



Global Youth Connect

Empowering Youth to Advance Human Rights and Create a More Just World

Rwanda Program Report

Human Rights Delegation for Young Leaders

December 28, 2011 – January 16, 2012



Organized in Collaboration with the Youth Association for Human Rights and Development

www.ajprodho.org

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Rwanda: January 2012¹

Since the 2003 election (and the re-election in 2010) of Paul Kagame, Rwanda has made substantial progress in stabilizing and rehabilitating its economy to pre-1994 levels. GDP has rebounded with an average annual growth of 7-8% since 2003 and inflation has been reduced to single digits. Nonetheless, a significant percent of the population still live below the official poverty line and the country is still healing from the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis and the civil war that preceded it.

With this context in mind, Global Youth Connect collaborated again with AJPRODHO to empower youth as human rights activists, local NGOs as human rights organizations, and policy makers as human rights defenders, to stand in solidarity with all Rwandans, and consider global challenges and opportunities as well!

For three weeks, young leaders from outside Rwanda learned and worked in collaboration with Rwandan youth to:

1. Increase knowledge and strengthen skills;
2. Learn methods, and practices used by Rwandan and International human rights workers and discuss the challenges they face in their work;
3. Analyze and assess the post-conflict needs of Rwanda, with a particular focus on the challenges of reconciliation and justice and the impact of a legacy of violence on youth;
4. Contribute to on-going human rights work in a variety of grassroots Rwandan organizations

In general, the delegation followed the same model as our past programs, but this delegation differed from our most recent delegations to Rwanda in a few notable ways:

- We delved more deeply into the issue of health care in Rwanda, with visits to the Karongi Hospital, the Ministry of Health, medical practitioners at the Kiziba Refugee Camp, and with volunteer placements with organizations that are addressing the health needs of People Living with HIV/AIDS and vulnerable communities like the Batwa.
- In addition, this time the Rwandan delegates took part in even more site visits and had two full orientation days of their own, to bring greater cohesiveness to both their smaller and the larger group.
- We took part in our first ever community service day: planting 300 trees, contrary to what it says in this well-meaning article in the New Times:
<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?a=48778&i=14861>



Kigali is growing quickly, but is everyone gaining access to the development?

¹ Special thanks to Program Assistants Melissa Schlichting and Amy Lambe for their contributions to this report and to the delegates for their individual reporting contributions as well!

And we named the delegation... *Turikumwe! We are in this together!*



Summarized Outcomes of Turikumwe! Winter 2012:

1. **Cross Cultural Human Rights workshop/training** for 14 International and 14 Rwandan activists/students
2. **Over 1000 Hours of Volunteer Service for Grassroots Human Rights Organizations** in fields ranging from legal aid to health care to human rights education – Service included report writing and advocacy
3. **15 Group Site Visits and Meetings** with participants/beneficiaries of grassroots organizations, International NGOs, Diplomats and Government Officials, cooperatives

# of NGO Projects Completed:	25	Meetings with Government Officials:	3
# of Youth Involved/Engaged:	65	Genocide Memorials Visited:	5
# of Workshop <u>Discussions</u>:	20		

We Started with Exploration of Theory

Human rights are a very complex set of issues and defining them and being able to account for all or most situations are nearly impossible (but still important to try to have a collective framework of understanding). -- Participant Evaluation



Some Opening Questions on the Minds of the Participants:

What responsibility do human rights have to human beings?

What stops people from recognizing the humanity of others?

Why don't public international organizations intervene to stop HR violations?

When will the world become one and not care about race? When will we all feel equality together?

How can different cultures work together to advance the protection of human rights?



From Day One of Workshop:

"I learned about the rights of human and was able to give much thought about some of the things that should be given rights. One of the issues discussed that I thought a lot about was the question as to who decides what are the rights for humans? I think that it is interesting because these are thoughts and ideas and they must be universally accepted and decided."

"I learned various root causes of conflicts and about certain diplomatic ways of resolving them. I became aware of relevant, related, real-world examples. I also enjoyed discussing about human rights that are questionable. I began appreciating the complexity of the subject."

"I learned about the different perspectives on human rights. Whilst I thought there would be more difference between the International participants and Rwandans, there were at times significant differences amongst the International participants themselves."

