



Peace Operations Training Institute®

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May 2024 Newsletter



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Feature Spotlight: Course Author Questions

To support students in their studies, POTI is pleased to offer the Course Author Question feature. Through their online classroom, students can access a portal that allows them to email the subject-matter experts who write our courses. This process is facilitated by our staff.

Over the past year, students have sent course authors over 600 questions. Thank you to our staff and authors for offering this personalized support!

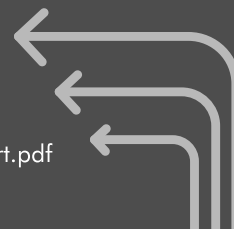
Read the 2023 Annual Report



Learn about the Institute's milestones and achievements as we celebrate 15 years!

Read it here:

<https://cdn.peaceopstraining.org/pdf/annual-report.pdf>



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Student Interview: Namibian Police Officer Kaulimonika Enginie Haitamba

My name is Kaulimonika Enginie Haitamba, born on 21 June 1997, in a village called Omakango deep in the northern part of Namibia, Ohangwena region. I was raised by a single mother who is behind all that I am today. In 2016, I went to further my studies at the University of Namibia (UNAM), Windhoek main campus, where I was doing an honours degree in Sociology and Industrial Psychology. In my fourth year second semester (1 September 2019), I left school to join the Namibian Police Force with the idea of coming back to finish my studies after Police Basic Training, I then obtained my degree in April 2023, and am still a member of the Namibian police (NAMPOL).

How long have you served in the police, and what has characterized your experience as an officer?

I have served in the police for four years and seven months. My experience as an officer is characterized by dedication to serving and protecting my community and working with diverse communities.

What does it mean to you to be a police officer? What does it mean to you to contribute to peace and stability?

Being a police officer to me means being a role model, a protector, an advisor, and a problem solver (literally a superwoman).

Can you share examples of when being a woman police officer was a strength? What challenges have you faced?

Being a woman has been a strength when doing administration work and resolving issues through effective communication and empathy. A common challenge is lack of respect because of my gender, especially from the inmates.

What do you see as the importance of understanding cultural differences when protecting and serving the local population?

It is very important, because it helps officers to provide services to the people in accordance with their cultural beliefs, and it avoids misconceptions.



Officer Kaulimonika Enginie Haitamba

What professional advice would you offer to new women police officers?

To find a mentor within the organization who can provide guidance, support, and advice. Never be afraid to speak up for your needs and concerns. Build a positive relationship with your colleagues, commanders, and the entire community.

At university, you studied Sociology and Industrial Psychology. How did you become interested in these topics, and how do your knowledge and studies influence your work in the police?

They were never my field of interest, but because of the lack of space in the field that I wanted, I ended up there. I guess it was fate because now, as a police officer, I have an understanding of social inequalities and the reasons why people end up committing crimes. I also have a good ability to solve conflicts effectively and help my fellow colleagues to manage stress.

Generally, what role do you think e-learning has in preparing military, police, or civilian personnel for work in peace operations?

E-learning provides flexibility and accessibility, allowing personnel to access training materials anytime and broadly. This is particularly important for individuals who may be deployed in remote or challenging locations.

In what ways has taking POTI courses helped you personally in your work?

The courses have provided me with new perspectives and insights on various topics related to my work like human rights, sexual harassment at work, gender roles at work, and women's empowerment. This has helped me approach challenges and problems in a more creative and effective manner.

I would recommend [Human Rights](#) and [Ethics in Peace Operations](#).

What milestones or goals have you achieved so far, and what do you hope to achieve in the future?

I was promoted to a sergeant (1) rank, which is such a big milestone to me. I hope to do my master's degree in criminology soon.



UN-Women Executive Director Ms. Sima Sami Bahous during the CSW68 General Assembly: "Women bear the brunt of conflicts they did not start".

The Institute Takes Part in the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

In March, POTI engaged with stakeholders at the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The priority theme of this year's session was "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective". The Institute participated in meetings, panel discussions, interactive dialogues, and ministerial round tables focused on addressing women's poverty, strengthening institutions, and increasing investment to accelerate progress on gender equality.

The Institute participated in several side events focused on sexual and gender-based violence and the role of the multilateral system in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. This included engaging with participants at the side event commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences. All five women who have held this post since its mandate took part in the panel. The former and current mandate holders reflected on the developments and challenges within the international women's human rights framework and provided recommendations on strengthening the role of the mandate.

POTI continues to actively engage in its partnership with UN-Women, the host of CSW68. The three-course suite, [Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda](#), focuses on many of the key gender equality and awareness issues raised during CSW68 and at its side events, underscoring the key roles women play in promoting sustainable peace and security.

POTI Releases New Courses, Translations, and Audiobook



Cover photo for United Nations Specialised Training Materials on United Nations Police. UN Photo by Harandane Dicko.

The Institute released a new course, two translations, and an audiobook in the first few months of 2024. Sourced directly from the United Nations Peacekeeping Resource Hub under a revocable license issued by the Integrated Training Service, [*United Nations Specialised Training Materials on United Nations Police*](#) is aimed at providing a training package that prepares officers for duties on United Nations peace operations, including strategic guidance, United Nations policing concepts, protection of civilians, and human rights.

One of the Institute's most popular courses, [*An Introduction to the UN System and Its Role in International Peace and Security*](#), is now [*available in Portuguese*](#) (*Uma introdução ao sistema ONU e seu papel na paz e segurança internacionais*). This primer is now available in four languages, with an interactive module as a learning supplement. POTI has also released the French translation of [*Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and International Peace and Security*](#) (*Violences sexuelles*

et fondées sur le genre et paix et sécurité internationales). This course, developed in partnership with the International Peace Institute, explores topics related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and explores the predominant approaches and policies used by the United Nations and other actors to prevent and respond to SGBV. The Institute is proud to continue expanding its course offerings in various languages to support students around the globe.

Finally, POTI continues to expand its audiobook library with the release of *Technology and Innovation in United Nations Peace Operations* in audio format. This course, authored by Dr. Walter Dorn and released in late 2023, explores the current and emerging landscape of technology to help peace operations personnel navigate new and familiar technologies on mission.

From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri



Thank you for reading our latest newsletter!

It is my pleasure as Executive Director to oversee the Institute's engagement with national peacekeeping training centres, UN agencies, subject matter experts, and dedicated peace operations personnel serving on missions. A large part of our work focuses on gender issues, and I am pleased POTI was able to engage in this year's Commission on the Status of Women. Advocating for gender mainstreaming and equality for all is pivotal in post-conflict or disaster settings.

I am grateful to our authors, translators, and voiceover artists for producing high-quality materials and expanding POTI course offerings. Several courses are now in audiobook format. Students can download the files lesson by lesson and listen to them offline, or they can stream them from their mobile devices. I encourage you to try this new format.

We would be honoured to hear from you and learn which courses you have found most useful, as well as which course format you prefer (interactive module, audiobook, or PDF). Any feedback is most welcome.

My sincerest well wishes to the dedicated peace operations personnel we have the honour of serving.

Our thanks to the founding member nations of the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP) for providing the support that makes e-learning on peace operations possible.



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Download the Peace Operations Training Institute mobile application



All the major features of the POTI online classroom are available. Internet connection typically required.

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Women in peace operations are a key to peace. POTI encourages women to enrol and study our courses.