THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY

DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

International Peace and Conflict Research Conference (IPCRC) 2026

Theme: ***Reimagining Peace in a Fragmented World: Innovation, Inclusion, and Sustainable Conflict Prevention***

Conference Dates: **3-4 December 2026**

Venue: **The Copperbelt University, Kitwe, Zambia**

Conference Format: **Hybrid (Physical and Virtual Participation)**

About DHIPS

The Dag Hammarskjöld Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (DHIPS) is a multidisciplinary academic and research institute of The Copperbelt University committed to advancing knowledge, research, policy engagement, and capacity development in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, governance, human security, and sustainable development. The Institute serves as a platform for scholarly dialogue, professional training, and collaborative partnerships aimed at promoting peaceful and resilient societies.

Conference Overview

The Dag Hammarskjöld Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (DHIPS) at The Copperbelt University is pleased to invite scholars, researchers, policymakers, development practitioners, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, security professionals, postgraduate students, and other stakeholders to participate in the 2026 International Peace and Conflict Research Conference.

The conference provides an interdisciplinary platform for the presentation and exchange of research findings, policy experiences, innovative practices, and emerging ideas related to peacebuilding, governance, security, sustainable development, religion, and social

transformation. Participants will engage in critical dialogue aimed at strengthening local, national, regional, and global approaches to peace and conflict transformation.

Conference Objectives

The conference seeks to:

- Promote interdisciplinary dialogue on contemporary peace and conflict issues.
- Encourage evidence-based policy development and peacebuilding practice.
- Strengthen collaboration between academia, government, civil society, and development partners.
- Showcase innovative research and emerging scholarship.
- Support postgraduate and early-career researchers through mentorship and scholarly engagement.
- Facilitate publication opportunities and research partnerships.

Call for Abstracts

The Conference Organising Committee invites submissions of original research, policy analyses, case studies, conceptual papers, practice-oriented papers, research proposals, and innovative projects aligned with the conference theme and tracks.

Abstract Submission Requirements

Authors are requested to submit:

- An abstract of **150-200 words**
- Full names of all authors
- Institutional affiliations of all authors
- Email addresses of corresponding authors
- Clearly stated conference track
- Three to five keywords

To submit the abstract follow this link: https://easychair.org/docs/how_to_submit followed by https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=ipcrc26

Submission Deadline: **29 November 2026**

Notification of Acceptance: **30 November 2026**

Abstracts will undergo review by the respective Track Leaders and acceptance decisions will be communicated to authors accordingly.

Conference Tracks

Track 1: Peacebuilding, Governance and Human Security

Track Leaders

- Dr Hyden Munene (hyden.munene@cbu.ac.zm; hydenmunene@gmail.com)
- Dr Shadreck Banda (shadrachbanda17@gmail.com)

Topics include:

- Local peacebuilding initiatives and community resilience
- Mediation, reconciliation, restorative justice, and traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, conflict transformation,social cohesion
- Democratic governance, constitutionalism, rule of law, and accountability
- Human rights, social justice, transparency, and citizen participation
- Regionalism and integration

Track 2: Peace, Security and Sustainable Development

Track Leaders

- Dr Robby Kapesa (robby.kapesa@cbu.ac.zm; robbykapesa@yahoo.com)
- Dr Rose Makano (rose.makano@cbu.ac.zm; rose.makano@gmail.com)

Topics include:

- Security sector governance, defence management, and national resilience
- Sustainable development, peace, and the SDGs
- Environmental security, natural resource governance, and resource conflicts
- Climate change, disaster risk governance, and environmental peacebuilding
- Food security, energy security, and emerging development challenges

Track 3: Inclusion, Youth and Social Change

Track Leaders

- Dr Alice Shemi (alice.shemi@cbu.ac.zm; shemiap@gmail.com)
- Dr Zita Lifelo Daka (zita.lifelo@cbu.ac.zm)

Topics include:

- Youth participation, citizenship, and civic responsibility
- Digital technologies, social media, and peacebuilding
- Countering online radicalisation, extremism, and misinformation
- Gender, peace and security
- Inclusion, diversity, disability, and marginalised communities in peace processes

Track 4: Peace Research Methodologies and Innovation

Track Leaders

- Prof John Bwalya (johnb.bwalya@cbu.ac.zm; bwalyajmb@yahoo.com)
- Dr Selina Banda (selina.banda@cbu.ac.zm)
- Mr Simson Mwale (simsonmwale@yahoo.com)

Topics include:

- Innovative and participatory approaches to peace research
- Comparative and cross-cultural methodologies in conflict studies
- Interdisciplinary frameworks in peace research
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems

- Data analytics and evidence-based peace practice

Track 5: Religion, Peace and Conflict Transformation

Track Leaders

- Dr Gosnell Yorke (yorkegosnell@gmail.com; gosnell.yorke@cbu.ac.zm)
- Rev. Dr Derrick Kalanga (derrickkalanga@yahoo.com)

Topics include:

- Religion, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation
- Faith-based organisations and peace initiatives
- Religion, reconciliation, and restorative justice
- Theology, ethics, and peace studies
- Religion, governance, democracy, and human rights

Track 6: Research Proposals, Emerging Research and Preliminary Findings

Track Leaders

- Dr Rosemary Chilufya (rosemary.chilufya@cbu.ac.zm)
- Mr Kondwani Chirwa (kondwanichirwa16@yahoo.com; kondwani.chirwa@cbu.ac.zm)

Topics include:

- Doctoral and master's research proposals
- Emerging research agendas in peace and conflict studies
- Preliminary findings from ongoing research projects
- Pilot studies and exploratory research
- Research methodologies, ethics, and fieldwork experiences
- Participatory and action-oriented research approaches
- Practitioner-led and policy-focused research projects
- Interdisciplinary and innovative research designs

Submission Categories

Following acceptance of abstracts, authors may submit work under any of the following categories.

