



# Global Youth Connect

*Empowering Youth to Advance Human Rights in a Conflict-Prone World*

## Rwanda Program Report

**Human Rights Delegation: July 31 – August 21, 2013**

**In partnership with INARA Legal Aid Services**



**30 GYC Rwanda Participants (comprising 7 different nationalities) visited the Bisesero Mountain Heroes Memorial, after which they spoke to a survivor of Bisesero, a resistance movement during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Delegates debriefed the visit and incorporated their experience into blogs and presentations during the delegation.**



*I got to see how culture has a huge impact on what is considered "human rights." As well, it made me realize my own country has major human rights problems as well.*  
– Visiting Delegate

*My understanding of the concept of human rights has changed in the fact that I learned that some rights that are culturally not acceptable actually have to be given to people, like lesbians. I also learned that we don't entirely have freedom of speech in Rwanda.*  
– Rwandan Delegate

*It has deepened my understanding of what are human rights and the deep, deep, deep inequality in the world; who enjoys basic human rights and dignity and who doesn't.*  
– Visiting Delegate

*I can now differentiate between human rights and politics, because they are separate.*  
– Rwandan Delegate

Grassroots Projects: 20	Youth Engaged: 175	<u><a href="#">Blog Write Ups:</a></u> 5
Site Visits/Meetings : 15	Officials Engaged: 15	<u><a href="#">Theatre Pieces:</a></u> 5

## Intro: What's wrong with "Human Rights"?

When Jon and Elise got on the plane to come to Rwanda for the GYC 2013 human rights program, they thought they would be volunteering (along with their Rwandan peers Patrick and Olivier) for LIPRODHOR (the Rwandan League for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights). However, moments after Jon and Elise boarded their respective planes, LIPRODHOR pulled-out of the GYC program because the entire board of directors of LIPRODHOR had been ousted – during a spontaneous membership meeting at a fancy Kigali hotel. According to Human Rights Watch, the outgoing board of directors insisted that this was a government takeover of LIPRODHOR.

Luckily for the GYC volunteers, Esperance Football for Hope, one of the organizations with GYC had planned a site visit for our entire team, agreed to take-on the volunteers, and they were able to contribute to human rights protection after all, albeit through different means.

This story underlines the fact that the learning in the August 2013 program – perhaps more so than ever before – was not only culled from the workshops, site visits, and volunteering that *did* happen – but also the learning stemmed from what *didn't* happen!

The August 2013 Rwanda Participants encountered many unique situations that highlighted both the importance of continued human rights work in Rwanda, as well as how difficult the landscape of this field is to navigate in the current international and domestic political climates.

Throughout the program, planned site visits were complicated (and even denied on one occasion) by red tape which, we were told frankly on one occasion, had to do with our emphasis on "human rights." We also suspect that the fact that we were working with Congolese refugees raised red flags as the situation between Rwanda and the DRC was increasingly tense at the start of the delegation. The stigma associated with human rights was so excessive that, by the final dialogue of the program, GYC Executive Director Jesse Hawkes asked the alumni, "Do you think it is time for us to stop talking about human rights? It is just creating problems for us!" The answer from the alumni was a resounding, "No!"



ABOVE: Jean-Baptiste (front) with his fellow delegates, gazing out at the Kiziba Refugee Camp, where Augustin (right) lives.

BETWEEN: Jon, Elise, Olivier, and Patrick at Esperance



## Delegation Overview

Following the successes of the August 2012 Rwanda program, GYC partnered once again with Inara Legal Aid Services (INALAS) – led by GYC Alumnus Jean Claude Rwibasira – to empower young leaders from Rwanda and around the world through a Human Rights Learning and Action Program, which took place from July 31 - August 21, 2013.

Throughout these three weeks, 15 international participants from 7 different countries (United States, Canada, England/Zambia, Australia, Bosnia, and China), 16 Rwandan participants and 1 Congolese refugee currently living in Kiziba Refugee Camp in Rwanda, came together to explore human rights through a meaningful intercultural exchange.

By engaging in (1) **workshops** on human rights, development and community building; (2) **site visits** with non-governmental organizations and government institutions around the country; and (3) contributing through **volunteer service** to various civil society organizations, the young leaders in the program gained enhanced knowledge and understanding of human rights, particularly in the Rwandan, post-genocide context. They worked specifically on the human rights of refugees, historically marginalized persons, LGBTI persons, survivors of genocide, as well as on health care and confronting stigma against people living with HIV.

Overall, the program provided youth with:

- 1) Greater knowledge and understanding of human rights from various cultural perspectives
- 2) Enhanced skills and tools to advocate for human rights promotion and protection
- 3) Firsthand fieldwork experience with local civil society organizations
- 4) A global community and network of youth human rights activists



*The connectivity of the current group of participants was perhaps stronger than it had ever been before, perhaps given the challenges we faced vis a vis human rights.*  
– Jesse Hawkes, GYC Executive Director

## I. Workshops

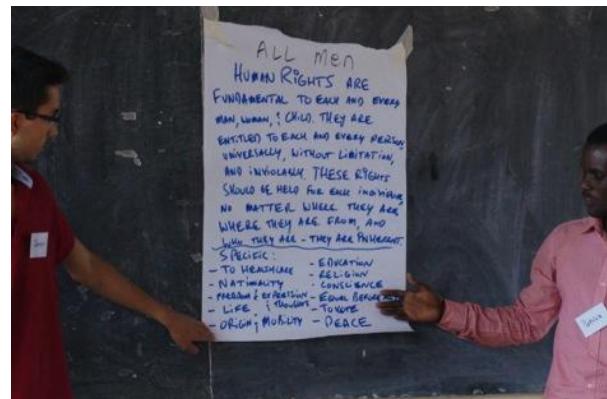
The August 2013 *Turikumwe* program followed the traditional program structure, beginning with a few days of workshops and facilitated dialogue sessions with delegates. The aim of these workshops is to introduce delegates to cross-cultural perspectives on human rights, and share various tools and techniques to use for effective human rights advocacy.

