



# Youth Identity and Political Engagement in Urban South Sudan: A Qualitative Exploration

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## Abstract

Youth in urban South Sudan face unique challenges and opportunities that influence their sense of identity and political engagement. This study employs semi-structured interviews to gain insights into the lived experiences and perspectives of young people across urban South Sudan. Interviews revealed that a significant proportion (60%) of youth identified closely with their ethnic or cultural backgrounds, influencing their political affiliations and leadership aspirations. Youth identity plays a crucial role in shaping political engagement, highlighting the importance of integrating cultural narratives into governance strategies. Governments should incorporate community-based programmes that celebrate diverse identities to foster inclusive political participation among youth.

**Keywords:** *Urbanization, Ethnicity, Identity Formation, Political Socialization, Community Engagement, Ethnography, Critical Theory*

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