



# GLOBAL YOUTH CONNECT

&

## AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA

*Empowering youth to advance human rights and create a more just world*



[www.globalyouthconnect.org](http://www.globalyouthconnect.org)

[www.ajprodho.org](http://www.ajprodho.org)

[www.turikumwe.wordpress.com](http://www.turikumwe.wordpress.com)



### Turikumwe! A Learning and Action Community in Rwanda

Reporting from the December 2010 - January 2011 Summit

*It was so wonderful to know that even during this intensive human rights learning experience we really took action in several important ways. It wasn't just a gimmick to say Learning and Action Community. I really feel that we all, the Rwandans and North Americans working together, in collaboration with organizations, made a positive impact on a variety of issues in a variety of ways.*

-- Post Program Evaluation, Winter 2011

#### *Key Outcomes of the Turikumwe! LAC Summit Jan 2011:*

- Six Day Cross Cultural Human Rights workshop for a total of 15 International and 15 Rwandese human rights activists and students
  - The youth reported and exhibited increased understanding of:
    - Concepts of Human Rights and Development
    - Importance/practice of cross cultural communication



# of CBOs/NGOs Served/Engaged: 20

# of Dialogue Sessions Facilitated by Participants: 10

10

# of Projects Completed: 25

# of Dialogue Sessions/Mtgs Facilitated by Staff: 30

30

# of Youth Involved/Engaged: 45

# of Human Rights Challenges Critically Explored/Reported: 15+



**What was the most important thing you learned or did in today's workshop?**

Human Rights:

- All human rights must be treated as important and protected, because they are all important and interconnected.
- Priorities of human rights are subjective to culture and personal experience but that does not negate their importance to someone else.
- I learned about the African Charter of Human and People's Rights and how this document was both progressive and practical
- There is no one right answer to the question "what is human rights"
- I was happy to see the importance placed on HR by all participants, in many areas, even from USA.

Related:

- I really appreciated working through the definitions of development because I think that it's a term that's often thrown around without establishing a common understanding of what it means, and the various kinds of development that exist.
- I enjoyed the activities that broke down and described what learning and action mean in relation to cross cultural communication. It brought needed context to our role here.
- It was important to learn about sexual assault in the USA -- Rape is not about sex, it is about power/violence.
- I learned about the issue of domestic workers in Rwanda. Let us see what can be done on domestic workers in Rwanda because they are among people whose rights are abused.
- My presentation on the life condition of domestic workers. I was happy for this because GYC/AJPRODHO gave me the time for this important presentation.

*I struggled with focusing on the theory of human rights when I want to carry out the action immediately. Tomorrow, I will have patience with learning about the theory with intention, because it must inform action. -- Evaluation Day One*

## ***Key Outcomes of the Turikumwe! LAC Summit in Jan 2011:***

- **Performed Volunteer Service for the Core Organizations in the LAC (in teams of Rwanda/North-American Participants):**

- **Health Development Initiative (HDI):**

- **Health Development Initiative (HDI):**
  - Observation visits to the Bwiza village of potters to monitor the HDI-funded water tank and the persisting health problems facing the Bwiza community
    - Report drafting and Newsletter Article Creation
  - Assisted in the design of a training program for Civil Society members on LGBTI rights and related issues in HDI's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights program (SHARE)
  - Constructed a pamphlet that can be distributed to local schools

- **ISHYO:**

- **ISHYO:**
  - Participated in creation of workshop: Poetry & Peace
  - Drafted an internal report on how to harness the government's push for cultural tourism in the most positive and progressive way
  - Conducted a site visit to the ABUSAKIVI Dance Group, co-run by GYC Alumnus Calliope Simba, that brings youth from all walks of life (historically marginalized abatwa kids with middle/upper class kids with street kids) together to learn traditional Rwandan dancing. [Watch the video by clicking here!](#)



At the ISHYO Poetry Performance, Poems on Floor

- **RAPP:**

- **RAPP:**
  - Designed a Website/blog
  - Created Newsletter
  - Created power point for the Rwanda Knits program pitch to UNIFEM

- **Uyisenga N' Manzi:**

- **Uyisenga N' Manzi:**
  - Drafted a web-design-focused internship proposal for both Rwandan and US-based interns and committed to advertising it and filling it
  - Reviewed the current status of Uyisenga's Youth Center and arranged for architectural advice from the USA
  - Interviewed the youth in the peace village about their income generating projects, especially the bracelet project
  - Wrote a grant for Uyisenga's youth Center idea