We Continued with Site Visits and Meetings

Umuganda in Karongi District: Community service is an important part of Rwandan society. We decided to contribute by planting trees at a school in the Karongi district. We loaded up our van with approximately 500 trees and carried several dozen more up the backside of a mountain where we met with the director of agriculture for the town. He told us that we would be planting trees using agro-forestry, which is planting trees in order to fight against erosion. We finished the planting and decided to get a second round of trees so some went to pick up additional trees at the garden. When the second round of trees arrived, we planted them along a steep hill and then talked with the director of agriculture once more and the school officials. We were told that this was a very good deed and they were impressed by our job. Also, he notified us that we would be helping many people by doing this and motivating many children to help plant trees since many children saw us. If the kids see foreigners doing community service, they may be more motivated to help the community as well.



Human Rights Learning Session with Karongi Youth



Four delegates prepared and presented a Human Rights Learning Session in Karongi for 15 Youth from the local area, as well as the members of the GYC program. They reviewed some of our previous discussions about human rights and then discussed the problems that still face Rwanda today, especially economic challenges. One economic issue is that there are not enough industries and availability of jobs for college graduates. Reducing poverty is essential for nations to develop and move forward in today's global world. Rwanda is extremely poor overall and

the average family makes \$200 USD per year. [A discussion about the importance of youth entrepreneurship was introduced by Placide](#), which led to a discussion of workers' rights, followed by a model-UN-style debate conducted by Alicia on the theme of foreign intervention/aid in helping to solve economic challenges in a post-colonial nation like Rwanda.

We Continued with Site Visits and Meetings

GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS:

Ministry of Health

On January 11th, GYC Delegates met with the Honorable Minister of Health Dr. Agnes Binagwaho. The vibrant discussion, which was emboldened by our recent visit to the Karongi District Hospital, ranged from universal health insurance (Rwanda has a system with wider coverage than the USA, despite some identified gaps which government and civil society alike can help fill) to special groups (from victims of rape to LGBTI individuals--that Rwanda's health system is helping to access services in creative ways). The delegates wore their Human Rights Defender pins from the UN to show that Health Care is a Human Right, and the Minister proudly wore the pin as well.

Ministry of Gender

On January 12th, we were able to enjoy a meaningful and informative meeting with the Minister of Gender, Aloisea Inyumba. The Minister discussed the broad mandate of the Ministry to promote family values and fielded a wide array of questions from the delegates. In response to the questions of the

delegates, the Minister discussed issues of gender equality, including as they relate to maternity and paternity leave, domestic workers, and divorce law. The Minister shared her perspective that women's equality, especially women's participation in government, is not something that is special, but rather is just what should be. However, the Minister expressed the view that "the women of this country are not very empowered", and discussed with the delegates some of the ways by which to improve gender equity. The delegates were impressed by the Minister's compassionate and professional demeanor and the respectful manner by which she conversed with the delegates. In addition, the delegates were pleased that the Minister initiated follow up and a continued relationship with GYC. The minister touched on the recent establishment of the National Children's Commission. She mentioned that refugee children are now represented on that commission, and she thanked GYC for our inclusion of refugee youth in our programming as it had been an inspiration to them.



We were also very pleased to see that a GYC alum, Felibien Tuzayisenga (left), is one of the Minister of Gender's assistants!

What I Find Hopeful in the World Today

"Awareness. Education and informing the world, I believe, is key to preventing future violent outbreaks within and between countries. This workshop is in itself a means to that awareness I am referring to."

"One of the most hopeful signs I see in the world for peace is continued international dialogue. When we talk about our problems, we can discover their roots and solutions to them. That those conversations are happening gives me hope that words and not bullets/weapons will be the tools of international discourse."

US State Department and USAID

On January 11th, the delegates went to the U.S. Embassy where they attended an off-the-record briefing given by State Department Political Officer Jason Hutchison and USAIDS Health Officer Kelly Hamlin. Mr. Hutchison discussed the political and economic situation in Rwanda from the perspective of the Embassy, including as it relates to Rwanda's process of justice and reconciliation since the 1994 genocide. Ms. Hamlin discussed her work related to development in Rwanda. The delegates then enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions of the representatives and welcomed the representatives' straightforward answers.

United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR)

Prior to our visit to the UN's Kiziba Refugee Camp, the GYC delegation met with representatives from UNHCR to receive more information about the camp. The UNHCR officials explained that they work in partnership with various organizations such as American Health Association (AHA), Rwandan Red Cross and American Refugee Committee to provide basic needs for the refugees in the camp. They also described the human rights situation in the camp to be fairly good and that there were no major issues. Refugees are provided the right to education and the right to health services. Local integration for refugees is not really an option because of the scarcity of land in Rwanda, so re-settlement of refugees is necessary.

