



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

## Rwanda Program Report

**Human Rights Delegation: July 31 – August 21, 2014**

**In partnership with INARA Legal Aid Services**



**24 young leaders, 8 different nationalities, 3 weeks in Rwanda looking at the world through a human rights lens. Above, Carter (far left) speaks passionately to the group about her life as a lesbian in Rwanda, and what her organization is doing to end stigmatization and discrimination against the LGBT community.**



*Before this program my understanding of concept of human rights was very little. I can say this program changed my understanding and increased it by bringing into knowledge human rights concepts like LGBT rights that I probably never had before. I think there could not be any better positive impact of the program on me than having all of my questions answered: Meeting the minister of health today and having my questions about abortion answered etc!*

-- Seth Sibomana who is Congolese but who has been residing at the Gihembe UNHCR Refugee Camp with thousands of other Congolese for nearly 18 years.

Grassroots Projects: 22      Youth Engaged: 140      Raw Hours of Work: 1800

Site Visits/Meetings: 17      Officials Engaged: 16      Presentations Made: 3

*I think GYC/INALAS did a terrific job putting together such an enriching experience within three weeks. I learned more about Rwanda and Human Rights doctrine within these three weeks than I've learned an entire semester in university. – International Participant*

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## Introduction: Rwanda in 2014, Twenty Years After the 1994 Genocide



In 2014, new genocide memorials were erected all over the Rwandan countryside (which already has its fair share of memorials at places where terrible massacres occurred). Now, even the parking lot outside the Catholic Church in Kigali, right next to the driving school, has a memorial with hundreds of names on it.

2014 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. In April, world leaders, except notably France, which had been accused of complicity in the crime of genocide in Rwanda, came to Rwanda to pay their respects and to pledge renewed support for Rwanda's world renowned economic and social development strategies.

At the same time, given the level of attention being paid to the 20<sup>th</sup> commemoration, criticisms were leveled at the Rwandan government more publicly than ever before. International news ran [stories concerning crimes against humanity](#) and some questioned the government's commonly touted record on economic and social rights, e.g. Rwanda's lauded record on gender equity and women's empowerment. Some of these critical articles hit the airwaves and internet on the most solemn day of genocide memorializing in Rwanda, April 7th. Clearly, Rwanda was/is a country being watched.

One area where criticism was beginning to lift, however, was on the issue of Rwanda's involvement in the Congo, where the M23 rebels had laid down their arms and the Rwandan government could now call for the international community to renew its commitment (and force, if necessary) to demobilize the FDLR-Hutu-Genocidal-Militias in the DR-Congo. Indeed, on July 4<sup>th</sup> -- Rwanda's Liberation Day marking the end of the 100 days of the genocide in 1994 -- [the international community began to officially back the new call for the FDLR to demobilize](#).

Shortly following these events, and just as the international community was beginning to pay more attention to the Ebola crisis hitting West Africa (over 3000 miles away from Rwanda), the 17<sup>th</sup> Global Youth Connect Human Rights Learning and Action Program, co-produced with INARA Legal Aid Services, opened in Kigali on July 31<sup>st</sup>.



This year, the TURIKUMWE (We are Together) program brought together 24 young leaders from Rwanda and around the world (Brazil, Canada, Ghana, Korea, the U.K. and U.S.).

Throughout the three weeks of the program the international and local participants (including two Congolese delegates currently living in UNHCR refugee camps in Rwanda), came together to explore human rights through an intercultural lens.

By engaging in workshops on human rights, development, and community building; visiting fifteen non-governmental organizations and government institutions around the country; and 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, LGBTQI persons, genocide survivors, as well as on health care, legal aid, access to psychosocial services, food/shelter, and education.

By the end of the program, the group had run workshops with refugees from two camps; had conducted umuganda (community service) with a community of historically marginalized persons in Karongi; and had collectively volunteered with six NGOs.

Given the action steps taken by GYC alumni in the past (some of which we observed during the program), we know that the impact of these three weeks will have ripple effects around Rwanda and the world for years to come. In fact, we are already seeing the fruits of the program even as we write.

*The program has provided me with both a broader and deeper understanding of the concept of human rights. I now understand human rights issues in very specific contexts, such as refugee camps, but I also have a greater understanding of human rights at the international level.*

-- International Participant

*All our visits to organizations and volunteer service showed me how the theoretical is put into practice.*

-- Rwandan Participant

## Intercultural Human Rights Learning Workshops

The August 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.

