



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

Rwanda Program Report

TURIKUMWE! (We are together!)

Human Rights Learning & Action Program for Young Leaders

December 29, 2014 – January 11, 2015

In partnership with INARA Legal Aid Services



The Turikumwe program participants in front of the Nyange School of Heroes. The participants are joined by the teacher, Murigande, who taught reconciliation and unity at the school from 1995 - 1997, motivating students to resist division.



"This delegation moved me to want to continue to fight for human rights in all that I do. It taught me the importance of collaborations so that we may get a better understanding, exchange solutions, activate and advocate for the rights of others that may not have the ability"

"What surprised me is the creativity of each and every participant of this program"

"We learned a lot about unity and that the strength of a group far exceeds that of an individual"

"This program made me find my career goal"

Grassroots Projects: 7 Youth Engaged: 50 Hours of Voluntary Service: 500 Blogs: 4

Site Visits/Meetings: 8 Officials Engaged: 7 Workshops/Group Discussions: 23 Presentations: 20

Introduction: Rwanda, January 2015



Kigali, Rwanda, as seen from outside INALAS' office, near the Kimisagara Youth Center.

2014 marked the 20th anniversary of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, but also the 20th anniversary of the flight of *genocidaires* into the Congo, where they regrouped as the FDLR, a terrorist genocidal militia that has been fighting in and from the DR Congo ever since.

As the youth participants in GYC's 18th Turikumwe human rights program in Rwanda prepared to begin their workshop, the world was waiting to see if the FDLR would be disarming in-line with [a January 1, 2015 ultimatum](#) given by the Congolese government, the UN, and other members of the international community, including the U.S. Moreover, given that the participants included Moise Dushime, a Congolese refugee who had been living in the Kiziba Camp for the last 19 years since his family fled the FDLR, the DR Congo was on everyone's mind.

Rwanda itself remains a very peaceful country, seemingly unaffected by the crises happening around it, but it is not without bumps in the road. Just before the Turikumwe program began, the [Belgian Government decided to not give Rwanda an additional \\$50Million in aid because Rwanda had failed to meet democracy targets.](#)

Nevertheless the New Year's celebrations in Rwanda remain joyful (and they go on for about 3 days straight, unless New Year's falls on a Friday, as it did this year, and in that case the celebration lasts for 5 days at least!)

In addition, and as always, the youth coming into the Turikumwe program brought great passion for unpacking the challenges and opportunities facing Rwanda and the world. As you will see, their learning and work is part of a continuum of collaborative action comprised of youth, civil society organizations, government and international entities.

Please do join in! [Our next programs are just around the corner!](#)

Program Overview



This year, the TURIKUMWE (We are Together) program brought together 13 young leaders from Rwanda, the U.S., D.R. Congo (refugees living in Rwanda), and China. Some participants also brought the perspective of Jordan and India. Throughout the two weeks of the program the international and local participants, came together to explore human rights through an intercultural lens.

By engaging in **workshops on human rights**, development, and community building; **site visits** to non-governmental organizations and government institutions around the country; and by **contributing to civil society organizations through volunteer service**, the young leaders gained enhanced knowledge and understanding of human rights, particularly in Rwanda's post-colonial and post-genocide context. Among other topics, they worked specifically on the human rights of refugees, historically marginalized persons, genocide survivors, as well as on health care, legal aid, access to psychosocial services, food/shelter, and education.

Given the action steps taken by GYC alumni in the past, we know that the impact of these two weeks will have ripple effects around Rwanda and the world for years to come. All the participants are also ready to fight for human rights after they go back to school and work.

"The interaction of the people who meet together for the first time has made me euphoric."

"I learned that it does not matter what nation or culture you are from, what matters is how we can all come together and make a change in our societies"

"One can always find means of advocacy and take advocacy into their own hands"

"I feel like I have overcome my fears through this program"

Many thanks to [Nan Zhang](#) for her assistance with putting together this report!

Intercultural Human Rights Learning Workshops

The Winter 2014 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.



Guest lecturer Marion Grace Woolley led participants through an activity on the rights of people living with disabilities.



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.

This time, one group differentiated between equality and equity, helping participants gain a better understanding of economic and social human rights and a history of human rights abuses.

This year, delegates learned image theatre techniques to draw-out discussion about human rights topics, and subsequently led sessions for the refugee youth in the UHCHR camps that employed the same theatre techniques that they had learned.

