



International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE

**GLOBAL NETWORKS STRATEGIC
PLAN REPORT 2021 – 2024**



AFRICA SITES OF CONSCIENCE NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 - 2024

Overview: Africa Sites of Conscience Network

The Africa Sites of Conscience Network (Africa Network) brings together 33 members from 14 countries across East, Central, West, and Southern Africa to pursue common goals, exchange information and ideas, and elevate individual memorialization and advocacy efforts to the regional and global level.

Members of the Africa Network have good connections at the grassroots level, with strong ties to local communities and individuals whose stories have been excluded from historic or public narratives to date. By listening to and working closely with these communities, African Sites of Conscience have built a positive reputation both as individual organizations and as a network. The Africa Network has deep expertise adapting transitional justice processes and traditional African approaches in the service of conflict management and violence prevention and is able to connect the grassroots level to governments and multilateral organizations to influence policymaking. As a network, African Sites of Conscience bring a deep understanding of the approaches required to best serve communities throughout the region, and extensive knowledge of the specific countries' contexts and needs uniquely positioning them to advance truth, justice and reconciliation in the region.

As a result of the Strategic Planning process carried out from November 2020-January 2021, the Africa Network feels well-situated to address conflict prevention, human rights violations, impunity, migration, internal displacement, and other pressing social issues in the region by raising its collective voice, broadening its circle of impact and increasing its influence at the government and multilateral levels. The Africa Network commits to adopting a gender transformative approach in all its work.

VISION STATEMENT

As a connected collective of African Sites of Conscience, we envision resilient, democratic, accountable, inclusive and united societies, that own, learn from and are inspired by the past to promote dialogue and social cohesion and to advocate for equal access to education, human rights and justice with the goal to achieve harmony, human dignity and peace.



Kigali Genocide Memorial, Rwanda



STRATEGIC GOAL #1:

Strengthen the African network and the capacity of its members to support resilient, democratic, accountable, inclusive, and united societies

OBJECTIVE 1.1:

Convey the African Network's shared values and approaches to strengthen the network and guide local and regional initiatives.

Activity 1.1.1: The Africa Network will develop a manifesto on a joint approach to memory in the region stating its shared values.

Activity 1.1.2: As a follow up to the manifesto, the African Network will draft a policy memo on a joint approach to memory establishing a framework for effective collective work, guide individual and regional actions, advocacy campaigns, and procedures to support members at risk. The policy memo will be presented to the African Union and the United Nations to support enhanced memory efforts in the region.

Activity 1.1.3: The Africa Network will create a program of virtual activities that helps showcase members' work through best practices, tackles topics of pressing public interest, supports the exchange of experiences, and develops member capacity. Activities may include virtual regional/global meetings, thematic webinars, and a digital platform to showcase members' individual and collective work supported by a social media strategy.

OBJECTIVE 1.2:

Strengthen the capacity of the Africa Network and its individual members to implement effective memorialization programs.

Activity 1.2.1: The Africa Network will hold a series of trainings and workshops that build capacity in three key areas of memorialization work:

- The role of memorialization in transitional justice processes;
- Survivor-centered memorialization methodologies; and
- Dialogue facilitation.

OBJECTIVE 1.3:

Ensure a gender transformative approach in all aspects of the Africa Network's work.



Activity 1.2.2: Members of the Africa Network will develop internal structures and decision-making processes that offer opportunities for all members to actively challenge gender norms, promote positions of social and political influence for women, and address power inequities between persons of different genders.

Activity 1.2.3: The Africa Network will set project planning procedures to ensure their programmatic work supports and advances the SDGs as they refer to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

STRATEGIC GOAL #2:

Develop new and expanded initiatives that promote dialogue and social cohesion and advocate for equal access to education, human rights, and justice.

OBJECTIVE 2.1:

Give visibility to the narratives of victims and vulnerable groups to support dialogue and human rights advocacy in the region.

Activity 2.1.1: Members of the Africa Network will develop regional memorialization projects that address pressing cross-cutting themes and engage the following groups: migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, women and youth. These may include:

- A critical examination of the root causes and current implications of migration, racism, and xenophobia in Africa through the narratives of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons; and
- “The right to memory, history, and HerStory”: revisit and refine members’ repositories to ensure that women’s voices are placed at the center of narratives.

OBJECTIVE 2.2:

Nurture and educate youth in the region to become agents of positive change.

Activity 2.2.1: The Africa Network will create educational projects across member sites that engage youth with the past to prevent the recurrence of violence in the future. Projects may include:

- Memory-based educational programs for primary and secondary school children
- Intergenerational dialogues that connect youth to local-level narratives and fact-based history
- Arts-focused youth programming at member sites and partner organizations
- Media literacy programs for youth that foster critical thinking around information shared on social media and other virtual platforms



Constitution Hill, South Africa

STRATEGIC GOAL #3:

Expand the Africa network's scope of influence to achieve harmony, human dignity and peace in the region.

OBJECTIVE 3.1.:

Advocate at the regional, international and multilateral levels for accountability, justice, and human rights for all in the region.

Activity 3.1.1: Members of the African Network will carry out joint advocacy campaigns at the regional, international and multilateral levels to amplify their voice on pressing contemporary challenges. Advocacy focus areas may include:

- Fighting impunity and promoting truth and justice in the region;
- Fighting racism and xenophobia:
 - Supporting the rights of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs)
 - Promoting a united Africa with the free movement of persons across the continent
 - Addressing conflict in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa
- Eradicating gender-based violence and empowering women and girls, including advocating for all African countries;
- Supporting community participation in the process of restitution of artistic and cultural heritage to Africa

OBJECTIVE 3.2.:

Leverage existing global campaigns on the above-mentioned issues of interest to broaden the Africa Network's reach.

Activity 3.2.1: Members in the Africa Network will build new partnerships with civil society organizations and social movements working on issues identified of most urgency and interest in to advance their work and advocacy campaigns in the region.



National Center for Arts and Culture, The Gambia



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