The African Leadership Centre:
A new community of leaders driving peace, security and development
The ALC delivers one of the most inspiring and enriching leadership and academic training programmes for peace, security, conflict and development in Africa. It brings together the best of international training with local knowledge. I see the ALC playing a leading role in developing African voices, leadership and knowledge in the field.

Tade Akin Aina
Carnegie Corporation of New York

I arrived that it would be the anchor of my life. I am more than convinced that I will make a difference in Africa and that Africa needs more people, especially young women, who can meet the challenges facing this continent.

The African Leadership Centre which has developed out of those earlier programmes at King’s College London will help meet that need.

Dadirai Chikwengo, Zimbabwe

I was one of three African Women Fellows in the Conflict, Security & Development Group (CSDG) at King’s College London in 2007-8. We all had one thing in common: changing the face of Africa in as far as women contributed to the peace and security debate.

My programme included lectures in Peace and Security as well as placements and visits to European organisations working on peace and security. I learnt more about how the EU operates and had a chance to visit the EU Commission on a study trip.

After the Fellowship, I was employed as Policy Advisor for Tearfund UK. I work with various regional and international partners in Zimbabwe to lobby for good governance there. Now when I walk into the EU as Policy Advisor to lobby on behalf of the people of Zimbabwe, I feel like I walk a familiar path! I walk very tall because of the empowerment I got through the Fellowship.

Encouraged by the new qualifications and experience I gained on my Fellowship, I was elected Chairperson of NANGO (National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations), the highest civil society body in Zimbabwe. This office has been quite challenging. I was arrested at the end of 2009 on the charge that I had organised an illegal meeting – that meeting was actually the Annual NGO Summer School. Happily I was acquitted.

I can’t thank my tutors in the CSDG at King’s enough for preparing me adequately for these roles. Of all the decisions I have made in my life, the best was being at CSDG, King’s at that time. Little did I know when

The ALC logo was developed by Christine Okila, a young Kenyan graphic designer with over seven years experience in multi faceted design and communication work.

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Tade Akin Aina
Carnegie Corporation of New York
The African Leadership Centre (ALC) is a new community of leaders generating cutting-edge knowledge and expertise in peace, security and development in Africa.

Led by African scholars and experts in peace, security and development, its mission is to create a cohort of young, knowledgeable and independent-thinking African leaders contributing to transformative change in Africa.

The ALC aims to be a Pan-African centre of excellence and it will help formulate the creative and innovative solutions which are essential to Africa’s lasting transformation for the benefit of its people.

The African Leadership Centre’s alumni will form a network of mutual support and encouragement and a pool of mentors for future Fellows. In their varied professional lives, they will continue to develop and disseminate good practice in leadership across Africa.

The ALC works in partnership with the University of Nairobi and other African institutions. King’s College London continues to facilitate its development.

Our vision for the African Leadership Centre

The African Leadership Centre is founded on the following values:

- Africa’s challenges need African-led ideas and processes of change.
- Recognition of Africa’s diversity of gender, region, class and beliefs is essential for sustainable progress.
- Effective and innovative solutions derive from independent thinking and intellectual rigour.
- Young people have an invaluable contribution to make in delivering change.
- The pursuit of excellence is a goal Africa needs and deserves.
- Integrity is crucial for good leadership.
An African-led centre of leadership education for Africa, in Africa...

The African Leadership Centre in Nairobi has a vision for transformative change in Africa. Change will be brought about by nurturing the potential for leadership of the continent’s talented young people. The ALC offers young leaders a programme of study and practical experience tailored to the African context and built around the themes of peace, security, and development. The programme will enhance their proven talent and enthusiasm through academic education, professional placements and mentoring provided by African leaders, experts and scholars from all over the world.

The goal of the African Leadership Centre is to create a pool of leadership talent with the abilities, skills, experience and confidence to engineer African solutions, grounded in African realities, to meet the challenges facing Africa.

The ALC is also a focus for the research, debate, policy development and networking needed to support these young leaders as their careers progress. By recognising and supporting young leaders, the ALC aims to prevent the familiar problem of home-grown talent draining away from a region that needs it most.
The African Leadership Centre in Nairobi has evolved from an earlier initiative launched by King’s College London in 2005. By 2009, this had provided more than 30 graduate Fellowships for young African men and women working in the areas of peace, security and development. Over the next five years, the number of fellowships provided will grow to 50 each year.