"I was surprised by the fact that we can all be disabled depending on how we perceive disability"

"By using theater methodology, it really made us think more and deeper of different topics"

"I learned that everyone is able to advocate [human rights] by writing, using theatre and media"

In the Field: Site Visits

Genocide Memorials *(by Hannah Eddy, Harrison Spelman, and Jackson Tuyisenge)*

Kigali Memorial Center

On December 31, 2014, Turikumwe visited the Kigali Memorial Center, which is the largest burial site for victims of the 1994 genocide. The museum also contains the most authoritative history of modern Rwanda—from the beginning of Belgian involvement to the reconciliation of the country. The Center has three parts: the memorial, the museum, the archive of survivors' testimonies. It is important for young people to visit the site because youth are impressionable and played a large role in the genocide. Youth have the power to create a peaceful world.



During our time at the Center, Turikumwe participants toured the museum, explored the grounds and the surrounding memorial. After, met with Bonheur from Aegis Trust to learn more about Aegis and the museum's operations. Participants asked about Aegis Rwanda's outreach programs and their target audience as well as Aegis Trust's operations on an international scale, particularly regarding their efforts to raise awareness and

prevent genocide in surrounding African nations. The museum visit was extremely educational and filled in many gaps in participants' understanding of Rwandan history and the sequence of events leading up to and after the genocide. The group also spent considerable time debating the role of the UN after the visit.

Nyange School

After watching "We Are All Rwandans," a short film that tells the story of the March 1997 massacre and the students' courage, Turikumwe visited the Nyange Secondary School on January 3, 2015 while en route to Kibuye District. Participants were fortunate enough to meet with Aloys Murigande, a former teacher and survivor of the March 18th, 1997 school attack that left six students dead and many others injured when they refused to separate themselves into different ethnic groups at the request of the killers. [Read Full Report](#)



Participants had a discussion in one of the classrooms where the 1997 attack happened.



[The unity and reconciliation teacher, Murigande, was deeply interested in answering participants' questions.](#)

During the visit, Turikumwe participants walked around the school grounds, visited the memorial for the six students who lost their lives and listened to Murigande as he retold the story of the 1997 attack. In the group's post-visit discussion, participants shared a variety of takeaways including the value of peaceful protest, the idea of respecting our common humanity, of practicing what we each preach and the importance of patriotism and willingness to die for what you believe in. "The objective should be that we have a peaceful society where the kids in the school do not need to die in the first place. They shouldn't have to be dead heroes," said one participant.

International Entities and Organizations

US State Department and USAID (by Tim Ryan and Thacienne Kabera)

The Turikumwe group visited US Embassy on January 6, 2015. We met with a political officer and an official in public relations. The United States embassy is divided into five sections: Political, economic, management, the consulate, and public diplomacy. USAID in particular is active in Rwanda. Their four goals outlined are: Health (such as AIDS and malaria), economic growth (especially in the agricultural sector), education (which is an issue particularly in the refugee camps), and democracy and governance.

The questions of the group centered largely on the role that the United States currently plays in the development of Rwanda as well as the role of the United States in the Rwandan genocide. In regards to the latter, the inaction of the United States largely amounted to the surprising nature of the killings. In spite of the warning signs, particularly the measures that the Rwandan government had been taking beforehand, the international community was caught off guard by the genocide and as a result their reaction was delayed.

Among the reactions of the group was that the United States, while not necessarily being entirely effective in Rwanda, is doing the best it can as it is stretched thin with various other obligations. Another idea was that the US should take much more significant steps and alternate avenues to address the problems plaguing Rwanda.

Search for Common Ground (by Hannah Eddy, Alain Twagirayezu, and Harrison Spelman)



Turikumwe participants concluded the second week of site visits with a stop at [Search for Common Ground](#)'s headquarters in Kigali. Many thanks to Rebecca Besant, Search For Common Ground's East Africa Regional Director, for speaking about Search's programs in Rwanda and regionally as well as the challenges the Search For Common Ground faces as major progressive NGO operating in Rwanda.

As an international NGO, Search For Common Ground works to promote dialogue and peaceful solutions to conflicts all around the world. In Rwanda specifically, Search for Common Ground promotes constructive and collaborative dialogue through cross-border trade programs, participatory theater dealing with land tenure conflicts and the unity and reconciliation process, educational programs on entrepreneurship and land rights, community mediator training, and radio and television programming. Search for Common Ground's mission is as vast as it is progressive.

