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

&

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The Association of Youth for Human Rights and Development



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Turikumwe! We are in this together!

A Human Rights Learning and Action Program in Rwanda

Reporting on Two Cross Cultural Summits for Young Leaders: Summer 2011



LEFT: Hierete (International Delegate), Jacky (Rwandan Delegate), and a Congolese Refugee Youth Representative, Discussing Human Rights at the Kiziba Refugee Camp during the June/July Program. RIGHT: Aimee, Freddy, Erika, and Frank preparing to hand out condoms on behalf of Kigali Hope at the Rwandan Expo 2011 in the July/August Program.

Summarized Outcomes of the Turikumwe! Summits, Summer 2011:

- Two Cross Cultural Human Rights Learning and Action (HRLA) workshops/trainings for 30 International and 25 Rwandan human rights activists and students
- 2200 Hours of Volunteer Service for Grassroots Human Rights Organizations in fields ranging from juvenile justice to health care to human rights education – Service included report writing and advocacy
- 30 Group Site Visits and HRLA Meetings with Beneficiaries of grassroots organizations, International NGOs, Diplomats and Government Officials



# of NGO Projects Completed:	50	Action Commitments by <i>Turikumwe!</i> :	15
# of Youth Involved/Engaged:	150+	Action Commitments by Ministries:	15
# of Workshop Discussions:	40+	Action Commitments pending:	20

Human Rights Achievements Observed by the *Turikumwe!* Youth

Too many to mention in full



Bwishyura Primary School
Basic Education is free until S3 (9th Grade)

List of Human Rights *Violations* Observed by the *Turikumwe!* Youth

Too many to mention in full



LEFT: Placard to Raise Awareness of the Abandonment of the Rwandan People by the International Community in 1994 – Current Violation?



RIGHT: Mud-House built for vulnerable populations (the Potters in Mubuga) without a covered latrine – Violation? Or Achievement in Process?

We Started with Exploration of Theory

Our discussions revealed that while we can all agree on the importance of protecting human rights, we don't always agree on how to define human rights, or what steps should be taken to protect them. While we may have many questions and not a lot of concrete answers, this is the first step in talking about these important issues and learning about different perspectives. -- Participant Evaluation

Some Opening Questions on the Minds of the Participants:

How can human rights be respected, without violations, like war?

How do you effectively pressure governments to respect human rights?

Do all countries that are members of the Human Rights Council respect Human Rights?

What is the role of the UN in monitoring and correcting human rights abuses?

How the UN can be strengthened to be more effective?

How is it decided which civil society entities are able to participate in a Universal Periodic Review?

From Day One of Workshop:

I never realized the complexity of the question 'what is human rights?' until we started to discuss this question in small groups today. I also realized that so often we focus on the differences that distinguish us from one another, such as gender and ethnicity. It is the language that we use that frames our opinions on these issues and today I saw just how important language is in helping to define important concepts like human rights. From this discussion, I've decided to frame my definition on what connects us to each other, and to view human rights as a set of universal and inalienable rights that we are ALL born with.

— Krista Wells, Canada



Outcomes of the Turikumwe! Volunteering with Grassroots Organizations:

○ [Health Development Initiative \(HDI\)](#)

Janet Gisa • Cecelia Black • Tharcise Ngarukiyintwari • Angie Brown (June)

Yvonne Uwamariya • Joelle Rodenburgh (August)

- Cross-Cultural Contributions to Open Talk Newsletter – ordering and replying to questions from Rwandan high school youth about LGBTI issues, relationships, menstruation, HIV/AIDS, and condoms
- Completed the SHARE Program Brochure
- Edited two sections of the SHARE Program Manual on “Gender Equality” and “Sexual Orientation” – adding a comprehensive definition of “LGBTI” and expanding on the issues that face the LGBTI community -- incorporating LGBTI issues into the gender equality section. For more on Gender discussions in this summer’s program, click [here](#).
- *Designed and Constructed Posters on Patients Rights, Investing In Healthy Workers and Washing Your Hands for the Expo & Posters for upcoming workshops on MSM/LGBTI rights and TB/HIV Awareness*
- *Attended Expo for 1 day to promote participation in health workshops*
- *Wrote a proposal to advocate the government to decriminalize and legalize abortion*
- *Summarized the Charter of Patients Rights Document*
- *Participated in 2 day workshop on Patients Rights and Documented the Workshop for their internal reporting*
- *Took Testimonies from SHARE participants*

○ [ISHYO](#)

JackyTumukunde • Jerome Migisha • Marisa Way • Hillary Lee Ditmars (June)

Benoit Tuyisenge • Adrianna Lawson • Lowell Brower (August)

- Drafted a grant proposal to send to potential sponsors for a “Year of Theatre”
- Created an outline of a 2012 calendar that included twelve plays to be sponsored by local organizations
- Began creating a database of international arts organizations similar to Ishyo
- Helped prepare borrowing materials for Ishyo’s new lending library
- Assisted with Logistics for the Center by Center Theatre Festival co-produced by Ishyo and the Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies Center and Mashirika Performing Arts
- Created a primer on Arts Advocacy techniques
- Along with volunteers from FAHAMU (an awesome Kenyan Arts and Social Justice organization), helped to write lesson plans for an Arts and Social Justice Youth Program which ISHYO will be in charge of bringing into schools during the next school year.



ISHYO inspired us to use theatre in our workshops for learning about Human Rights – above, at the workshop with Youth in Karongi

What is a human rights organization?

I learned that Human Rights Organizations are not only those organizations that advocate for rights or monitor them, but also service providers for the communities (helping orphans, providing health services, etc). These are also human rights organizations.

-- Participant Evaluation, Summer 2011

Group Site Visits that were Relevant to RAPP and other orgs using Theatre for Social Change?