**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- ie: 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 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.***



After discussing the meaning of human rights, Tassia from Brazil and Daniella from DRC prepared the team for a visit to the Legal Aid Forum of Rwanda where the group learned that Legal Aid does reach out to refugee camps in Rwanda, though there is still much to be improved, including awareness of Refugees as to their rights.



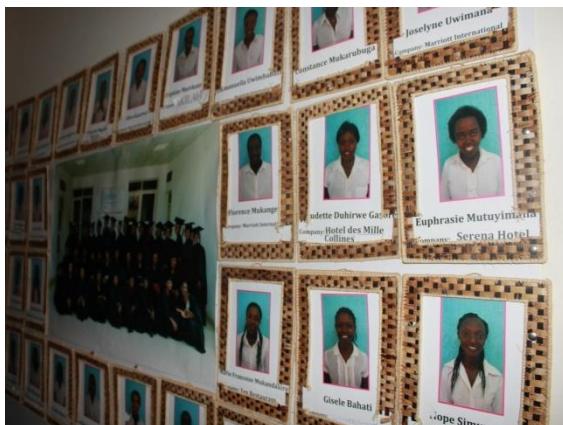
## In the Field: Site Visits (Experiential Learning)

**Genocide memorials:** During the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda, the visits to the memorials were particularly poignant. Some participants engaged in some of the online social media campaigns to continue raising awareness while the program was happening. **This year the delegation visited:** Kigali Memorial Centre, Nyange School – Heroes Memorial (after watching “We Are All Rwandans” a short film bad on the story of the events at this school), Bisesero Memorial, Belgian Soldiers Memorial, Nyamata Memorial Church



## Non-Governmental Organizations and Media Houses

**Legal Aid Forum** (which coordinates the efforts of various organizations like our partner, INALAS), **Televisor 1: (TV1)** Rwanda's first non-governmental TV station, **Akilah Institute for Women:** Founded by GYC Alumna Elizabeth Hughes to provide skills and leadership education to talented young women in Rwanda, **MindLeaps:** Founded by GYC Alumna Rebecca Davis to help street kids gain enough confidence and commitment to get into the education system again, **EDUCAT** – Entrepreneurship for Economic Rights, which has a entrepreneurship caravan and contest for reaching out to rural communities.



At Akilah, the first Graduating Class Photos



At TV1: A discussion about editorial priorities

## Government Agencies (Rwandan and International)



With the Rwandan Minister of Health after our engaging meeting on health and human rights.

Governmental agencies 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 and those we visited with, these visits shaped a thorough understanding of Rwanda and the region.

The entities we visited were:

- **US Embassy and the US State Department**
- **Ministry of Health**
- **Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion**

**CHECK OUT ALL THE PHOTOS FROM THIS DELEGATION!**

*A lesson I really appreciated was that from Hon. Agnes Bingawaho whose statement on "helping them to help themselves" summed up my entire experience in Rwanda. As foreigners witnessing an entire different life compared to ours, our first line of thought is to offer our assistance, but we must do it in the context of the empowering those we are helping to take charge of their own lives, The program through the strong partnerships between GYC and INALAS is a testament to this fact.*

*— International Participant*

*Now, I want to make sure we hear from the Rwandan youth in the group. Are you getting the messages about Ebola that we are putting out over the airwaves? Or do you need other forms of outreach from us?*

*-- Minister of Health during our meeting, making the most of every interaction*



*I have greater confidence in face-to-face advocacy now. – International Participant*

*Sharing culture is very important. It gave me to express myself and my feelings without hiding anything. – Rwandan Participant*

*I learned how to create something out of nothing with very little time and very little instruction. Get creative! – International Participant*

*I had the chance to meet with dynamic youth either younger or older than me who motivated me to move forward with the ideas I have. – Rwandan Participant*

*This delegation has increased my self confidence. I will use the leadership experience so that I will be a good leader who protects human rights. – Rwandan Participant*

*I realize that human rights activism is something that I would love to do in my career. This delegation gave me more confidence in my ideas and abilities and helped me to generate new ideas about how to incorporate human rights promotion into engineering. – International Participant*

*The program has confirmed that I would like to pursue human rights, development, and public health further in my career, particularly in Africa. – International Participant*