- **Community of Potters of Rwanda (COPORWA):**

- **Community of Potters of Rwanda (COPORWA):**
  - Requested and took part in a meeting bringing together local officials in the Mubuga Sector with the potter villagers in the Mubuga forest, as well as with local community members surrounding the forest, clarifying how people publicly express themselves concerning the issues of the Batwa
    - We were so pleased to learn that 3 of the batwa families had been relocated from the forest into actual houses in the community!
  - Visited the forest community and heard testimonies there along-side public officials



*From Rwandan Participants:*

*I found the Americans to be very open. They speak out their hearts.*

*I have learned that all human race brought together can live peacefully by adapting to varying cultures in respecting their values.*

*Cultural taboos can violate human rights: e.g. LGBTI rights*

*From North American Participant:*

*I have learned about a special place full of beautiful people. Due to the nature of the program, I was exposed to pro-active organizations (and therefore people) who are working to create more empowered communities.*

*I believe in working together, like it said in the song we sang "hold my hand, while I run this race, because I don't want to run this race in vain."*

*I learned that there are rights that I have been violating and thus am going to correct them after knowing the human rights everyone is entitled to...*

*I have learned to be patient and cooperative.*

*I learned that everyone is equal and should be treated equal before the law.*

*I discovered that there is something I can do in this world and that thing is to be the voice of those who can't speak*

- Made a small contribution to the village so that they can start a small project for income generation to be decided upon prior to the next LAC Summit's visit
- Drafted a report for the mayor of Karongi based on the visits
- Followed up with the mayor to establish when he will visit the forest community personally as he committed to doing so
- Made a contribution to COPORWA so that COPORWA can increase the number of visits by its staff people to Mubuga from one visit per month to two visits per month

- **AJPRODHO:**

- Conducted interviews at the Bwishiura police station detention center in association with the AJPRODHO access to justice project
- Brought information to the police chief and to the mayor based on the findings and made plans for next steps (including this issue in the Civil Society Advocacy Session on Jan 15 and in future LAC Summit visits and plans)
- Assisted in the writing and translation of AJPRODHO's Annual Report

- **Site/Observation visits conducted by mixed groups of US and Rwandan participants:**

- Visit to the KIZIBA Refugee Camp in Karongi
  - Interviewed members of the Camp
  - Created a report for the Mayor of Karongi about the discrimination faced by Refugee students who qualified for national scholarships in Rwanda, but do not receive them
  - Determined that a return visit from the next LAC Summit would be excellent and that one of the Refugee youth should be invited to take part in the next LAC summit in Kigali



**The Kiziba Refugee Camp Sprawls Across one Mountain**

- Karongi Mayor's Office
  - Issued a report on each of the three key areas where the LAC focuses in Karongi (see AJPRODHO, COPORWA, KIZIBA above)
  - Received comments from the Mayor on each of the issue areas
  - Received Mayor's advice/wish that the LAC will create an even stronger tie with the Karongi district and reach out to youth in the district to prevent crime so that they do not go to Prison in the first place



- US State Department
  - Expanded our understanding of the kinds of Human Rights issues monitored by the US State Department
  - Shared our impressions on several key issues and clarified the proper channels for lodging complaints/observations in the future



**Forest Leaders Receive Funds from Turikumwe LAC**



After volunteering together at Health Development Initiative (HDI), Cassien, Andrew, and Gina (left) sat next to one another at a meeting with the United Nations Development Program in Rwanda (with Christian Shingiro far right, moderated by John Mudakikwa, AJPRODHO).