KIZIBA Refugee Camp in Karongi

Upon our arrival at the camp we met with Joseph, the president of the camp. He graciously welcomed us and explained how the political and governing systems worked in the camp. Also, we discussed the issues of education, camp security, youth and the economic situation of many of the refugees inside the camp.

After meeting with Joseph, we met with a woman who works for the medical center at the refugee camp. As a group we discussed health issues such as HIV support/prevention, contraception, partnerships with other hospitals and other health issues.

In addition to our two formal meetings, we went on a tour of the camp and some of the delegates spoke informally with members of the camp concerning various issues. Our visit at Kibiza ended with going to shop with items produced by members of the refugee camp and a check-up on the Small Grant that had been made to the camp following the Summer 2011 program to help repair a generator for the youth center at the camp. Unfortunately, we discovered that the generator had not been fixed properly and that the camp members had not reported to UNHCR that it had not been fixed. It was a great disappointment to hear that both GYC and the camp members themselves had invested money in the process of fixing the generator and that when it was delivered it worked for 1 hour and then died again, but no one told UNHCR. In our next



visit to the camp, we plan to find out more about the generator and hope that it will be working. If it is not, then we will try our best to do a workshop on how to effectively communicate challenges to UNHCR, and try to facilitate more dialogue about the best means of communication.

Health Care Observations at the Camp:

HIV Prevention and Support: The woman spoke to us about how there are programs in place to support those who have contracted HIV/AIDS and education initiatives in place to educate and prevent the spread of HIV. She gave us a low statistic of those infected with HIV and implied that there were drugs provided for these people, but not nearly enough.

Psychological Issues: We briefly talked about the psychological services. She stated that the medical center provides both medicine and therapy for those who need psychological attention.

Sexual Education and Health: We had a fairly lengthy discussion about elements of sexual health and education. She stated that contraceptives, mostly male condoms, are provided to refugees. However, one GYC delegate spoke to some members of the camp and brought up a comment she heard when discussing with them that many men do not use condoms. One explanation for this is that many men believe that condoms can cause kidney problems to their female partners.

Upper Respiratory Issues: The woman who spoke with us told us that upper respiratory infections are the most common cause of death within the refugee camp. This observation was also made by the August delegation and that the main reason for this is the large amount of dust that is in the camp.

View the entire report here: <http://turikumwe.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/kiziba.pdf>

Bwishyura Police Station:

We were unable to visit with one of the institutions that we have been visiting and monitoring in recent years (the Bwishyura Police Station). This was a disappointment to us for a variety of reasons: our youth had very high hopes of being able to interview detainees as the youth had on previous delegations. Secondly, we had wanted to follow-up on the sanitary conditions of the jail to see how best to help improve them further. We had used some of the small grants for human rights fund to purchase insecticide for the jail in Summer 2011 after discussing the matter with the Minister of Internal Security and the head of the Jail, and we wanted to know if it was helping, and what might be the next steps in assisting this jail to come into compliance. We hope that in future delegations we will be able to visit with this police station again.

Karongi Mayor's Office

Unfortunately the mayor was busy, but we did meet with the Public Relations representative. He fielded questions but he was unable to comment on most of the matters. The bulk of the questions focused on our concerns for the Potter community.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND EDUCATION



Rebecca Davis Dance Company: Headed by Rebecca Davis (GYCALum'08) and her intercultural team (including professional dancers from the USA and Rwanda), the professional dancers work with orphans and vulnerable children, offering them an educational program -- buoyed by their love of dance.



Search for Common Ground: On December 30th, Rebecca Besant from SFCG gave us a presentation on the work of SFCG in Rwanda. Differentiating between conflict resolution and human rights, the presentation helped clarify the process of successful implementation of mechanisms used to further human rights and identified the real problems human rights initiatives face.

Human Rights Watch:

We were able to meet with Lewis Mudge, HRW Researcher for Rwanda and Burundi to learn more about how HRW works in Rwanda.

Karongi Hospital:

On January 3rd the group traveled to Kibuye where, after lunch, we stopped at Karongi hospital to visit with the hospital administrators. We learned about the structure of the hospital and staff members, including the community health workers. Karongi hospital is working to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates, strengthen the nutrition among infants, increase access to pharmaceuticals and increase research centers.

Genocide Memorials:

[Kigali Memorial Museum](#)

Nyange School

[Nyamata Memorial Church in Bugesera](#)

Belgian Soldiers Memorial

[Rebero](#)

ETO Kicukiro



What is the one thing that makes you hopeful that genocide will not occur again in the world?

