

**#DEFYHATENOW**



2017 Overview

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#DefyHateNow: Mobilising Civic Action Against Hate Speech and Directed Social Media Incitement to Violence in South Sudan.

#defyhatenow is an urgent community peacebuilding, training and conflict reconciliation project aiming to strengthen the voices and support the actions of peace & youth oriented civil society organisations in South Sudan.

#defyhatenow seeks to support those voices acting against the conflict to go 'viral' within and outside the country – bringing the South Sudanese diaspora into the online peace building framework, bridging gaps of knowledge and awareness of social media mechanisms between those with access to technology and those without.



#DefyHateNow is an initiative to combat social media hate speech by r0g\_agency for open culture and critical transformation, Berlin



Funded by ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (zivik) with means of the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt).



Supported by Buzzrank powered by dpa

# Drama Workshop Highschool

7th April 2017



Bor, South Sudan



Rhino Camp Uganda & Juba South Sudan

## Peace4ALL Video Launch

9th April 2017

Theme: #Peace4ALL

#PeaceVillage uses music to send positive and educational messages through songs and poems, raising awareness of the consequences of violence and the importance of peacebuilding, by discouraging hate speech online & offline.

The music program is designed to break down the prejudices that exist among South Sudanese communities and foster a culture of reconciliation by sending positive & educational messages through music & poems.

#Peace4ALL video was recorded at Luruja, Terego (Rhino camp).

Luruja is a cluster settlement inside Ofua zone which is yet the biggest settlement within the Rhino camp with a population that amounts to 30,000 people as of November 2016. Three members of the group are urban refugees who are running small businesses in Arua.

Brought together by their desire and commitment to fight ignorance about hate speech online and the effects of war, the groups embeds education in their lyrics in a bid to #defyhatenow.

Know more on  
<http://defyhatenow.net/?s=peace4all>



Juba, South Sudan

## #defyhatenow & UNESCO Roundtable

countering hate speech whilst  
defending freedom of  
expression and press freedom”

2nd May 2107

Under the theme “countering hate speech whilst defending freedom of expression and press freedom”, UNESCO office in Juba hosted the first roundtable conference on Countering Hate Speech for Peace in South Sudan. The conference took place at Juba Grand Hotel in South Sudan capital Juba on 2 May 2017. More than 200 delegates who attended the conference were drawn from academia, CSOs, online activists, youth organisations, representatives of traditional media, media development organisations representatives,

government representatives, UN agencies, diplomatic missions and various actors and stakeholders who have in different ways looked into various aspects of hate speech which is increasingly of concern and is associated with incitement of violence in South Sudan.



Berlin, Germany

## re:publica 2017 Stage 2) Panel discussion on Social Media and Conflict:

How to mitigate online hate speech that fuels violence?

8th May 2017

Theme: #LoveOutLoud

Since gaining independence in 2011 the Republic of South Sudan has become embroiled in a protracted civil conflict claiming thousands of lives and displacing over a million people. When violent clashes between government and opposition forces erupted in the capital Juba on the eve of its fifth anniversary in July 2016 the role played by social media in stoking violence, fear and ethnic hatred came to the fore. Initiatives such as #defyhatenow, working with local communities to identify

and mitigate social media hate speech, along with the surveying and monitoring of ethnic hate terminology by the Peace Tech Lab seek to create mechanisms to curb conflict rhetoric as urgent peace-building...

