



KAIPTC

...where peace begins



Updates from the Commandant >>

JUNE 2020

Dear Distinguished Partners and Stakeholders,

We bring you warm greetings from the KAIPTC and hope that you and your families are doing well and keeping safe. A few months ago, our world as we knew it in 2019, changed. Countries around the globe began the battle with an unseen enemy, the coronavirus, which continues to take the lives of loved ones, weaken economies and businesses and above all, threaten communities and livelihoods.

Prior to the declaration of the virus as a global pandemic, the KAIPTC implemented a number of preventive measures. As early as 4th March 2020, the Centre held a sensitization durbar for staff on the protocols to observe to keep themselves, colleagues and all our patrons safe. In addition, electronic hand sanitizers were mounted for use at vantage points at the Centre.

A decision was subsequently taken to suspend training and academic activities, programmes, meetings and international travels for Staff. On 24th March 2020, the Centre in consultation with key stakeholders and in consonance with public health protocols closed down a week earlier than schedule for the Easter break. This was a precautionary measure to protect the health and wellbeing of Staff, Course Participants, Students, our Partners, and Patrons and also to prevent the spread of the virus.

Upon resumption of work on the 20th of April 2020, Stakeholders were again informed of our current approach to conducting business, whilst observing the necessary protocols. Since then, the Executive Management Committee (EXECOM) has been holding face-to-face and regular virtual meetings to transition the Centre's operations back to near normal. This newsletter is designed to provide you with periodic updates on our activities.



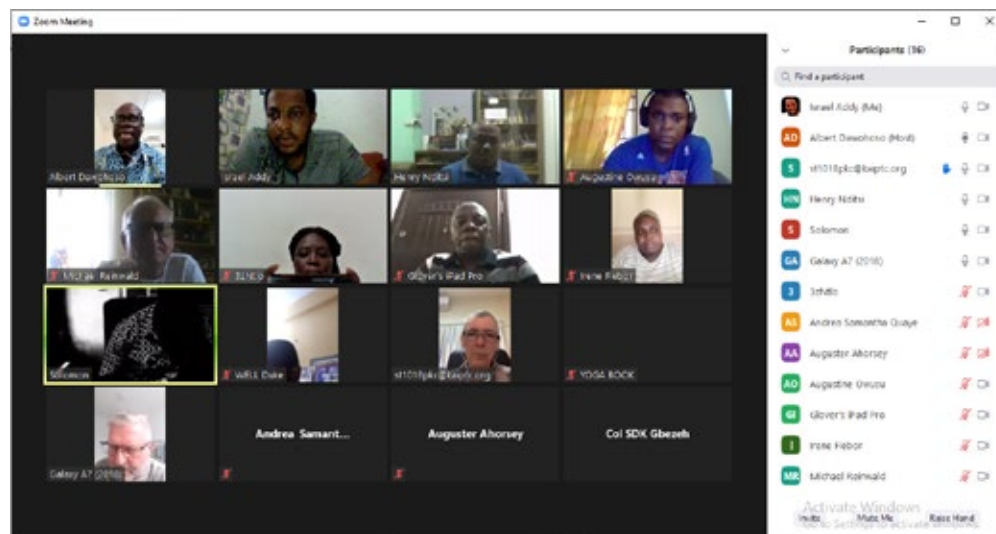
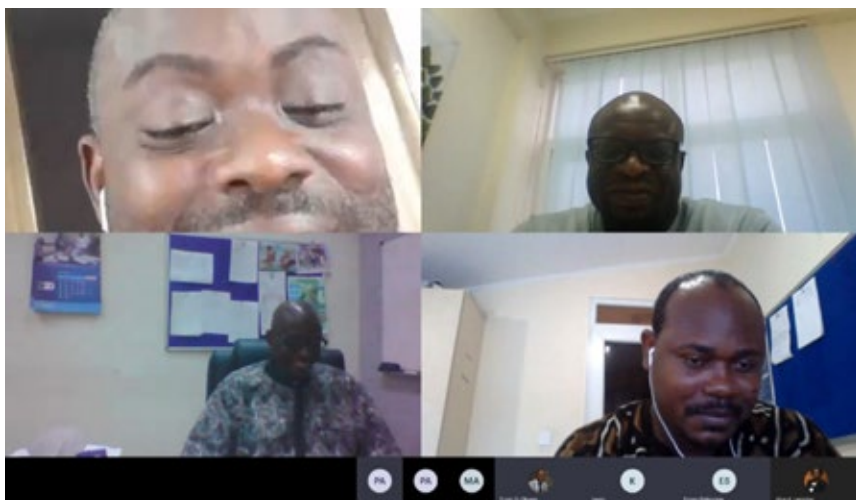
• Our Staff