Discussing Search For Common Ground's operations in Rwanda offered Turikumwe participants insight into the challenges civil society NGOs face in promoting

progressive policies in Rwanda and the rest of the Great Lakes Region. One of their biggest foci is promoting collaborative land conflict transformation given that Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and there are many conflicts about land given the number of people who died in 1994. According to the discussions after the meeting, one of the most fascinating aspects of Search's to the group was that Search is not a "human rights" organization specifically, but a "conflict resolution" organization willing to speak with, and to bring together into dialogue, any parties no matter their history of violence (e.g. they might even be willing to speak with Boko Haram.) [Read more on the blog!](#)



Government Agencies

Ministry of Youth and ICT (by Nan Zhang and Moise Dushime)

On December 31, 2014, TURIKUMWE Program visited the Ministry of Youth and Information, Communication, and Technology (MYICT), and met Niyitegeka Jean Marie Vianney, the Acting Director of youth empowerment department. We had discussions and debates about youth empowerment as well as information, communication, and technology (ICT) policies and programs. During the visit, the Director gave us an overview of their work and the intention of combining youth and ICT. Participants asked him a lot of questions regarding ongoing youth employment programs, such as vocational training services and youth entrepreneurship policies. The Director responded that the youth has the problem of mindset, which aroused a debate among delegates afterwards. Some participants argued it is government failure instead of youth failure that leaves youth unemployed. However, others thought MYICT has been trying its best and did a good job in developing technology and youth projects. They believed that it takes time to achieve those goals, and people should have faith in it.



Ministry of Health (by Agnes Baganji and Lubna Saleh Fiore)

During our visit to the Health Ministry on January 08, 2014 the Turikumwe human rights program met with Dr. Agnes Binagwaho. The ministry of health formulates and implements policies for health, education, gender, youth, decentralization, financing, infrastructure, and many others. There we discussed the successes and challenges of the health sector. We learned that the successes of Rwanda's health sector is due to a government that is working on an integrated and community driven approach (that focuses on pro-poor human processes). Some of the key topics discussed were:

- I. Infectious diseases
- II. Nutrition
- III. Health of marginalized populations
- IV. Social Capital

"After the different site visits, I learned that the youths' opinions are needed and can contribute to the building of the nation"

"It has given me the clarity as to the line of work I eventually want to pursue, and has given me invaluable experience that I will carry with me into the future jobs and more generally into the rest of my life"

[Read the full report here!](#)



Participants had a deep and insightful discussion throughout the program such as this one in a pavilion on Lake Kivu concerning heroism and the role of youth and international communities.

“Those students at Nyange should not have to be heroes. They should not have had to die. That is the point. We need to work for non-violence.”

“Their willingness to die for unity was heroic.”

“The resilient people that struggle for the most basic and essential needs everyday are the most powerful and inspirational people I have ever met”

“Involving with the local community is exactly what I wanted to gain from the program”

“After this training, I got more about creating the small income generating project in order to overcome the problem of unemployment”

“I learned that advocacy is when you give people the power to help themselves”

“I am totally connected to the international participants, they’re like my brothers and sisters”

“I learned that people, with their personal stories, are the best advocates”



"The reason this visit had such an impact on me because I discovered a new understanding of the true consequences of conflict and refugee camps"



"Now I see human rights in the context of our global modern world. The right to citizenship, to be recognized as representing legally a nation or territory is essential. Belonging to this earth legally is one of the most basic human rights, besides life"

Reporting by Suprita, Alex, and Jean Yves

On January 4, 2015, Turikumwe program visited Kiziba refugee camp in Rwanda to a) observe the environment and conditions within the camp and b) conduct an intercultural dialogue about the human rights between international students, Rwandan nationals, and youth from the refugee camp. The visit also consisted of a tour of the camp's health and educational facilities and a meeting with UNHCR officials.

During our human rights workshop the camp youth expressed their frustrations with their conditions. The right to citizenship and the right to life were two prominent human rights that defined much of their lives. There was outrage over the right to education—currently, there were no schools in the refugee camp that offered them the last three years of high school education. It left all of the youth with no way to attain a degree. This resulted in mass unemployment and pushed young adults into criminal activities, drug use, and prostitution in order to obtain an income. Other concerns such as the lack of nutritional food (they receive only 12kg of corn, beans, oil and salt per month) and the quality of the air also surfaced as sources of human rights violations.