The Fellowship programme at King’s College London included Peace & Security Fellowships designated specifically for African women. Women have historically been under-represented in scholarship and policy analysis on peace and security in Africa, despite their distinctive experience of these issues. Whilst the ALC offers Fellowships for men and women, the development of a network of African women working in this discipline continues to be an important objective.

A fellowship programme lasts for 12 to 18 months, beginning with a period of academic study split between King’s College London and the African Leadership Centre in Nairobi. Teaching and learning are structured round the themes of peace, security and development. The aim is to develop theoretical knowledge; analytical and critical skills; independent thinking; engagement with global debates; creativity; academic excellence and rigour; clarity of expression; and a thorough appreciation of the African context and the need for African solutions.

**Mentors**
A critical component of the programme is the regular contact Fellows have with mentors. The ALC can call on more than 70 mentors who are drawn from a network of African and non-African scholars, policy developers, implementation experts and expert practitioners engaged in the wide range of activities which facilitate peace, security and development in Africa.

**Partner institutions and attachments**
Fellows undertake study visits to partner institutions relevant to their field of interest including non-governmental organisations; academic, policy and research institutions; and organisations involved in global or regional governance and security.

Each Fellow also has an attachment to an African academic or policy institution for six months to undertake a research project. Fellows graduate from the programme with enhanced knowledge and skills to invest in the organisations and communities with which they subsequently work, and with a network of contacts to sustain them in their future careers.
Security

African Security

In the modern era
...to develop the potential of young African leaders...

Africa has the world’s highest population growth rate – its population is projected to almost double by 2050. It also has the youngest population of any region in the world and this will continue to be the case for many years.

According to the UN’s Human Development Index, 22 out of the 24 least developed countries in the world are in Africa. One of Africa’s greatest natural resources in the years ahead will be its young people. This means that opportunities for those with leadership potential to develop intellectual knowledge, analytical skills and practical experience will be essential if they are to contribute to the development of their countries in a strategically effective way.

The pioneering programmes at King’s College London placed particular emphasis on encouraging young African women to take up Fellowships and the African Leadership Centre continues to pursue this objective. The third Millennium Development Goal seeks to ‘promote gender equality and empower women’ and, as Kofi Annan, then UN Secretary General affirmed, ‘There is no development strategy more beneficial to society as a whole – women and men alike – than the one which involves women as central players.’
...for the benefit of African nations and communities.

Fellows are attracted to the African Leadership Centre from all over Africa, creating a rich diversity of experiences which supports the generation of ideas. They come from a variety of backgrounds and when they graduate from the Fellowship programme, they play a vital role in the transfer of knowledge in peace, security and development throughout Africa. The range of organisations in which former Fellows now work include: state security services; NGOs concerned with child welfare and arms reduction; human rights campaigning and policy development; academic teaching and research; local, national and regional government.

Okechukwu Lawrence Uzoechina, Nigeria

Okey joined the ALC as a MA/ECOWAS* fellow in 2007. Since completing his fellowship, he has been working on several security and development projects in West Africa.

The multidisciplinary and practical approach to problem solving which the fellowship emphasises has given me a smooth transition from purely academic to policy-oriented research. Specifically, the professional attachment … provided a firm grounding in the challenges facing policy development and implementation.

*ECOWAS Economic Community Of West African States
OUR PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The ALC works with the following organisations and others to provide study visits, research opportunities and practical experience for Fellows:

- African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town
- African Security Sector Network (ASSN)
- African Union
- Centre for Policy Research and Dialogue in Ethiopia
- City University of New York
- Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS)
- European Union
- Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi
- Institute for Development Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka
- International Institute for Strategic Studies
- International Peace Institute, New York
- Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
- Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- United Nations Department of Political Affairs

DONORS

The African Leadership Centre is grateful for the financial support provided by:

- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Open Society Institute, New York
- ECOWAS
- African Women’s Development Fund

Please support the African Leadership Centre

Africa needs its talented, creative young people to become the next generation of leaders and bring real change to their communities. The African Leadership Centre is there to help them develop the skills they will need to take on that responsibility and shape the future of their continent. Making a gift to the African Leadership Centre will help young African leaders work out how best to ensure lasting peace, security and development for their communities and for all of Africa. Please support the African Leadership Centre and invest in a positive vision for Africa’s future by helping to empower its young leaders.

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