- Many delegates expressed that because much of the world is talking about the issues of human rights and genocide many future conflicts would be averted. Ultimately delegates left the conversation and day feeling emotional and moved by the discussions, but also empowered and optimistic about the array of possibilities for development in Rwanda.*

In Rwanda, the last Saturday of every month is set aside for “umuganda” - a day of community service when all able community members gather to work on a designated project in their area. This January, our delegation joined in the service and planted trees.

[UMUGANDA – January 4, 2012](#)



Outcomes of the Turikumwe! Volunteering with Grassroots Organizations:

○ Health Development Initiative (HDI)

Christine Nyirabega • Leonce Mupenzi • Colleen Creegan • Heather Webb

- Designed and Contributed to HDI's Annual Report

○ ISHYO

Ben Butera • Eugene Ndaguijimana • Cameo Cheung • Brent Webber

- ISHYO's Advocacy for the Arts Strategic Plan (Conducted Comparative Research; Elaborated Draft of Plan for 2012; Briefing Session with ISHYO team about plan)
- Edited organizational reports translated from French
- Edited and developed program proposals
- Assisted with theatre performance as part of human rights/genocide awareness conference



○ Uyisenga N' Manzi

Placide Uwirangiye • Adams Nshimiyimana • Arielle Newton • Meng Sun

- Assembled and organized a library for Uyisenga's youth centre in the Eastern Province:
- Categorized over 1600 books by subject
- Entered all books into a spreadsheet with subject-specific index codes
- Created and attached index cards into each book with corresponding codes
- Transported books to youth centre



Day Two Evaluations

"I learned about the perceived differences in the political systems between US and Rwanda, but after discussions, I found that we have many of the same struggles."

"We talked about maintaining cultural identity as we develop, and how it is possible to at least have dialogue about changing practices that may violate human rights while respecting the value behind the practice."

“My personal issues I can do are to be an ambassador for the reality stories of what happened in Rwanda; teach others unity and reconciliation; work hard for the better of my future, my family, and my country; and try to help other people by teaching them forgiveness.”

“I believe conflict is primarily caused by human emotions such as resentment and jealousy and anger. I would like to work to make people leave behind their negative emotions and foster more positive ones.”

“As a personal commitment, I would like to be available to hear what other people have to say, but without pressing, simply making sure to be available and let them know I am.”

○ Community of Potters of Rwanda (COPORWA)

Rose Uzayisenga • Ryan Duggan • Anna Rushton

- Conducted Follow-Up Observation Visit to the Karora Community of Vulnerable People (where numerous Potters live)
- Met District and Sector Officials concerning Karora Community and Wrote Report about the Observation Visit and Meetings with District
- Translated COPORWA's objectives, programs, and strategic plan from French to English

The GYC/AJPRODHO group led by Faustin and Jeanne d'Arc Mukarkuru of COPORWA, visited the Karora community where some of the Potters in the Mubuga sector are living. Our visit started at the local government office. The first question that the local official asked us was, "What are you planning to do in collaboration with local authorities?" Jesse answered this question very well with all of the goals that we hoped to meet. We learned that the woman we were speaking with was in charge of advocating and planning for this community, so we asked her if any progress had been made on the windows and doors that they need, or anything else. She let us know that she was sorry; she was on maternity leave for three months, so no progress had been made. After the diplomatic battle, we were finally given permission to visit the village.

The Potter community was very welcoming. Everyone in the village came out to talk to us, and the children were especially interested in coming up to us. They asked us where we were from and what we were doing there. Jesse/GYC, Faustin, and Jeanne d'Arc lead the group introductions. There were approximately 20 adults and 30 children. After the introductions the GYC/AJPRODHO group asked their questions in English, which were then translated into Kinyarwanda by other members of the group.

The visit was not only focused on problems and solutions, but also on cultural and economic activities, and also some sharing of the traditional, celebratory dancing techniques of the Potter community.

Before leaving, we decided to give the community a monetary donation as a gift for the New Year so that they may buy food. 14 families were given 2000 frw each. In the past money has not been managed well by the community, but because there was a lot of debate and not much time, we agreed to give the woman of each family present money.



