



# Public History and Memory-Making in Post-Conflict Kenyan Societies: A Policy Perspective

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## Abstract

Post-conflict societies in Kenya face challenges in reconciling historical traumas and fostering national cohesion through public history initiatives. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative interviews with community leaders and thematic analysis of historical archives to assess the impact of public history initiatives in Kenya. Historical archives reveal a consistent theme of collective memory loss regarding specific conflicts, necessitating tailored public history projects that engage diverse communities actively. Public history can serve as an effective tool for memory-making and reconciliation by addressing historical silences and fostering inclusive narratives. Policy makers should prioritise funding for arts-based public history initiatives in post-conflict Kenyan regions, with a focus on engaging marginalized groups to ensure comprehensive coverage of historical events.

**Keywords:** *African Studies, Memory-Making, Post-Conflict, Oral History, Heritage Conservation, Critical Theory, Public Engagement*

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