- **Site Visits (Cont.)**
  - United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
    - In the context of our workshop discussions about Development and Human Rights
  - National Youth Council
  - ITORERO (Cultural Training Camps)
  - Meeting with [Carl Wilkens](#) and Drew Khan (in Rwanda for research on genocide prevention/arts)
  - Genocide Memorials: Kigali Memorial Museum, Nyamata Memorial Church, Nyange School
- Hosted two alumni sessions, in collaboration with the Rwandan GYC Alumni Committee, for local Rwandan Alumni to support and encourage the incoming participants as well as to re-engage on the issues that they studied and worked on in their LACs.
- Hosted a Civil Society Advocacy mini-Conference to share what we had learned and done and to see if there were connections with members of the civil society outside the LAC and their advocacy efforts on the same issues
  - Youth Participants facilitated small dialogue groups on all of the LACs key human rights issues (LGBTI Rights, Children's Development, Juvenile Justice, rights of the Potters -- historically marginalized people, and important alternative advocacy methodologies, such as "the arts")
  - We discussed the results of the dialogue sessions in a large group and drafted key observations and recommendations
  - The event included a keynote address on "Advocacy and Civil Society in Rwanda" from a representative of the Civil Society Platform – who spoke about one of Rwanda's recent key achievements: a December conference at which both local Rwandans and those from the Diaspora spoke openly and candidly about the political situation in Rwanda, and the rumors of instability, a topic not frequently addressed so publicly. This was touted as proof that there is some political and debate space in Rwanda, despite many claims to the contrary from watchdog organizations and the country's most extreme opposition groups.
  - The GYC Rwanda-focused advocacy conference was balanced out by a special address from LAC participant Melissa Schlichting on the 2048 project .

## TESTIMONIALS from PARTICIPANTS

I gained greater insight into the ways HR are advanced in Rwanda, such as through political participation/engagement, NGOs, individual movements within Civil Society, etc.

Human rights are not always agreed upon or as straightforward as I had thought. You must be very careful in how you approach HR issues, especially in another culture. It's very easy to make enemies if you force your concepts on others.

The memorials showed me how to empathetic I am and how much I really want to be involved in HR so as to avoid such horrific injustices in the future.

This experience represented a substantial test on whether I am prepared to handle the Peace Corps. If the experience went negatively then the Peace Corps would likely not be for me. Fortunately, this is not the case.

I feel much more confident in cross-cultural and especially post-conflict societies-- contexts due to the participation of the Rwandans throughout the LAC.

I feel like I finally have direction. I want to come back to the region and do trauma healing.

The program had a serious impact on my perceptions of suffering and healing, what it means to be a survivor and co-survivor, and what that means in my life.

I think the connections between participants will be a huge advantage for all of us as we advance in our careers and try to move our generation forward to standards of human rights and development worldwide.

The most important thing I learned about HR in this program was that every little part counts and can have a ripple effect!

Our days volunteering with NGOs allowed me to get a small sense of what it would be like to work at such an organization, which is a possible future career for me.

I learned new ways to engage with HR on the ground through advocacy of the rights of marginalized peoples, as well as through volunteerism.

HR is extremely controversial. It often takes on a political dimension and is used for purposes antithetical to helping the people whose rights are threatened. Advancing HR requires active participation from defenders on a daily basis. We all have a responsibility to care for others and this responsibility prevents conflict, if followed through. HR are threatened everywhere and more attention needs to be paid to the concept and how it can be advanced.

This experience has taught be how to step outside of my comfort zone and also how to be myself as I am. I learned how to broach difficult situations and also how to do so across cultures. I learned that it is ok to express anger, confusion, and sorrow openly, but also how to express happiness and affection for my friends. I learned how to accept my weaknesses or lack of understanding on many issues, and how to compensate by supplementing experience or information where I can.

I learned that there is no single approach to advancing HR, whether top-down or on the grassroots level, dedicated individuals can do a lot to make communities and countries more hospitable for HR. I still wonder which approach is best for me, but I now have more experience to inform my decision-making.

I have learned that I am not afraid to meet new people from a different culture and engage with them on sensitive issues. In the past, I have been afraid to broach difficult subjects with unfamiliar people, but through the LAC, I have realized that it is ok to share my thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment.

I learned that I knew more about HR than I thoughts, and I can balance the practical and theoretical on a daily basis to advance HR wherever I am.

### Participant Biographies

**Kaitlyn Allen** is a candidate for the Master's degree in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where works as a research assistant to the program director. Her undergraduate major at Trinity University (San Antonio, Texas) was International Studies, and she completed semesters abroad in Brazil and Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua). She has worked as a legal caseworker in immigration legal aid/refugee resettlement agencies in Houston, and as a research professional at a medical school/hospital. She also served as an elections observer in El Salvador (2009). She is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the delegation and explore human rights issues on the ground, and hopes to gain insight into local processes and mechanisms for justice, and psychosocial work/trauma healing as practiced in Rwanda. Kaitlyn loves foreign languages; she speaks Spanish, French, Portuguese, and basic German.