The meeting with UNHCR revealed much of the institutional constraints surrounding refugee policies. There was a general feeling of abandonment by the international community and anger towards the institutions that were responsible for them. The refugee youth asked for one thing from the GYC participants: advocacy. They asked for us to advocate on their behalf, their lives, and their futures. [Read More Here!](#) & [Here!](#)



Kabuga Community of Historically Marginalized Persons

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



Solidarity Work Day in with Historically Marginalized Persons in Kabuga, Karongi, where their houses and yards are in disrepair and they lack adequate food.

Reporting by Lubna Saleh Fiore and Agnes Baganji

On January 3, 2015, our delegation visited the Kabuga community with the African Initiative for Mankind Progress Organization (AIMPO), which helps provide agriculture, job, and educational training programs for historically marginalized people in Rwanda.

The last delegation had worked on designing and fundraising for a pig husbandry project, so that the community may generate some income. This time, we helped construct the pig house, planted banana trees, sorted beans, danced/sang with the community, and discussed the needs of the community, and what they needed to do to address those needs. The fact that the local authorities had not provided enough wood to complete the project was challenging. The group had to leave the construction half-finished. But after several days, we were so happy to get the good news that the pig house was completed much thanks to INALAS!

Through the dialogue and observations, we saw that the community was in need the basic essentials of life: health, education, and safe shelter. We hope to continue mobilizing and activating youth from all communities in Rwanda and the world to work on collaborative projects that address the needs of this beautiful and vibrant community.

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 2-3 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)

- Developed a flyer on Type II Diabetes
- Developed informational posters on hygiene



Children Affected By HIV/AIDS (CHABHA)

- Conducted interviews with weavers working at Isano Cooperative, which is part of CHABHA's vocational training program
- Developed a profile of the cooperative and its members for marketing use

Uyisenga N'I Manzi

- Translation of documents
- Database support



Genocide Survivors Student Association in Rwanda (AERG)

- Assisted with research related to the development of the AERG hostel in Kigali (home for the students in Kigali)
- Conducted interviews with student groups and supported the Greenlight Magazine
- <https://twitter.com/AERGFAMILY>



Inara Legal Aid Services (INALAS)

- Assisted with research on a Gender Based Violence (and related legal issues) awareness campaign

Esperance Football for Hope

- Conducted workshops with youth from the Esperance network
- Capacity support (research, translations)

Final Presentation and Dialogue



Agnes and Lubna presented on the visit with the Minister of Health & their volunteer service with Health Development Initiative (HDI)

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.

The delegates presented to an audience of 56 people, and entertained questions from two reporters. The bloggers shared their [blogs](#); and the theatre group shared a provocative 10 minute piece that was about the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, but which had come about as a result of a conversation about the refugee camp, and the feeling among refugee youth that no one is listening to their needs today, just as the international community didn't listen to Rwanda in 1994. After the play a lively debate ensued.

The event finished with a presentation from a Rwandan GYC Alumnus, Sulemani Muhirwa, about his current work in the field of human rights in Rwanda, specifically protecting the human rights of the LGBT community and men who have sex with men, for a local Rwandan NGO.

Participant Biographies



Participants visited Chutes Ndaba on the way to Nyange School.

AGNES Baganji (Rwanda)

Baganji is a graduate with a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Laboratory Sciences in the University of Rwanda-College of Medicine and Health Sciences in Kigali. She aspires to do a masters degree in environmental sciences. She currently interns at Masaka Hospital in Kicukiro district. She has worked with the HIV/AIDS community in Kiwoko hospital, Luwero district in Uganda. Baganji is a supporter of freedom of speech that is why she believes in human rights advocacy. Activities she enjoys include writing, reading literature, travelling, singing, and food.

Jean Yves BIZIMANA (Rwanda)

Jean Yves is a single man from Kigali Rwanda, currently working with UNHCR/ADRA Rwanda, in logistics department and also involved in the UNHCR/ ADRA S.N.E (Special Needs Education) program in all the refugee camps since 2011 up to date. He is a former student at INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE OF LAY ADVENTISTS OF KIGALI in the faculty of economics and management. Jean Yves has a deep passion to advocate for that community where he always meets vulnerable and unprivileged peoples.