**One activity that is always fruitful is exploring personal and collective definitions of human rights.** In this activity delegates are challenged to define human rights for themselves, understanding that in order to be an effective advocate or activist, one must clearly understand what this means to his or herself. After making individual definitions, delegates are divided into various groups by different demographics (i.e., all men, all women, all international, all Rwandan and mixed gender and nationalities). *This activity highlights universal elements of human rights, and many delegates comment on how beneficial this activity is in showing them how regardless of background, people generally share the same core values.*

This year, delegates engaged in a discussion of whether there is a hierarchy of human rights and whether human rights could ever be taken away, such as the freedom of movement for a prisoner as punishment for infringing on the human rights of another by means of a crime committed.



Maja from Bosnia (center) talking to Didier (Rwanda) and Sadara (South Carolina) about how big to make their imaginary country's borders during the Human Rights and Development exercise designed and facilitated by GYC Program Assistant (and alumna) Davina Finn.



Jaxson and Patrick presenting the "All Men" group's Human Rights Definition

### Other workshop activities focused on:

- \*Comparing national constitutions
- \*"Development" and "human rights"
- \*Human rights of sexual minorities
- \*The role of social media in human rights
- \*"Open space" participant led discussions on advocacy, sexual violence, and healing

## II. Site Visits (Experiential Learning)

Through these visits delegates are engaged in experiential learning, gaining further insight into different aspects of Rwanda's development and human rights challenges and how they are being addressed through a range of innovative approaches. Delegates are given the opportunity to develop their self directed learning, advocacy, reporting and reflection skills through these visits, as the visits are geared towards answering delegates' questions and are followed by a peer-led debrief and social media and/or blogging reflections.

**Genocide memorials:** Understanding the history of the Rwandan genocide is critical to understanding the current context and challenges facing Rwanda today. Visiting memorials in Rwanda is not only important to pay tribute to the lives lost in the atrocities, but also helps delegates gain a deeper understanding and connection to the events that took place. Visiting the memorials as a mixed group of internationals and Rwandans helps form meaningful and lasting bonds as delegates share stories and support each other through these difficult visits.

### This year the delegation visited:

- Kigali Memorial Centre
- Nyange School – Heroes Memorial (after watching “We Are All Rwandans” short film based on the story of the events at this school)
- Bisesero Memorial
- Belgian Soldiers Memorial
- Nyamata Memorial Church



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### Non-Governmental Organizations

Efforts to promote and protect human rights in Rwanda are wide ranging, from income generation, to HIV/AIDS stigma reduction, to health promotion, to minority rights and reconciliation efforts. The organizations visited by the GYC delegation tackle many different issues and utilize many different techniques and approaches.

#### These organizations included:

- *Esperance – Football for Hope* (peacebuilding and youth leadership through sport and theatre)
- *Ishyo Arts Centre and “Youth Bridge Global”* – theatre production of Romeo and Juliet
- *AVEGA Agahozo* (supporting Widows of the Genocide)
- [\*Karongi District Hospital\*](#) (Read Laurentine's thoughts in her [blog](#))
- *American Refugee Committee (ARC)* (Implementing Partner of the Kiziba Refugee Camp)
- *Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)*
- *Search for Common Ground* (reconciliation through theatre and radio programming)
- *Health Development Initiative (HDI) & Horizon Community Organization of Rwanda (HOCA)* – Panel on LGBT Rights



## Government Agencies (Rwandan and International)



Meeting with all 7 Commissioners at the National Human Rights Commission

Governmental agencies and related institutions like the National Human Rights Commission play an integral role in shaping the context in which grassroots organizations work in Rwanda. They also have the responsibility and ability to respond to the country's greatest challenges through the development and enforcement of laws and regulations, and effective allocation of resources. International governmental agencies, particularly the United States, play an important role in investing money towards development projects and working with the local government to provide guidance. Through thoughtful questions posed by delegates, these visits helped shape a thorough understanding of the political landscape of Rwanda and the region.

The entities we visited were:

- **US Embassy and the US State Department**

*Notable Moment:* Hearing about the current position of the State Department related to Rwanda's civil and political rights record.

*Law is one of the most important things in post conflict societies and it is the rule of law that has a very important role as a pillar of democracy. -- Participant*

- **Ministry of Justice (MINIJUST)**

*Notable Moment:* Discussion about the MAJ system in Rwanda (which aims to provide legal assistance to vulnerable populations) – which is similar to the work of INALAS.

- **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

*Notable Moment:* Hearing from the commissioners that they don't believe it is culturally acceptable to honor the rights of LGBT persons in Rwanda. They quoted from the Bible and dismissed the question about LGBT rights posed by one of the Rwandan participants.



**What advocacy strategies did you learn?**

*I have learned to ask people before helping them, to know deeply what they desire.*  
– Rwandan Participant

*The power of using social media, blogging, documentation and the use of theatre for social change.* – Numerous Participants

*For example, after the Kabuga Site Visit some of us guys posted some statements on facebook and twitter advocating for those poor communities in order to have better life conditions.* – Rwandan Participant

*I think blogging is something that I will take more seriously. I have used it to document traveling but now I see it has much more potential. It is an amazing source of communication and connection.* – International Participant

*Teach everyone to know their rights, through clubs in schools.* – Rwandan Participant

*Working with youth across borders is something I would like to model at home in my own human rights work; specifically the model of Esperance Football for Peace and Search for Common Ground.* – International Participant

*My favorite strategy has been the gathering of people with a common understanding. Something we always forget is that we are never just one voice alone. There is always someone to stand up with you, and it showed through this program.* – International Part.

*I learned how to advocate without causing disruptions, like protests. Instead, dialogue meetings and media can be used to ethically raise awareness of human rights issues. I think visiting with the village of Kabuga is one form of this.* – International Participant



# Kiziba Camp



Social Media Training



Delegates and Kiziba refugee youth during a communication exercise



Augustin (left) introducing himself on Day 1.

