IPSS

Rift Valley Institute
MAKING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE WORK

Peace Research Facility

Call of Ideas

Rethinking Ethiopia II: Youth and Politics

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) of Addis Ababa University and the Peace Research Facility of the Rift Valley Institute (RVI) are happy to announce the second edition of 'Rethinking Ethiopia' annual essay competition series. The Rethinking Ethiopia series aim to provide a national platform for further articulation, exchange, and debate on Ethiopia's future.

To this end, we invite young Ethiopians aged between 18 and 30 to participate in a crucial dialogue on the broad themes of dynamics of youth engagement in a political context often characterized by gerontocracy (rule of old men). We are interested in exploring the multifaceted roles of youth in politics including the quest for new political imaginings and substantive changes, their relationship with security dynamics, and their dual roles both as active participants and victims of political processes and conflicts in Ethiopia. We are seeking short papers of 1500-2000 words in Amharic, Afaan Oromo, Tigrigna, Somali, or English that examine the place of youth in Ethiopian politics.

We welcome contributions from diverse academic backgrounds and perspectives. Key themes for submission include but are not limited to the following:

- Youth engagement in formal party politics,
- Youth and online activism,
- The intersection of youth culture with political culture (Youth culture/popular culture as a form of political participation)
- Youth and political violence
- Gendered definitions of youth masculinity and femininity,
- The plight of rural youth considering rural-urban and the digital divide,
- Redefining intergenerational dynamics, esp. generational shifts and conflicts,

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 sharpen 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 April 2025. The five selected pieces will also be translated into the other four languages for wider dissemination.

Please submit your paper to **rethinkingethiopia@ipss-addis.org** by **8 November 2024.**

Please include a short biography (including your full name, age, and contact information in no more than 200 words). Successful applicants will be notified by 28 November 2024.

Join us in rethinking Ethiopia and shaping its future. For any questions or clarifications, please contact rethinkingethiopia@ipss-addis.org.

See the final report of the first edition of Rethinking Ethiopia here:
https://riftvalley.net/publication/seminar-report-rethinking-ethiopia-legacy-of-the-ethiopian-revolution/