



**MESSAGE FROM THE NCIC CHAIRMAN, REV. DR. SAMUEL KOBIA DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD'S INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE ON 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020.**

**Fellow Kenyans:**

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) is delighted to join the world in commemorating this year's International Day of Peace. The theme for this year “***Shaping Peace together***” underscores the mandate of the Commission of uniting all Kenyans for a peaceful society. Indeed, this is an invitation to unite and share our thoughts on how to weather the many challenges that impede peaceful coexistence in our society.

At the onset, I wish to acknowledge and appreciate all our partners and stakeholders who have supported the Commission's mandate since its inception. This has enabled the Commission to mark this day in Nairobi, Narok, Nandi-Kakamega, Mandera and Elgeyo Marakwet counties among others.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

In the wake of Covid-19, the entire world has been thrown into turmoil. This signifies that we are one human household; what happens in one part of the world can impact people everywhere. Indeed, this year's theme underscores the importance of working together to defeat Covid-19. Our voices and actions are important now more than ever. Therefore, as we continue fighting our common enemy, I urge all of us to mark the day by being mindful and compassionate of the needs of the less fortunate in the society. By showing affection, you will give hope to many who are otherwise desperate. In particular, let us join hands and shun discrimination and stigmatization of persons affected by Covid-19.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

While we are still battling with Covid-19, developments at the political front are deeply troubling. The incitement and hate speech spewed by both leaders and some of their followers across the country is a threat to our fragile social cohesion fabric. In the past one month, there has been heightened politicized statements by a section of political leaders. As a

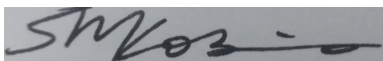
Commission mandated to bring peace and cohesion among Kenyans from all walks of life, we strongly condemn this behaviour which is cropping up across board. We cannot allow our country to slide back to the ugly scenario that led to the 2007/2008-post election violence. Hence, I take this earliest opportunity to call upon all the political leaders to exercise responsibility and show decorum in what they say and do. Kenyans have entrusted our leaders to guard our peace. Therefore, we cannot afford to let it slip. We invite all Kenyans and especially our leaders to join hands in working towards promoting peaceful coexistence regardless of their political or ethnic affiliation in these transition and succession times.

**Ladies and Gentlemen;** we must, as a country, cultivate the culture of peace to replace the devastating culture of violence, respect for the law and tolerance for divergent opinions. It behooves us as Kenyans to jealously guard our peace and stability that we have cultivated in the past few years. A polarized country is a road for endless mistrust, hostility and economic retrogression. A divided people will only aggravate

our existing predicaments and relegate us to a shameful status of extreme intolerance and mockery. Therefore, we must rise up to the occasion and be stewards of peace and champions of cohesion.

In conclusion, I wish to call upon each one of us to play their role in ensuring that Kenya remains socially peaceful, politically stable and economically prosperous. We all have an individual responsibility and civic duty to promote peaceful co-existence, national cohesion and unity among Kenyans. Let us all rally under the NCIC's motto of *One People, One Nation, One Destiny*. I remain convinced that a peaceful, cohesive, and integrated Kenyan Society is possible if all of us direct our energies and efforts towards "Shaping Peace together".

**Thank You and God Bless You.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SKobia', on a light-colored background.

**REV. DR. SAMUEL KOBIA**

**CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION  
COMMISSION**