*"At first, it was not easy to take the burden of all refugee people on my shoulders. But as the program continued, I saw that it was a good experience for me, and I decided that I could speak out and be a leader." – Augustin, DRC refugee living in Kiziba Camp elected to participate in GYC*

Given that GYC had visited and worked with the Kiziba Camp for Congolese refugees in Rwanda in 2012, and at the recommendation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), we had planned for August 2013 to develop a human rights curriculum for the youth in the camp. Unfortunately, red-tape inhibited our group from entering the camp this time. Instead, we got a birds eye view of the camp with an impassioned tour by Augustin (see above).

In addition, we invited 10 members of the Youth Council at the Kiziba Camp to join the Turikumwe delegation for an entire day of delegate-led workshops and discussions on social change strategies that can be used by the youth in the camp. The day (see left) provided an excellent opportunity for all delegates to learn more about the issues facing refugees in Rwanda, and empowered youth from the camp to be leaders for social change. Following the day of workshops, a social networking group was formed to maintain contact and support between the delegates and the visiting youth.

At the final event of the delegation, Augustin's personal story (which is emblematic of so many of the refugees in the camp) brought the audience to tears and moved delegates to design an educational scholarship for refugee youth.



## Historically Marginalized Persons in Kabuga Sector, Karongi District

***The “potters” of Rwanda are a historically marginalized and disadvantaged group, traditionally known as the “Abatwa”.***



To conclude the initial visit to this community, the Turikumwe delegates and community members shared some drinks and traditional cultural dances of the Potters. Did you know the dancing of the Abatwa is the historical basis for Rwanda’s world-renowned traditional dance?

In collaboration with COPORWA (Community of Potters of Rwanda), the Turikumwe visited the Kabuga Community of Potters in Karongi District.

In an effort to support COPORWA’s advocacy initiatives for this community, the Turikumwe delegation split into small teams and interviewed each family at their homes to learn about their living conditions and their daily challenges.

The results of these interviews were later consolidated into a detailed report with specific recommendations to both the community, COPORWA, and the national government by the Tuikumwe volunteers working at COPORWA as part of their volunteer service placement.

One practical recommendation was that each family should have a kitchen garden, as food is scarce.

The delegation made a food donation to the community following the visit, and it was delivered along with the report by GYC volunteers and local partners.

### III. Volunteering with Grassroots Organizations

The Turikumwe program is proudly known as a “Learning and Action” program. As such, in addition to the learning programming described above, there is a focus on “taking action together” by engaging in a more hands-on and intensive fashion with various non-governmental organizations working in some way to promote and protect human rights in Rwanda. Delegates were split into small groups of 2-5 people, made up of both Rwandan and International delegates, and paired with a local organization for an entire week. ***Below are some of the projects undertaken/assisted by the GYC volunteers:***

#### Health Development Initiative (HDI)

- Assisted in HDI’s LGBT Advocacy Training workshop teaching local LGBT and human rights organizations the proper advocating skills and tools
- Prepared a grant proposal to UNAIDS for HIV/AIDS prevention education programming



#### Uyisenga N’ Manzi (Right)

- Conducted research and prepared a report on the need for psychiatric professionals in Rwanda
- Managed and organized data on children affected by the genocide and poverty



#### Amahoro Association / CHABHA (Left)

- Worked with Amahoro Youth Association to develop musical theatre for social change presentations on HIV stigma reduction. Watch Video!
- Documented the looming and theatre projects to create promotional videos

*I was so happy to get an opportunity to get training with Global Youth Connect volunteers. I learned that it is important to learn and understand your character; it helps an actress live their character, which enables the audience to easily understand me on stage. We learned how to work as a team, we were divided into different smaller groups during the training, some were learning how to insert a dance in the story that we were working on, some were writing the music, comedy and the others were refining our play on stigma of children living with HIV/AIDS. We later inserted all the different ingredients and produced with one beautiful piece as a musical play. It was very nice to learn and do musical theatre in few days. This training made me feel confident. We as a group felt very important and loved, this is because we normally know that people from GYC were volunteers, but they spent a lot of time with us that we did not expect, sharing lunch, dancing and playing different games with us was a sign of love. May God bless the Global Youth Connect volunteers! -- MUTETERI Divine, Theater Actress with Amahoro/CHABHA's I Act to Tell drama group*

## Community of Potters of Rwanda (COPORWA)

- Reviewed, revised and edited a project plan
- Prepared report based on Turikumwe's visit to Kabuga village
- Developed the idea to implement a community garden in Kabuga village



This cow was a gift of the government but it is suffering in the community of "Potters". Pots are not lucrative enough to buy grass for feed.

## Inara Legal Aid Services (INALAS)

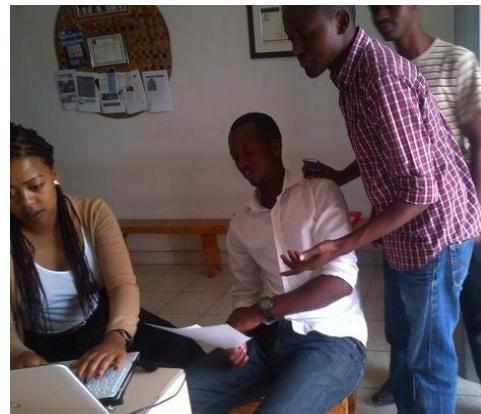
- Created a funding proposal for the Leitner Centre for International Law and Justice for \$50,000
- Assisted with client intake interviews and case management

### ***Reflecting on Time at INALAS:***

It was an opportunity to gain insight into the very real issues facing vulnerable and underprivileged Rwandans. I intend to do more research and thinking about this as I finish up my academic work back home. – International participant

## Genocide Survivors Student Association in Rwanda (AERG)

- Researched and prepared a document of funding opportunities
- Conducted a concept paper for legal aid and volunteer services



Georgina (UK/Zambia) with Jean Baptiste and Augustin, volunteering with Theogene (AERG Staff)

## Esperance Football for Hope

- Engaged female youth soccer team in training activities
- Built props and set pieces for youth puppet theater performance regarding community issues and conflict resolution
- Sought donated items and grants for the continued longevity and success of Esperance's programming



Elise, Jon, and Oliver working at Esperance, preparing a "Shadow Theatre Box"

## Final Dialogue

*For the final day of the program, delegates have the opportunity to consolidate all that they have experienced over the three week program into a short presentation delivered to alumni, leaders from the various site visits and volunteer service organizations, and special guests.*

Rose Tuyishime (GYC Alumna and President of the GYC Alumni in Rwanda), asked a question about Refugee Rights in Rwanda. Note: Placide Magambo (previous alumni president) is studying journalism in the U.S.