DATTA Suprita (USA)

Suprita majors in International Studies and Economics, with a minor in Arabic, at the City College of New York. She is focusing on Conflict Stabilization, particularly looking at the relationship between governments, institutions, and communities and their roles in development. Currently, she works at the Arab American Association of New York as a Citizenship and ESL tutor. Her travel experience includes working with indigenous communities in Panama and Haitian communities in the Dominican Republic. She hopes that this trip will

build on these experiences and also provide her a better idea as to how human rights exist within a state's political, economic, social, and cultural systems and how they can be protected. After graduation, she hopes to work abroad in some capacity either in diplomacy or development. Outside of school, she is a boxer, loves all things related to food (especially chocolate), and to get lost in museums.



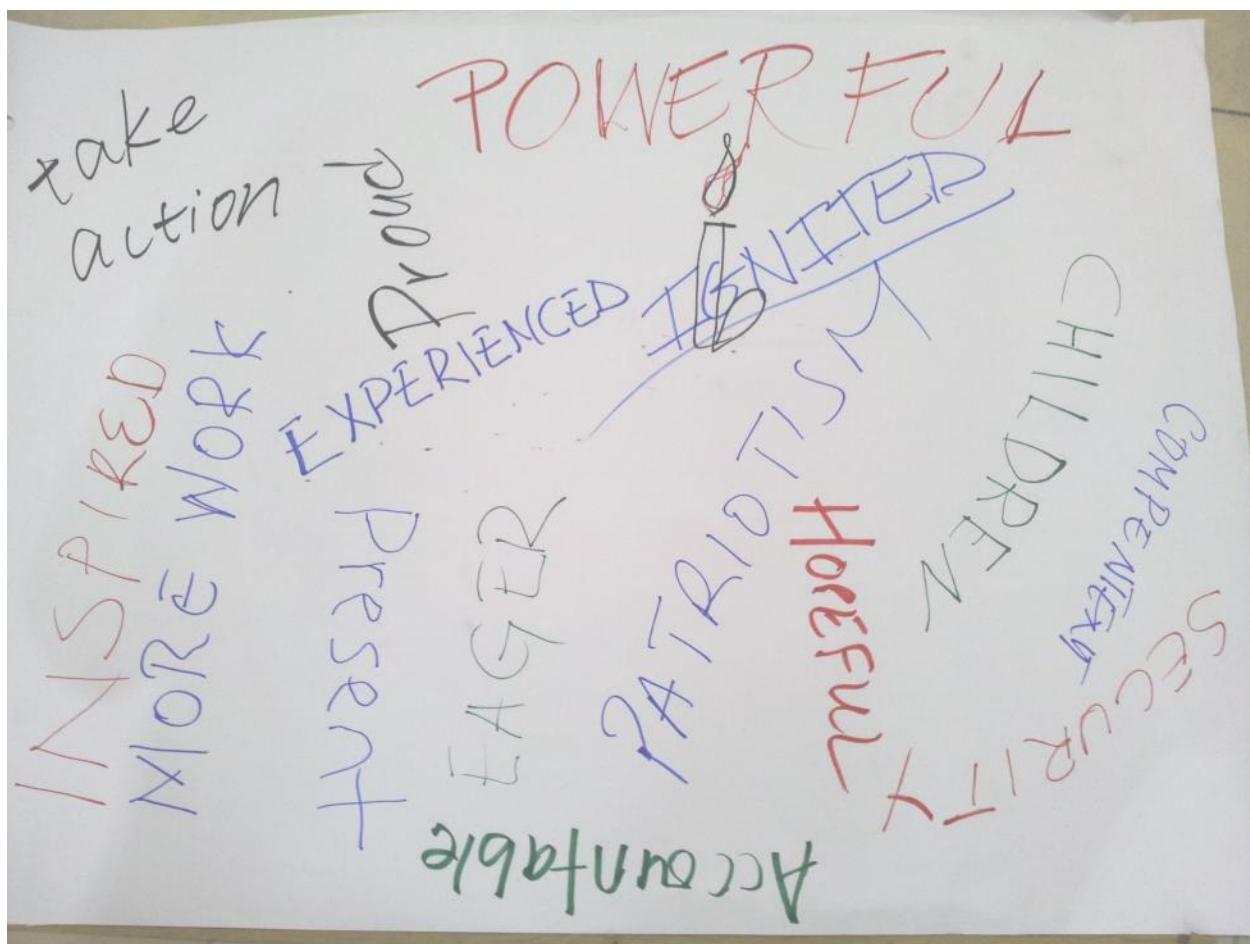
DUSHIME Moise (D.R.C.)