View the full report here: <http://turikumwe.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/potters.pdf>

○ AJPRODHO

Shivani Suresh • Julie Stewart • Samantha Williams

- Administrative Support to AJPRODHO's GYC Partnership: thank you notes to Ministries, site visits and partnering organizations
- Crafted a proposal to UN Women
- Crafted a proposal to East Africa Trademark
- Compiled other reports for Annual Reporting and Newsletters

○ INALAS

Vestine Uwamahoro • Gilbert Ndayambaje • Denisha Bacchus • Renee Wilkinson

- Fieldwork visit to Gisimba Orphanage: took client statements from orphans, identified legal issues and how to advocate on their behalf
- Participated in Research Visit to Heza Project (conflict resolution participatory theatre)
- Created fact and donor sheets for organization
- Created and compiled a listserv
- Created a Twitter account
- Compiled notes on clientele and digitized client information

○ Ruyaac

Mylene Gihozo • Peace Kiberinkwanzi • James Dineen • Katherine Bradbury

- Created a draft proposal for a human rights workshop for former child ex-combatants

○ Kigali Hope (Young Positives)

Jeanne d'Arc Kanyange • Melissa Ikirezi • Katherine Bradbury • Arielle Newton • Julie Stewart

- Worked on a funding proposal to the EU
- Assisted with finalization of Kigali Hope's strategic plan
- Research on potential partner organizations

Reflecting on Time at Kigali Hope:

***The best part of
this experience
was meeting with
Claire
Gasamagera, the
founder and chair
person, and
working with
Viateur and the
various volunteers
and youth that
were in and out of
the office. It was a
pleasure to help an
organization that
is still very much in
the formative
stages and is
developing with
little outside
assistance.***

○ Imbereheza Sewing Cooperative For HIV+ Women

Colleen Creegan • Heather Webb

- Technical Assistance for International Online Marketing of the Women's Products
- Photographed handmade bags, accessories, and home décor items, with the aim of starting a website to sell these goods online
- Collected stories from the women in the cooperative on how they became involved
- Began a grant application to CGI U to fund the website



Participant Biographies

RWANDANS

Gilbert Rwunganira: Gilbert is in his fourth year of an Accounting and Finance program at Adventist University of Central Africa. He is also the vice-president of BCCR at the Mudende campus. From this program, Gilbert hopes to exchange ideas to better develop his community without conflict.

Leonce Mupenzi: Leonce is the founder and coordinator of an NGO called “Child Support Centre” which helps vulnerable children. As an orphan of the genocide, Leonce is fascinated by human rights and how to exchange ideas to create a better world through rights and democracy.

Vestine Uwamahoro: Vestine is a first year student at Akilah Institute for Women studying Leadership and Hospitality Management. With knowledge and experience from this program, Vestine wishes to practice her skills as a good leader by contributing to the implementation of Human Rights policy.

Christine Nyirabega: Christine is a student at Akilah Institute for Women where she studies how to resolve conflicts within the community through leadership and ethics. Her goals are to promote young women’s rights, advocate for positive social change, and inspiring women to speak up and stand up for themselves.

Mylene Gihozo: Mylene has been member of Medical student mental health association MMHA and MHEP since 2008. In 2009, she was elected vice coordinator of the team in charge of capacity building and advocacy. Currently Mylene is the communication officer for Rwandan Youth Organization Network. From the delegation, Mylene expects to gain knowledge and understanding that she can transfer to her country and future generations.

Rose Uzayisenga: A graduate of the National University of Rwanda, Rose has her Bachelor’s degree in International Politics. Rose wishes to work together with local leaders to fight all kinds of human right abuses and learn how to develop her community in positive ways. In the next year, Rose plans to pursue her Masters in conflict prevention and resolution or in peace building and transitional justice.

Placide Uwiragiye: Placide is a second year student at Rwanda Tourism University College working towards his Bachelor's degree in Travel and Tourism Management. From this delegation, Placide hopes to improve his communication skills and to learn more techniques and methods of resolving and approaching different issues which may be linked to human rights. With this knowledge, Placide plans to help his fellow citizens to understand their rights in order for them to live peacefully and successfully.

Eugene Ndaguijimana: Eugene earned his Bachelor's degree in 2010 at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology in the department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering. In April of 2010, Eugene has his first book published about genocide entitled *Mystery of Rescue*. Eugene is currently the Program Coordinator of the "Education into Employment Program." From the delegation, Eugene wishes to promote and protect human rights, and to educate and inspire the next generation to work for peaceful change.

Jeanne d'Arc Kanyange: A refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jeanne d'Arc lives in the Kiziba Refugee Camp. She is a teacher at a secondary school in the camp where she is teaching political science. With her problem solving skills, Jeanne d'Arc hopes to expand on her skills and learn new ones through the delegation. She is also a trained traditional dancer.