As part of the opening sequence, a UN staff person reads the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with Jean-Marie (GYC Participant) at the final dialogue

*presented in the 4 teams that they had been working for the past three weeks:*

*(1) Documentation; (2) Blogging and Social Media; and (3) Theatre.*

**The documentation team** presented on all the site visits, workshops and volunteer service activities, followed by a short video that can be seen here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=qAC\\_5Nw21P4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=qAC_5Nw21P4)

*The final event also included an engaging dialogue with audience members and the delegates about what the delegates learned and gained from the program and what action steps they will take as they return to their communities.*

## **Blogging and Social Media**

*During and following the program, several of the participants published blog and creative pieces on [youthpolicy.org](http://youthpolicy.org) and [gycvillage.org](http://gycvillage.org) concerning the complex challenges facing Rwanda and the world.*



**Laurentine from the Blogging team reading out her concluding poem in honor of the strength it takes to be an advocate for human rights.**

The blogging team read out loud a few of their blogs that had been written throughout the program, reflecting on some of their experiences and calling readers to action.

The blogs from this program can be read at [gycvillage.org](http://gycvillage.org)

The social media team presented on their social media strategy and gave an overview of the types of messages they posted on different social media platforms, such as facebook and twitter, throughout the program and examples of the conversations that were started through these posts.

The Turikumwe 2013 program created an active facebook group that the delegates can use in the future to maintain momentum from the program, stay in contact with each other and continue dialogue and conversation about current events and human rights issues. The topics of discussion on this facebook group have been:

- Uganda's Anti-Gay Legislation
- Congo Peace Deal with M23 Leaders
- Updates like Georgina's [post-delegation blogging work with UNHCR in the UK](#)
- China's One Child Policy

## Theatre and Music



Throughout the entire program, the techniques of “forum theatre” and “image theatre” were introduced and used by the group to engage in deeper discussion about various topics and examine various perspectives. With a number of great singers in the group, music also played a large role.

**Image theatre** (above left) was used by delegates on the first day of the program, portraying in plateaus (frozen scenes) various words that came to mind upon hearing the word “human rights”, such as freedom, unity, global, and obstacles. This same “tableau” idea was used in the final presentation by a smaller group of delegates, portraying themes from the different site visits along with memorable quotes from community members or organization/government leaders on the themes of: Land, Equality, Education, and Stigma

**Forum theatre** (right) is a technique that involves audience participation to solve a problem introduced by the actors in a scene. This method was used during a day of workshops with youth members of Kiziba refugee camp, discussing issues such as domestic violence and ethnic tension/reconciliation. By observing the effectiveness of theatre as an effective tool for human rights education and advocacy, delegates were encouraged to bring these techniques back to their home communities and future projects.



At the final dialogue, the theatre group also presented a play narrated and sung by Augustin, the GYC participant from the Kiziba Refugee Camp, theatrically demonstrating his life as a refugee.

Finally, to keep things positive, the group presented an interpretive piece that used powerful and inspirational quotes spoken over music to inspire continued action for human rights activism amongst the group.

***What do you feel is the most important thing that you have learned about a culture (or a nation) that is not your own as a result of your participation in the program?***

*Rwanda is a strong country that has come a long way. I believe everything is not perfect, but it is headed in that direction. The youth want change and they are determined to make change. – International Participant*

*It was the first time I learned about genocide in Bosnia, and that in the US, not all states have the same laws. – Rwandan Participant*

*That Rwandan culture is beautiful, complex, and interesting! – International Participant*

*I have learned that people dress accordingly. When it is hot, they wear shorts. When it is cold they wear trousers. Whereas in my country we always wear trousers, because shorts mean you are not a serious man. – Rwandan Participant*

*The other culture respects time! – Rwandan Participant*

*The most important thing that I have learned is that all countries have human rights problems. -- Rwandan Participant*



At the ETO Kicukiro school, where UN soldiers safeguarded, but then abandoned thousands to a death march and massacre.

**Total Program Budget (not including delegate airfare): \$40,000 USD**

**The program is primarily funded by international participants' program fees, with additional support from Global Youth Connect, INALAS, the Rwandan Participants, as well as numerous volunteer efforts from volunteer service organizations and site visit partners.**

## International/ Visiting Participant Biographies

### **Michael Armstrong**

Originally from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Michael is a biology major at Christopher Newport University (CNU). He is on a pre-medical track and hopes to enter the medical field. Michael is a recipient of the Brotherhood-Sisterhood award from the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, and has volunteered with CARITAS (a program feeding and sheltering the homeless), as well as the local animal shelter. At CNU, he is a member of the only all-male *a cappella* singing group and also volunteers at the rescue squad in Smithfield, Virginia where he is working to obtain his EMT-B. Throughout all four years of high school, Michael was a member of the football team, acted in a few of the plays, was in the National Honor Society and BETA Club. Michael hopes to gain experience in Rwanda specifically related to health care, advocacy, and services.