We continue to support and encourage staff to work virtually from home, not only to prevent the communal spread of the virus, but also because we do recognize that most staff have additional childcare responsibilities at this very difficult time. We have in the interim put in place a rostering system across departments to reduce onsite staff-to-staff interactions and to ensure that only essential staff are on site.

To that end, Directors have instituted weekly virtual meetings to ensure that staff are engaged in regular communication with relevant stakeholders and are meeting their set targets. Directors in turn report back to EXECOM on their respective activities during our scheduled meetings.

If you, therefore, require any specific information or continued support during this period, please get in touch with your focal point of contact at the Centre or call the following emergency numbers for further assistance:

(+233) 54 429 4763 / 24 397 5850 / 24 476 2622



• Our Preventive Hygienic Protocols

We are putting in place additional measures to ensure the safety of our Staff, Course Participants, Students and Patrons who will visit the Centre in due course.

These include:

- Fumigating our entire premises before commencement of onsite training and academic activities;
- Putting in place extra measures for cleaning and disinfecting common spaces;
- Situating hand washing facilities (“veronica buckets”) and hand sanitizers at vantage points for hand washing/cleaning; and
- Procuring the necessary PPEs such as facemasks for course participants, staff and facilitators.

Contingency plans are also in place to cater for any emergency/suspected COVID-19 case. We have created a holding area at the Centre and are working hand-in-hand with the 37 Military Hospital to evacuate any emergency case for further case management without delay.





• Our Work

There is no gainsaying that the Peace and Security sector has been one of the hardest hit by this pandemic. The African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) at its 910th meeting in February 2020 noted with concern, that the outbreak of the Coronavirus, could constitute a threat to peace and security on the Continent.

The AU's Commissioner for Peace and Security, H.E Ambassador Smail Chergui, has recently cautioned that the pandemic has far reaching consequences for the Continent. It is predicted that COVID-19 will render millions jobless, increase crime and activities of non state actors, food insecurity, gender based violence, exacerbate conflicts, affect the organization of elections, worsen the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as hinder humanitarian efforts.

These factors no doubt have implications for pre-deployment training for peacekeepers, peace support operations, peace building, conflict prevention and mediation processes. Do Training Centres of Excellence (TCEs) / Training Institutions (TIs) continue to train as usual and populate rosters when missions are reducing numbers and delaying rotations as a result of COVID-19?

As member states in the ECOWAS sub-region work on a unified approach to fight the pandemic, so must TCEs re-assess not only the structure and format of future training, but also streamline training content to prepare peacekeepers for future global health emergencies among other new and emerging threats.

In view of this, the KAIPTC will be:

- Engaging other ECOWAS mandated TCEs at the next Commandants TCE Meeting to discuss the conduct of training during and after COVID-19;
- Reviewing and adapting our own training content, informed by our research work (particularly pre-deployment

trainings) to be responsive to other pandemics;

- Developing our eLearning platform, to offer offsite training and other capacity building workshops for peacekeepers in mission areas; and
- Engaging ECOWAS and the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) on the development of an ECOWAS Early Warning Induction Course and bilateral/ multilateral responses to pandemics respectively.