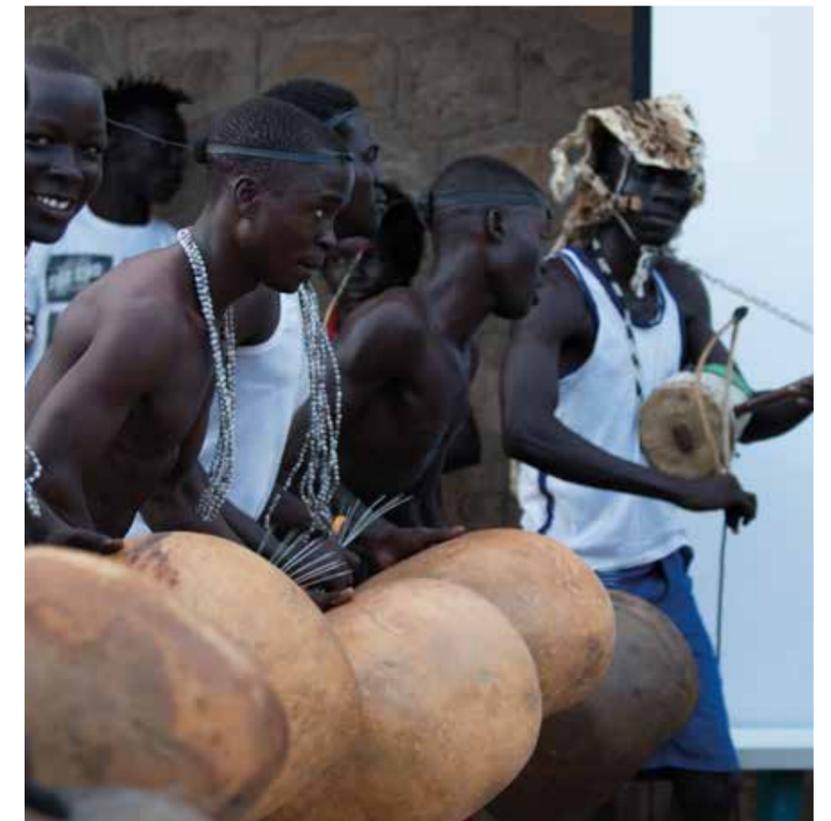
Stephen Kovats  
<http://openculture.agency>

Theo Dolan  
<http://www.peacetechnology.org>

Achol Jok Mach  
<http://defyhatenow.net/>

Jaiksana Amarüda José  
<https://communitydevelopmentcentre.org>  
<https://twitter.com/GoCDC> |  
<https://twitter.com/ospacehub>

Annette Weber  
<https://www.swp-berlin.org/en/scienti...>

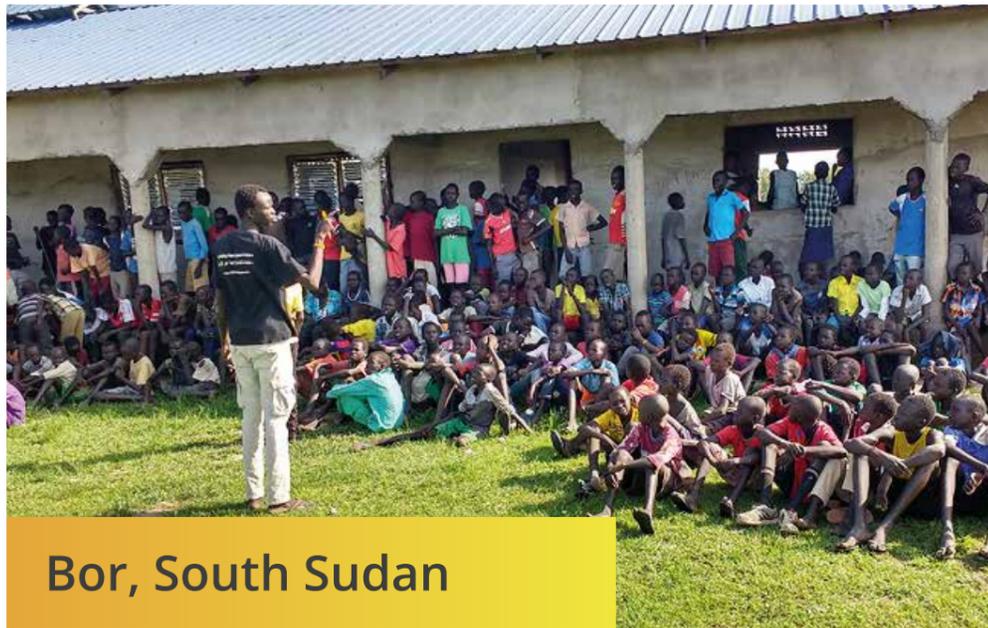


Juba, South Sudan

## #VoicePeace Concert

10th June 2017

#VOICEPEACE concert brings together youth from the different communities of South Sudan by providing them with the platform to use their voices to send peace messages to the rest of South Sudan. The event features some of the best South Sudanese talents in drama, poems, music, and comedy. Utilizing the Power of Our Voice to achieve Peace.