### **Danielle Aubin**

Danielle is currently pursuing her graduate degree in Social Work at Humboldt State University while also working in Eating Disorder treatment as an Intake Coordinator. Danielle has served her local community as a Suicide Prevention Hotline Operator, a California State Certified Sexual Assault crisis counselor and has worked extensively with at-risk and immigrant youth. Danielle has volunteered and studied abroad in many different countries including volunteering at a Guatemalan Orphanage and studying in Peru, Argentina and Chile. Human Rights, Animal Rights and environmental activism that promotes world peace through direct care and advocacy has been her passion since she was very young. Her most notable recent adventure abroad was in 2011 when she went to Bangalore, India to study women's issues and sociology as a Benjamin A. Gilman scholar. She ended up extending her stay to volunteer with orphan children infected with HIV just outside of Bangalore in a place called Sneha Care Home. Six months later Danielle found herself again in magical India and then backpacking alone around south East Asia. To pass the time while traveling by bus all around Cambodia, Danielle picked up a book about the history of the recent genocide in Cambodia and the aftermath. Ironically, while reading this book on a rickety bus racing through the Cambodian countryside, she was involved in a fatal bus accident that left two people dead and 30 people severely wounded. She lost the book in the crash but it's connection to Cambodia's history of genocide and extreme levels of poverty really sparked a deep interest in Danielle to learn more about post-conflict/post-genocide countries and how to help at the grassroots level. Danielle plans to graduate with her MSW and help others as a psychotherapist (LCSW) while also working as an activist her local and international community towards establishing world peace and equal human rights for all.

### **Jamie Boban**

Jamie is finishing her graduate degree in Political Science and Community Development with the Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development at Illinois State University. As a graduate intern, Jamie currently works at the Arbor on Main Youth Resource Center in Ukiah, California. She serves as Youth Development Specialist working with homeless, foster, and at-risk transitional age youth in addition to grant writing and program development. Jamie holds a BS in Political Science with a minor in African Studies. She has previously interned with the American Red Cross and Play for Peace Illinois as well as served a year-long term as an AmeriCorps VISTA. In the past four years, she has

volunteered abroad in both Kampala, Uganda and Cusco, Peru. Jamie hopes to continue her work in the human rights field in Chicago.

### **Jiahui Chen**

Jiahui hails from China and is pursuing her master's degree in Politics (communication and international affairs) at New York University. She received her bachelor's degree in English (international journalism), a combined major of Tianjin Foreign Studies University in China and Aston University in UK. During the past summer breaks, she spent two months in Surabaya, Indonesia working for a local environmental protection NGO and two months in Accra, Ghana volunteering for a tourism promotion program at Ghana University. Jiahui is currently interning at Witness ([www.witness.org](http://www.witness.org)), a human rights advocacy NGO, for its YouTube Human Rights Channel. Her experience of growing up in China and then traveling around to different countries has truly opened her mind and significantly increased her interests in human rights issues, especially on issues related to children's rights and women's rights. Through her involvement in GYC Rwanda, she hopes to deepen her understanding of human rights situations in countries that have undergone severe human rights violations, as well as how to adapt human rights knowledge (international laws) to the situations. After graduation from NYU, she plans to continue working in human rights field in developing countries.

### **Eleanor Gourley**

Eleanor is an international development professional with over two years of experience working on USAID funded projects in Central Asia, Colombia, Southern Africa and Thailand. Both during college and after graduating, she has volunteered and worked with asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants, from teaching English to Somali students in Lewiston, Maine to interviewing Mexican immigrants in Rhode Island, to mentoring an Ethiopian asylee in Silver Spring, Maryland. As an undergraduate, she wrote an Honors Thesis on the international, national and local transitional justice response to wartime rape and sexual violence in Bosnia and Rwanda, discovering that the services provided by local grassroots initiatives and organizations were most able to bring rehabilitative justice to victims of the conflicts. By participating in the delegation she hopes deepen her understanding of local initiatives in post-conflict situations and how they can fill in gaps left by international and national reconstruction efforts. In the Fall of 2013, Eleanor will begin Law School, focusing her studies on International Law and Human Rights.

### **Jaxson Khan**

Named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20 young leaders and a global One Young World Ambassador, Jaxson studies at Western University in London, Ontario, double-majoring in global development and business administration. In his spare time, Jaxson is an established social activist, and has spoken before audiences of over 5000 youth on positive change-making. As Executive Director of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association, he represented 2 million students across Ontario to the Ministry of Education. He now advises AstraZeneca Canada's Young Health Program, reaching over 50,000 youth and advocating for youth mental health nation-wide. Jaxson co-founded Student Voice Initiative, an international movement to give students a voice in their education, and is the current President of Impact Entrepreneurship Group, a decade-old organization that facilitates mentorship for young entrepreneurs across Canada. After spending his first year of school in the UK and Europe, Jaxson developed a keen desire to both explore and to better the world. Following his time in Rwanda and in the coming years, he

hopes to work in international community health, focussing on knowledge exchange, social innovation, and public-private partnerships, in an effort to empower communities and people around the world.

### **Luca Madden**

Luca has just finished her first degree, a Bachelor of International Relations from the University of Sydney, with a major in Government and a minor in French. Most of her studies focused on the legal components of human rights enforcement, and she became interested in the judicial systems of post-conflict communities, from Nuremberg to Iraq, but particularly the ad hoc tribunals set up after the Rwandan genocide. This is largely what led her to apply for the delegation. Whilst Luca studied, she was lucky enough to travel. In the summer of 2010, she was able to work in Ecuador with a children's rights organisation, UBECI, which focuses on at-risk children in the slums of Ecuador's capital, Quito. Here she was afforded a window into the role of human rights workers and was hooked. In 2011, she then worked in a village on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, helping to build a kindergarten and teach English to the teachers and students, members of a village unfairly displaced by its government. This was significantly more strenuous work than that in Ecuador, and the legacy of Cambodia's genocide was still palpable. But this too encouraged her in knowing that human rights ground-work is what she intended to spend her life doing. When not studying, she spends her time travelling and is excited to see Africa for the first time. Luca intends to take her experience in Rwanda and apply it to her law degree, which she will commence next year at the Australian National University.

