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**CONTRIBUTION OF INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA TOWARDS
PEACE BUILDING IN ELGON REGION**

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted on the contribution of inter-religious council of Uganda towards peace building in Elgon Region. The study was guided by the following objectives: To examine the contribution of advocacy activities of IRCU towards peace building in the Elgon region. To analyze contribution of participation in policy making by IRCU towards peace building activities in the Elgon region, To evaluate the contribution of moral building by IRCU on peace building activities in the Elgon region. The study further implored a cross sectional survey design with a methodological triangulation; the data was collected by way of questionnaires and interview guides. The following findings were established: Regarding objective one the following were established: whether IRC has ever carried out peace advocacy activities in Elgon region and the results obtained were as follows: 24 (19.4%) strongly agree, 46 (37.1%) agreed, 5 (4.0%) were not sure, 49 (39.5%) disagreed, 0% strongly disagree. whether vulnerable groups were targeted by IRC advocacy activities and the results were as follows: 30 (24.2%) strongly agreed, 28 (22.6%) agreed, 3 (2.4%) were not sure, 54 (43.5%) disagreed, 9 (7.3%) strongly disagreed, to this factor. Regarding objective two the following were established: whether IRCU brings policy makers to the community to explain policy issues and the results obtained were as follows: 9 (7.3%) strongly agreed, 54 (43.5%) agreed, 5 (4%) were not sure, 53 (42.7%) disagreed, 3 (2.4%) strongly disagreed to this aspect, whether the IRCU helped explain policy making to the community and the following results were obtained: 30 (24.2%) strongly agreed, 28 (22.6%) agreed, 3 (2.4%) were not sure, 54 (43.5%) disagreed, 9 (7.3%) strongly disagreed to this aspect. Regarding objective three the following were established: whether IRCU helps to family morals and the following results were obtained 24 (19.4%) strongly agreed, 46 (37.1%) agreed, 5 (4%) were not sure, 49 (39.5%) disagreed to this, whether IRCU counseling services to instill better public conduct among the youths and the following results were obtained 9 (7.3%) strongly agreed, 54 (43.5%) agreed, 5 (4%) were not sure, 53 (42.7%) disagreed, 3 (2.4%) strongly disagreed to this fact. The researcher revealed the following from the regression (model summary): advocacy would predict variations in peace building as a standalone predictor, moral building would impact on peace building in the presence of advocacy, and lastly participation in policy making would predict variations in peace building in the presence of moral building and advocacy. Furthermore putting into consideration the sample taken for this study, the R^2 obtained include 0.086 for advocacy implying that the variations in peace building are explained by 8.6%

of changes in advocacy, R^2 for moral building was 0.140 hence meaning that the variations in peace building would be explained by 14% of the changes in advocacy together with moral building, consequently R^2 for participation in policy together with advocacy and moral building was 0.163 meaning that the variation in peace building would be explained by 16.3% of the changes in the three prospects. Therefore the researcher accepted the null hypothesis and concluded that there is a statistically significant effect of IRCU activities on peace building activities. The following recommendations were deduced: Regarding the participation in policy the researcher recommended that there should be an improvement in the funding aimed at helping people to facilitate the IRCU to lure people to participate in policy making. There is need for adequate and effective sensitization of the communities to attend the IRCU training sessions.