



INTERNATIONAL GROUP RELATIONS CONFERENCE
Ghana 2027

The Past Alive *in the* *Present*

Authority, Leadership, Reparations and the Future We Create

21–28 February 2027

Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) · Accra, Ghana

REPARATIONS

HISTORICAL MEMORY

LEADERSHIP

AUTHORITY

AFRICA & DIASPORA

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Where memory meets responsibility.

An international gathering convening scholars, practitioners, consultants, leaders, activists and citizens to explore the relationship between **historical trauma, reparative justice, authority and leadership**. Emerging from a collaboration between **OPUS** and the **A.K. Rice Institute** and informed by the Tavistock tradition of Group Relations, it asks: how does the past continue to shape the authority we take up in the present, and the future we create together?

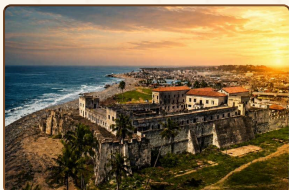
THREE CONFERENCE COMPONENTS



PHASE I · 22-23 FEB

Academic Symposium

Keynotes, paper presentations and panels on the historical, psychological and systems-psychodynamic dimensions of reparations and leadership.



PHASE II · 24 FEB

Historical Engagement — “The Crucible”

Guided reflective visits to Elmina and Cape Coast Castles — a critical psychological transition where academic knowing meets embodied encounter.



PHASE III · 25-27 FEB

Group Relations Conference

An experiential temporary institution: small & large study groups, review & application, the Sankofa Event and closing plenary.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

21 Feb
SUNDAY

Arrival

Members arrive and settle at KAIPTC, Accra.

22 Feb
MONDAY

Registration & Opening · Academic (Groups 1)

Opening plenary, then the Academic Symposium. Presenting: Prof. Samuel Ntewusu · Prof. Meera Venkatachalam.

23 Feb
TUESDAY

Academic Symposium (Groups 2)

Papers, panels and plenary discussion groups. Presenting: Ray Bakaitis · Olya Khaleelee.

24 Feb
WEDNESDAY

Historical Engagement

Guided visits to Elmina & Cape Coast Castles with a facilitated reflective processing group.

25-27 Feb
THU-SAT

Group Relations Conference

Study groups, the Sankofa Event, Community Dialogue Circle and Closing Plenary.

28 Feb
SUNDAY

Departures

Participant departures.

Two days of inquiry.

DAY ONE · 22 FEBRUARY

Historical & Psychological Dimensions

Unearthing how historical trauma, collective memory and colonial legacies actively live within our current structures and psyches.

The Lived Psychology of History

How historical wounds and displacement manifest in the everyday psychological experiences of individuals, groups and institutions today.

The “Pain Points” of Reparations

The emotional, moral, political and psychological barriers to acknowledgement, apology and material restitution.

Tensions in Authority

Intersections, alignments and psychological dynamics between traditional African leadership structures and modern Westernised institutional authority.

DAY ONE KEYNOTE ANCHORS

Professor Ato Quayson (Stanford University) & Traditional Chief Nana Kobina Nketsiah V.

DAY TWO · 23 FEBRUARY

Systems–Psychodynamic Dimensions

Applying a systems–psychodynamic lens to understand the unconscious dynamics, systemic defences and institutional roles that surface during restorative work.

Unconscious Dynamics in Healing Work

Hidden anxieties, resistance and systemic defences — splitting, projection, denial — that emerge when institutions attempt restorative justice.

Authority and Readership / Leadership

How authority is authorised, taken up or sabotaged when confronting historical injustices, and the changing relationship between leaders and followers (readership) in traumatised systems.

Institutional Reparations in Practice

Case studies and theoretical models of organisations, NGOs or government bodies attempting to dismantle colonial or discriminatory structures.

DAY TWO KEYNOTE ANCHOR

Dr. Cheryl Grills — leading into reflective Discussion Groups and a Closing Plenary.

Submissions: abstract (max 500 words), 150-word biography and 3–5 keywords. Formats: empirical & theoretical papers, field case studies, or panel proposals (3 presenters). The 6 most outstanding abstracts receive a full tuition waiver for the academic stream.

Choose your track.

Academic days are subsidised to widen access; the residential package offers a complete, high-containment experience. A **20% early-bird discount** applies across all tracks before the deadline.

TRACK 1 · ACADEMIC STREAM

Days 1–2 · 22–23 Feb

\$250 USD

TRACK 2 · ACADEMIC + CRUCIBLE

Days 1–3 · 22–24 Feb

\$350 USD

TRACK 3 · FULL NON-RESIDENTIAL

Days 1–6 · 22–27 Feb

\$500 USD

Track 4 · The Full Immersive Experience · 7 Nights

ALL-INCLUSIVE

\$2,750 USD

21–28 February 2027 · check-in 21 Feb, check-out 28 Feb

- All components: Academic, Site Visit & GRC
- All daily meals & coffee/tea breaks
- 7 nights private on-site accommodation at KAIPTC
- Enhanced Closing Dinner (27 Feb)

20% Early Bird

Applied automatically at checkout across all tracks for registrations completed before the early-bird deadline.

Director's Scholarships

Discretionary partial or full scholarships for exceptional applicants, community elders and students with demonstrated need.

Venue

Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), Accra, Ghana.

Accommodation & Travel

On-site (KAIPTC), Accra hotels & guest houses. Travel, visa and transport details issued on registration.

Enquiries

General: info@ghana2027.org
Registration: register@ghana2027.org
Academic: papers@ghana2027.org

Register at ghana2027.org

Places are limited — early expressions of interest are encouraged