Bor, South Sudan

## #Kicking4Peace Kids Soccer Tournament

11-17th June 2017

This is a football competition organized among kids with about 20 teams of age 13 to bring them together for peaceful coexistence.



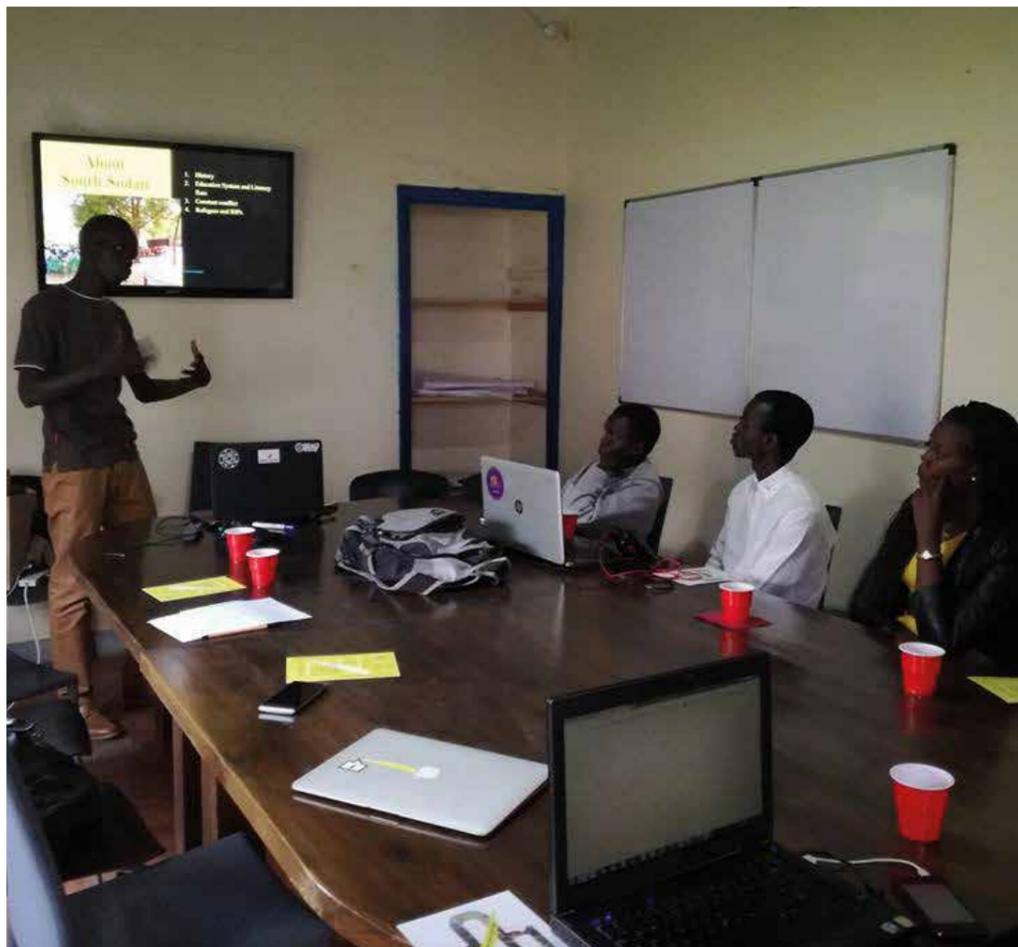
Arua, Uganda

## #defyhatenow & CDC Rhino Talks

15th June 2017

"Rhinotalks, Rhino Refugee Camp Uganda

#Rhinotalks is a roundtable forum bringing together different actors and stakeholders from South Sudanese NGOs in Uganda, with journalists, refugee settlements leaders and student leaders. #Rhinotalks aims to raise awareness, explore and develop strategies for mitigating the existence of hate rhetoric among South Sudanese refugees and asylum seeking communities in Uganda."



