

## Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women 2026/2027



### Call for Applications

#### Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women (Non-degree Awarding)

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##### About the ALC

Established in 2010, the African Leadership Centre (ALC) seeks to build an inter-generational community of transformative leaders producing cutting-edge knowledge that serves as a catalyst for a new peace, security and development agenda in Africa. To this effect, the Centre produces and deploys multi-dimensional forms of knowledge, builds an inter-generational community of value driven leaders, facilitates a catalytical 'public square' to set a new agenda for Africa, and enhances the ALC Hub to produce and manage knowledges. The Centre pursues its vision of building an inter-generational community of value driven transformative leaders from its bases in Nairobi, Kenya and King's College, London.

**Core Values:** The ALC's programmes are guided by a commitment to promoting African-led ideas and processes of change, pursuing excellence, encouraging independent thinking, respecting diversity in all its forms—including gender, religion, class, and beliefs—recognizing youth agency, and upholding integrity.

##### About this Fellowship

The Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women bring together Sudanese women who are actively responding to the crisis in Sudan and its wide-ranging impact on women and girls. The programme is for women who are already engaged in activism or leadership — whether through women's groups, youth networks, or community initiatives — and who are working to influence



## Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women 2026/2027

conflict dynamics and advance peace efforts in Sudan. The Fellowship is designed to deepen Fellows' understanding of conflict, security, and leadership; strengthens their analytical and policy skills; and supports them in building strong professional networks.

While women's participation is essential to sustainable peace, their involvement in peace processes is often limited by capacity gaps and barriers to leadership. This Fellowship responds to those challenges by offering intellectual and financial award for young Sudanese women who want to expand their knowledge and practical engagement in leadership, peace, and security, and use that expertise to influence security and governance developments in Sudan. The programme is a postgraduate, non-degree residential Fellowship based in Nairobi, Kenya, with occasional visits to King's College London. It does not lead to an academic qualification. It targets women with strong potential to contribute to intellectual, policy, or practical change in Sudan's women, peace, and security landscape.

The Fellowship is part of the work of the African Leadership Centre and the Africans for the Horn of Africa (Af4HA). It reflects their efforts to respond to the humanitarian, security, and human rights crisis in Sudan. Af4HA is a solidarity platform that amplifies citizen voices and strengthens African engagement in addressing conflicts and governance challenges in the Horn of Africa. Through this programme, the African Leadership Centre and Af4HA aim to increase the number of Sudanese women trained in academic research, policy analysis, and professional writing, while also providing mentorship and practical experience in peace and security institutions. The Fellowship aligns with international and regional frameworks that promote women's and youth participation in peace and political processes, including United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16, and the African Union Agenda 2063 (Aspirations 4, 6, and 7).

Fellows take part in academic modules delivered in collaboration with King's College London and the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi. The academic component is combined with structured mentoring offered over a six-month period and followed by a six-month placement at an African regional organization or centre of excellence. This placement provides hands-on experience in peace and security work, including engagement with the Women, Peace



## Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women 2026/2027

and Security agenda, and increases fellows' opportunities to contribute to peace processes and broader security initiatives in Sudan and across Africa.

### Eligibility

- Candidates must be female citizens of Sudan.
- Successful candidates must hold valid travel documents prior to acceptance.
- Candidates must hold a bachelor's or master's degree and added experiences in peace, security and development field are valued.
- Candidates must have proven record of experience with women's rights and gender issues in Sudan.
- Candidates must be able to demonstrate a commitment to contribute to work on peace, security and development in Sudan and Africa.
- Candidates must be able to demonstrate capacity to undertake research on issues relating to peace, security and development in Sudan.
- Candidates must demonstrate commitment to the core values of the programme: promoting African led ideas and processes of change; independent thinking; integrity; pursuit of excellence; recognition of youth agency and respect for diversity in all its forms.
- Candidates must have a demonstrable plan for how to utilise knowledge and skills as well as network and experience gained in the Fellowship upon return to their countries and/or organisations.
- Candidates must be fluent in spoken and written English as all aspects of the programme are delivered in English.



## Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women 2026/2027

### Programme Delivery

This is a one-year, fully residential fellowship divided into two six-month phases. Successful candidates are required to commit to the programme on a full-time basis.

**Phase 1:** The first phase takes place at the African Leadership Centre (ALC) in Nairobi and at King's College London. During this period, fellows engage critically with leadership studies and debates on conflict, security, and development in Africa. They will also visit and learn from institutions working in peace and security across Africa and Europe. The phase includes a simulation seminar series in which fellows practise responding to mock conflict management scenarios.