## Refugees



UNHCR Leadership of Gihembe Camp fielded questions after a day of workshops and visits



All women group discusses issues of importance to the young women in Gihembe Camp



Workshop with members of the Kiziba Camp when they visited us at Karongi

Given that GYC had visited and worked with the Kiziba Camp for Congolese refugees for several years in the past, we decided to include a member of Kiziba in our program again, but also a member of the Gihembe camp. With two members (one woman and one man) the Rwandan and International delegates got a clear view of the situation facing refugees living in Rwanda. **We visited Gihembe Camp, and we:**

- Led a human rights workshop with/for youth members of the camp
- Took a tour of the camp and met with families, health center, schools, and the local implementing partner agencies (PATH and JRS).
- Engaged with the UNHCR officials about next steps, including how to get more books for the high school, and even how to promote more poetry about human rights in the camp (incentivized by a t-shirt contest)

*There are many memorable moments, but I think what continues to stand out for me was our day at Gihembe and my conversations with two refugee youth. We talked a lot about our respective nations and the hopes we had for them. During one of our conversations, one of the youth interjected my statement and said, "Look. This is what keeps me going," pointing to the sea of children returning from school. "I am sure that before they turn 18 like me, we would have returned to our motherland and together we will build it." This sense of hope and resilience from a teenager, in the midst of crisis and hopelessness was indeed a wake-up call for me.*

-- International Participant



## Historically Marginalized Persons

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



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

On August 7, our delegation visited a Potter village outside Karongi. Like many Potter villages, the one we visited had benefitted from government-initiated house reconstructions and had new, metal roofs put on their houses in lieu of the traditional thatched ones to improve living conditions. However, in the village we visited, the Potters had cut essential support beams away from the roofs to use for firewood, a reflection of their desperate poverty and of a lack of proper training in how to live in "modern" homes. The lack of beams and poor construction caused the roofs to be blown off and other walls to crumble during a severe storm in September 2013. When we visited, we had hoped to start a kitchen garden project, which had been the recommendation of the last GYC group after a research/solidarity visit to the community in 2013. However, given that the community was still waiting for the government and an NGO to get them permanent homes on another hill, we decided to do "umuganda" (community service) to clean up around their current homes, and we worked with a local NGO to develop a sustainable agriculture project that is also portable (Pig Husbandry).

## Volunteering with Grassroots Organizations

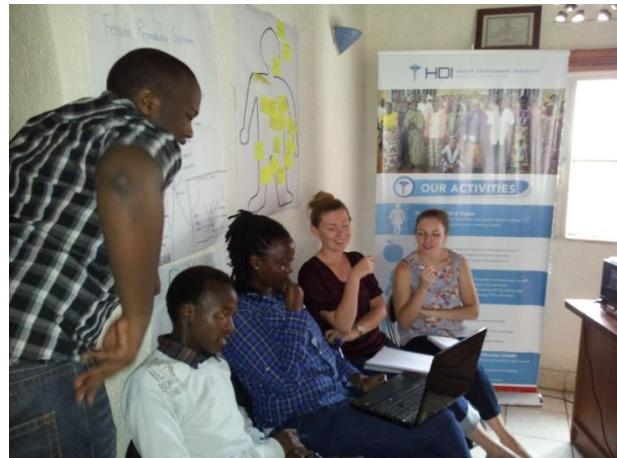
The Turikumwe program is proudly known as a “Learning and Action” program. As such, in addition to the learning programming described above, there is a focus on “taking action together” by engaging in a more hands-on and intensive fashion with various non-governmental organizations working in some way 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)

- Started a research project on a rural hospital/clinic development plan
- Assisted with LGBT Community health planning

### Uyisenga N’ Manzi (Right)

- Assisted with the library project for a rural psychosocial rehabilitation and youth center.



### MINDLEAPS (Picture left)

- Organized the data that they had been collecting on the students' performance levels so that the data could be sent to a third party for analysis
- Brainstormed about inclusion of more nutrition programs in the dance training programs

### Genocide Survivors Student Association in Rwanda (AERG)

- Researched and prepared a document of funding opportunities for a reading program for AERG students who are staying in a special hostel while they are at school
- Conducted a concept paper for a project involving debate clubs



## AIMPO

- Introduced AIMPO to the local leaders at Karongi District so that they could be part of the upcoming pig husbandry project, the same kind of project that they implemented for the Abatwa (their constituency) in the north of Rwanda.



