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Kenya's Alice Nderitu highlights crucial role of women in peacemaking at Equitas event in Toronto

TORONTO (February 27, 2018) – Alice Nderitu, one of Africa's most accomplished peacemakers, will be speaking **Thursday, March 8th** at the TD Centre (54th Floor, 66 Wellington St. West) in Toronto as part of Equitas' Annual Reception.

Held from 6 pm – 8:30 pm on **International Women's Day**, the event "A Woman's Journey for Human Rights" invites Torontonians to meet this exceptional global expert in conflict resolution, women in peace building, human rights education and genocide prevention. People who wish to attend must [register online](#).

"As a woman taking a seat at the peace table, Alice Nderitu has a tremendous impact in African countries facing conflicts and threats of mass atrocities," says Equitas Executive Director **Ian Hamilton**. "We have much to learn from her pioneering role as a woman mediator, a gender equality advocate and a human rights educator in Africa and beyond."

MEET ALICE NDERITU

Alice Nderitu is an armed-conflict mediator and Advisor to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Africa. She is the first woman to lead mediation processes that have brought women into all levels of the peace efforts and have resulted in peace agreements signed by numerous ethnic communities in Kenya and Nigeria. She is the only female member of a group of male elders mediating confidentially between African leaders at the highest levels.

Following election-related violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008, Ms. Nderitu founded and co-chaired the Uwiano Platform for Peace, a conflict prevention agency that uses mobile technology to encourage citizens to report indicators of violence and to help national agencies respond. The platform was largely credited with ensuring peaceful elections in Kenya in 2013.

As a young child, Alice Nderitu was told that women could not participate in the work of peace making. Today, she knows that women can not only partake in mediation and conflict prevention, but must have a voice at the table if communities want to achieve long-lasting peace. To insure women's participation, Ms. Nderitu uses human rights education to develop peace education curricula and train other female mediators.

She has also trained law enforcement, military and public officers on human rights and has helped set up national human rights commissions in Ethiopia, Somaliland and South Sudan.

Ms. Nderitu is a 2007 alumna of the International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP), held every year by Equitas in Montreal, Canada. The IHRTTP alumni network is one of the largest global communities of human rights defenders.

In the Fall of 2017, Alice Nderitu received the prestigious Global Pluralism Award in Ottawa.

Learn more (video) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcQUQ89sUbM&t>

EVENT DETAILS

- Date: Thursday March 8th
- Time: 6 pm – 8:30 pm
- Location: TD Centre, 54th Floor, 66 Wellington St. West, Toronto.

Alice Nderitu was invited to Canada by the Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue who awarded her the 2018 Jack P. Blaney Award for Dialogue for her demonstrated international excellence in the use of dialogue to increase mutual understanding and advance complex public issues.

INTERVIEWS

Alice Nderitu is available for interviews by phone before March 6th, and in person in Toronto March 7th (from 2pm) and March 8th.

Equitas Executive Director Ian Hamilton is also available for interviews to address issues of women's rights and the role Canadians can play in support of women peacebuilders and women and girls living in conflict zones.

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About Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education

Based in Canada, Equitas is the world's most recognized and active human rights education organization. We work for the advancement of equality, social justice and respect for human dignity through transformative education programs in Canada and around the world. In the last 50 years, we have reached over 3.2 million people worldwide. www.equitas.org