While it may be too early to understand the full impact this pandemic will have on the Centre in the long term, we will continue to carry out the important work we are doing to support Member States, ECOWAS, AU and the UN.



On our website and social media accounts (Facebook/Twitter/Youtube: **#kaiptcgh**, Instagram: **#kaiptc**), we have been actively supporting the awareness creation and education campaign on the pandemic by the Government of Ghana. We also shared information from the World Health Organization (WHO) to help demystify and correct some misconceptions about the disease. Some of the content disseminated were on snippets of HE Nana Akufo-Addo's address to the nation, myth busters from the WHO, how to wear, use and dispose of masks etc.

COVID-19

Some recommendations on activities for growth and bonding during the lockdown

Remember all those great ideas you've nurtured but haven't concretized yet? If you have some free time now, why not start developing them?

#SpreadCalmNotFear #StayHome #StayAtHome #StaySafe #covid19

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Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
 T: +233 (0) 302 718 200 ext 1082 | E: info@kaiptc.org
 • Training in Peacekeeping/Peace Support Operations
 • Research & Post-graduate education in Gender, Conflict, Peace and Security
 • Peace-keeper in Africa on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

COVID-19

"... I want to encourage you to wear a mask wherever you go, as it will help you not to contract the virus, and keep it clean. If you own a business, or are providing a service, i.e. a barber, a hairdresser, a tailor, a taxi driver, a trotro driver and his 'mate', a shop keeper, a food seller, please do well to use a mask...."

President Nana Akufo-Addo

Source: 

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COVID-19

REMEMBER...

Face masks are effective only when;

- Combined with frequent hand-washing or
- Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Social distancing

If you wear a mask, please make sure you know how to put it on, take it off and dispose of it properly.






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COVID-19

"To defeat the virus, ... we have to accept that we have to wash our hands, maintain good hygiene, refrain from shaking hands, wear our masks, and practice social distancing in all of our engagements".

President Nana Akufo-Addo

Source: 

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WHO MYTH BUSTER ON COVID-19

Your ability to hold your breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or discomfort DOESN'T mean you are free from COVID-19.

Source: 

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• Training

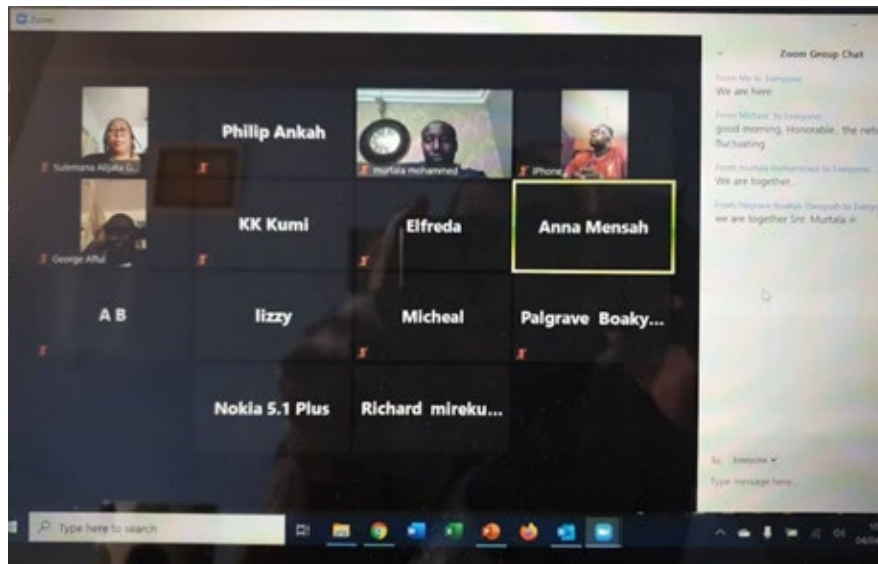
Our Training Department has revised the training calendar, taking into consideration the current situation and other protocols (such as possible quarantines of international participants) that ought to be observed for onsite trainings. Since it is unclear when international travel will return to normal, we are anticipating that onsite trainings may fully commence after the month of July 2020, subject to the Government of Ghana's/ Ministry of Health directives in place.

