SOHRAD
Somali For Human Right & Development



EVENT REPORT | 2026

International Day of Peace

Kismayo, Jubbaland | 21 September 2026

THEME

Invest in Women and Youth for Peacebuilding: Peaceful, Inclusive Communities Every Day

Prepared for partners and donors

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OVERVIEW

The Event at a Glance

50 women leaders participated

3 art forms: song, drama and poetry

6 senior guest speakers

8 social media posts reaching the public

Executive Summary

On 21 September 2026, Somali for Human Rights and Development (SOHRAD) marked the International Day of Peace with a gathering at Maamuus Hotel in Kismayo, Jubbaland. Under the theme "Invest in Women and Youth for Peacebuilding: Peaceful, Inclusive Communities Every Day," 50 women leaders from government, civil society, academia, women's associations and the media came together to reflect on their role in building lasting peace.



The programme combined addresses from senior officials and community leaders with songs, a short drama and poetry, turning dialogue into a shared celebration of peace. The entire event was financed from SOHRAD's own budget, a clear sign of the organization's commitment to women-led peacebuilding in Jubbaland.

Event Details

Event	International Day of Peace 2026
Date	21 September 2026
Venue	Maamuus Hotel, Kismayo, Jubbaland
Organizer	Somali for Human Rights and Development (SOHRAD)
Participants	50 women from government, civil society, academia, women's groups and media
Funding	Fully self-funded by SOHRAD

ABOUT SOHRAD

A women-led organization advancing human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment and climate resilience across Jubaland and Banadir. Founded in 2022, SOHRAD works at community level through four core programs: Human Rights & Protection, Equal Voices, Women of Tomorrow and Environmental Defenders.

PURPOSE AND PEOPLE

Why We Gathered

1 Amplify women's and youth's voices

Mark the International Day of Peace by putting women and young people at the centre of the peace conversation in Kismayo.

2 Bring institutions and communities together

Connect government, civil society and community leaders in one dialogue on inclusive peace.

3 Strengthen women's networks

Build links between women-led organizations, associations and institutions across Jubbaland.

4 Use culture as a tool for peace

Inspire participants through song, drama and poetry that carry messages of unity and hope.

Programme Highlights

- Welcome & Opening
- Guest Addresses
- Songs & Poetry
- Short Drama & Closing

Who Took Part

- Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development, Jubbaland
- Ururka Haweenka ee Jubbaland (Jubbaland Women's Association)
- Local NGOs
- Students and academia
- Media
- Women-led organizations

Voices from Participants

Peace starts at home
Participants stressed that women hold families and neighbourhoods together, and that peace begins there.

Skills and voice for youth
Young people with skills, mentors and a platform are more likely to choose dialogue over conflict.

No peace in separate rooms
Government, civil society, academia and media must keep meeting to solve problems together.

Culture carries the message
Songs, drama and poetry made peace something people could feel, not only discuss.



VOICES OF THE DAY

Guest Speakers & Key Points

Ms. Adar Ismail

Minister, Ministry of Family and Human Rights Development, Jubbaland

- Protecting women's rights and family wellbeing is the foundation of lasting peace.
- Women must have a seat in decisions that shape their communities.
- Government welcomes partnership with civil society.

Ms. Barey Garweyne

Chairperson, Kismayo District Women Association

- Women are the first peacemakers in homes and neighbourhoods.
- The association mobilizes women across Kismayo for dialogue.
- Solidarity between generations keeps communities united.

Ms. Hodan Nor Abdi

Director, National Leadership Academy

- Leadership training prepares women and youth to lead peace efforts.
- Mentorship opens pathways for the next generation.
- Peaceful leadership is built on dialogue and integrity.

Ms. Sa'dio Dhalahow

Representative of Civil Society Organizations in Jubbaland

- Civil society is the bridge between communities and government.
- Coordination among organizations multiplies impact.
- Community voices must be heard in every peace process.

Ms. Fadumo Ali

Deputy Commissioner, Civil Society Organizations in Jubbaland

- A supportive environment lets civil society work with accountability.
- Registered, coordinated organizations deliver stronger results.
- Peace efforts need joint planning and shared learning.

Ms. Sagal Abdifitah Abdullahi

Executive Director, SOHRAD

- Why SOHRAD invests in women and youth as agents of peace.
- Peace is a daily practice in every home and workplace.
- An invitation to partners to scale up this work.

Key points summarise the themes addressed by each speaker in line with the event theme.







OUTCOMES

Key Messages

Peace is a daily practice
It is built every day in homes, schools, markets and institutions, not only on 21 September.

Women are peacebuilders
Women's leadership at community and policy level makes peace last.

Youth are partners today
Investing in young people's skills and voice breaks cycles of conflict.

Inclusion is the foundation
Peace holds when every gender, age group and background has a voice.

Commitments Expressed

Ministry and state institutions will keep women and youth at the centre of peace and community processes.

Women's associations will mobilize members for neighbourhood-level dialogue and reconciliation.

Civil society representatives will strengthen coordination and joint action on peace initiatives.

National Leadership Academy will open leadership and mentoring opportunities for young women.

SOHRAD will continue its peace and human rights programming and convene follow-up dialogues.

Recommendations

1. **Institutionalize dialogue**
Hold regular women-and-youth peace dialogues in Kismayo, ideally every quarter.

2. **Fund local peace initiatives**
Provide small grants to women- and youth-led community peace projects.

3. **Expand leadership training**
Scale leadership, mediation and public-speaking training for young women.

4. **Strengthen coordination**
Create a regular forum linking government, civil society and women's associations.

5. **Use arts and media**
Support drama, poetry, music and radio/social media as tools for peace messaging.

6. **Reach further**
Extend outreach to other districts and include IDPs, rural women and persons with disabilities.

GALLERY

Peace in Action

Songs, a short drama and poetry brought the theme to life, and women from every sector shared the stage and the evening.











REACH AND NEXT STEPS

Media, Challenges & Partnership

Media Coverage

Facebook post 1
facebook.com/share/p/1E3b6dXe6Y

Facebook post 2
facebook.com/share/p/1JnBUNHcjy

Facebook post 4
facebook.com/share/p/1FrLHU1duM

Facebook video 2
facebook.com/share/v/1NSHb2Wnps

Facebook video 1
facebook.com/share/r/1EVDKmL7v8

Facebook post 3
facebook.com/share/p/1HiPuCAqa4

Facebook post 5
facebook.com/share/p/1Q6CYSBf1e

LinkedIn post
linkedin.com/posts/somali-for-human-rights-and-development-sohrad

Click any blue link to open the post. Shared on SOHRAD's Facebook and LinkedIn channels.

CHALLENGE

Funding came late, so SOHRAD stepped in

SOHRAD approached several donors for support, but funding could not be secured before the event date. To make sure the day went ahead, the organization covered the full cost from its own budget. The event proved that local, women-led organizations can deliver high-quality peace dialogue, and it shows how much more could be achieved with dedicated partner funding.

How Partners Can Help

Co-fund the next edition

Support a larger International Day of Peace programme, including youth and other districts.

Back follow-up dialogues

Fund quarterly women-and-youth peace dialogues and small community peace grants.

Build capacity together

Partner on leadership, mediation and advocacy training for young women.



LET'S BUILD PEACE TOGETHER

Partner with SOHRAD

Empowering women and youth, building a better future.

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