, theologians, etc.). The selected contributions will be presented jointly at the University of Freiburg and the University of Burundi as part of the University of Burundi Week (summer school) scheduled for 11 to 15 November 2024 under the central theme **"1964-2024, the University of Burundi at the service of sustainable development and with a view to achieving the vision of Burundi emerging in 2040 and developed in 2060"**.

## **2. Themes**

Authors should consider topics that show how religions, science, ecology, politics and non-state actors can make an important contribution to the promotion of peace, reconciliation and sustainable

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<sup>3</sup> Republic of Burundi. 2018. "Burundi National Development Plan 2018-2027".

<sup>4</sup> Paul VI. 1967. "Populorum Progressio". Accessed 17 April 2024 ([https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/it/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_26031967\\_populorum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/it/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_26031967_populorum.html)).





development. Although the list is not exhaustive, we propose here some themes that could be the subject of research:

- Religions, politics and their interaction in promoting peace and reconciliation
- The role of science in sustainable development/peace
- Care-Ecologie, ecology of reconciliation and sustainable development
- The role of non-state actors in peace and reconciliation work (Peace Making, Peace Building, Peacekeeping)
- Quality education for development and sustainable peace
- The sociology of public action in the service of peace and sustainable development
- Religion and faith in God, pillars of peace and reconciliation for sustainable development
- Economics for peace and sustainable development ;
- Cross-border trade and cultural exchange for peace ;
- Education and academic mobility for peace
- Conflicts and theories on peace and reconciliation

### 3. Submission format

Researchers interested in this call for papers are invited to send an abstract (maximum 700 characters) to Déogratias Maruhukiro: [deogratias.maruhukiro@theol.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:deogratias.maruhukiro@theol.uni-freiburg.de), with a copy to Banuza Alexis: [alexis.banuza@ub.edu.bi](mailto:alexis.banuza@ub.edu.bi) and Rosette Minani: [rosette.minani@ub.edu.bi](mailto:rosette.minani@ub.edu.bi)

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 July 2024. Contributors whose abstracts would be accepted must send the finalised manuscripts of their proposed contributions latest by 15 October 2024 to begin the peer review process for the publication. Contributions should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words in length (including a short bibliography) and should be written in Word format, in "Time New Roman" font, size 12, line spacing 1.5. They should also comply with the referencing and writing standards applied by the Girubuntu Peace Academy (GPA). Abstracts and manuscripts must include a brief bibliography of the author, including the following information: first and last name, profession, affiliated institution, one or two recent publications (not compulsory) and contact e-mail address.