## Inara Legal Aid Services (INALAS)

- Assisted with client intake interviews and case management

## Esperance Football for Hope

- Brainstormed ideas for Football Forum Theatre practices
- Researched funding opportunities with the Executive Staff
- Documented activities of the programs (afterschool)



At Esperance the youth actors are presenting Football Forum Theatre about the need to stop discriminating against girls.

## **Final Presentation and 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. After a collective reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the delegates presented in the 4 teams that they had been working for the past three weeks: Documentation; [Blogging](#); Social Media; and Theatre. The Turikumwe 2014 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 human rights.



**THEATRE:** Seth from Gihembe Refugee Camp, depicting a Tweet about #JusticeForMikeBrown in the Discrimination. Nicky back left (from Rwanda) poses concerning LGBT discrimination.

**GYC Alumni and current participants gathered to listen to the guest speaker from AIMPO to hear about the challenges facing the historically marginalized persons in Rwanda.**



## Participant Biographies

### **AMIZERO Nadege**

Nadege is a student at university of Rwanda, former NUR. She pursues her bachelor's degree in soil and environment management. She is set to graduate in 2015 and hopes to continue her studies in the field of environmental engineering. Recently she has volunteer with The Aegis Trust an international organization working to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity. in addition, she has certificate from African innovation prize a UK based non-profit organization which spur student innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, through university based business planning competition. She currently resides in Kigali with her mother.

### **Laura Balson**

Laura is currently undertaking the fourth year of a six year medical degree at University College London. Last summer she gained an intercalated degree in Medical Sciences with Global Health, having written her dissertation on transitional justice and health in post-conflict settings. In 2013 she spent time in Kenya as a volunteer with an international development organisation which supports orphans and vulnerable children, teaching in a secondary school and working in a rural feeding centre. Since returning she has founded a new branch of the organisation for students at UCL, and is the society's first president. These experiences deepened her interest in development, human rights and international law, which Laura hopes to further develop by taking part in the Rwandan program. Following the program and the completion of her medical degree, she hopes to pursue a career combining both her medical skills and her passion for human rights issues in developing countries.

### **Jessica Carling**

Jessica is currently pursuing a degree in International Relations at the University of Nevada, Reno. She is actively involved in her schools Greek Life as a sister of Delta Gamma – Eta Iota Chapter. In her spare time she participates in various volunteer projects her community including park clean ups, raising money for Service for Sight and volunteering at her local food bank. She studied abroad in Italy in 2009 and again in Chengdu, China in the fall of 2013. During her time in China she worked as a private tutor for an after school program. By participating in the program she hopes to gain experience in the realm of human rights development in post-conflict areas. After the program she aspires to volunteer with the Peace Corps and attend George Mason University's International Affairs Graduate Program. She hopes to work with women's rights and non-profits that aim to combat human trafficking. Since the delegation, has been selected as a political affairs intern for the Borgen Project, working on their Bail Them Out campaign to raise funds to "bail people out" of poverty in her town of Reno, Nevada.

### **Brett Crowley**

Brett is an undergraduate student at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, planning on completing a dual degree in civil engineering and global development. Although engineering is his primary academic focus, Brett will use his degree as a platform for human rights work throughout his career. He has been an active volunteer in his community and has been particularly involved with helping the homeless members of his community. Brett hopes that his participation in the program will help him see the world in a way he has never seen it before and begin to teach him the skills he needs to help empower marginalized peoples through human rights action. In the future Brett plans on working on sustainable development projects in order to bring about positive systemic social change, and he hopes to eventually pursue a graduate degree in international human rights and development law. Since the delegation, Brett has been elected Vice President of Member Learning with the Queen's University chapter of Engineers Without Borders Canada. He is also working with his school's chapter of STAND, a student organization focused on ending and preventing genocide and mass atrocities.

### **Alicia Greenidge**

Alicia is pursuing her graduate degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution focusing on peacebuilding at American University in Washington, D.C. As an Analyst for ICF International, Alicia works with government institutions to improve their organizational processes, help them achieve their missions, and serve their customers. By participating in the program she hopes to deepen her understanding of Rwanda's current human rights challenges and the role grassroots human rights organizations play in preventing conflict in post-conflict countries. Following her time in Rwanda and graduation, Alicia hopes to work on peacebuilding and international development projects in the Great Lakes region.