### **Logan McLean**

Logan is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in sociology at Carroll College in Helena, Montana. In her spare time Logan serves as the civic engagement intern at the Hunthausen Center for Peace and Justice while also co-leading a RESULTS chapter for Montana. During her time at Carroll College, Logan has worked with and supported grassroots organizations in Uganda for women empowerment. She has also worked to bring Invisible Children to Carroll for the past three years. In the summer of 2012, Logan enjoyed interning for the Montana Human Rights Network. By participating in the delegation she hopes to deepen her understanding of the complexities of different cultures. Logan also hopes to fully realize her personal potential to act as a catalyst for change. Following her time in Rwanda and graduation, Logan hopes to bring a deeper awareness and urgency for the protection of human rights to her community and the state of Montana as a whole.

### **Georgina Mugugu**

Georgina is in her final year of an undergraduate degree at the University of Birmingham studying International Relations. As her final year dissertation project, she is researching the extent to which gendered media propaganda affected the nature of the violence women experienced during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Georgina is an active member of various student societies around the university campus and was even successfully elected as President of the



African and Caribbean Society. With little experience in development and human rights organizations, Georgina hopes that through her participation in the delegation she is able to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge she can take with her on future endeavors. In particular she is interested in gaining experience in different organizations which all individually contribute to the post conflict reconstruction of Rwandan society. Upon returning to the UK, Georgina hopes to begin a law conversion, which is the first step in her journey to eventually practicing international law with a focus on the protection and provision of human rights.

### **Tara Pipes**

Tara is pursuing her undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of Hawaii Hilo where she is currently assisting in research with Dr. Dawna Coutant. This research focuses on peace and ethnic relations in the Balkans region and attitudes of "locals" and immigrants on the islands of Hawaii. In her spare time Tara is involved with a PTSD support group for victims of sexual violence. She also is an active member of the LGBTQ community and participates weekly in a student support group on campus. By participating in the delegation she hopes to deepen her understanding of cross cultural relations and ethnic attitudes in post-conflict countries. Following her time in Rwanda, Tara plans to receive her MA at Bradford University through the Rotary scholarship in Peace and Conflict resolution and then continue perusing her PHD in Peace Psychology.

### **Elise Roberts**

Elise is currently a junior at the State University of New York at Buffalo, pursuing a double major in International Studies and Political Science and a double minor in Italian and French. Throughout her experience at the University of Buffalo, she has maintained a GPA of 3.85 while working part-time and participating in other extra-curricular activities, such as the SUNY Model European Union and volunteer work as a cantor at her local church. Pursuing her interest in global politics, Elise has participated in an international conference in Exeter, UK with the Model EU as well as spent a semester studying in Italy. Through her participation in this delegation, Elise hopes to learn more about the application of law as an instrument for affecting social change and the protection of human rights. Upon graduation, Elise hopes to attend law school to study international law and continue to work for the promotion of humanrights through transnational organizations.

### **Bradley Arthur Sanken**

Bradley is pursuing his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Asian Studies with a concentration in Japan Studies at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. In his spare time Bradley holds several leadership roles in multicultural organizations at St. Olaf to help promote global awareness. In the Korean Culture Association he has helped educate campus about humanitarian issues in the Korean peninsula, successfully conducting campus wide fundraisers for an unwed mothers' shelter in Seoul, organizing events and inviting speakers with first hand knowledge of North Korea's humanitarian conditions, and more. By joining the delegation, he not only hopes to broaden his cross cultural understanding, as he especially looks forward to understanding the function of human rights organizations in Rwandan society and aid the efforts of human rights in an effected country. One day he hopes to work in the field of diplomacy, potentially with the United Nations, to promote a more peaceful and just world through understanding.

**Sadara Shine**

Born and raised in Charleston , South Carolina, Sadara is a junior Political Science major, minoring in Global Studies at Coastal Carolina University. She is a member of Circle K International and the African American Club. She is also a Coastal Carolina First Year Experience Peer Mentor and works in the Dalton and Linda Floyd Family Mentoring Program. She enjoys meeting and being around all types of people. Through her experiences with GYC in Rwanda, she hopes to gain a more global education, to learn, but also to contribute in some way to the work being undertaken by her Rwandan peers, and the Rwandan partner organizations in the program. After graduating from Coastal Carolina University she hopes to attend graduate school in foreign policy and possibly work overseas in a US Embassy.

**Jon Telch**

In 2009, Jon graduated from Carleton University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Following graduation, Jon began working for a Canadian MP in the role of: 'Special Assistant'. Jon's responsibilities included authoring speeches, statements for parliamentary hearings and research for the MP's role as a member of the 'Standing Committee On Foreign Affairs and International Trade'. This work experience provided Jon with the opportunity to hear witness testimony from those who were experiencing or had experienced a violation of their human rights in a foreign country. Some examples include; Falun Gong dissidents in China, Rwandan Genocide survivors, displaced person's at Camp Ashraf in Iraq, and many others. After working with the MP for the year, Jon began applying to master's programs in International Relations in the United Kingdom. In September of 2012, Jon earned his Master's of Science in International Relations at the University of London and received the distinction of passing with Merit. Upon returning home to Canada, Jon wrote the LSAT for the second time and began the process of applying to law school for the second year in a row. Once all applications were completed, Jon along with two other human rights advocates began work at the 'Canadian Coalition For a Democratic Belarus', where he is the Policy Analyst. Jon's responsibilities include; presentations for MP's and other Canadian figures, political strategy and social media presence. In addition, Jon continues to work with other communities in human rights advocacy such as the Falun Gong. In becoming a member of the delegation to Rwanda, Jon hopes to further his knowledge on the subject of genocide aftermath and national healing. Jon hopes to explore the relationship between Rwanda and the international community and the role of the international justice system in contemporary Rwanda. Following his participation on the delegation, Jon hopes to be admitted to law school. Following the completion of his law degree, Jon hopes to work in the field of international human rights and international law, building on his recent work and educational experience in these fields.