Category A: Extended Abstracts

Length: 500-1,000 words

Contents:

- Title
- Background
- Problem Statement
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Preliminary Findings or Expected Contribution

- Keywords

Category B: Full Papers

Length: 6,000-8,000 words

Structure:

1. Title
2. Abstract (150-250 words)
3. Keywords (4-6)
4. Introduction
5. Literature Review
6. Theoretical and/or Conceptual Framework
7. Methodology
8. Findings/Results
9. Discussion
10. Conclusion and Recommendations
11. References (APA 7th Edition)

Category C: Work-in-Progress Papers

Length: 2,000-4,000 words

Structure:

1. Title
2. Abstract (150-250 words)
3. Background and Problem Statement
4. Research Objectives/Questions
5. Literature Review
6. Theoretical and/or Conceptual Framework
7. Proposed or Ongoing Methodology
8. Preliminary Findings (where applicable)
9. Expected Contribution
10. References

Category D: Research Posters

Researchers, practitioners, and students are invited to present completed studies, innovative projects, policy initiatives, field experiences, and emerging research ideas.

Poster Requirements

- Poster Size: A1 or A0
- Poster Submission Format: PDF or PowerPoint
- Accompanied by a 300-500 word abstract

Poster Abstract Structure

- Title
- Author(s) and Affiliation(s)
- Background
- Objectives
- Methodology/Approach
- Key Findings or Expected Contribution
- Keywords

Category E: Student Research Proposals and Preliminary Findings

Length: 1,500-3,000 words

Structure:

1. Title of Study
2. Abstract (150-250 words)
3. Background and Context
4. Problem Statement
5. Research Aim and Objectives
6. Research Questions and/or Hypotheses
7. Literature Review
8. Theoretical and/or Conceptual Framework
9. Proposed or Ongoing Methodology
10. Preliminary Findings (where available)
11. Expected Contribution
12. References

Presentation Format

- Oral Presentation (10-15 minutes)
- Feedback from a panel of academics and practitioners
- Opportunities for mentorship and publication development

Publication Opportunities

Accepted abstracts will be published in the official Conference Abstract Book.

Selected papers presented at the conference may be considered for publication in:

- Conference Proceedings
- Edited Books
- Special Issues of Partner Journals
- Peer-Reviewed Academic Journals

- Policy Brief Series

Outstanding student papers may also be recommended for research mentorship and publication support initiatives.

Conference Awards

Awards may be presented

Important Dates

Activity	Date
Abstract Submission Deadline	29 November 2026
Notification of Acceptance	29 November 2026
Conference Registration Deadline	30 November 2026
Conference Dates	3-4 December 2026
Post-Conference Full Paper Submission	31 January 2027

Registration and Participation Fees

Category	Registration Fee
Local Participants (Zambia)	K1,000
Local Students (Zambia)	K500
International Participants	US$100
International Student Participants	US$50

Registration Includes

- Participation in all conference sessions
- Conference materials
- Certificate of Participation or Presentation
- Inclusion in the Conference Programme
- Inclusion in the Conference Abstract Book
- Tea breaks and refreshments

Payment Details

Account Name: CBU DDEOL

Bank: Zambia National Commercial Bank Plc (Zanaco)

Account Number: 1638040500163

Branch: CBU Agency - Kitwe Business Centre

Branch Code: 010245

SWIFT Code: ZNCOZMLU

After payment, participants should send proof of payment to: **DHIPS@cbu.ac.zm; rosemary.chilufya@cbu.ac.zm** and copy the relevant Track Leader(s).

Email Subject

IPCRC Conference Registration Payment - Full Name

Submission Procedure

All submissions should be sent electronically to the relevant Track Leader(s) and copied to:

DHIPS@cbu.ac.zm; rosemary.chilufya@cbu.ac.zm

Subject Line

Conference Submission - Track Number

Example:

Conference Submission - Track 5: Religion, Peace and Conflict Transformation

Individuals wishing to attend without presenting are encouraged to register under any conference track and indicate: **"Not Presenting"**

Contact Information

Conference Secretariat

Dag Hammarskjöld Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (DHIPS)

The Copperbelt University

Kitwe, Zambia

Email: DHIPS@cbu.ac.zm; rosemary.chilufya@cbu.ac.zm

Join the Conversation

The International Peace and Conflict Research Conference (IPCRC) 2026 provides a unique platform to engage with leading scholars, practitioners, policymakers, civil society actors, and emerging researchers from Zambia and beyond.

We warmly invite you to submit your abstract and contribute to advancing peace, security, good governance, sustainable development, and social transformation in Africa and the world.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Copperbelt University in December 2026.