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 Instituto do Vale do Rift
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 Institut de la Vallée du Rift

Call for Submissions

Rethinking Ethiopia: A Call for Youth Voices

The Ethiopian Revolution marked a significant turning point in Ethiopia's history, bringing about major social and political changes with far-reaching consequences for the country. As we approach the 50th anniversary of this historic moment, it is important to reflect on its legacy and the lessons that can be drawn from it. Moreover, the ideas which were discussed and debated at the time remain central to public life in contemporary Ethiopia. The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University and the Peace Research Facility (PRF) of the Rift Valley Institute (RVI) aim to provide a national platform for further articulation, exchange, and debate on Ethiopia's future(s).

To this end, we invite young Ethiopians between the ages of 18 and 35 to submit short papers of 1500-2000 words in Amharic, Afan Oromo, Tigrigna, Af Somali, or English. These papers should outline an analysis of the Ethiopian problem(s) and proposed solution(s). We welcome contributions from all disciplines and backgrounds, and don't expect submissions to be heavily referenced. Contributions should focus on the main predicaments of the country, but approach it from any disciplinary angle ranging from political economy, identity/nationality/nationalism, security and cultural studies.

A panel will review the submissions based on the originality of the idea and the progressive elements of the proposed recommendations. The panel will then select 15 contributors, who will receive mentorship to further refine and shape their contribution. Five selected contributors will receive a modest honorarium and will be invited to present their work to a wider audience at a (hybrid) workshop to be held in Addis Ababa in February 2024. The workshop will provide an opportunity for young writers to assess the legacy of the Ethiopian student movement and revolution, identify the main causes of Ethiopia's predicament, and look ahead to the next 50 years. The five selected pieces will also be translated into the other four languages for wider readership.

Through this initiative, we aim to provide a national platform for young Ethiopians to discuss and debate the challenges and contradictions facing the country and to propose solutions to make Ethiopia a more peaceful and prosperous nation for all its citizens. Join us in rethinking Ethiopia and contribute towards shaping its future.

Submissions should be sent to rethinkethiopia@ipss-addis.org (cc-ing peaceresearchfacility@riftvalley.net) by 25 October 2023. Please include a short biography (no more than 200 words) and contact details. Successful applicants will be notified by 15 November 2023.

For interested authors who are affected by the disruption of internet services in Amhara region we have arranged for point persons to collect print outs of your submissions. Please call the nearest person to you and give your piece before or on **25 October 2023**.

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 Debre Birhan: Hasabu Tesfa (0912 907052)

Gonder: Atrsaw Necho (0910 344604)
 Dessie: Sebsib Hadis (0922 344662)