Whilst we wait for this, our Training Department in collaboration with the Faculty for Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR) will be organizing short seminars for security agencies on Election Management in the wake of COVID-19, once the restrictions on public gatherings are lifted. The planning processes to run short certificate courses in Disaster and Conflict Management, among others, are currently ongoing and will be announced on our website.



• Academic Affairs and Research

The Master of Arts in Conflict, Peace and Security (Executive and Weekend Classes) continues to run virtually as scheduled. Over 130 students who are expected to graduate this year continue to work on their dissertations with guidance from their Supervisors through virtual means. Lecturers/Supervisors and the Academic Registry can be reached via email or telephone for assistance. We urge students to fully participate in lessons and to utilize our online library resources as much as possible for academic work. For any challenges in accessing our library services, kindly send an email to info.library@kaiptc.org or go to our website and use our “**Ask a Librarian**” feature.

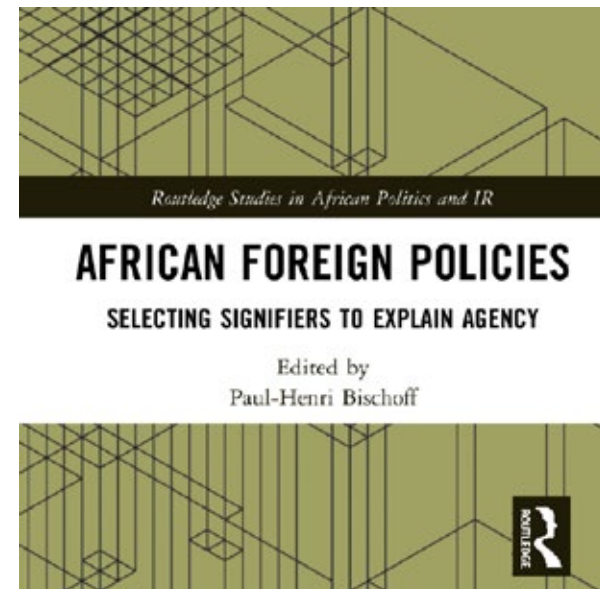


International Humanitarian Law class with EMCPs 6

Commissioned projects continue with most activities taking place virtually. Team members are holding virtual meetings with respective Partners to discuss activities that can be done during this restrictive period. Research papers, fieldwork reports and policy briefs for the various projects are being produced as scheduled.

Our researchers have taken part in several external public engagements virtually, centred around COVID-19, Peace and Security in Africa. They have also had their works published in major Journals across the world in the last few months.

The Faculty is currently working on releasing a series of publications on Global Pandemics, Ghana's Election 2020, and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. A dedicated series of publications will also be done on the coronavirus disease. Our major internal publications, **The Annual Review of Peace Support Operation in Africa (ARPSO) 2019** and the **KAIPTC Election Book III**, are at various stages of completion for subsequent publication.



TOPIC: Elections in Ghana: Assessing Patterns and Choices of the Floating Voter

SPEAKER
Ernest Ansah Larrey

MODERATOR
Dr. Emma Birikorang

• SPEAKER'S BIO

Ernest Ansaah Lartey is a researcher and the Head of the Peace and Security Studies Programme at the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana. His research interests include security sector reform, peacebuilding, and elections. He has published several papers relating to these research interests.

