

For Immediate Release

Attention Editors

News Release:

International Trauma Conference

**Nairobi Kenya Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015**, United States International University-Africa today kicked off the International Trauma Conference. The theme for this year's conference is ***Traumatic Stress: A Threat to Health, Peace and Development in Africa***. The Cabinet Secretary for Education Prof. Kaimenyi officially launched the conference.

The Chairlady Kenya Psychological Association Dr. Gladys Mwiti, hopes that the International Trauma Conference will achieve the following:

1. Create of opportunities for networking between mental health professionals: researchers, professors, and practitioners, in trauma prevention and intervention.
2. Advocate for mental health policies and mental health budgeting for African nations as well as setting up of Boards of Psychology to accredit training institutions and license practitioners. This will ensure that high standards of professionalism in mental health care in each African nation with a special reference to traumatic stress.
3. Offer opportunities to profile the mental health work done in Kenya and in the African region in order to highlight the need for mental health policies and government budgeting for mental health services especially trauma interventions.
4. Strengthen the newly created Kenya Society for Traumatic Stress Studies as well as re-launch the defunct Africa Society for Traumatic Stress Studies so as to create a global liaison with the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies where the Chair of KPA serves on the Board of Directors.
5. Communicate the need for trauma interventions in Kenya and Africa so that health, development and peace can be enhanced for an upcoming entrepreneurial nation and developing African Continent.

She pointed out that the purpose of this International Conference is to bring together professionals and policy makers to communicate the impact of traumatic stress on health, peace and development. Kenya is hosting an international group of investors who are eyeing the Nation and Africa for development and entrepreneurship.

“ For Kenya, the Conference is in line with social pillar of our Vision 2030 that aims at providing a sufficient and integrated high quality and affordable healthcare to all citizens, “ She added.

The Cabinet Secretary Prof Kaimenyi highlighted the implication that physical and sound health plays in achieving what the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology has set out for the Kenyans in terms of globally competitive education and training.

“ The ministry has taken note of the negative effects of psychological trauma has on the youth in learning institutions and has engaged in handling issues of trauma in various learning institutions arising from emergencies, “ He assured the Conference attendees.

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