### **HABIYAREMYE Nicodeme (NICKY)**

Nicodeme Habiyaremye is graduating this year at UR CASS Huye(university of Rwanda College of arts and Social Sciences) former university of Rwanda in faculty of Law, his dissertation is; "Humanitarian intervention as justification to the violation of the principal of sovereignty" (case of operation turquoise in Rwanda). He is now doing a research on street children in Huye district. In 2009 he worked in legal aid service in huye district to help people to resolve their problems legally and guiding and assisting them in courts. He would like people to respect human Rights in order to make a better society.

### **Ben Hiskes**

Ben is pursuing an English major and a Neuroscience concentration at Carleton College in Northfield Minnesota. He runs for the Carleton College cross country team and track team all

year round. This past summer, he volunteered at a sustainable farm in Grand Rapids. During high school at Loomis Chaffee boarding school, Ben wrote for the Global Bulletin newspaper. During this program, among other things, he aims to apply what he has learned in neuroscience classes to the issue of trauma related to genocide. Following his time in Rwanda and at Carleton, he hopes to join the Peace Corps and then either attend law school to become a lawyer or graduate school to become an English professor.

### **INGABIRE Aline Honoree**

I'm 25 years old, I'm Rwandese and I'm single. I'm currently in the fourth year in Accounting at INILAK(Independent Institute of Lay Adventists of Kigali. In 2009, I was in the community we fought against the penal code 217 that used to criminalize homosexuals and the challenge came out positive now there is no law against LGBTI in Rwanda. In 2013, April and June I participated in JI-SORTI while I was in HOCA. In 2013, 17<sup>th</sup> May I made the speech and presented it on the first IDAHO day in USA Embassy Rwanda.

I'm currently the project director of RIFA (Rights for All) LBT/SW Organization I hope I pursue a career combining both my accounting skills and my passion for human rights issues in developing countries.

### **INGABIRE Peninah**

My name is Ingabire Peninah, I am an Open A Door scholar; an organization which helps Rwandan girls attain the best education so as to become leaders and agents of change in their countries. I will be joining Mulhenberg University, Pennsylvania, USA next fall. I served as her high school's student body president, and I am the founder of both my high school's newspaper, as well as the speech and debate team. Outside of school, I have created and lead an organization that supports orphans in the community surrounding my church. My goal is to help reorganize NGOs in Rwanda, particularly those NGOs that provide assistance to orphans, in an effort to assist them in functioning more efficiently.

### **ISAMBA Daniella**

Daniella is Congolese by nationality born on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1996. Currently she lives in RWANDA at Kiziba Refugee camp located in the Western province. She studied Mathematics, chemistry, Biology (MCB) at E.S Kanombe (EFOTEC). In 2012 she participated in Annual children summit and she has followed training about leadership. she is eager to promote human rights, especially to work for children protection.

*I was born in 1996 in the Democratic Republic of Congo and currently I live in Rwanda as a refugee. For 3 weeks I was in Turikume program, which means "we are together" organized by GYC and INALAS. The most important thing I gained was more information about human rights, different opinions from different people about the concept. I formed new bonds with different institutions. I learned the most from the workshops during our site visits. I formed friendships with other participants and all of this will help me to promote human rights; I would like to combine it with science (especially nutrition and diet). – Daniella Isamba, Kiziba Camp*

### **Clara Lee**

Clara is currently pursuing undergraduate degrees in Economics and Political Science at St. Olaf College in Minnesota, USA. She is a student worker and tutor with the Worlds Languages Center at St. Olaf, is an Information and Instruction Technologies intern, and volunteers with the Northfield Reads and Counts program at the nearby Greenvale Elementary School. She plans to study abroad in Paris in the 2014-15 school year. In addition to studying abroad, she plans to apply for an internship with Human Rights for Maghreb. By participating in this program, she hopes to deepen her understanding of the importance of NGOs as well as gain valuable knowledge that can only be acquired through hands-on experience. After she graduates, she hopes to volunteer with the Peace Corps or Teach for All Korea and later work in the human rights field in francophone African countries and Korea, specifically with children who do not have access to an education. Since the delegation, Clara worked with the multicultural organizations on her campus on the September 21st International Peace Day. As a co-chair of the Korean Cultural Association, she mobilized her organization to raise awareness on the movement to reunite North and South Korea and to push for peace in North Korea. She also spoke about her experience with GYC Rwanda on a human rights panel with St. Olaf Leaders Abolishing Slavery.

