



Invitation to the Fifth Annual Conference of Burundi Education Mission – Friday, August 22, 2025

We are honored to extend this formal invitation to you to attend the Fifth Annual Conference of Burundi Education Mission (BEM), scheduled for Friday, August 22, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM (Bujumbura time).

The conference will be held in a hybrid format:

- In-person: University of Burundi, Mutanga Campus
- Online via Zoom . — Zoom connection details coming soon!

Conference Objectives:

This fifth edition of the conference aims to:

- Explore the links between historical memory, education, and sustainable community development;
- Promote decolonized and inclusive educational approaches;
- Discuss migration dynamics and citizenship in a post-conflict context.

General Theme:

“Education, Memory, and Development for a Sustainable Community”

Key Topics and Presentations:

1. Genocide and Collective Memory

Presenter: President of the Collective of Survivors and Victims of the 1972
Genocide in Burundi. Canada

2. Decolonizing the French Curriculum and Open Educational Resources

Dr. Russell and Mr. Niyonzima

(This topic, in particular, could enrich the reflections of the French
Department on inclusive and contextualized pedagogy.)

3. Immigration Law, Refugees, and Naturalization

Dr. Leah Ndimurwimo, BEM Board Member

About Burundi Education Mission:

Burundi Education Mission (BEM) is an organization committed to promoting education and technology as drivers of sustainable social transformation. It identifies Burundi's educational needs and addresses them with tailored solutions. Each year, BEM organizes conferences and symposiums to assess the education system, promote peace and progress, and propose concrete actions.

<https://www.burundifriendsofeducation.com/>

Béatrice Russell, PhD, BEM President and Chair of the Board of Directors.

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P.S. Please find below a list of our conference organizing team, which includes the BEM Board of Directors and the Directors of Operations.

Board Directors (in alphabetical order)

- Mr. Felix Balitumye. Founding (First) Board of Director. Mr. Balitumye is the Uganda IT Director and consultant to Burundi Education Mission.
- Dr. Raymond Bimazubute: Founding (First) Board of Director of BEM. Dr. Bimazubute is Professor of Computer Sciences at Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Stuttgart. Germany. BEM Symposium Director.
- Mr. Bienvenu Irakoze. Founding (First) Board of Director. Mr. Irakoze is the appointed Executive Secretariat of Information and Communication Technologies). His main mission is to coordinate all Projects and Programs aimed at the implementation of the Burundi National (Information Communication Technologies (ICT) strategy.
- Ms. Janet Kerr. Founding (First) Board of Director. Ms. Kerr is a retired Associate Tax Auditor from Franchise Tax Board of California State. Ms. Kerr and I attend Sierra Vista Community Church and we are both Mission Committee members.
- Dr. Leah Ndimurwimo. Associate Professor of Law. Nelson Mandela University's South Campus. Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth. South Africa. Dr. Ndimurwimo is a BEM Board of Director, and Conference Director .
- Reverend Gervais Nahimana is a **Doctoral Candidate at the University of Bujumbura** and affiliated with THE .PENTECOSTAL EVANGELISTIC FELLOWSHIP OF AFRICA (P.E.F.A.).
- his research is focused on our Batwa community and this work is worthy of our notice.

Directors of Operations (in alphabetical order)

- Isaac Nizigama, Ph.D. Part-time professor in the Department of Ancient Studies and Religious Sciences, in the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Arts. Dr. Nizigama is also a faculty in The Department of Anthropological and sociological Studies, in Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa
- Mr. Georges Niyonzima, as a member of our Conference Organizing Team.
M. Niyonzima: Professor of French at the Lycée de Nyakabiga and a Lecturer at the University of Burundi, Bujumbura.

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