Hub East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

## An evening with #defyhatenow South Sudanese Diaspora Talks

14th June 2017

An evening with #defyhatenow" is an informal gathering of friends and partners of the of the project who are based in Nairobi, Susanne and Nelson were able to share about the current work of #defyhatenow in South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and with the South Sudanese online community. The two hours event also included a screening of #peace4all music video and a brief discussion focused on the role of diaspora communities in spreading peace through positive messaging and responsible social media use.



*“I #defyhatenow” The role of Diaspora based journalists promoting peace in South Sudan.*

## Mary Apollo on the role of diaspora based journalists in promoting peace in South Sudan

*What do you think is the impact the Diaspora can make in building a sustainable and peaceful South Sudan?*

Some people on social media and not just in the Diaspora use social media to spread “hate speech”. This is because everyone has their own channel to share their thoughts on. Be it Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube or Instagram it’s easy to share opinions now. Everyone has a role to play on how they use the channel they prefer. It’s upon every one of us to use our voices to preach peace and not fuel hate.

I did a live Facebook video to ask people to refrain from spreading hate on social media as it’s like petrol on a fire. It’s so much easier to spread hate via the internet than through any other channel, you reach a larger audience faster.

I think it’s the role of every single South Sudanese on social media to preach peace and ask everyone to #defyhatenow.

How do you think the South Sudanese Diaspora community can use social media to defy hate and preach peace?

They can do different kinds of social campaigns. They can also support causes that support their local community but most importantly they should be very cautious with what they post on social media.

*What are your hopes for journalism in South Sudan?*

I hope there is more freedom of expression in South Sudanese Journalism. I look forward to the day an organization that brings together all South Sudanese Journalists is formed. It will provide a louder voice for the journalists, strengthen the profession and journalists will be accountable not only to self but also to an authority.

*What would you tell anyone reading this...?*

It’s up to you to hold yourself to a higher regard in terms of maintaining peace. You are not just a drop in the ocean; you are the drop that makes the ocean calm or creates a storm. It’s the same case when it comes to social media, are you creating peace or fueling hate speech? #defyhatenow



r0g\_ agency, Berlin

## 'Wikisprint' presentation by Viola Abango

13th July 2017

'Wikisprint' presentation by Viola Abango was in the r0g\_ agency Berlin office after a two week 'Wikimedia workshop' and was supported by the Wikimedia Deutschland e.V.



Nairobi, Kenya

## Bloggers Workshop

27-28th July 2017

Topics covered included an introduction to blogging, how to set up a personal blog, ethical considerations, an overview of citizen journalism and storytelling for positive change in sessions from Kachwanya of BAKE, Caleb and Theo of PeaceTech lab, writer and blogger Kendi, with support from our #defyhatenow team project manager and social media manager. Participants were able to create their own personal blogs, using Medium and WordPress. The bloggers workshop also focused on strategies for

understanding information verification and fact checking. PeaceTech Lab facilitated a session on how to detect and report instances of hate speech and online propaganda on Facebook and other social media platforms. PeaceTech Lab published the Lexicon of Hate speech terms in South Sudan, and conducts ongoing monitoring and analysis shared through the Open Situation Room Exchange (OSRx).



## Bor, South Sudan

# Spelling Bee competition

29th July 2017

Theme: Spelling for peace

"Frist South Sudan #defyhatenow inter-primary school spelling bee competition Jonglei state , #Bor town.



## Juba, South Sudan

# Policy Makers Workshop

25th & 26th August 2017

Comparative checks from countries within the region and interactive discussion among policy makers to draw guidelines for regulating hate

speech in South Sudan. The workshop was attended by about 25 participants from different professions in South Sudan, ranging from law makers, activists, media professionals, parliamentarians etc.