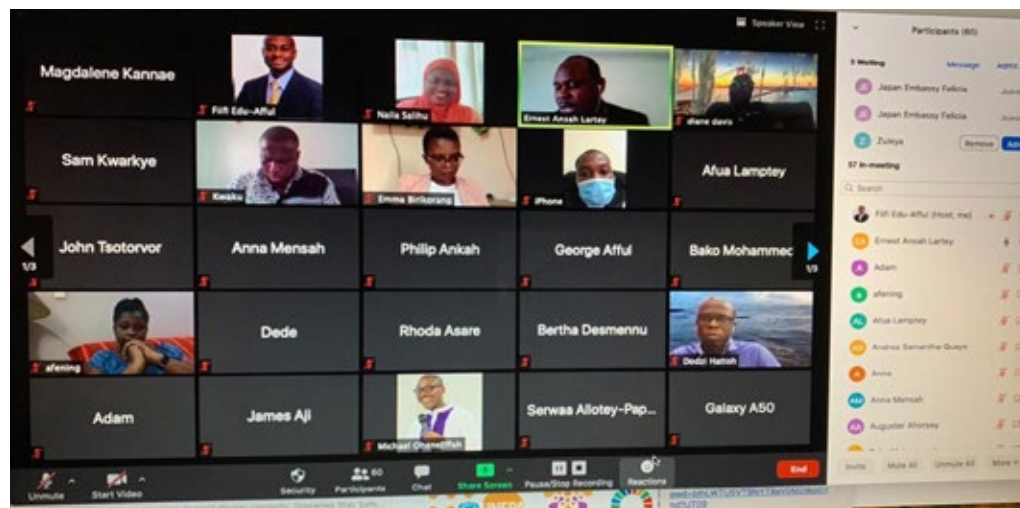
Date: Wednesday, 20th May 2020 | **Time:** 10:00 GMT



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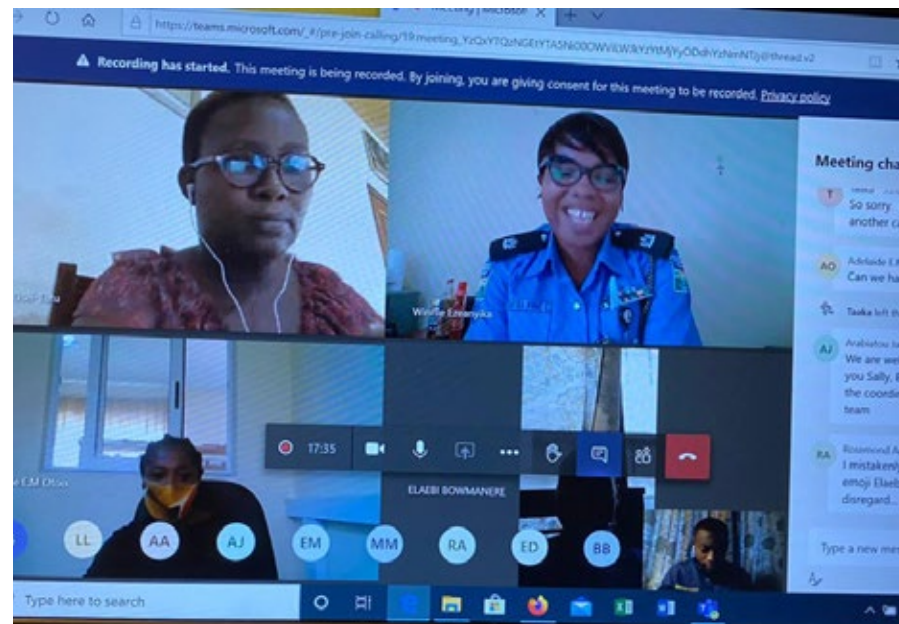
We have commenced our **KAIPTC-FAAR Work-In-Progress bi Weekly Webinar Series**, which seeks to address different peace and security issues on the continent. Our “Reflection on Security Series” conference on the topic: “***Election 2020 in the Context of COVID-19 in Ghana: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges***” is tentatively scheduled for **24 June 2020** and will be held online. It seeks to bring together diverse speakers to share experiences from the practitioner’s standpoint and invitations will be sent out to all stakeholders.