## Rwandan Participant Biographies

### **Haragirimana Jean Baptiste**

My name is HARAGIRIYAREMYE Jean Baptist, I hold a bachelors degree in law from Kigali Independent University (ULK), I am 26 years old. Currently, I work with LIPRODHOR (Rwandan League for Promotion and Defense of Human Rights) to monitor justice and Human Rights in Rwanda. I have one year's experience in this work of Human Rights and Justice monitoring and advocacy.

### **Hakizimana Vincent**

I am Vincent HAKIZIMANA from Kigali/RWANDA and I have a bachelor's degree in animal sciences, the faculty of agriculture from the National University of Rwanda (NUR). Currently I am working on grassroots with coaches and caretakers who are teaching kids life skills through football aged from 6 to 16 years old. I am the instructor of coaches after the instructor's workshop that I attended in Johannesburg in 2010. since that time I conducted 2 workshops of youth coaches from Kenya, Uganda Burundi and Rwanda and as well as their follow ups in those respective countries to see how they are implementing their gained knowledge. In 2012 I attended the youth leadership camp in Germany organized by the UNOSDP (United Nations Office on Sports for Development and Peace) ,my organization Esperance was selected as a potential organization using sports for development of peace, as we used football for peace for Rwandan reconciliation and peace building in great lakes region. That football for peace consists of 3 boys and 3 girls in each team and there is no referee and that helped in developing the ability of solving conflicts by themselves in the field as well as in normal life. We transfer special messages during that football for peace tournament and that's why I will integrate human rights after attending this GYC program and I think our way of using football as a medium will be an asset to human rights advocacy and sensitization.

### **Toni Martinez**

I am a 19 year old Rwandan female, currently graduated from Riviera high school to put it differently my entire life is still ahead of me and my life's slate is still completely clean. But this does not mean that I have no dreams of reaching for the stars. I am currently in my gap year and waiting to join college soon. I enjoy socializing with people and working as a team. I spend most of my time reading and doing my favorite sport which is swimming. I may not be perfect but all I can be is myself.



### **Didier Niyomukiza**

Didier Niyomukiza is a student at National University of Rwanda in 2<sup>nd</sup> year; faculty of Arts, Media and Social sciences (department of school of journalism and communication). He was a graduant at Nyundo arts school and got high school certificate with distinction in arts. He has worked for Umuganga health promotion company as a Journalist/Reporter for two years. He served Minexo progress Ltd for 2 months as marketing staff. Didier Niyomukiza was born at Burera district (Northern province) on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1992. Actually, when you see him you could assume he is timid but, Didier Niyomukiza is good tempered guy, sharp and generous. His hobbies include reading books and newspapers, watching news and doing business. He respects God, his parents, his leaders and his colleagues. He likes helping people in misery.

To take initiative, creativity, innovation, hardworking and team work spirit are some of my personal qualities. During assignments, he is a strong team player and multi task. In his daily duties, he has flexibility, integrity, patience, resilience, determination and strong leadership. He disagrees with dishonesty.

#### **Uwitonze Patrick Aimable**

I am UWITONZE Patrick Aimable, Rwandan by Origin and Nationality, Sex male and Single. I was born in 1985 in former Cyangugu Province actually Western Province, Rusizi District, Muganza Sector. I was born in a Christian family (Catholic) made of five children, three girls and two boys including me first born. My Parents are GASHABIZI Emmanuel and Mukantwali Josephine (all alive). I went to primary school at Muganza School in 500 meters from home where my parents work as teachers actually. After Primary School, I went to Gihundwe High School for 3 years of Ordinary Level where I successfully pass and went for other 3 years of advanced Level at Ecole de Sciences St Louis de Mont Fort NYANZA in Option of Mathematics and Physics. Unfortunately, due to the sickness issues, I did two years at Nyanza, 4th and 5th then I went to complete one left year at Ecole Secondaire de GAFUNZO in Nyamasheke District. From Ecole Secondaire de Gafunzo, I obtained a Government bursary to follow studies at UMATARA POLYTECHNIC University located in Eastern Province, Nyagatare District, in Faculty of ICT (Information and Communication Technology). By now, I am a graduate holding a bachelor's degree of ICT. During Secondary School and University, I was interested to participate into different clubs like Red Cross, Unity and Reconciliation, Anti-Corruption and Catholic. In the field of ICT, I could learn a lot of things in class, from academic Internship and trainings. I am physically fit! I play Handball. and Volleyball to entertain with friends. I also like reading books, novels and working in group. Mostly if I am free I joke with friends and discuss with old men and youth about certain issues that seem to challenge me by giving my views and my understanding about it, to hear from them if they think the same way as me. Then I come up with analytical ideas of conclusion.

#### **Assumpta Muhoracyeye**

My name is Assumpta Muhorakeye. I live in Kigali City District of Gasabo. I am a student in Kigali Independent of Kigali (ULK) in third year of Economics. I would like to be economist in future. I am participant Rwandan in Global Youth Connect so I am very happy to be included.

#### **Nadine Uwase**

My name is **UWASE Nadine**, I am twenty years old. I just finished my secondary school and I soon start the 1<sup>st</sup> year of University. My major was Physics-Chemistry-Biology and I am still waiting to be given the admission and the faculty. In the future, I want to first finish my studies and then get married and have children. I would much like working for humanitarian organization that my studies may have been profitable for others too. My hobbies are reading and gardening.

#### **Jean Marie Vianney Nshimiyimana**

My name is Jean Marie Vianney NSHIMIYIMANA, I was born in 1987 and live in Kigali City. I have graduated in the faculty of law with a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the National University of Rwanda. I am volunteering in INALAS and I would like to become a good lawyer in my career. I dislike all things which are out of Justice.

#### **Axelle Mukandayisenga**

My name is Axelle MUKANADAYISENGA, I am single and I live in Kicukiro District of Kigali City. I graduated in the Faculty of FAMSS where my major was International relations. I volunteer in the CYGE (Competent Young Graduate Entrepreneur).

