

Peace For All Canada

Ayiko Solomon | ayiko@peaceforallcanada.org | <https://www.peaceforallcanada.org/>

About Peace For All Canada

The vision of Peace for All Canada is to build united and prosperous communities, living peacefully side by side. The mission is to inspire individuals, families and communities to confront all types of violent extremism and discrimination and promote socio-economic empowerment and peaceful co-existence between communities.

Challenge Statement

How do we address the barriers to equitable education for low-income/newcomer/faith-group populations? These include:

- 1) technology barrier: many of these families do not have basic tools (such as one computer for each child, stable internet etc.) to access online resources/schooling.
- 2) limited parental support at home: parents usually work on shifts and may not have time or the academic expertise to support their children in their learning.
- 3) lack of cultural-sensitive approach: children from newcomers and faith-group families often struggle with their cultural and faith identity as they seek belonging at school, which can express as behavioral problems or lack of engagement in leadership roles.
- 4) challenges in adapting to the education system: the no-textbook-little-homework education setting is usually very different from their home country, teacher-to-student ratio not high enough to attend to individual students' special needs especially when there's language and cultural barriers, lack of assessment in Grade 1-2 leaves students who are behind and need support remaining unnoticed and unsupported

These and other factors can significantly reduce access to future opportunities for academic and professional advancement, creating another generation of underprivileged individuals.

Impact on the Organization

The research process will:

- 1) empower the students and parents who participate
- 2) strengthen networks with other stakeholders

Findings from the research will help Peace for All Canada to:

- 3) articulate their contribution to the community to other families and potential funders
- 4) develop curriculum for K8 students
- 5) form a sustainable business plan for their community schooling program

Potential Connections

Peace for All Canada is connected with many newcomer communities especially from North and East Africa and local education, peace, and mental health networks.

