



THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY
Research | Knowledge | Influence



GLOCEPS Webinar Series

Theme: Institutionalizing the Raila Odinga Legacy: Constitutionalism, Democratic Reform, and the Realization of African Union Agenda 2063

Week 1: Wednesday 25th March 2026 | Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm

Meeting Link: <https://meet.google.com/ugs-efwe-ptt>



Ochieng Kamudhayi, PhD.

Discussant



Prof. Fred Jonyo, PhD.

Author



Philip Kaudo

Co-Author | Presenter



Amb. Josephine Ojiambo, PhD.

Discussant

Paper Title: *Building a One United Kenya? Inside Raila Odinga's Politics of Political Reconciliation* ~ Prof. Fred Jonyo, PhD. and Philip Kaudo

GLOCEPS Webinar Series examines how the legacy of Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga can be institutionalized to advance democratic governance, constitutionalism, and socio-economic transformation in Africa. Anchored on a *Special Issue* of **The Eastern Africa Journal of Policy and Strategy**, the series provides a structured platform for refining scholarly contributions through rigorous peer engagement and policy dialogue. It explores the intersection of political leadership, reform, and continental aspirations under Agenda 2063. By bridging research and practice, the initiative generates actionable insights to strengthen institutions, promote inclusive governance, and shape Africa's future through enduring intellectual and policy frameworks.

Website: www.gloceps.org | Email: info@gloceps.org



THE GLOBAL CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY
Research | Knowledge | Influence

GLOCEPS Webinar Series

Abstract

Building a One United Kenya? Inside Raila Odinga's Politics of Political Reconciliation

Prof. Fred Jonyo, PhD. and Philip Kaudo

Since joining Kenyan politics in 1992, Raila Odinga remained consistent in his quest for a one United Kenya. His political advocacy centered on nation-building, national cohesion, and state stability. Throughout his political career, he also remained steadfast in his calls for building political bridges as a critical tool for strengthening political legitimacy and fostering development. Odinga's political life demonstrated his willingness to give 'dialogue' a chance in several instances. Odinga unsuccessfully contested the presidency five times, and in each case, he cited fraud in the electoral results. As a nationalist, he struck alliances with his political foes in an attempt to end the political crisis. While politics is perceived as an art of compromise, Odinga's political ventures, demonstrated through reconciliations and handshakes, have elicited much-needed attention in the recent past. While political handshakes are perceived as important mechanisms for fostering national unity, creating a forum for dialogue and reforms, and ending political instabilities, critics hold the view that Odinga's led handshakes did not reflect the national good, but were rather strategic moves to foster his political relevance, survival, and a deep-seated strategy to attain political power. This intellectual dilemma has fostered tensions in the place of political handshakes and other reconciliatory mechanisms in addressing African political problems. Using the legacy of Raila Amolo Odinga, this article examines the role of political reconciliation in building a one united Kenya. It delves into the avenues of reconciliation embraced by Raila Odinga and their impacts in Kenya.

Key Words: Political Reconciliation, Political Legitimacy, Political Handshakes, Nation Building