**Phase 2:** In the second phase, fellows are placed with an African Regional Organisation or Centre of Excellence to gain practical experience in peace and security work, including peacebuilding and conflict management processes.

**Research Project:** During Phase 2, fellows are required to complete a research project on a key issue in peace, security, and development, aligned with selected priorities of the ALC Research Agenda. They will produce an 8,000–10,000-word research report and a policy brief based on their findings. The policy briefs will be published and shared across regional peace and security platforms.

**Mentoring:** Throughout both phases, fellows have access to the programme's mentoring network. This includes regular group mentoring sessions and thematic training workshops. One-on-one mentoring is also encouraged to support fellows' academic, professional, and personal development during the programme.

### Terms of the Fellowship



## Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women 2026/2027

Successful fellows will have the status of full-time students on the post-graduate non-degree programme at ALC/King's College London and hold affiliate status at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

**Standard Visitor visa:** The offer of the Fellowship is subject to successful candidates obtaining visas to cover the six-month period, which is the duration of the first phase of the Fellowship, in the UK and Kenya. Failure to obtain a visa automatically invalidates the offer of the Fellowship with no consequences to the Fellowship Programme.

**Expectant/Nursing mothers:** Given the intense nature of the programme including its short phases in different locations, as well as necessary extensive travel, successful applicants that are expectant or nursing mothers while encouraged to apply, will be advised to defer their admission to the programme should they be successful.

**Medical Exam:** Successful applicants will be required to undergo medical examinations at recommended venues prior to taking up their positions, to aid visa applications. Fitness to undertake the programme will require confirmation from a medical practitioner.

**Programme completion/Return to base:** The programme will last a total of 12 months, and fellows will be expected to make full-time commitments to the programme for its duration. **It is the condition of the programme that successful candidates should return to their base or home countries at the end of the programme.**

### Termination

The African Leadership Centre jointly with the Af4HA has the right to terminate the conferral of a Fellowship, in the event of a breach in the Terms and Conditions of the programme.

### Funding

This is a fully funded opportunity, not including any visa application and processing costs. Funds will be made available to the fellows to cover tuition, subsistence in the UK and Africa, and travel expenses related to the programme in both phases. While the ALC has guest rooms that fellows can rent whilst in Nairobi, successful applicants are expected to find their own accommodation at



## Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women 2026/2027

attachment institutions. Fellows are strongly advised to make all necessary accommodation arrangements prior to taking up their positions on the Fellowship Programme.

### How to Apply

Applications will be accepted ONLINE at the following link where you need to create an account to apply [here](#). The deadline for applications is 23:59 hrs EAT, 24 May 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be expected to attend face-to-face interviews at the ALC continental headquarters, in Nairobi, Kenya in mid-June.

**The following documents are required before your application is considered complete:**

- Fully completed application questionnaire.
- A supporting statement of between 500 and 750 words - outline why you want to be part of this programme, what your unique contribution would be and what change you see yourself contributing to in your community/ area of work after the programme.
- 2 letters of recommendation (To be received directly from the Referees by the deadline of 23:59 hrs EAT, 24 May 2026.
- Recent curriculum vitae of 2 pages maximum.
- One writing sample (maximum 1000 words each - example can include an original research paper, extracts from a dissertation, an essay paper, or policy paper relevant to peace and security).
- One research proposal of no more than 1000 words – Since the outbreak of the Sudanese crisis in April 2023, widespread human rights violations and a severe humanitarian emergency have unfolded across the country. The conflict has had a particularly devastating impact on women and girls, who have disproportionately borne its social, economic, and physical consequences. As Peace and Security Fellow of the ALC, you are expected to develop a research project that contributes to identifying pathways out of the crisis, with careful attention to its gendered dimensions and the multifaceted effects on Sudanese women.
- Please prepare a research proposal addressing **one** of the following themes:
  - (i) the gender dynamics shaping the ongoing search for peace in Sudan;



## Peace and Security Fellowships for Sudanese Women 2026/2027

- (ii) local-level coping mechanisms in response to violence and human rights abuses (including but not limited to conflict-related sexual and other gendered violence);
- (iii) the level and nature of global attention to the Sudan crisis in comparison with other international crises;
- (iv) Sudanese women's visions of peace and the roles of various actors in advancing those visions (max.1000 words).

All supporting documents should be submitted via the online portal [here](#). Please note that no email applications will be accepted. If you are experiencing problems with the online application portal, please contact us at [admissions@africanleadershipcentre.org](mailto:admissions@africanleadershipcentre.org). We encourage all applicants to submit their applications early to avoid delays and failure to submit because of technical challenges.