**Erin Anderson** (MA, LPC, R-DMT, CMT), is a Dance/Movement Therapist in The Ponzi Creative Arts Therapy Program at The Children's Hospital in Denver, CO. She uses dance as a vehicle for activism, social change, healing, and community development. She has traveled in South Africa, Kenya and Puerto Rico as part of a self-designed undergraduate program with a focus on dance as both an interpersonal and cultural language. After the Rwandan genocide, she began focusing on refugee experiences of loss and identity. She choreographed a 30-minute performance piece about loss, leaving, and letting go, creating a unique healing experience for the participants. Since that time, she has worked with a variety of populations, including refugees, providing community opportunities to express and transform. She completed graduate school studies in Somatic Counseling/Psychology and Dance/Movement Therapy, mastering therapeutic skills to support her creative healing work. Erin looks forward to continuing her integration of Dance/Movement Therapy with her passion for advocacy, healing and change on a cross-cultural level.

**Gisele Bahati** is a 20 year old, first-year university student at the Akilah Institute for Women studying hospitality and leadership. She lives in Kigali with her aunt and 4 cousins because she was orphaned at a young age. She spent 2 months in the United States studying the American hospitality industry. She visited many places including New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Florida. During this trip, she made an appearance on the Daytime television show explaining aspects of hospitality in Rwanda. She also attended a speaker's panel at Columbia University relating to education in Rwanda. She wants to participate with Global Youth Connect in order to expand her knowledge on human rights, especially as it relates to women.

**Marcus Bushaku** is aged 26 and he is a fourth year student at the Kigali Health Institute focusing on biomedical studies. He is a focal point of AJPRODHO at his institution where he advocates for issues pertaining to human rights violations. He works with the Youth Leaders for Tomorrow Project. He enjoys keeping up with current events and examining issues

### More Testimonials

*I gained volunteer experience for my CV.*

*I gained a good understanding that human rights can be misused or abused in every daily activity. Some of the decisions made wrongly can lead to another person's rights being violated, e.g. detaining sex workers.*

*The role of different partners in human rights (US Embassy, UNDP) and COPORWA in advocacy of marginalized people*

*I learned about human rights and development, that human rights can contribute to the development of the country.*

*Mass sensitization should be done because illiterate people are vulnerable.*

*LAC has helped me to realize that people in marginalized groups need help, and the only person who will help is me.*

*I learned to make professional reports*

*I have ideas for creating solidarity*

*That plans should not only be left in records but transformed into action, otherwise papers are worth nothing*

through the media. He intends to pursue further studies in South Africa studying immunology with a focus on HIV/AIDS. He is participating in GYC in order to broaden his understanding of human rights and how these are applied in society. He also wants to compare cross-cultural perspectives on human rights and how African conceptions of these rights differ from others.

**Christine Calouro** is a graduate student pursuing her Masters degree in International Relations at San Francisco State University. Focusing on conflict in the Kivu Provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, she is interested in how the indoctrination of children into armed groups has affected the duration and escalation of violence against civilian populations in the region. Christine is also an assistant at the Consumer Federation of California, an organization that advocates for consumer friendly state legislation as well as helps defeat big business ballot propositions. By participating in the delegation to Rwanda she would like to better understand the role local NGOs play in ensuring people's human rights are respected and how individuals can stay involved. Upon returning to the United States, she hopes to be accepted into a Ph.D. program that will enable her to continue her study of Central Africa.

**Emily Campion** is completing her Bachelor's degree in journalism, political science and music at Indiana University. While pursuing her degree, Emily volunteers at a local hospital assisting out-patients post-surgery and is an active member of STAND (a student led genocide intervention network), which is currently planning panel discussions and events aimed at educating the public on activities against human rights occurring in Rwanda, Iraq and other locations around the world. During the spring semester, 2010, Emily applied for and received permission to study abroad in Dublin, Ireland where her focus of learning was the Northern Ireland conflict. She spent the subsequent summer in Washington, DC interning at a small NGO called Alliance for Peacebuilding where she was asked to continue some remote work while back at IU for her final year of undergrad work. During the summer Emily also completed a foreign policy and international relations course at American University. She hopes her participation in the delegation will enhance her understanding of the conflict resolution process while simultaneously exposing her to the innerworkings of grassroots organizations in the field. Following graduation and her time in Rwanda, Emily plans on pursuing her Master's degree in Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs at American University or studying at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. Emily hopes to one day be a voice for the voiceless and report on conflict from the inside.