• Women, Peace and Security

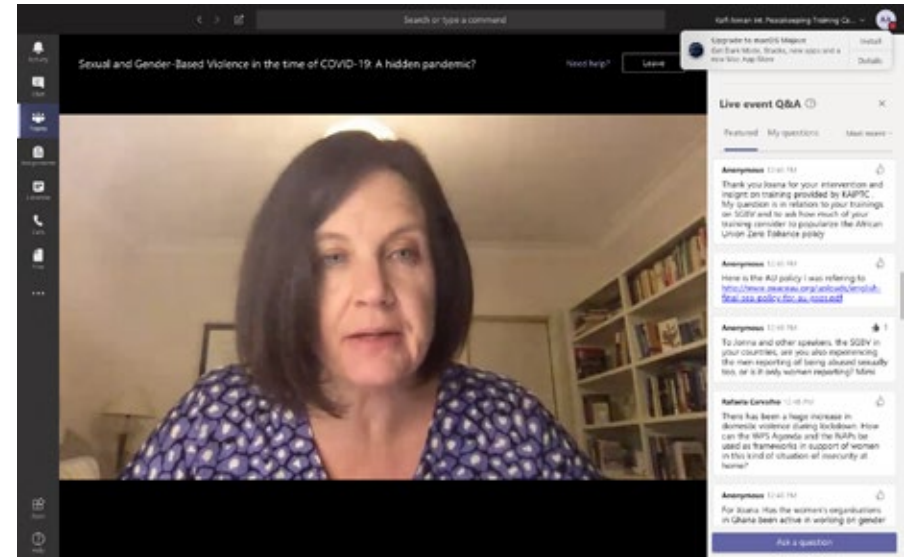
Our Women, Peace and Security Institute (WPSI) in March 2020 rolled out the Second Phase of its ***Inspiring African Women Leaders in Peace and Security Course*** (IAWL-PS). The programme, which was initiated in the last quarter of 2019, seeks to provide fully-sponsored leadership development opportunities for mid-career women working in the peace and security sectors.

The Second Phase began with individual coaching sessions for online participants towards the implementation of their respective projects. A webinar was also organized on the 14th of May 2020 under the theme: ***“Gender Mainstreaming through Digital Networking and Campaigning”*** with participants from 11 African countries. WPSI’s key focus for 2020 is carrying out extensive advocacy work on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), which unfortunately has seen a significant rise globally during the COVID-19 restrictive period and generated conversations among various stakeholders.

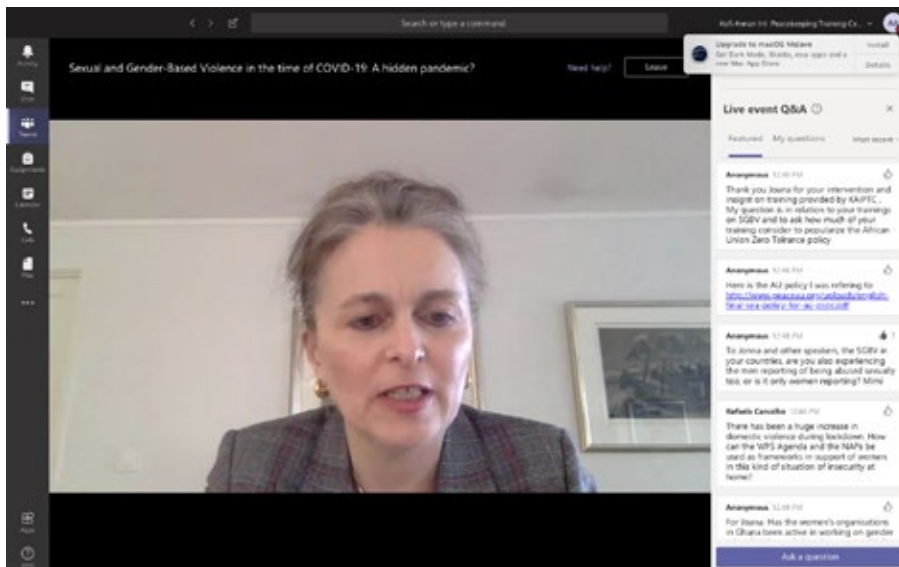


In collaboration with a Consortium on Gender/Women Peace, WPSI on 27 May 2020 joined a panel of experts for an online seminar on the topic; ***“Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the time of COVID-19: A hidden pandemic?”*** The Seminar organized by the PRIO Centre for Gender Peace and Security, Norway, examined how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) from the perspectives of policymaking, advocacy and practice.

