



**MESSAGE FROM THE NCIC CHAIRMAN, REV. DR. SAMUEL  
KOBIA CBS DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE  
WORLD'S INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE ON 21<sup>ST</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**Fellow Kenyans,**

1. Today, we stand on the edge of a defining moment in our nation's journey—a moment that calls us to take up the mantle of peace with both hands and hearts.
2. The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution 36/37, the General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to *“commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.*
3. As we join the world in commemorating this year's International Day of Peace (IDOP), we are reminded of our collective power to shape the future. The theme for this year, ***“Cultivating a Culture of Peace,”*** is not just a motto but a clarion call to action that echoes the very essence of our mission at the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC).
4. At the onset, I extend my deepest gratitude to all our partners and stakeholders who have steadfastly supported the Commission's mission since its establishment. Your unwavering commitment has been instrumental in allowing us

to mark this significant day across several key counties, including **Nairobi, Wajir, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kisumu, Marsabit and Samburu** among others.

5. Your support has not only made these celebrations possible but has also fortified our collective efforts in fostering unity and peace throughout our nation. Thank you for standing with us and for playing a crucial role in our shared success.
6. Imagine peace as a garden. This garden, rich with promise, needs to be carefully tended. It requires patience, understanding, and a steadfast commitment to nurturing its growth. Just as a gardener removes weeds to allow flowers to bloom, we must address the tensions and discord in our society to cultivate an environment where peace can flourish.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

7. We are at a crossroads—a critical juncture where our actions will determine the landscape of our future. We have a profound opportunity to shape our collective destiny by **planting the seeds of dialogue, mutual respect, and unity**. This is not just a chance to dream of a better Kenya, but to make it a reality.
8. Our country, a mosaic of cultures and a wellspring of potential, is navigating both stormy seas and golden opportunities on its path to unity and prosperity. Kenya's true strength lies in its people—their grit, their creativity, and their unwavering spirit. To tap into this strength, we need to plant the seeds of peace and nurture them until they grow into a

lush garden of unity that bridges our differences and binds us together in our shared humanity.

**Distinguished Kenyans:**

9. A culture of peace isn't just about putting out the fires of conflict; it's about lighting the candles of justice, understanding, and respect. It's like building a grand symphony where every voice contributes to a harmonious whole, and every note, no matter how different, adds to the beauty of the music.
10. We must roll up our sleeves and tackle prejudice head-on, creating a space where dialogue and collaboration are as fundamental as the air we breathe. In this way, we forge connections that turn our differences into strengths and build a stronger, more inclusive society.
11. Equally important is our commitment to transgenerational conversation. The wisdom of our elders and the vision of our youth are both invaluable. By bridging the generational gap, we create a continuum of knowledge and experience that strengthens our societal fabric. It is through listening to and learning from one another that we build a cohesive and forward-thinking community.
12. In our schools, workplaces, and homes, let us champion discussions that bridge generations, seek common ground, and build mutual respect. By doing so, we not only honour our rich heritage but also pave the way for a future where peace and understanding are not just aspirations but realities.

13. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), reminds us that, “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”
14. Our continuous effort to establishing Amani Clubs in our learning institutions across the country has become our new agenda for cultivating the Culture of Peace. This provides us with an opportunity to empower and nurture young people on the dynamics participatory process where dialogue is encourage and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding, cooperation, respect for and promotion of the right of everyone to freedom of expression, opinion and information.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

15. In conclusion, I urge each and every one of us to embrace our individual roles in ensuring that Kenya remains a beacon of peace and stability. As Mahatma Gandhi wisely said, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” We all carry the responsibility and civic duty to foster peaceful coexistence, national cohesion, and unity among Kenyans.
16. Let us unite under the NCIC’s guiding principle: **“One People, One Nation, One Destiny.”** By rallying together, we can make this vision a reality. I firmly believe, as Nelson Mandela once asserted, “It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.” A peaceful, cohesive, and integrated Kenyan society is

within our reach if we channel our energies and efforts towards **“Cultivating a Culture of Peace.”**

17. Together, let us build a future where every Kenyan contributes to and benefits from a unified and harmonious society. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to this vital cause. God Bless Kenya.



**Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, CBS**

**Commission Chairman**

**21<sup>st</sup> September, 2024**

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