Moise was born in 1992, and he moved to Rwanda to seek refuge in 1995 fleeing the violence against the Banyarwanda in the D.R.C.. As such, he has been living in the Kiziba Refugee Camp for over 19 years. Moise completed his primary education in the camp and was lucky to receive a scholarship to attain his secondary education outside of the camp. Be sure to read his blog post from the Turikumwe program [here](#).

EDDY Hannah (USA)

Hannah serves as the development and outreach coordinator at 3 Generations in a small nonprofit in NYC that produces video interviews and documentary films on survivors of genocide and other human rights abuses. She has a background in human rights and genocide studies from American University where she studied history and anthropology. While in college, she

pursued her interest in genocide studies through her history thesis which explored the effects of one of America's first international humanitarian movements, and through an alternative break trip she took to Guatemala which focused on indigenous rights post-genocide. It is her hope that this trip to Rwanda will expand her grasp of human rights as a framework for community development post-genocide. Additionally she hopes the trip will provide her with better understanding of conditions for Rwanda's indigenous population and refugees. Following the trip, she would like to connect with survivors of the Rwandan genocide currently living in the US and coordinate interviews with them through 3 Generations. Further down the line, however, she hopes to work abroad either on an international human rights campaign, doing aid relief or teaching English.



Tharcienne KABERA (Rwanda)

Tharcienne is Rwandan by national; she has an A1 Advanced Diploma in Education obtained from Kigali Institute of Education. She joined her studies in Adventist University of Central Africa to get Bachelor's degree in the same career. She is currently working at Groupe Scolaire Gihogwe Catholique as a teacher. Together with her daily work she learnt more about conflict resolution and peace instauration, she is companionate about advocating for marginalized,

neglected people and she wishes to help them to get out of that bondage. She likes living with others peacefully, having fun with friends and she loves order in terms of arrangement.

MIHIGO ALEX (Rwanda)

Alex is Rwandan by Nationality aged 24 yrs and a Bachelors degree holder in Business Information Systems from National University of Rwanda Nyagatare Campus. As a young man, he has seen children suffer in different aspects due to the bad history that proceeds his country, genocide, the history that they didn't take part into, but just suffering the effects, He has seen them traumatized, seen them with a radiant smiles however much it would be hard to smile, sometimes no hope, but always his mind has been thinking of how he would make them smile, and here he has devoted all his knowledge and support and power to make them unleash all the problems that are impeding their development, by having the **U&I for Africa**. He is currently the President of our Kids project called **U & I for Africa** with its mission of ***being the Change we wish to see in this world*** by empowering the Street kids, vulnerable people affected with Genocide and the needy with Hope and bringing back their cute smiles on their faces once again by visiting and organizing culture talk shows, providing them with the necessities, providing Health Insurances and School materials and find for their Education sponsors. He has coordinated relevant Youth Development Advocacy programs and debating clubs like Anti Drugs, Youth Leadership and Governance, Anti AIDS and Child Abuse Research Campaigns in collaboration with Patterns in Health; He has an outstanding Volunteerism experience in Youth Leadership Radio and TV presentation programs as well as entertainment and Social work coordination. He is so passionate for this upcoming GYC program, he hopes to gain on-the-ground exposure in Youth Advocacy and Empowerment, United Nations Youth development programs, Human rights watch Youth participation programs and find out how to combine efforts with International youth and organizations for proactive social justice and Child rights, make new network and Friends Internationally, and Social activist.



RYAN Tim (USA)

Tim is currently an undergraduate studying International Affairs and Economics at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He aspires to attend law school after graduating and study international law with a focus on human rights as a career. He currently interns at JMU's Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence, for which he works in and around the local community promoting peace and nonviolent conflict resolution. In the past, as part of an annual award, the center has brought in human rights activists such as Jimmy Carter and Desmond Tutu. Tim is also the president of Phi Alpha Delta, JMU's co-ed pre-law fraternity. Tim is very passionate about human rights and he hopes that this trip to Rwanda will provide him with further insight into the field, and demonstrate how NGOs interact with survivors and deal with human rights violations on a personalized basis. He will begin to work with what he has learned immediately, as he will be going on a trip to Nicaragua to work on a local community-building project there in the upcoming Spring.

