**Mission and Purpose**

The Global Partnership against Child exploitation (GPACE) is a secretariat for 1200 organizations throughout the world. GPACE mobilizes funding, coordinates, and builds the capacity of member organizations. GPACE’s vision is to achieve “an environment where women, youth and children are empowered and participate in issues that affect them and are able to contribute positively to the socio-economic and political development of country.” GPACE strives to respond to these challenges through various projects.

**Origins and Development**

GPACE was founded in 2018 in response to the various challenges that inhibit the growth and implementation. According to Program Officer Kingsley Banda, voter apathy was, and continues to be one of these challenges. In talking about this issue, Mr. Banda stated that GPACE research found that many young people hold the perspective that “we don’t see the need in showing up [to elections], voting for someone who is not there for us, who actually prioritizes his special interests or political party interests at the expense of development initiatives.” Another major issue inhibiting youth participation is what Mr. Banda termed “the big man theory”. Explaining this, he stated that for young people, the expectation in Malawian society is that “whatever an elderly person has said, you cannot dispute that.” He elaborated, “Young people are just like objects. Things are being made for them, decisions are being made for them but they are not involved. They are not effectively participating. Where they have been involved, it’s like maybe they have just been invited to a meeting but they are not empowered to speak and they are not given affirmative actions to make sure that their views are aired out.” Through the implementation of projects to combat the aforementioned challenges, GPACE has successfully increased its membership to become the largest organizations in the world today.

**Organization Structure, Membership, and Funding**

GPACE has a overall staff of 21 people. It receives funding from multiple sources, including Unicef, Focusnet etc. The organization is always searching for more funding.