# An Open discussion on how identity informs opinions in South Sudan

31th August 2017

The conflict in South Sudan is very complex and multilayered, which is evident in the uncertainty of the Peace Agreement, continued economic instability, and overall insecurity. One contributor to the current conflict is identity; whether through political affiliation(s), tribe, religion, ethnicity, etc. In this month's (August 2017 ) #defyhatenow diaspora meet-ups we will



## Nairobi, Kenya

explore this theme in an evening discussion with the South Sudanese community in Nairobi.



## Juba, South Sudan

### Peace Mobilizers Event

11th September 2017

#defyhatenow reached out to the community in their own vicinity. Comedians and actors engaging people in discussions on online and offline hatespeech traveling from various locations using the bus around Jubek State. The bus picked up people commuting along busy routes like Gudele -Custom, Custom -Juba, Juba – Custom and Custom- Gudele/Munuki.

### Radio Producers Workshop

15th-16th June 2017



## Juba, South Sudan

A two day workshop aimed at engaging South Sudanese Radio producers and journalists to develop a concrete action plan on countering the online incitement to violence. Social Media tags: #defyhatenow #SouthSudan #

### #Peacejam17 Online

20th September 2017

In conjunction with UN Day of Peace today, September 21st, the #defyhatenow initiated against online incitement to violence in South Sudan by holding a social media #PeaceJam17. The event took place all day both online and live in numerous locations in South Sudan, as well as globally including Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Canada and Sudan.

**A #peacejam can be a social gathering, it may be based on existing types of gatherings, dances, theater, songs or improvised forms of collaborative action.**

**#SOUTHSUDAN #DEFYHATENOW  
JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL MEDIA  
#PEACEJAM17  
DURING UN WORLD PEACE DAY  
21 SEPT 2017**

# I am Maura Ajak, I report on gender-based violence in South Sudan

South Sudan will be rebuilt by the South Sudanese people. Everyone is passionate about building a little piece of their South Sudan and impacting the country in their own little big way.

*What are your hopes for journalism in South Sudan?*

I hope we have an institution where journalists can gather and get updates on the happenings routinely. I also hope we have a space where human rights issues and sensitive issues e.g conflicts and gender-based violence can be reported with the openness they deserve.

*How do you think South Sudanese nationals can use social media to defy hate and preach peace?*

We should feel free to share our experiences in a way that impacts the world positively. Childhood stories, old stories from our ancestors and day to day stories showing the progress and steps we have made as a country. These stories would help to achieve peace by creating awareness about the consequences of war.

*What would you tell anyone reading this?*

No one thrives in war. Most people love peace and peace begins with you and me. Let's not incite each other and especially with this era of social media let's thrive to preach peace. #defyhatenow

*Read more here*

<http://defyhatenow.net/2017/07/i-am-maura-ajak-i-report-on-gender-based-violence-in-south-sudan/>





## Rhino Camp, Refugee Settlement

### Peace ambassador training on Mediation and counter-messaging for hate speech prevention

20th October 2017

"Our partner organization Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT) has successfully conducted a training on mediation and counter-messaging for hate speech prevention. The event was held at Rhino refugee settlement in Arua district, Uganda.

50 Peace Ambassadors and 15 Refugee Welfare Council (RWC)/Local Council (LC) Leaders were trained on Mediation, Counteracting Hate Speech,

Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, Violence prevention to enable them preach peace given their different roles and responsibilities in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement which is comprised mostly of South Sudanese nationals.

This training is part of a series of activities aimed at helping the South Sudanese diaspora community in understanding the impact of hate speech and the need for active involvement of all citizens in peacebuilding."