SALEH FIORE Lubna (USA)

Lubna has a deep passion for nutrition education and human rights with research based methods on educating diverse populations through storytelling, social media platforms, and in person cooking demonstrations. Lubna has a background in Nutrition and Dietetics from Dominican University. Currently, Lubna works at the University of Illinois (UIC) Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion (CPHP) as a health education coordinator teaching diverse communities about health and disease prevention. By participating in the delegation she hopes to collaboratively work on projects that promote and defend human rights while campaigning to feed the people with their sustainable means. Following her time in Rwanda she hopes to pursue a master's degree in Public Health and Nutritional Sciences while advocating for the rights of all people and growing in becoming a social justice leader. Lubna loves old school Arabic folk music that includes artists like Fairuz, Um Kahlthoum, and Amir Diab. One of her favorite philosophers is Khalil Gibran. She loves playing soccer, exploring, hiking, and swimming.

SPELMAN Harrison (USA)

Harrison Spelman is a senior at the University at Albany. He is a double major in History and Philosophy, with a minor in Women's Studies. He is from New York City, and has an appreciation for cities. Harrison knows that talk is cheap, which is why he is a man of action. He has been to Costa Rica, Mexico, England, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, China, and South Korea. It is his goal to educate others inside and outside the classroom. Activities he enjoys include yoga, ultimate frisbee, long walks through cities, and sitting around a campfire. His favorite color is purple.

Jackson TUYISENGE (Rwanda)

Jackson Tuyisenge is a Rwandan aged 25 years, he is a holder of A1 in Social work obtained from IPB in 2013 and still proceeding with his studies at Institut polytechnique de Byumba(IPB).He is on the committee of National Youth Council at district level in Rwamagana district, has also participated in different training for example one that was organized by Coaches Across Continent in collaboration with FPHU in terms of football for peace and football, Human Rights organized by Never again Rwanda and also attended some acting workshops . Jackson also has some experience in journalism as he worked at Radio Izuba but he is currently working as Social and Economic Development Officer at cell level in Rwamagana district since 2011 up to date.

Alain TWAGIRAYEZU (Rwanda)

Alain TWAGIRAYEZU has a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies, obtained from the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences. Currently, he is working at Concern Worldwide Rwanda (CWR) ; a non-governmental, international, humanitarian organization dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty as a temporary researcher on the implementation of the L3 Program (Literacy, Language and Learning Initiative); which promotes a culture of reading and equity in education within the community; and is supporting national scale up of effective community mechanisms which support teachers' motivation and literacy. Alain TWAGIRAYEZU also worked as a speaker within AERG after two workshops he attended on alternative to violence in 2014 and on healing the wounds of ethnic conflicts in 2013. Alain TWAGIRAYEZU loves playing basketball, exploring, and watching movies.

ZHANG Nan (China)

Nan is currently a Masters of Public Administration student at New York University, specializing in international development. She did extensive research in China on education, housing, and social welfare – which aroused her interest in human development. She also undertook a two-year internship in Chinese communities, during which she learned more about community work and proposed a project for elderly care. By participating in the delegation to Rwanda, she hopes to gain on-the-ground experience, and to find out how to combine efforts with Rwandan youth and local grassroots organization for human rights protection. After graduation, she wants to work in the fields of women's rights and children's rights, preferably in an international NGO.



Staff Biographies

Gilbert Ndayambaje, INALAS Acting Director

NDAYAMBAJE Gilbert is Rwandan by nationality born on 4th march 1984. I studied law at national university of Rwanda and I finished in 2011 and I have been working with in different organizations in the field of law and peace building. Among those organizations there is legal aid clinic of national university of Rwanda and Esperance with German international cooperation in the department of justice and good governance. In 2009 I participated in peace caravan of east African community, in 2010 I was in South Africa in world cup with support of German cooperation in the project of youth development through football and in 2012 I was in German in young leader exchange program supported by German Ministry of foreign affairs. Additional to that, in 2011 I was awarded by United Nations as volunteer of the year in peace and development.