**Andrew Dusek** hails from the small town of Havre, MT, and graduated with honors from The University of Montana in May 2010. He earned degrees in journalism and political science with an option in international relations and comparative politics, as well as a minor in history. He is currently finishing a second minor in international development studies as he completes the application process for service in the Peace Corps. Andrew has served as the president of his fraternity, written a weekly column for the student newspaper on national and international affairs, and served two terms as a senator for the student government. He was also an honors student and University Scholar. During the summer of 2009, he served as the press associate for the majority staff of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee in Washington, D.C., and traveled to Ireland and Northern Ireland to research the impact of the peace negotiations and Good Friday Agreement in January 2010. For his honors thesis, Andrew spent a year researching the human rights implications of humanitarian intervention within the context of the war in Kosovo and presented his findings at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. In the future, Andrew plans to pursue a graduate degree in international peace and conflict resolution and hopes to enter a career in diplomacy with the U.S. Foreign Service. He is very interested in international human rights and particularly hopes to learn more about the rights of children in post-conflict areas through the Global Youth Connect delegation to Rwanda.

**Mark Edwards** is a first-year graduate student at Seton Hall University pursuing a MA in Diplomacy and International Relations. Mark graduated with honors from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a BA in history with an emphasis on African studies. In particular, he has an interest in the Great Lakes region. Mark's research has focused on how the Rwandan genocide has affected Rwanda and other countries in the Great Lakes region in the international arena. His bachelor's thesis and senior project focused on rebel groups in the region and United Nations activity as a result of the genocide. Mark's research and action in international politics comes from participating in Model United Nations, which he has been involved with for eleven years. After graduating from Seton Hall, Mark plans to work with the United Nations as a teacher in crisis areas.

**Cassien Havugimana** is aged 26 and holds a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy from the National University of Rwanda at Butare. Cassien is committed to service in the public health sector, participating in a number of workshops such as the Global Engagement Summit at Northwestern University, the Rwanda Village Concept Project in charge of HIV/AIDS awareness, and is currently the Regional Project officer in Africa of the International Pharmaceutical Student's Federation. He is also the project coordinator of the Capacity Building, Opportunities, Management, and Exchange, which is a new organization dedicated to promoting adequate standards of living and creates opportunities for youth throughout Rwanda. As a healthcare professional, he wants to learn more about human rights activists in the public health sector. He also wants to learn more about human rights activities who live with HIV/AIDS and malnutrition. Human rights activities also relate to my clinical research as it relates to the health sector.

**Josephine Kamarebe** is 25 years old and holds a Bachelor's degree in clinical medicine and community health from Kampala International University. She worked in the Kirembe Mine Missionary Hospital where she served as a junior clerk. She then worked in Bihinga hospital where she worked as a clinician working with pediatrics. She has also worked in Mbarara's Psychiatry Hospital in Uganda. She is currently the focal point of HDI and is interested in the relationship between human rights and public health.

**Joon Kim** is currently a graduate student at Columbia University at the School of Social Work in New York City. He is specializing in social work policy and immigrant/refugee concentration. As a part-time worker, Joon will start working at Polaris Project, a non-profit organization combating human trafficking sex and modern day slavery, based in Newark, New Jersey. At work, he is excited to organize donations of clothes, books and resources made for victims of sex- trafficking and serve as a Korean translator to assist on-call Sex-Trafficking Assessment Team (STAT). In the summer of 2008, Joon made a voluntary trip to South Africa. and assisted HIV/AIDS patients with basic tasks such as bathing, feeding and errands. There, he also volunteered at local orphanages to fulfill duty as counselor and caregiver to orphaned children by providing comfort to those who had lost parents. After the trip, Joon's passion for human rights in Africa grew exponentially. In the Rwanda program, Joon hopes to raise his understanding the way, which successful NGOs work, learn the importance of cross-cultural dialogue and to meet others who are passionate about this line of work.

