



Overview

The Afrikan Futures Catalyst, AFC, is a collective of futurists, academics, entrepreneurs and creatives who have come together to dream, design and build a better future for Afrika with others.

The collective works with a transdisciplinary approach across academia, business (formal + informal) and government to help different organisations shape a better future by embedding mindsets for change.

The AFC is currently working in the tertiary education space, equipping institutions with the necessary tools to navigate and shape the future in the decolonial moment, exploring what that looks like through the lenses of design thinking and complexity theory. This includes engaging violent histories and experiences and moving toward empathetic leadership and peacebuilding through radical healing.

We believe this presents an ideal opportunity to redefine what PEACE means for Afrikans with scalable impact.

The AFC presents a method for activating change and building agency to control your narrative. We engage and equip institutions with the necessary tools to address problematic gatekeeping within education, while redefining knowledge as an empathetic tool necessary to build our own peace.

Our submission incorporates a toolkit that introduces the mindsets that institutions of higher learning can begin to embrace and adapt to their specific environment, challenging them to critically engage their history, understand their present and imagine and define multiple futures for themselves based on the following principles:

- Although you cannot truly predict the future, you can play an active role in creating a desired future
- Creating an environment where radical change can bring sustainable justice requires an organisational culture that embraces foresight, complexity and creativity
- This is not an academic exercise, it is a transformative journey that academic institutional leadership and students can immerse themselves in shaping
- **The exercise is about creating intersectional consciousness**
: understanding plurality and acknowledging how different realities can and must co-exist in one space
- Redefining peace means redefining violence, where the future of peace exists above and beyond the absence

of violence, and as a result of the presence of justice, equality and agency.

The AFC toolkit embeds concepts from the fields of Futures Studies, Complexity Theory and Design Thinking into a practical framework that centers people and the democratisation of ideas.

With these tools we can begin to disrupt the notion of assumed violence, and subsequent peace, by providing the space for all stakeholders to move toward peacebuilding by sharing their own lived experiences. This complex-conscious approach allows for voices to enter that space that have previously been marginalised, and allows for the conversation to extend beyond the walls of academia.

This is the future of learning. It understands complexity, nuance and chaos and how this informs the world we live in now, and the one we are constantly creating.

This is how we redefine and drive PEACE in Afrika for and by Afrikans, using access to academia to enable and activate agency within communities and all spaces of influence. This is how we future PEACE in practice.



Students gather on Upper Campus to hold the institution and students accountable for experiences of sexual violence on campus, after a memorial service held for a fellow student who was sexually assaulted and murdered. Femicide is a rife reality for many women on the continent, and movements against these forms of violence are often activated and led by students as seen in South Africa. Engaging students and institutional leadership and equipping them with holistic tools enable better collaborative problem solving to address experiences of violence, as well as support those who have been directly and indirectly affected by it.

