



PRESS RELEASE

AFSC and AMI team up at a workshop on responsible journalism and election violence

Nairobi, 30 November 2017 – The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the African Media Initiative (AMI) just concluded a regional three-day workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, on responsible journalism and election violence.

The Dialogue Exchange Programme workshop brought together 40 participants drawn from the media, academia, government agencies and non-governmental organisations from across Africa.

“Understanding violence and how it plays out during electioneering periods is key not only for responsible journalism, but also for an informed citizenry,” said Eric Chinje, the chief executive officer of AMI. “It is our hope that this joint initiative of AMI-AFSC will be replicated across the continent and that other stakeholders will support such interventions for peaceful electoral processes in Africa.”

Participants had the opportunity to discuss and get a deeper understanding of issues such as psychology and effective communication, media and governance, and responsible journalism in the context of elections. They also shared experiences on election coverage in their countries and explored strategies that could help promote a culture of enhanced development of peace messages and initiatives during elections on the continent.

The workshop ended with the setting up of an elections reporting network for the purpose of continued sharing of information and experiences. Participants also made insightful recommendations on how to promote responsible journalism in the newsroom and beyond.

Alice Anukur, AFSC’s associate director, concluded the discussions on a poetic note, referring to the workshop as a “candle for peace and responsible journalism that was lit here in Nairobi”, and expressing the hope that it “will be the beginning of a long journey to raise awareness on the need to continue the engagement on shared security during electoral processes and to disseminate peace messages”.

About AMI

The African Media Initiative (AMI) is a pan-African organization that seeks to strengthen the continent's private and independent media sector from an owner and operator perspective to promote democratic governance, social development and economic growth. It does so through a set of strategic activities aimed at transforming the media and communications landscape on the continent. AMI's overall goal is to promote the development of pluralistic media as a necessary and critical ingredient of democratic governance, as well as economic and human development in Africa.

About AFSC

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is 100-year-old Quaker non-profit organization that promotes lasting peace, justice and humanitarian service. The AFSC won world-wide recognition in 1947 when it accepted Nobel Peace Prize together with Friends. AFSC has been working in Africa since the late 1950s. AFSC has offices in Burundi, Kenya, Somalia, and Zimbabwe, fostering inter-cultural, inter-ethnic dialogue peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and trauma healing at grass-roots. AFSC's work in Africa includes promoting active non-violence and livelihoods restoration for youth affected by structural violence, inequality and injustice. AFSC has for a century employed an approach of convening for dialogue and used quiet diplomacy in resolving conflict. The AFSC global Strategic Initiative focuses on promoting nonviolence and Changing the Narrative on war and militarism. AFSC is currently implementing a shared Security framework in Africa, based on prevention of election violence, through the promotion of peace and togetherness during election periods. This is promoted through *Shared Security*, which is a Quaker Vision for the US foreign Policy", underpinned by the belief in *Ubuntu*, advocating *peaceful ends through peaceful means, bringing forward nonviolent policy and practice recommendations to influence hearts and minds of decision makers.*