

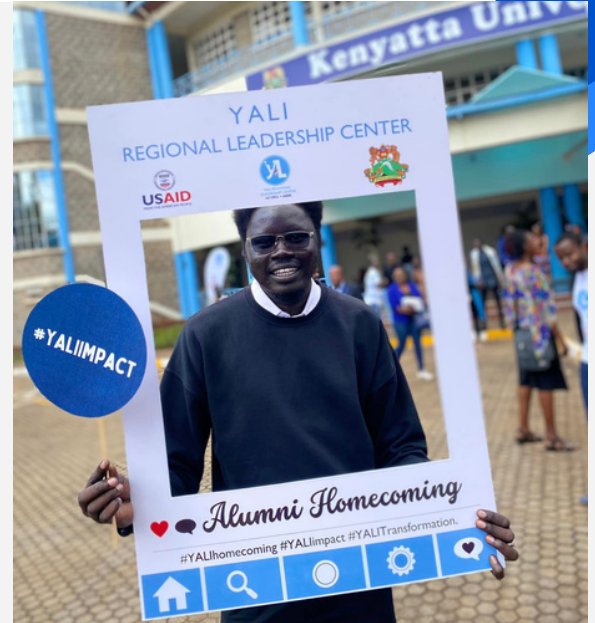
Choose Dialogue Over Guns



YOAL GATKUOTH RIEK YAHT
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Yoal Gatkuoth, a distinguished human rights defender and a YALI RLC EA alumnus urging young South Sudanese to embrace dialogue as the cornerstone for securing the nation's future, steering it away from the path of violence.

In the face of the 2016 violence, Yoal faced a pivotal moment when relatives urged him to take up arms, a call he steadfastly rejected. Instead, he chose a different path, dedicating himself to human rights advocacy, which exposed him to transformative training and capacity-building programs.



Reflecting on this critical decision, Gatkuoth shared...
"I learned that silence is not an option. In 2016, our home witnessed the loss of relatives, and neighbors, including my best friend during the crisis. People were pressuring me to resort to violence, but I firmly said no.

" His social nature led him to connect with a diverse network of individuals who recognized his ability to shed light on human rights issues. Through extensive training and capacity building, Yoal Gatkuoth discovered multiple non-violent avenues for addressing societal challenges.

Renowned as a peace advocate, social justice champion, and human rights activist, Gatkuoth holds leadership roles in various youth-led organizations, youth clubs, and community associations. He serves as the Co-country coordinator for the African Artists Peace Initiative, South Sudan chapter, and as a peace ambassador for the International Women's Peace.

Furthermore, as a YALI Regional Leadership Center of East Africa alumnus, Gatkuoth co-founded and serves as the deputy Chairperson of the Civil Society Coalition on Defense of Civic Space. In these capacities, he oversees advocacy, campaigning, and lobbying efforts, organizing impactful forums, dialogues, and meetings with diverse stakeholders and institutions within South Sudan.

Yoal Gatkuoth's journey stands as a testament to the power of dialogue and non-violent approaches in effecting positive change. Through his commitment to human rights and advocacy, he exemplifies the transformative potential that arises when individuals choose to speak out against violence, fostering a more resilient and harmonious future for South Sudan.

A ward-winning human rights defender Yoal Gatkuoth is appealing to young South Sudanese to choose dialogue over guns to safeguard the future of the country against violence.

Yoal is a founding director for the Pan - African Peacemakers Alliance (PAPA), where he focuses on initiating and promoting peacebuilding, good governance, human rights and youth economic empowerment in the country.