### **Elise McDow**

Elise is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Global Studies with emphases in international law & human rights and women in a global perspective at California State University San Marcos. She is the Assistant Shop Manager of The Body Shop in Escondido, California where she implements and oversees business strategies, monitors key performance indicators, manages a staff of ten people, and inspires customers by informing them about the importance of defending human rights. In her spare time, Elise takes advantage of any volunteer opportunity that comes her way. In the past, she has donated her time to organizations such as Helen Woodward Animal Center, Sea Turtle Restoration Project, and The American Cancer Society. Through this program, she hopes to obtain the skills and knowledge needed to advance her lifelong journey in combating global injustice on the grassroots level. Following her time in Rwanda, Elise hopes to obtain an internship and later work for an international grassroots organization such as Amnesty International, and will continue to pursue her passion in human rights indefinitely. At press time, Elise is representing Uganda in her school's Model United Nations club and will be attending the Model UN national conference in Washington, DC this year as a member of the ECOSOC committee. She hopes to intern at an NGO that works on refugee issues and looks forward to pursuing further opportunities with GYC.

### **Timothy Mwizihire**

My name is Timothy Mwizihire, I received a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the Kigali Institute of Technology in 2012. I currently work as a field coordinator for Laterite Limited, a research company based in Nyarutarama, Kigali. I am also a private contractor in the services

of translation, interpretation, and data collection. I have been working professionally for 7 years. I have worked for various international organizations such as the Clinton Health Access Initiative as a program assistant, RSC Africa, Aegis Trust, One Acre Fund, and SHE Rwanda as a translator. I worked for 5 years as a school sponsorship program director at Ubuntu Edmonton. I have also worked for Green Hills Academy as their assistant to the superintendent, and for Jessica Pafs as a Graduate Research Assistant. I am passionate about human rights and I have always tried to help vulnerable people to achieve their rights to health, education, and general welfare by giving my contribution to the fulfillment of the goals of the various organizations I have worked for. I am looking forward to this workshop to interact with other people and learn much more about human rights. I am positive that it is going to be an interesting ride. Timonthy has been offered the position of Field Coordinator for Laterite Ltd., a research company working on child labor issues in Rwanda. Specifically, Tim is working on a project to determine the prevalence of child labor in tea growing areas in the country.

### **Protais Niyonshima**

Protais NIYONSHIMA, Rwandan by nationality, holds a bachelor's degree in Modern Languages-Translation and Interpreting Studies obtained from National University of Rwanda in 2012. He is doing Masters of Education in Administration, Planning and Policy Studies at Open University of Tanzania. He is currently a teacher at G.S. Rubona, a secondary school in Rulindo district. Apart from teaching, he served as a Peer Sensitizer-HIV/AIDS Prevention in Icyuzuzo Association in 2008. He also served as a journalist at [www.nursu.org](http://www.nursu.org) in 2011-2012. He was a journalist at Oasis Gazette, a print newspaper, in 2010-2012. At Campus (National University of Rwanda) he was Student Technology Assistant. In addition, he got a Documentary Film Making Award in 2011.

### **NZENGOU Michael**

Holder of a Bachelor degree in law earned at the Independent University of Kigali this last February, I am currently waiting for my admission to a master program in Human rights. Therefore, I picked INALAS to volunteer with because they work in the domain of law, as it is my domain of training I deducted that my experience would be of a great contribution than in any of the other NGOs. I have been fascinated by justice and human rights since my early age which obviously oriented me to volunteer for the world food programm at one of their refugees' camp in the northern province of Central Africa Republic. When I reached university, besides studying I got different jobs barely in the accounting domain. I first worked as a cashier in a Chinese restaurant then as a teller for Access Bank. I enjoyed working in these fields of work but my vocation was elsewhere as I want to specialized in human rights and either run own NGO or work for an NGO specialized in human rights matters. Meanwhile, I am currently the president of an NGO that my friends and I are setting up which is called Young Professionals for Self Reliance which has for aim to integrate fresh bachelor holder to the professional life, by providing them professional internships and help them gain work experience by offering them