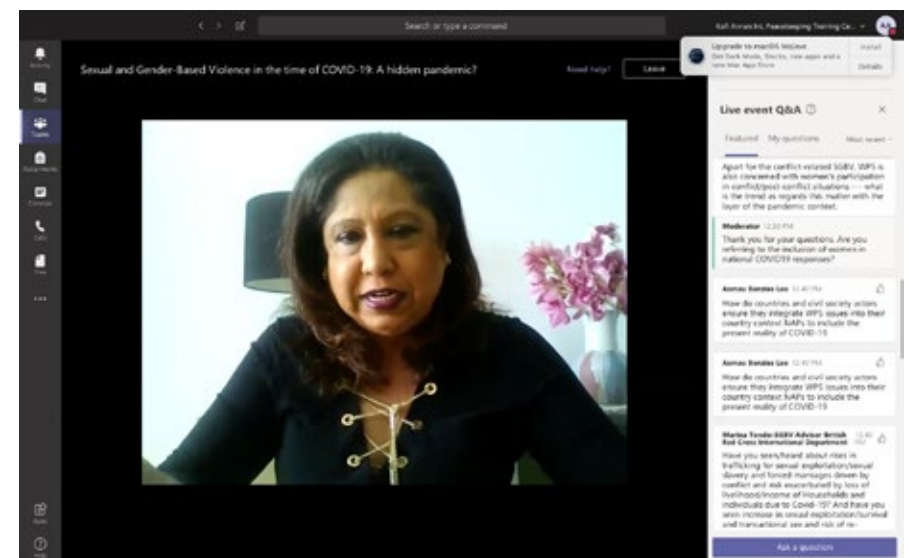
The Institute’s external engagements in some selected countries to assist the review of our ***‘Investigating Gender-Based Violence’*** Course have been put on hold due to the closure of the airspace and land borders. However, the team is exploring alternative ways of engaging with stakeholders, including using online surveys to gather the relevant data needed.



Prof. Jacqui True, Monash University (Gender, Peace and Security Centre)



Torunn L. Tryggstad, Director of the PRIO Centre on Gender, Peace and Security



Under-Secretary-General Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict

• Looking ahead

We do acknowledge that these are indeed hard times for all organisations globally and the KAIPTC is no exception. We have reviewed our spending plans for the year with focus on only key priority areas. We know this will impact livelihoods and will require all of us to make significant adjustments.

For us, this pandemic will test our own resilience as an institution; i.e., how we can best protect our staff, stay relevant by adapting our business model to suit the changing times and offer innovative services that require online technology.

Under the current uncertainties that have affected our operations, we are doing our very best to step up communication with our Stakeholders. We will make the most of the available online meeting tools to ensure that you are involved in all important discussions that affect you.



More than ever, we need the collective support of each and every one of you as we deal with the challenging times ahead together. We therefore request our Development and Institutional Partners especially, to extend project deadlines where practicable.

We are optimistic that this crisis will end and hopefully soon. Like many of you, we are also monitoring the situation closely in order to make timely decisions and adjust business operations as and when required.

For us at the KAIPTC, we are still guided by our mandate and remain committed to all our Stakeholders who make this possible. You have our assurance that we will act responsibly and communicate transparently. We cannot thank you enough for your flexibility and continued support during this pandemic; you have our deepest gratitude.

On behalf of the Executive Management Committee, we wish you and your families well. Our heartfelt thoughts go to all, whose communities; families and loved ones have in anyway been affected by this virus.

I thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Ofori

Major General
Commandant