Shivani Suresh: A recent high school graduate, Shivani is a passionate, motivated and self-driven student who enjoys problem solving, challenges and has a drive to overcome them. She appreciates free-thinking, open mindedness, unconventional ideas and interacting with interesting people with diverse cultural backgrounds, due to her own background as an Indo-African. Shivani likes to keep busy by interning, learning new languages, and volunteering. With her anticipated degree in International Development and Urban Studies, Shivani's goals are to make a difference in rural areas by helping to provide infrastructure, health care services, and education opportunities to the underprivileged.

Isaac Adams Nshimiyimana: Adams is a second year student at Rwanda Tourism University College where he is studying Travel and Tourism Management. He is hoping to get the opportunity to put his ideas for peacemaking into reality and to gain the knowledge necessary to help create a better world. From this experience, Adams wishes learn about social justice and to teach others about his life experiences, his country, and his culture.

Melissa Ikirezi: Melissa is an eighteen year old Senior 5 student, studying Math, Chemistry, and Biology. Even though she is studying Science, she dreams of becoming a human rights defender. Though this is not an easy life, Melissa believes she must protect the rights of others, and her reward will be in heaven.

Ben Butera: Ben is 28 years old and has been working in the art field since 2006 as a lighting designer, gaffer, stage manager and assistant director with organizations such as ISOOKO, ISHYO Art Center, MASHIRIKA, POSITIVE PRODUCTION, and GOETHE Institute. After completing high school, Ben took two years in computer study (ICT) at KIST and one year in law at ULK. In next few years, Ben hopes to study and finish his law career as well as theater study in order to advocate about human rights with law and art, the best tools for human right advocacy and improvement. His aim is to talk about war, genocide, discrimination, and mostly to enlighten people about the Rwandan 1994 apocalypse where all existing possible human rights were deeply violated.

Peace Kiberinkwanzi: Peace is part of a community of youth from around the world who actively promote human rights and educate and inspire the next generation to work for peaceful change. Her goals are to increase understanding of the context and practice of human rights among the world's youth.

INTERNATIONALS

Denisha Bacchus: Denisha is a twenty-one year old senior pursuing her B.A. at Columbia University. She studies political science and plans to continue on to study international humanitarian law. Denisha has worked with the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies for over a year; before that, she held an internship at Sister Cities International in Washington, DC. These experiences have given her the opportunity to gain valuable research skills while increasing her network of NGO officials and academics with an interest in foreign policy. In Denisha's spare time, she serves as the student coordinator for two diversity initiatives in her university's Office of Multicultural Affairs; there she works to inform and encourage the expression of identity and cooperation across and between cultures. Denisha's participation in GYC Rwanda will supplement her international relations courseload and provide her with insight into the practical policy work she will pursue before entering law school in 2013-14.

Katherine Bradbury: Katherine is twenty-two and a 2011 graduate of the University of Connecticut. While at UConn, Katherine majored in English and Political Science and minored in Human Rights. She was an active member of the National Honor Fraternity Phi Sigma Pi as well as a site manager for Big Brothers Big Sisters, a volunteer for the Husky Ambassador Program, and a Study Abroad Student Ambassador. She is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa. As far as previous human rights experience, Katherine has had two internships during her college career in this field. Katherine studied abroad in Cape Town, South Africa her junior spring semester on the Honors in Cape Town Study Abroad Program run by UConn. While there, she took courses related to human rights topics as well as interned at a human rights non-governmental organization called Black Sash. Black Sash works toward providing and recognizing all South Africans ability to claim their rights, regardless of their socio-economic status.

Katherine was a social security intern and worked on a monitoring report that was sent to the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to help the agency better serve the communities it works with. In addition, Katherine spent the summer before her senior year in Washington, DC taking a course at Georgetown University and interning at an HIV/AIDS organization known as Metro TeenAIDS. This non-profit group works toward helping the poorer urban youth become more aware of the dangers of STIs and the importance of proper health precautions. Katherine was involved with helping with community outreach and presentations around southeastern DC. Currently, she is interning for the Office of the Prosecutor for six months at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (in The Hague, The Netherlands). As far as future plans, when Katherine returns to the US she will begin preparing for the LSAT. She hopes to attend law school to study international/human rights law. By participating in this delegation, Katherine hopes to enhance her understanding of human rights issues that Rwanda is facing and to continue to strengthen her understanding of genocide that she is building up while working at the ICTY.