the opportunity to work on projects related to their field of training. Thus, my social devotion pushes me to integrate my church community and we often go to hospitals, prisons and provinces to help vulnerable people and evangelize them. My biggest dream is to mark the history of human rights by my devotion so I deeply feel the need to work hard and devote my energy to any activity that would enrich my little knowledge. This program will be a trophy in my palmares, I hope to enjoy and learn from it as more as I could and it would be a special opportunity to grow my list of contacts. Since the delegation Michael is committed to turning his passion for youth employment into an NGO called Young Professionals for Self reliance (YPSR). In Rwanda, when a student graduates from university, they are highly exposed to unemployment. Therefore, Michael is working to create a platform where young graduates from many educational backgrounds can work on specific projects related to their field of study. This will help graduates gain the skills and experiences necessary to integrate them into professional life.

### **Kevin Mugina**

I was born in 1992, I am a student at University of Rwanda, college of education . For long time I wished to be a teacher but as time goes on, I used to change my dream. After coming in AGAHOZO-SHALOM I decided to ambassador of Rwanda from abroad so that peace can be granted for long time across the world. To do this I have chosen History, Geography and Economics combination Social studies as well. Whereby in history I wanted to know more about strong people's behaviors of the past, their errors and their good deeds. For long time I suffered from genocide effects, family's economy was destroyed and lives of my parent and kins and family member as well as friends lost. Because of this I took decision of being peace keeper wherever I will be.

### **NDIKUMUKIZA Reverien**

Reverien NDIKUMUKIZA is Rwandan by nationality, he is an undergraduate student at University of Rwanda-college of Business and economics in level 3(department of finance). He is 24 years old, he's volunteering in AERG "Association of student survivors of genocide against Tutsi for a mandate of 2 years (2014-2016). From 2008-2010 he was volunteering in "NON VIOLENCE AACTIVE" a local human right organization and at the same time in IBUKA as a trauma counselor. He worked as a volunteer in "Centre DUSHISHOZE" an organization that helps youth to fight against HIV/AIDS and helps seropositive youth at the same time in capacity building for that youth.

### **Madeleine Otto**

Madeleine Otto is currently pursuing her undergraduate degree in international relations and anthropology at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. In 2011, Madeleine spent three months teaching English in a Tibetan monastery near Dharamsala in northern India and doing volunteer work in Chiang Rai, Thailand, both helping to build roads and participating in a home

stay with an Akha hill tribe. Madeleine first became interested in human rights when she spent a month in Rwanda in December 2013, working as a journalist for The New Times, Rwanda's leading daily. During her time with the New Times, she worked with the local organization fighting for the rights of the historically marginalized Potter Community, COPORWA. After the program and finishing her degree at St. Andrews, Madeleine hopes to become a foreign correspondent and use her writing as an avenue to further pursue human rights in less developed countries.

### **Recarlo Richardson**

Recarlo is a third year Creative Writing major at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is a full time student who has a passion for writing. He believes that writing is a wonderful tool for communicating with people from all walks of life, to share ideas and information. Recarlo was given several opportunities to travel to different countries around the world, and that has opened up a window that has allowed him to develop an interest in human interactions. He participated in a church mission trip to Cape Town, South Africa during the first year of his high school career. He partook in an educational and community service program in Costa Rica through his university. He was also a member of Eco-Rep throughout the first and second year at his university, a program dedicated to educating their peers within the dorm about practicing environmentally friendly behaviors.

### **Tássia Sodré**

Tássia Sodré is a Brazilian lawyer from Rio de Janeiro. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and Social Sciences *cum laude* from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from New York University School of Law. While at NYU, she focused her studies on international law and was a volunteer with the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project. Upon graduation, she interned with UNICEF, working on issues related to the human rights of children in the context of international migration. More recently, she was an intern with the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations. She has lived and studied in Hong Kong, England, Chile, Jordan, and the United States. She enjoys traveling, cooking, and running.

