

Germany speaking tour 2017

Abstract – Promotional note for speaking events focusing on Reconciliation

Topic: Responsibility to reconcile violent conflicts

Reconciliation is the framework for healing and recovery, truth-telling, forgiveness and repair of harm done, restoring relationships, calming fear, trust-building, reconsidering the interconnectedness of human beings and commitment to righting injustice and addressing the consequences of historic wrongs as ways of breaking the circle of violence. A successful and sustainable reconciliation process requires freedom, empathy, equality and inclusiveness.

Even though the Rwanda's recent history - marked by multifaceted violent conflicts, war and genocide- makes reconciliation seem like an impossible concept, the Rwandan people have proved the resilience of human beings in the aftermath of the deplorable past. Although the process of reconciliation still faces a number of challenges, the Rwandan experience leaves us with an abiding hope for the possible reconciliation even after the gravest of human horrors. Through stories from Rwanda, we learn again that human beings are reconcilable.

Jean de Dieu Basabose, Co-Founder and Co-Director of Shalom Educating for Peace (Rwanda) uses the platform of speaking events to illuminate the process of reconciliation in a post-conflict setting. His is a natural responsibility to reconcile as he has ties to both ethnicised groups in Rwanda – the Hutu and Tutsi – making him very aware of his 'indivisibility'. His unwavering conviction to a role of reconcile-actor in such a divided society helps him to transcend the divisions, and places him in a right position to fulfill his reconciling responsibility. For over a decade, Basabose and his colleagues at Shalom Educating for Peace have tirelessly invested in reconciliation related activities in Rwanda and beyond.

Sharing from personal and field experience, Basabose inspires audiences with his commitment to nonviolence, truth, empathy, fighting corruption and advocating for restoring human dignity, justice, love and peace for all. The speaker engages in interesting and timely discussions on the necessity of investing in reconciliation as a crucial aspect of a multidimensional response to the current migration crisis. It is beyond doubt that all societies marked by divisions and in need of healing from the wounds of deplorable past could benefit and learn from his experience and work.



Jean de Dieu Basabose's Bio

With 14 years of experience in peacebuilding work, Jean de Dieu Basabose has facilitated numerous trainings and workshops on building peace, mediation, networking, community organizing, organisational governance, monitoring local peace initiatives, Nonviolent Communication, etc. Through Shalom Educating for Peace, a peace education organisation he co-founded in 2007 and co-directs, Basabose is making efforts to build and sustain positive peace through peace and nonviolence education. As a committed peacebuilder, he seeks offer to the world the best he can and then contribute to building a just, inclusive and peaceful world. He holds a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies from the University of KwazuluNatal. In 2015, he completed Doctoral studies in Public Management at the Durban University of Technology. Basabose is one of the three recipients of IPPI (the International Public Policy Institute) Global Peacemaking Award 2012. He is a highly sought-after local and international consultant on community organizing in the Great Lakes region. He lives with his wife and three sons just outside of Kigali, Rwanda.