Cameo Cheung: Cameo is a graduate student in the Public Diplomacy program at Syracuse University pursuing her M.S. in Public Relations from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and her M.A. in International Relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Outside of class, she volunteers with a local organization that teaches English as a second language to newly arrived immigrants to the United States. In participating as a member of the delegation, Cameo hopes to better understand the impact that the years of violence has had on the country and its people, and how international actors (non-Rwandan actors – e.g. foreign governments, NGOs, IGOs, etc.) can support the efforts of the Rwandan people as they seek to more firmly establish a democratic government and social and economic stability. After completing her studies, Cameo hopes to do work in international policy negotiations, particularly with regards to developing countries.

Colleen Creegan: Colleen is a first-year graduate student at New York University, where she is pursuing her Master's Degree in Global Affairs with a concentration on International Law and Human Rights. Blessed with an international childhood, she has always been drawn to cross-cultural work even while she was studying theater in her undergraduate work at Cornish College of the Arts. During her time in Rwanda with Global Youth Connect, she hopes to see how the combination of governmental agencies and NGOs can be successfully integrated to meet humanitarian needs. After graduating she plans on pursuing a career in establishing, advocating and maintaining women's reproductive rights in North Africa and the Middle East.

James Dineen: James is 21 years old from Georgetown, Massachusetts. He is currently a senior in college studying Political Science and International Business at Quinnipiac University. James has participated in a study abroad program in Australia and has secured an internship with the US Embassy of Canberra in Australia. He is a founding father of the Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Tau Delta on campus,

where he holds the position of Philanthropy Chairman. After graduation, James hopes to be going for his Masters at the University of Queensland, concentrating on peace and conflict resolution. In his spare time, James does a lot of community service, organizing and managing a tutoring program at a local elementary school and volunteering at a nearby soup kitchen. James' long term career plans are to work in the field of human development, either in a non-profit organization, a nongovernmental organization, or possibly the Peace Corps. James is excited for this delegation and cannot wait to start exploring Human Rights issues in Rwanda with the rest of the group.

Ryan Duggan: Ryan is pursuing his undergraduate degree in French and human rights at the University of Connecticut. He is currently spending a year abroad in France to obtain fluency in the French language. During his time here, Ryan will complete an internship for a French organization that focuses on human rights issues. He intends to pursue a master's degree at the very least for post graduate education. He recently completed an internship at the McKenna Center in Washington D.C., which is a drop in day center for homeless men in the city. During his time there, Ryan wore many hats; however he was primarily a case manager working one on one with the men to help them achieve something better in their lives. Ryan has travelled to over 11 countries, several of which were third world countries. He lived in Spain where he was learning the language for 5 months. Ryan hopes to learn as much as he can during the delegation in Rwanda due to the fact that he wishes to work for the United Nations or for some type of NGO, especially in peace prevention and with conflict countries. Ryan feels that this opportunity could solidify his career goals and allow him to have a greater understanding of what he wants to do and how he can help the world.

Arielle Newton: Arielle Newton is a third year undergraduate student at Northeastern University, majoring in both Political Science and International Affairs. She is fascinated by international development and would like to work with marginalized female communities. She has an interest in improving the sexual health of global women, as women are often victimized sexually and socially, and are largely ignored by the cluttered and bureaucratic world system. An enthusiast for local community building, Arielle is thrilled to be working with Global Youth Connect and the partners in Rwanda. Arielle is also most excited to be working with local nongovernmental organizations, as, in her opinion, NGOs are one of the strongest entities that inspire change, prosperity, and develop communal health. After college, Arielle hopes to go to graduate school to get an M.A. in International Development, Political Science, or Gender Studies.

Anna Rushton: Anna is a 28 year old graduate student at CSU, Chico where she is studying anthropology. Anna received her BA in anthropology from CSU, Chico in 2007 and decided to return to school after working full-time for several years to pursue graduate studies in socio-cultural anthropology. She has studied Arabic and Islam and has focused much of her research on Africa interpretations of Islam and the conflict in Darfur. After completing her master's degree, she hopes to

be accepted into a doctorate program at UC Berkeley where she can continue to learn about conflict and work to prevent it. She would like to use her career as an anthropologist and her experience with GYC in Rwanda to explore using anthropological knowledge to help NGO's become more effectual in tackling the problems facing developing nations. Anna works as a full-time staff member in the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office at CSUC and has a seven year old daughter named Amaya. She also volunteers for the American Language and Culture Institute and is a Staff Mentor at CSUC.