### **Seth Sibomana**

Born in North Kivu Eastern DRC, in 1993. Three years later (in 1996), fled to Rwanda due to the ethnic conflicts where Congolese Tutsi were chased from DRC. In 1997, my family as well as other Congolese refugees settled in Gihembe camp where we have been living for 18 years now. In 2002, I started Primary school at **GIHEMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL** and completed in 2007. In 2008, I started Secondary school at Gihembe secondary school and completed Ordinary level studies in 2010. In 2011, I started Advanced level at Gihogwe secondary school in Kigali city in the option of MEG(Mathematics, Economics, Geography). Thanks to a sponsorship that was given by a British Christian body called "Rwanda Restored". In 2012, I joined a club called **GIHEMBE NEW GENERATION** which is dedicated to positively transforming the youth of Gihembe refugees camp. In 2013, I completed my Advanced level with results of 64/73. In 2014, I have started serving as a volunteer teacher of Geography at a school that was

established by refugees called HOPE SCHOOL in Gihembe refugee camp. Seth has been offered a scholarship by These Numbers Have Faces to go for higher studies in Kigali.

### **Enoch Sowah**

Enoch is a third year Diplomacy and World Affairs major with a minor in Urban and Environmental Policy at Occidental College in Los Angeles. He is very passionate about the socioeconomic empowerment of individuals from developing countries, especially the role the private and public sectors can play to provide opportunities for such individuals. Over the past summer, he worked with the firm British American Business, as a intern. This experience exposed Enoch to the in's and out's of the business world and also effective ways to get multinational corporations invested in social programs. He has also recently worked with a black activist group, The Los Angeles Black Worker Center, through which he experienced first-hand the hardship that many people from underrepresented communities go through, as well as the courage and resilience they exhibit, never giving up until their communities have access to equal and equitable opportunities. By participating in GYC Rwanda, Enoch wishes to learn more about the Rwandan people as well as the best practices their local grassroots organizations have adopted to affect great change and empower the communities they serve. Enoch is particularly interested in the fields of health and development, and he hopes to experience the intersection of these two fields in the program and contribute in some way shape or form. At press time, Enoch is an intern for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), specifically on programs to engage men and boys in the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

### **Shannon Weaver**

Shannon just finished her second year at Grand Valley State University, in Allendale, Michigan, studying Political Science with a minor in Environmental Science. As well as being a full time student, she works as an account executive for Mlive Media Group, a statewide print and digital media company. While at Grand Valley, she has enjoyed studying human rights, and she is excited to further explore post-conflict development and genocide prevention. In the rest of her time as an undergraduate, she would like to study abroad and volunteer with a local refugee education and development organization. After graduation, she is hoping to volunteer in the Peace Corps or work abroad.

### **Job Uteretsimfizi**

Job UTERETSIMFIZI is Rwandese by nationality he is an undergraduate student at Kigali Independent University in finance department. He worked with Transparency Rwanda as a theater actor to address some social issues for 3 weeks and he is currently a volunteer in Esperance organization which uses sport as a tool address some social issues that are facing youth. He worked also as the employee in MIKA Printers. He is currently willing to serve as a human rights activist.

## Staff Biographies

### **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.

### **Mackenzie Hamilton, GYC Program Assistant**

Mac Hamilton is a graduate of Smith College with a B.A. in Government and African Studies. She has worked extensively on both national and international social justice and human rights issues. During her junior year of college, she spent a semester in Rwanda and Uganda, studying post-genocide reconstruction and peacebuilding, and conducting primary research on the role of women in local government. She has served as Northeast Outreach Coordinator and National Education Coordinator for STAND, the student-led movement to end mass atrocities. Her work with them has included educating American students on conflicts in Sudan, the DRC, Burma, and Syria, and training students to lead on human rights issues. Additionally, Mac was elected as Chair of the Smith College Student Government Association Diversity Committee. She served for three semesters, working to reform the Committee and broaden connections to the community at large. Currently, Mac is living in Washington, D.C. and working with STAND on campaigns and youth outreach with a focus on the 20th commemoration of the Rwandan genocide. She hopes to pursue a career in U.S.-Africa policy, focusing on conflict prevention and resolution. Mac is a GYC Rwanda alumna (2009) and recently became a member of the GYC Board of Directors.

### **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, 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. In collaboration with the Rwandan Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport and Mashirika Performing Arts, Jesse performed at the 10th memorial service of the 1994 Genocide at Amahoro Stadium in Kigali. Jesse graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in history.

#### **Gilbert Ndayambaje, INALAS Member, Turikumwe Program Coordinator**

NDAYAMBAJE Gilbert is Rwandan by nationality born on 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Currently I work as legal assistant at INALAS and in the Turikumwe program I am currently working as the program coordinator.

#### **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.

#### **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.