

**A HISTORICAL STUDY OF CHURCH AND ETHNIC CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN
KENYA: A STUDY OF UASIN GISHU DISTRICT, 1960–2010**

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ABSTRACT

This study seeks to identify the history of Conflict Resolutions employed by church in Conflict Resolution among communities in Uasin Gishu District. The research was guided by a complementary framework which entailed mutual combination of theological/penitence approach used by the church, symbolic approach based on African indigenous methods and other models of Conflict Resolution and reconciliation. Data for this study was obtained from primary sources mainly archival and secondary sources. The former was descriptive while the latter data was descriptive. The primary data was collected through interviews while the secondary data was in written text books. Guided by the objectives and premises of the study, the raw data was arranged according to the major themes. The study established that historically Uasin Gishu District has not known sustainable peace for a long time. The historical causes of ethnic conflicts include land, poverty, militia gangs, gun culture, political incitement, and ethnic animosity. The study's findings indicate that churches in Uasin Gishu District have been at the forefront over the years in fostering peace using different methods particularly submission, confession, and peace visits. The study established that historically conflicts recur because of the adoption of ineffective methods of Conflict resolution and reconciliation and lack of community involvement. The study also found that complementary approach to Conflict resolution and reconciliation is inevitable for long lasting peace. In multiethnic society, all actors should ensure they use a comprehensive approach that appreciates the diversity of cultural world views. After the interpretation and discussion of the data, conclusions were drawn and some of the historical causes of negative ethnicity were revealed which included land, insecurity, incitement from leaders poverty among others recommendations were also made which included strengthening our indigenous methods of solving conflicts, encourage inter marriages among various communities, embolden peace education through songs, drama and poetry among other methods to foster peace, further areas of research were also given.