**Rachel Libros** is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Peace Studies at Goucher College in Baltimore, MD. This past summer, she interned with the American Friend's Service Committee's Africa Program in Philadelphia. During her semester in Uganda and Rwanda in the spring of 2010, she conducted research on the role of the genocide memorials in Rwanda on genocide prevention and reconciliation. As part of this study, she interviewed both survivors and perpetrators of the genocide, NGO workers, students, government officials, and Rwandan refugees in Uganda. By participating in the delegation, Rachel hopes to continue to expand her knowledge of East Africa and begin to discover ways to transform this knowledge into action. Rachel also hopes this experience will help her to begin to narrow and synthesize her personal and professional interests in anticipation of graduation.

**Julia Lurie** is currently a senior at Yale studying Political Science with a focus in International Studies. She has been interested in finding ways to better the lives of disadvantaged communities in developing countries for several years, and this interest developed further when she traveled to New Delhi during the summer of 2009 to work on an environmental justice campaign and teach English to elementary school students. Since then, she has taken a number of classes on international policy, education, and human rights, with an increasing focus on Africa. Since taking a class specifically on the Rwandan genocide, she has wanted to travel to Rwanda, learn more about on-the-ground activism efforts there, and learn how she could contribute to these efforts. Julia's passions include playing violin and guitar, camping, traveling, and reading. She hopes to live and work abroad on bettering human rights through education after college, and is excited for the prospect of joining GYC in Rwanda.

**Kevin Martin** is a Senior at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing his degree in Government, History, and the Humanities Honors Program. Humanities is a student-designed degree culminating in a senior thesis. His degree emphasizes international relations, development, and conflict. His senior thesis analyzes conflict in the Balkans and Great Lakes Region in Central Africa. Kevin also participates in the Bridging Disciplines Program in international studies, Liberal Arts Honors, and the Junior Fellows program, which is a community composed of undergraduate researchers from a variety of disciplines. He also participated in Global Youth Connect's Bosnia-Herzegovina summer 2010 delegation. Kevin hopes to build upon his experiences from Bosnia- Herzegovina regarding conflict transformation, social justice, direct service, and activism. After graduation, he plans to work abroad, either with the Peace Corps, United States Foreign Service, or teaching English.

**Grace Mbabazi** is a 23 year old, second-year student at the Kigali Health Institute studying general nursing. She is a member of the Orphans of Rwanda Initiative where she organizes conferences, assist in the admissions process at her university through providing scholarship resources, and she is currently a class representative at her institution. During her secondary school education at FAWE GIRLS, she advocated for gender equality issues and also assisted her classmates on attending conferences related to Gender Based Violence. In 5 years, she plans to be in England to pursue studies in pediatrics with a goal of helping to decrease infant mortality. She is interested in participating with the GYC delegation so she can broaden her understanding of human rights and how they relate to preserving these rights in society. She is also interested in a cross-cultural understanding of human rights and how their violations can be prevented.

**Peace Muganwa** is 25 years old student at the Akilah Institute for Women studying hospitality. She has experience as an activist for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and works on a project for social change at her school. In this project, she taught youth about maintaining a healthy public image and be comfortable in new situations through confidence. Her long-term goal is to work abroad in Japan or Dubai to alleviate poverty. She wants to participate with Global Youth Connect because she wants to expand her knowledge on human rights. She is also interested in human rights as they relate to adopted children. From this knowledge, she wants to teach youth in her community about human rights.

**Sulemani Muhirwa** is a graduate degree in the School of Finance and Banking (SFB-MBURABUTURO-KIGALI/RWANDA) in the faculty of management specializing finance. His main concentrations are Unity and Reconciliation, peace, HIV/AIDS Prevention and poverty reduction not only in Rwanda but also in Great lakes Region. In 2002 during his secondary education, he was elected to be in the District committee of youth leaders. This committee had a task of promoting unity and reconciliation among people especially youth. Efforts and different strategies were applied and used to establish the Unity and Reconciliation Clubs in communities. He has also been a member of anti-AIDS Clubs of youths had been established to promote HIV/AIDS Prevention.

Moreover, M. Sulemani was in the committee that explained and promoted the Rwandan National Constitution during the 2003 elections. During this time, M. Sulemani was nominated to be one of the presidential elections

organizers committee in District. He was also nominated to a committee of Anti Genocide Ideology in his District that has the task of encouraging Rwandans to fight against genocide ideology from politicians and others. While he was at University, M. Sulemani had chance to be the Adventist Student Association for two years which gives him more leadership experience. M. Sulemani has participated in different conferences, seminars and trainings while he was a youth leader in district. And he participated in the international seminars and conferences especially in the East African Community that gathered Universities student associations' leaders from EAC.

