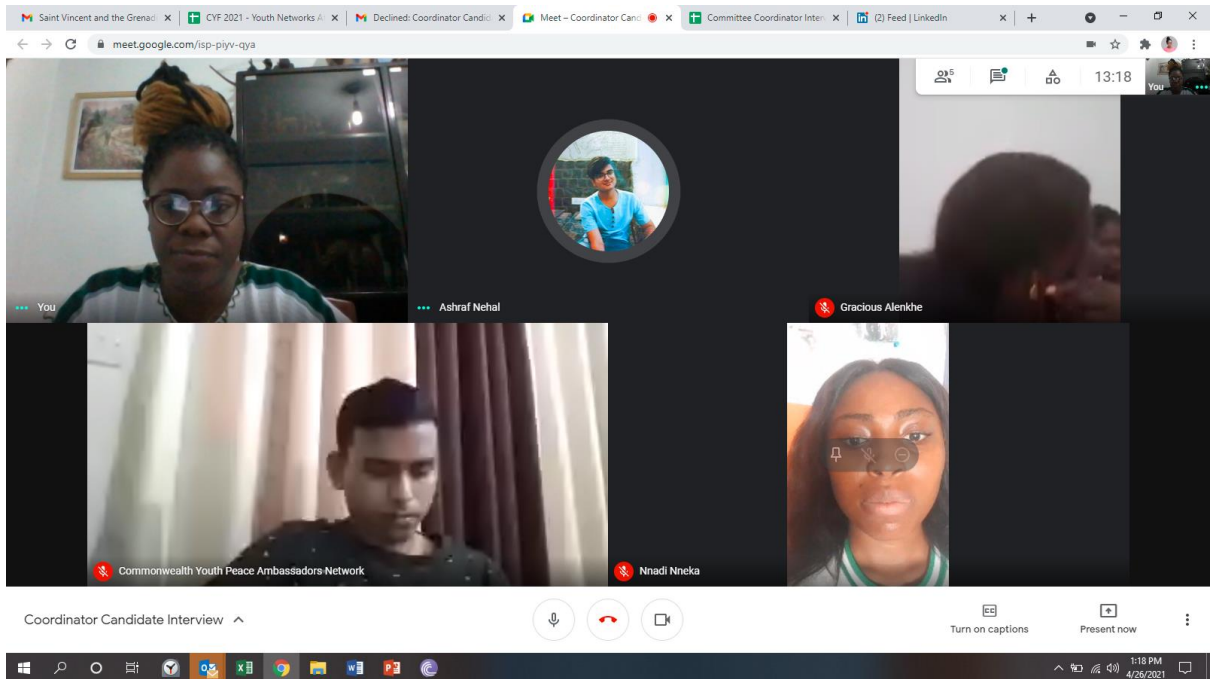


## **APRIL REPORT**

**05/11/2021**



### **1. OVERVIEW / BACKGROUND**

Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network in the month of April confirmed all the Country Coordinators and we also had an induction meeting for all the coordinators to bring them up to speed on what CYPAN is all about and their roles as Country Coordinators. On confirming the Country Coordinators and sharing country membership databases we realised that more members needed to be recruited from other regions within some countries and the Country Coordinators have been very instrumental in undertaking membership drives in their own country. The Coordinator also led interviews for Coordinators for the different Committees.

The confirmed members of the Network were tasked with choosing their own Country Coordinator. This was a successful exercise as many country teams decided to hold elections, all the full members were eligible to vie to be a coordinator then the members would choose who they wanted. This exercise was to ensure that members got to know who their Country Coordinator was and work hand in hand with them.

The first quarter has been quite challenging however, we have finally figured out country teams and we are continually seeing members more vibrant and willing to engage.

## Challenges

1. Managing expectations- many people hope to be getting a stipend for being members and meeting high profile Commonwealth officials or getting badges to identify themselves.
2. Most youth want titles but hardly ever want to work. We have been experiencing lack of communications from some members and applicants especially in cases where we needed to do follow-ups on activities happening in the countries.
3. Financial support/ financial structure has been a consistent ask from the Country Coordinators and members, most members and coordinators still struggle with the notion of not having country bank accounts.
4. The prior coordinators seek to be recognised for the work they did while they were coordinators, but it has been hard to track their work and how long they have served since there was no records of their tenure previously and it was challenging getting access to their reports.
5. Most people who applied for the different committees have been shying away from working in those committees, even when invited to apply to lead and coordinate those committees, most of them did not apply.
6. Some countries have an overwhelming number of members however only 1-2% of them are active.
7. Our chapter in Saint Vincent and Grenadines has been hit hard by the volcanic eruption affecting its monthly activities
8. India COVID-19 variant also affected our members in India and we keep praying that all of them are safe and continue to keep safe.

## 2. NETWORK ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL

DATE	ACTIVITY/PROJECT	REPRESENTATIVE (S)	DETAILS
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Country Coordinators Induction meeting	A. Bruce (COMSEC) and Christine Odera (CYPAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the country coordinators were inducted to their new roles and they were also able to ask questions related to the Terms or Reference.</li> <li>• 25 Coordinators were present</li> </ul>

April	Policy and Advocacy, Training & Development and Resources and Mobilization Committees Coordinators Selection	Tushar Baidya and Christine Odera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were only able to interview some applicants, and we only got a Policy and Advocacy Coordinator. We are yet to find the other Coordinators</li> <li>• Tushar Baidya the Membership and Partnership Coordinator has been doing a great job in coordinating and informing members of such opportunities and creating drives with their information.</li> </ul>
April	Planning the webinar on War and Militarism	Phil Gittins and Christine Odera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were able to finally confirm all speakers from both ends and get all the necessary information agree on a date to have the conversation.</li> </ul>
April	Gender is my Agenda campaign (GIMAC) and CYPAN finally finished planning the Art, Heritage and Culture online engagement	Giovanni Charles Country Coordinator Saint Lucia and Karen Ondwasi Chair GIMAC young women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were finally able to finalise the concept notes and a draft communication strategy and hopefully the main launch will be in May.</li> <li>• Giovani has been leading such campaigns in Saint Lucia and we were privileged to have him as the CYPAN lead.</li> </ul>

April	Know Your CYPAN Campaign	Neville Charlton (and Communications Committee)	The Communications Committee continued it's Know Your CYPAN Campaign on social media, to provide followers with more information on CYAN and its Country Coordinators.
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Exploring Collaborations with CVE Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat	Christine Odera (CYPAN)	The Coordinator met with Amy Longland of the Commonwealth Secretariat CVE Unit to follow-up on points of collaboration discussed at the beginning of the year. Discussions are on-going on possible projects.

### 3. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Upcoming activities	Dates	Person in charge
Collaborating with UN for Peacekeeping Day campaign	May (TBC)	Christian Mulumba-Campaign Youth Outreach Coordinator, Africa Department of Peace Operations; and CYPAN African Country Coordinators
War and Militarism: An Intergenerational Dialogue Webinar	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Odera and Phil Gittins

Art, Heritage and Culture online engagement launch	May (TBC)	Giovanni Charles and Karen Ondwasi
Observation of the International Day of Living Together in Peace- Video Campaign	May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Odera and Tushar Baidya