Julie Stewart: Julie is a political science and history major in her senior year at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois. When she is at not working at her part-time job she is participating in various service activities focused upon the Jacksonville community and youth through the Leadership Program at Illinois College. The trip with the delegation to Rwanda will be Julie's first time outside of the United States, and she is eager to have the hands-on experience with human rights projects alongside others with similar goals. She would like to about the processes by which human rights efforts are launched so that she may return to the United States with a better idea of how to launch her own projects. After returning to Illinois College for her final semester, Julie would like to use skills gained from experiences in Rwanda to direct and/or participate in various projects in cooperation with the college's chapter of Amnesty International.

Meng Sun: Meng (who is known as Farah to her friends) is currently pursuing her bachelor degree in engineering in the US. She used to live in China, Switzerland and Germany. With an interest in education and NGO, she has coordinated in several non-profit educational projects in China. She was also involved in the Engineering Without Borders and served as Travel Chair at college. In her spare time, she likes traveling and has been various countries in the Middle East, South America and Europe. These experiences draw her interest to conflict resolution and human right issues. Inspired by her grandma who volunteered in Tanzania for two years, she also hopes to participate in volunteer work in Africa one day.

Heather Webb: Heather is pursuing her LL.M. in International Legal Studies focusing on human rights at New York University School of Law. In her spare time, Heather works as an intern with Human Rights Watch doing disability rights work and is active on the organizational board of the student group Law Students for Human Rights at NYU Law. Prior to beginning the LL.M. program at NYU Law, Heather worked as a corporate attorney at Cadwalader, Wickerhsam & Taft LLP in New York. Heather received her J.D. from New York Law School and her B.A in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. By participating in the delegation, she hopes to apply what she is studying about the legal framework for international human rights in a practical setting in order to deepen her understanding of how the law plays an important role in forming solutions to human rights issues. Following her time in Rwanda and graduation, Heather hopes to work in the human rights field in New York and abroad, specifically in the areas of disability rights and women's rights.

Brent Webber: Brent is currently pursuing his undergraduate degree as an Economics and Public Policy double major at the University of Mississippi. Although he possesses a variety of academic interests, Brent is particularly attracted to political and economic development policy and the social implications such policies may have. In his spare time Brent works at his on-campus Starbucks, participates in Model United Nations, and is presently in the process of founding a chapter of the Roosevelt Institute at his university. Brent spent his spring semester of 2011 interning for a Minister of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) in Edinburgh where he became an integral member of his MSP's national re-election to office. Only a few days after this election he flew to the Kingdom of Jordan where he spent four weeks studying comparative politics and the economics of water policy in the "MENA" region at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. By participating in this delegation Brent hopes to continue his global education and further his understanding of the world around him. Brent also hopes that his time in Rwanda will help him in his personal quest to answer the question: what brings us all together, how can we all connect? Following his time in Rwanda and graduation Brent plans to work as a Foreign Service Officer for the United States Government and hopes one day to become an Ambassador.

Renee Wilkinson: Renee Wilkinson is aged 26 and is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in International Development and a Diploma in Arabic. She has been interested in the issues of genocide and conflict resolution since learning of the Holocaust at a young age, which in further years subsequently led to a broader interest in International Relations. In 2010 Renee completed a short course in Refugee Studies with the goal of working with the refugee community in the near future. Grounded in the belief that cross-cultural dialogue and walking in the shoes of the 'other' are small, yet important steps to combating one's own ignorance and potential conflicts, she has also traveled extensively and just recently returned from living and studying Arabic in Yemen. By participating in the delegation Renee hopes to obtain the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to advocate on behalf of minorities and to educate the younger generation on the importance of human rights and genocide prevention. In the future she hopes to pursue a Master's Degree in International Relations and/or Conflict Resolution/Peace Studies.

Samantha Williams: Samantha Williams is a current senior studying International Relations at Brown University. Outside of the classroom, she volunteers as a Meiklejohn peer advisor to first-year students, writes for an all-female comedy blog called the "Rib" and is in the process of working with peers to create an online Human Rights journal on campus. In addition to campus life activities, she enjoys reading, watching films and conversing with people. This past summer, Samantha participated in the GYC: Bosnia delegation and in summer 2010 traveled to the Western Balkans and Turkey as part of a study-abroad program. She hopes to continue her studies of Human Rights and Conflict Resolution at the graduate level in the near future.