**Juliet Batamuriza** I am called Juliet BATAMURIZA, I am 23 years old and I graduated from the School of Finance and Banking with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Finance and I am a volunteer at Health Development Initiative (HDI). I like meeting new people, reading, watching, movies, reality TV Shows and hanging out with friends.

**Marie Chantal Uwababyeyi**

My name is **UWABABYEYI Marie Chantal**, I am 25 years. I am a member representative of COPORWA and still studying at Kigali Independent University in the Faculty of Social sciences where my major is Development Studies.

## Staff Biographies

**Jesse Hawkes, GYC Executive Director (GYC Rwanda Program Director)**

Jesse is a social activist, professional actor/singer, theatre director, writer, researcher, and youth development programmer. Jesse has served as GYC's Executive Director since 2009, and has also been GYC's Rwanda Program director since 2007, organizing over 15 human rights learning and action youth summits in collaboration with local Rwandan partner organizations. It was in a musical about children's fears of war, when he was 8 years old he was 8 years old, that Jesse was first introduced to the concept of human rights. The production led him to sing for children's rights (for life and peace) in Vermont, USA, Europe, even the USSR. After receiving his BA in History from Harvard University in 1999, Jesse continued his performance career based out of NYC for two years and soon began to pursue a life-long dream of contributing to community development through theatre projects in other parts of the world, starting in Haiti and then South Africa. Jesse lived and worked in Kigali, Rwanda for six years, where he co-founded Rwandans Allied for Peace and Progress (RAPP). With RAPP, Jesse created RAPSIDA, an HIV prevention program for over sixty Rwandan high schools and communities, utilizing a combination of innovative theatre methods, peer education, and outreach activities. He has written radio mini-series, directed five short films, and written films for social change. Jesse has performed in over forty plays, ranging from Shakespeare to musicals and opera, working with companies such as the National Shakespeare Company, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the American Repertory Theatre, and the Living Theatre. He also performed at the 10th memorial service of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide at Amahoro Stadium, in Kigali, in collaboration with Mashirika Performing Arts and the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Culture. In 2009, Jesse re-located to NYC, where he is thrilled to be running Global Youth Connect, expanding GYC's work to include the [Human Rights in the USA Program](#).

**Jean Claude Rwibasira, INALAS Executive Director (GYC Rwanda Program Coordinator)**

Jean Claude received his Bachelor's Degree in Law in March 2009 from the National University of Rwanda. Since February 2009 Jean Claude has been acting as the Executive Director of INALAS. In 2010 he joined as one of the Rwandan participants in his first 'Turikumwe Program' with GYC, co-led by AJPRODHO. Since then, he has been active in all the activities organized by GYC/AJPRODHO and he is proud that INALAS has been able to take the torch from AJPRODHO to become GYC's main implementing partner in Rwanda. He has worked with Avocat Sans Frontières (Lawyers without Borders)

where his organization was partnering in the monitoring of trials project to monitor if the principles of a "fair trial" are respected in genocide ideology, genocide denial, political and rape cases. He has skills in human rights observation. He is passionate about protecting and promoting the rights of poor people and vulnerable groups, especially orphaned children and women, and since 2009 up to date he is working as a volunteer to provide legal aid services to these targeted groups. Working with GYC opened his mind on the issues of historically marginalized people ("potters"/"Batwa") and today he is committed to advocate for them to improve their living conditions. It is in that perspective that he is specializing in minority rights and minority rights advocacy at Minority Rights Group International. He is also enrolled in the Master of Public International Law where he hopes to enhance his skills in human rights protection, promotion and advocacy not only in Rwanda but also around the world. Jean Claude is convinced that human rights are fully respected when a country is democratically ruled. This is why he is also following a three month course on participatory democracy, urban management and crisis capitalism at Centro Cultural de la Cooperacion, Campus Virtual. With this course, he hopes to deeply understand state reform and governance, decentralization and citizen participation, deliberative and participatory dimensions of democracy, local development and local power in the context of globalization.

#### **Davina Finn, GYC Rwanda Program Assistant**

Davina Finn is a community leader devoted to human rights, international development and conflict mediation/post-conflict reconciliation. Davina was a participant on the 2010 GYC Rwanda Delegation. Inspired by her experience in Rwanda, she has continued working in these fields through various roles and organizations. She has worked with the Queen's Project on International Development an NGO that coordinates international internships for students in developing countries. She worked in the capacity as Project Manager for the Botswana Project, and Site Director for the Ghana Project- coordinating, overseeing and managing 3-month student volunteer internships. Davina also worked with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation coordinating and facilitating interfaith programming and global health and international development workshops, educational presentations and fundraising initiatives- particularly focusing on Malaria eradication and maternal health in East Africa. Davina continued to work in the area of peace building and conflict resolution as an advisor and program facilitator with Kids4Peace Toronto, a summer camp for Israeli and Palestinian children focused on developing peaceful relationships and leadership among youth of the region. Prior to the 2013 Rwanda Delegation, Davina worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development at the Embassy of Canada in Vietnam where she worked primarily in the area of monitoring and evaluation. She is currently completing a JD/MBA (law and masters of business administration) degree in Toronto, where she has been involved as a member of the Student Government, a volunteer with the International Legal Partnership Committee, the Peer Support Centre, Pro Bono Students Canada, and the Accessibility for Ontarian's with Disabilities Act Alliance.

#### **Innocent Ndayishimiye (GYC Rwanda Program Assistant)**

Already a digital video and photography professional, Innocent NDAYISHIMIYE is 20 years old. He finished his Senior Secondary School in the option of Computer Sciences and is currently enrolled at the Tumba College of Technology (TCT) in Musanze, Rwanda. Innocent is an alumnus of the 2012 GYC Human Rights program in Rwanda. He is an orphan and he dreams to defend the rights of orphans because he understands the many troubles that orphans face in their life when there is no one to look after them. Recently, Innocent created several videos for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (chabha.org)