



Prevention of Election Violence Workshop, Monrovia

The International Growth Centre (IGC), together with the U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) division and other partners, will co-host a one-day workshop in Monrovia to brainstorm and produce a diagnosis of election violence in the run-up to the 2017 Liberian presidential elections. Reducing the incidence of election violence reduces loss of life and injury, as well as damage to productive assets, and may reduce the risk of further civil conflict, investor uncertainty, and investment risks. A peaceful election is essential to Liberia's post-Ebola economic recovery. A number of interventions are planned and underway that would benefit from a comprehensive and coherent approach.

The workshop will convene experts from the public sector and civil society, including academics, practitioners, policy-makers, and donors. Existing evidence around elections violence will be presented, causes of election violence identified, and current and planned strategies to mitigate this violence brainstormed and listed, followed by breakout sessions to determine leverage points that can be addressed both by programmatic interventions and through further research.

This workshop will support the co-generation of research ideas and the sharing of existing evidence on election violence from Liberia and elsewhere. It will also identify successful prevention and/or control measures and design Liberia-specific potential preventive solutions, including the "Yes to Peace, No to Violence for Peaceful Elections come 2017" program prepared by the Liberian National Police and its consideration as a prevention program by potential donors.

The objectives of the "Yes to Peace" program are:

- to establish effective communication between the LNP and various political parties' youth wings/leadership,
- to conduct multiple dialogues with youth leadership based on mutual respect,
- to follow fifteen political parties' youth leaders before, during and after elections,
- to utilize community policing as a conflict prevention and resolution mechanism, and
- to enhance social networking between youth leaders.

The event will be facilitated by Professor T. Debey Sayndee from the Kofi Annan Institute of Conflict Transformation at the University of Liberia and supported by the IGC. In attendance will be approximately 30 individuals from entities with a shared background and interest in election violence prevention programming in Liberia.

Where and when: The workshop will take place on **Saturday 30 July, 2016** at the Bella Casa Hotel in Monrovia from 9am to 5pm.



Major Objectives:

This brainstorming exercise will:

- draw from experience in Liberia and elsewhere
- map the landscape of actual and potential interventions to prevent and mitigate violence
- agree on a series of measures to be launched soonest to deal with trigger points
- attempt a sharing of responsibilities for action going forward
- list some possible research areas for IGC and others

Outputs will include:

- A populated landscape of actions to prevent or mitigate election violence
- A hierarchy of actions to be launched now and going forward
- Areas for further research

Draft Agenda:

Time	Session	Person(s)
09:00	Breakfast and Welcome	Facilitator
09:00-10:30	Overview of issues related to election violence – causes of election violence, at risk groups, interventions around both violence and elections	
	Overview of evidence in this area, evidence on police patrols done with LNP, trigger points for election violence, at-risk youth in Monrovia, election debates, role of media	LNP (ERU/PSU); U.S. Embassy, INL division; IGC (Sabrina Karim, Sarah Logan, Nadia Hasham); Other partners
10:30-11:00	Compilation of ongoing and planned interventions to address election violence	All participants
11:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
11:15-12:30	Presentation(s) on research proposals for Liberia	
	IGC Research (via Skype)	Sabrina Karim, IGC
	Yes to Peace Project	Deputy Commissioner Dao, LNP
	Discussion	Facilitator
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:45	Brainstorming – policy agenda (5 groups)	Facilitator
	Context set by LNP – plans of LNP during elections	LNP
14:45-15:30	Brainstorming – research agenda (5 groups)	IGC
15:30-15:45	Break	
15:45-17:00	Aggregation of ideas to produce a list of preventive measures and researchable areas	Facilitator
17:00	Closing	Facilitator