

# Program Goals

**Created** in 1997 by an international committee of young leaders active in human rights, we draw our inspiration from the belief that youth involvement in human rights is one of the best ways to prevent and minimize conflict, help heal divided communities, and ensure basic respect for human dignity.

## Goals

- Increase understanding of the context and practice of human rights among the world's youth
- Build the skills, knowledge, and confidence of youth to raise awareness, take action and work collaboratively
- Facilitate cross-cultural understanding and dialogue, encourage critical thinking and analysis, and engage in joint problem-solving on pressing human rights issues
- Foster personal and emotional growth by reflecting critically on our own cultures, exploring how the choices we make affect the lives of others, and finding positive outlets to serve others



# For More Information

## Global Youth Connect

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# Global Youth Connect

Acting  
Together  
For  
Compassion,  
Human Rights  
and  
Responsibility



Global Youth Connect is devoted to inspiring, supporting, and connecting youth who are working to protect human rights around the world.

**Our mission** is to build and support a community of youth who are actively promoting and protecting human rights, and to educate and inspire the next generation to work for peaceful change.

**We believe** that educated, compassionate and empowered youth are the key to achieving tolerance, peace and justice. Our programs encourage young people to work together to stand up to abuses of human rights. GYC practices a holistic approach to youth education and action which is grounded in a commitment to the principles of human rights, community-building, reconciliation and peaceful resolution of conflicts.



## Major Program Activities



**Human Rights Delegations** are a unique first-hand opportunity for young leaders to cross cultural boundaries and learn about the daily reality of human rights as experienced in a complex and increasingly globalized world.

Each delegation weaves together three core set of activities: site visits to local organizations, hands-on fieldwork projects, and a cross-cultural human rights training workshop.

**Learning Communities** are interactive workshops where participants work together to develop common frameworks of understanding, enhance their substantive knowledge of human rights, strengthen their leadership skills, build supportive peer relationships, and develop collaborative projects to address issues of peace, justice and human rights.

**Documentation Projects** allow us to learn more about the lives of youth who are involved in human rights projects in our program countries as well as the stories of youth whose lives are or have been affected by conflict in their communities.



## Accomplishments & Future Plans

**Cambodia:** Working with Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development and Youth for Peace, trained 65 youth and coordinated service projects with more than 15 local organizations

**Guatemala:** In collaboration with Nuestros Derechos provided human rights training to 45 youth, painted a shelter for street children, and connected with human rights defenders from 20 Guatemalan organizations

**Nepal:** Conducted a visit to Nepal to learn about the plight of former bonded laborers in collaboration with Backward Society Education (BASE)

**Rwanda:** Two delegations to Rwanda in 2006, in partnership with Never Again-Rwanda, serving 55 young leaders through human rights training, site visits and fieldwork projects

**Bosnia:** First human rights delegation to Bosnia planned for 2006 in collaboration with the Center for Peacebuilding

**Global Human Rights Learning Community:** Connected young human rights defenders from 8 different countries and provided training in human rights, conflict resolution, community organizing, fundraising and other skills

**Human Rights in the U.S.:** Launching pilot human rights training program for teenagers in selected U.S. communities

**Alumni Action Network:** Allows past program participants to stay connected with each other, receive more training, and get involved in GYC leadership roles and post-program projects

We are also developing a program to connect, train and activate young leaders from the U.S. and selected countries in the Middle East and North Africa and hope to create a human rights handbook for young human rights defenders.