Vincent Hakizimana, INALAS Program Assistant

Vincent HAKIZIMANA has a Bachelor's degree in animal sciences, obtained from the National University of Rwanda. Currently he is working on grassroots with coaches and caretakers who are teaching kids life skills through football aged from 6 to 16 years old. He is the instructor of coaches after the instructor's workshop that he attended in Johannesburg in 2010. Since that time he 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 he attended the youth leadership camp in Germany organized by the UNOSDP (United Nations Office on Sports for Development and Peace) and his organization "Esperance" was selected as a potential organization using sports for development of peace, as they use football for peace for Rwandan reconciliation and peace building in great lakes region. Vincent is the GYC alumnae (August 2013 program). I wish him all the best as the Program Assistant during the August 2014 program.

Jesse Hawkes, GYC Executive Director

Jesse is a social activist, professional actor, theatre director, author, and youth development worker. He has been with Global Youth Connect since 2006, organizing 15 programs in collaboration with local Rwandan partner organizations, overseeing GYC's operations, initiating and implementing GYC's inaugural Human Rights in the USA program in 2012. Jesse lived and worked in Kigali, Rwanda, for six years, where he co-founded RAPSIDA, an HIV prevention program for over sixty Rwandan high schools. He has consulted with Population Services International and the Global AIDS Alliance, and he has spoken on panels at Teachers College/Columbia University, the New School, CIVICUS, and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations World Forum in Doha 2011. In Rwanda specifically, Jesse's work at RAPP included developing and managing a creative 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 also written episodes of Ishuti Solange, a

popular radio drama series on HIV/AIDS and other public health concerns, as well as films about HIV Prevention in the Rwandan military and Condom Promotion for Population Services International (PSI-Rwanda). He also directed the short films, Sinigurisha (now seen on Rwanda TV) and Ingabire. Jesse also served as a visiting artist at the Community Arts Project in Cape Town, South Africa where he directed, wrote and facilitated a community development theatre project in collaboration with township youth and South African artist Fatima Dike. As an educational consultant for Parents, Teachers and Students for Social Responsibility, an organization implementing educational programs and projects designed to empower young people with the knowledge and attitudes needed to become proactive citizens for social justice, he led a group of high school youth from the US on a visit to Haiti. He has performed in over forty plays with companies such as the National Shakespeare Company, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the American Repertory Theatre, and the Living Theatre. Jesse graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in history.

Rose Tuyishime, Turikumwe Coordinator

Rose TUYISHIME has a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies obtained from Kigali Independent University in Rwanda. Currently, she is working for a Community Based Organization RYAD on Regional Outreach Addressing AIDS through Development Strategies (ROADS) project as a Program Manager. She worked at IMRO on Obstetric Fistula Prevention and Awareness Campaign as a coordinator for 6 months, she is an experienced trainer for drama and peer education for youth and adults in HIV/AIDS, Sexual and Reproductive Health and gender based violence related issues, she worked at RAPP/BCSM project as project head trainer with strong skills to designing, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of program for 7 years. She has skills in group facilitation and large-group presentation; she is experienced actress and theatre director. She also interned for Section27 Johannesburg, South Africa in 2013, attended the 4th UNAOC in Doha. She is a GYC alumna from the Rwanda 2009 program as well as the first Human Rights in the USA program in 2012. She loves salsa dancing, Acting, Painting, Travelling, Reading and working with Youth and Kids.

About Global Youth Connect (GYC)

Global Youth Connect was founded in 1999 by young leaders from the USA and post-conflict countries like Guatemala and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Since then, GYC has operated programs in eight countries in order to advance human rights worldwide. GYC brings young activists face-to-face to exchange ideas and take action together in collaboration with grassroots NGOs, policymakers, and other stakeholders. GYC has been running the TURIKUMWE (“We are together,” in Kinyarwanda) human rights learning and action programs in Rwanda since 2006, and with our current implementing partner, Inara Legal Aid Service since 2012.

About Inara Legal Aid Service (INALAS)

INALAS aims to provide legal aid services to indigent populations and vulnerable communities in Rwanda, recognizing that these populations remain the most marginalized groups in Rwandan society today. Composed of volunteer lawyers, INALAS attempts to address the relative inaccessibility to legal aid services for these communities through various legal avenues. It serves as a site of advocacy for these categories of the population, through targeted interactions with government authorities to discuss the formation of a concrete legal aid policy for these communities in both civil and criminal matters. Their current project, “Legal Aid to Indigent Population and Vulnerable Groups,” aims to promote access to legal aid for indigent people and vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, through legal advice, representation, and other services.