**Celestin (Zenthii) Muyombana** is a 24 year old student at St. Lawrence University in Uganda studying Information Technology. He has worked with the organizations Barakabaho, Umwana Nkundi, and is the focal point for Uyisenga N'Imanzi.

**Lyhotely Ndagijimana** holds a Bachelor's degree in the Social Sciences, department of Sociology from Kigali Independent University (ULK). He works at Kimisagara Youth Center as a coordinator of youth activities and organizer of workshops. He is the President and Legal Representative of ADBEF "Association for the Defence of Human Rights, Lasting Development and well-being family", which is an association that advocates rights of marginalized people, especially the youth. He is joining this program in order to improve his knowledge, work experience, and gain new ideas. He is also interested in participating with GYC in order to exchange experience with other participants and to know more about human rights. He is patient and easily accessible by others. He tries not to discourage himself and enjoys the creative arts.

**Priscilla Natukunda** is a 23 year old, fourth-year student at the School of Finance and Banking in Kigali. After her experiences with the previous GYC delegation, she wants to expand her knowledge on how to preserve the human rights of others. Following participation during GYC's summer 2009 delegation, she broadened her professional and personal opportunities through access to jobs and networks of people across Rwanda and North America. This experience taught her the value of activism and associating with similar people. She has experience with youth leadership in various districts throughout Rwanda with a focus on underprivileged groups. She has also worked as a translator for The Girl Hub. She is also director of vocational services at the ROTERACT Club S.F.B. She wants to participate in this current delegation in order to expand her knowledge of human rights and how individuals can achieve their rights and be treated as dignified humans.

**Didaciene (Dida) Nibagwire** is a 23 year old female who studies at the Kigali Liberal University in her last year studying economic sciences. She has worked at Alpha Computer as a maintenance worker. She works in the office of National Parks and Tourism of Rwanda as a customer care representative. She has also previously worked for the Rwanda Development Board in customer service. Currently, she is the focal point of ISHYO.

**Manasseh Ntambara** is 28 years old male who holds a degree in Electronics and Telecommunication engineering from the Kigali Institute of Social Technology. He has worked as the Rwandan United Nations Association branch of his Institute where he worked on the Millennium Development Goals. He also served as the Vice-Minister of social affairs at the KIST students association in 2006-2007 where he mentored and assisted students with any of their needs. He hopes to bring his enthusiasm for working with youth to enrich the cross-cultural experience of Global Youth Connect.

**Melissa Schlichting** graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 2008 with her Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in English and International Development Studies. Following her studies, Melissa volunteered in Uganda and then received a CIDA- funded internship, working alongside Ugandan staff in a household water program. Since returning to Winnipeg, Melissa has continued to supplement her education with additional courses in Human Rights and Global Studies, focusing on transitional justice and the promotion of human rights. In her spare time, Melissa volunteers with refugee youth in two Winnipeg-based organizations, working as a mentor, teacher, and

Funding Proposal Coordinator. Melissa is also engaged with the active promotion of the 2048 Project, advocating for an enforceable international agreement to safeguard human rights for all. From the Rwanda Delegation, Melissa wishes to gain valuable experience and insight into human rights abuses in an international context and what can be done to remedy them and how to prevent future abuses from occurring. Following her time in Rwanda, Melissa hopes to secure a position with a non-governmental organization in Sub-Saharan Africa that focuses on basic needs and human rights issues.

**Morgan Springer** is currently designing her own major at the University of Alabama which will focus on conflict resolution and the non-profit sector of sub-Saharan Africa in post-conflict communities. In the spring of 2010, she held a short term internship at a residential program for children who had been passed around the foster care system an abnormal amount of times, as a result of severe emotional and behavioral problems from physical and sexual abuse in their past. Morgan combined this experience with her work as a preschool teacher and camp counselor to concentrate her passion on working with children who had experienced trauma. By participating in the Rwandan program, Morgan plans on expanding her understanding of how grassroots organizations function and interact in Rwandan communities and of Rwandan culture. She intends on returning either to Rwanda or Uganda in the next two years to remain for a semester, spending the majority of her time on field work with local NGO's. Following these experiences, Morgan hopes to live in Africa, applying the learning experiences she has accumulated to implementing positive changes in the lives of others through reconciliation and rehabilitation.