## Juba, South Sudan

### Wikipedia Sprint research preparations with Dr. Lorins on the Wunlit conference at the CE Womens Union

31st October & 2nd November 2017



Juba, South Sudan

## Wikipedia Sprint with the University of Juba students on the Wunlit conference at the CE Womens Union

6th – 8th November 2017



Bor, South Sudan

## DINKA LANGUAGE SPELLING COMPETITION IN BOR

18th November 2017

Together for peace

Bior Ajang was organized by an interchurch Dinka language spelling competition with the aim of bringing youths together to create cohesion and discuss matters related to peaceful coexistence. The event included speech and peace messages from elders and head of churches on the importance of being Peaceful respectful to each other and the value community gatherings.



Nairobi, Kenya

## A Book Launch And An Open Discussion On Critical Thinking And Reading Culture

7th November 2017

"#Defyhatenow hosted the renowned South Sudanese poet and author Akol Miyen Kuol for the second time this year, Akol launched his poetry collection

#راظتنان and engaged with the audience in an open discussion on the role of

critical thinking and reading culture in South Sudan.

<http://www.akolmiyenkuol.com>

Akol Miyen Kuol is an author, poet and journalist commonly known as Akoldit . He was born in 1974 in Thurkuruk village in the oil-rich region of Abyei, South Sudan. Due to the continuous political instability in Abyei, he deserted the region in 1978 and underwent studies in northern Sudan."



Rhino refugee settlement in Arua district, Uganda.

## Peace ambassador training on Mediation and counter-messaging for hate speech prevention

22nd November 2017

"Our partner organization Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT) has successfully conducted a training on mediation and counter-messaging for hate speech prevention. The event was held at Rhino refugee settlement in Arua district, Uganda.

50 Peace Ambassadors and 15 Refugee Welfare Council (RWC)/Local Council (LC) Leaders were trained on Mediation, Counteracting Hate Speech, Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, Violence prevention to enable them preach peace given their differ-

ent roles and responsibilities in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement which is comprised mostly of South Sudanese nationals.

This training is part of a series of activities aimed at helping the South Sudanese diaspora community in understanding the impact of hate speech and the need for active involvement of all citizens in peacebuilding."



Juba, South Sudan

## "I am Bior and I stand for Peace"

19th November 2017

Bior is a young South Sudanese from Bor town, who is actively engaged in peacebuilding and is part of the #defyhatenow community for the past 18 months.

Inspired by the need for Peace in his community, Bior decided to organize a peacebuilding outreach in Bor town. His passion for peace has been deeply held, despite the many challenges and difficulties, he continues to be optimistic and utilizes every chance he has to spread peace and share with his community. The Peace Outreach was just one of the many activities Bior had engaged in.

## South Sudanese comedian "Feel-Free", we are sending a message of peace

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5eX84d\\_9Y0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5eX84d_9Y0)



## Verna Joseph on the role of youth in building the future of South Sudan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Db36y9ugYE>

## Only in peace we see can good triumphs, #SouthSudan kickboxing coach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xk94XBzKALA>



## Juba, South Sudan GivePeace A chance

Collection of videos about Peace in South Sudan



## Social Media is a gift to us, Father. Luis Tony Okot, #defyhatenow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfXduFwU46E>

## South Sudanese musician Adol Hakima #defyhatenow & #GivePeaceAChance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvNosLGmAv8>



## Bior Ajang "What is #SouthSudan if we are divided?"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEdqTOSQB9o>



## Social Media Training in Khartoum

"The training was in collaboration with Andariya - ايڤرنيا an online magazine that focuses on promoting cultures and stories from (and about ) Sudan and South Sudan aka the Sudans. The training aimed at educating participants on the effective use of social media for professional work and as a tool for promoting harmony and peace among communities . Focusing on how to maximize time spent online for pushing a positive cause. The importance of using social media ethically and most importantly how to differentiate between fake news and facts on the ground.

Such cross border collaborations are a good example of how digital media can bring together different cultures and societies, being as a catalyst for peace and development in Sudan and South Sudan."

**#DEFYHATENOW**

 <http://defyhatenow.net/>  [facebook: defyhatenow](https://www.facebook.com/defyhatenow)  [twitter: @defyhatenow](https://twitter.com/defyhatenow)