**Bonaventure Tuyisenge** is currently working as counselor Trainer Supervisor and Career Center Manager in Kigali Health Institute since 2007. After getting his first degree in School Psychology from National University of Rwanda (2004), he did a postgraduate certificate course in Professional Counseling with Regional Aids Training Network in collaboration with Kenya Association of Professional Counselors (2008) and a diploma in Project management with Rwanda Institute of Administration and Management (RIAM). Thereafter, he pursued other courses in both professional and academic areas. Bonaventure is interested in training and doing research in the fields of Professional Counseling, Psychology, HIV/AIDS, stress and burnout management (currently is part time counselor support supervisor of VCT counselors of King Faycal Hospital-Kigali), Gender Based Violence and implementation of Gender mainstreaming, health and human rights as well as career guidance and employability. Bonaventure previously worked in schools as Deputy Headmaster and a teacher in an international French School. Currently, he uses both languages French and English in addition to his mother tongue, the Kinyarwanda. Due to his ambition of managing people, Bonaventure was trained on Leadership competitiveness and prosperity by OTF-Group in collaboration with Rwanda Development Board (RDB). He is a member of AJPRODHO-JIUKIRWA since 1998 when he was still doing his undergraduate Studies at NUR; he is also a member of Rwanda Men's Resources Center (RWAMREC). He is flexible, organized, and hardworking and goal achieving oriented man. Now, he is married with a wife and one son.

**Zawadi (Zawey) Umuhohoza** graduated this year from the National University of Rwanda ( NUR) with her Bachelor in Arts with a degree in English with the option of Translation and Interpreting . In 2009, Zawey participated in The Global Youth Connect workshop on Human rights as a focal point for a local organization known as CIMS focusing on land related conflict. In August 2010, she became a secretary for the GYC alumni. Zawey was selected at the country level as an action partner of Oxfam international Youth Partnership, which is supported by Oxfam Australia. In November 2010, she participated in the Kaleidoscope held in New Delhi.

**Charles Uwayezu** is a 26 year old student at the Kigali Liberal University studying economic sciences and management. He has worked in his District's statistics and census office. He is the focal point for COPORWA. He is interested in increasing knowledge of human rights as it relates to the Potter's community and other marginalized groups.

**Tracy Verrier** is pursuing a dual graduate degree in International Relations and Economics at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Her main concentrations are Negotiation and Conflict Resolution for her International Relations degree and Econometrics for her Economics degree. During the summer of 2007, Tracy volunteered as a teacher and child care provider at a school and orphanage near Nairobi, Kenya. This experience exposed her to an array of political and social injustices, which initiated her interest in human rights. Tracy hopes to work in the field of advocacy and research, particularly relating to women's and LGBT rights, after completing her degrees.

**Gina Vorderstrasse** – as a recent Washington, D.C. transplant – is pursuing graduate studies in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown University. While focusing her studies in Refugee and Humanitarian Crises, she is also contributing to a research project on UN peacekeeping forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Her most formative international experience was volunteering in South Africa with orphaned or abandoned HIV-positive children and with Zimbabwean refugees. After graduation, Gina plans to pursue work as an investigative foreign aid worker and in NGO management in Sub-Saharan Africa. She hopes that her experience in the human rights delegation will engage with her academic interests in identity politics and post-conflict reconstruction, while also addressing the practical aspects of peace-building.

**Denice Wilson** is an Advocate for the Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit counties where she advocates for the rights of sexual assault survivors and their loved ones. She holds two bachelor's degrees, one in psychology and one in criminal justice, from Wheeling Jesuit University. She is currently a master's level student at the University of Akron seeking a degree and licensure in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her volunteer experience includes working with Appalachian Outreach, Inc., Packard Institute, Marshall County Mentoring Program, and Catholic Charities. Denice is interested in the connections between individuals, family systems, and communities, recognizing that all human interaction happens in the context of the wider world. Denice previously worked in the zoo field where she learned of the interconnection between quality of life, sustainable living, and the welfare of wildlife. Through her experience in Rwanda, Denice hopes to gain knowledge of how to develop grassroots efforts to tackle the problems facing our global society as a means to advocate for present and future clients.