MINIYOUTH, UNHCR, MIGEPROF, etc.

Almost all site visits were relevant.

Theatre is a cross cutting technique, that can be used in multiple organizations for multiple purposes.

We spoke to COPORWA about how a group of actors could go to the village of Mubuga to set-up a theatre program for just one week with kids from the surrounding communities and how this could break-down stigma.

Perhaps this is something RAPP or ISHYO can assist with in the future.

○ **RAPP**

Rachel DeFoe • Ke (Frances) Feng • Samuel Kalisa (June)

Remy Tuyingire • Erin Mosley • Francoise Uzamukunda • Brittany Cassell (August):

- Assisted with the creation of a short play on “negative peer and personal pressure” vis a vis getting Tested for HIV – the play was then presented at the Expo in Kigali
- Brainstormed on how to bring the knitting program information back to the United States, using social media as a tool to advertise for Rwanda knitting program
- Went into the field to identify “hot spot” locations for condom promotion – i.e. bars and hotels designated as potentially high-risk areas for STD and HIV/AIDS transmission
- Created a concept paper outlining various potential avenues that RAPP, alone or in collaboration with other organizations, could take in order to address (or advocate on behalf of) the issue of theater-based health education in the Kiziba Refugee Camp, provided this program could be approved by UNHCR
- Helped organize two years’ worth of field reports
- Helped in tabulating statistics for current annual report
- Created power point for the Rwanda Knits program pitch to UNIFEM



○ **Uyisenga N’ Manzi** *Ndoli Jasper • Samuel Muhizi • Ariel Murray • Akaliza Shalita (June)&*

Mary Brittany Gholsen • Kristin Bain • Vincent Kyagabo (August):

- Edited and researched for Uyisenga’s international volunteer application
- Performed interviews with Uyisenga’s beneficiaries in the villages to understand how they have benefited from the organization and took testimonies to be posted on the Uyisenga N’Manzi website
- Implemented another round of the Memory-Book Photo Project (previously introduced by GYC volunteers in Jan 2010), working with youth from the Niboye Village
- Shared experiences from the Memory Book photo project with the Arts Advocacy team from ISHYO
- Assisted with the packaging of school supplies for Uyisenga’s beneficiaries who would be returning to school end August



Kai, a volunteer working with UYISENGA. She is not a delegate, but is pictured here because her presence is a product of the newly established Media Volunteer Program for UYISENGA N'MANZI that was initiated and designed and implemented by the Jan 2011 Delegation! Kai is standing with Uyisenga's director, Chaste, at the Turikumwe! Opening Banquet

I have come to know one of my unknown areas which I had never discovered about myself – that I am courageous.

--Rwandan Participant, June

I have learned that I truly want to help people with my life, and that I could happily do that here in Rwanda.

-- International Participant, June

I have a better perspective on life, power, human rights, gender, and development and what they mean to my life overall

-- International Participant, August

I learned to stand up and speak up about my rights.

--Rwandan Participant, August

Community of Potters of Rwanda ([COPORWA](#)) Semir Hasedzic • Stina Amanda

Renvall • Jean D'Arc Mukasekuru (June) & Jean D'Arc Mukasekuru • Christina Callingham • Julia Lurie (August):

- **Two observation visits to the Mubuga Sector Potters' Community – now called the Karora Community.** Building off of our past work there in that community, we heard testimonies there along-side public officials, focusing on numerous issues including housing, food, water, and education – following up on the issues that had been observed by the previous Turikumwe group visits, and on the small grant that had been given by the previous Turikumwe group to the village. We also took part in cultural dancing and purchased pottery.
- **Summarized Improvements:** (houses have been built! and the Potters are living in the settlement with other vulnerable groups of people – which will help decrease stigma eventually – they have access to health insurance
- **Remaining Challenges** (Sanitation, money for medicine when sick, children do not go to school because of hunger and stigma; how to help the Potters to adequately manage aid that is given to them, since someone within the community stole the pig and even stole the harvest of a government sponsored agricultural project for the community)
- **We followed up with the mayor to congratulate the district on the improvements seen in the community and to discuss key remaining challenges**
- Wrote concept note for project focusing on girls in the Potter community
- Discussed the need for more gender balance in the Potters' communities, and need for services for children, during a Human Rights Learning and Action meeting with the Honorable Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Aloisea Inyumba
- Numerous translations of important concept documents and project proposals into English from French
- Research on possible funding partners
- **Deliberated about possible Emergency Small Grant Allocations** pending the organization of a community committee to handle the aid effectively. Something we were told could be possible by January. Some exciting ideas:
 - Provide Matching Grant funds to the Health Fund in the Community whereby the community members will put in some money to be matched by the GYC/AJPRODHO donation afterwards
 - Purchasing larger water containers to help with transporting water from the swamp/water well
 - Purchasing pots, cups, plates, bowls and silverware as the community does not have any of these objects



Hakizimana, Gaspard, and Regina -- a family -- standing outside their new house

AJPRODHO Jessica Haldeman • Hierete Desta • Ruxi Zhang • Johnas Bahati • Yvonne Mugwaneza • Queen Nyirarwaka (June) & Jordan Nowotny • Hye-Won Kim • Ernest Kalisa • Martin Kaberuka (August):

In line with AJPRODHO's commitment to help young people living within Rwanda's borders fully realize their human rights, we made two more Visits to KIZIBA Refugee Camp in Karongi:

- Interviewed members of the Camp
- Created a report to share first with UNHCR and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugees, and then with the Mayor of Karongi District, the Ministry of Youth, & the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion. The report findings included key challenges related to boys secondary education (S4,5,6), and the need to fix the generator for the youth center.
- Committed \$300 from the GYC Emergency Grant fund towards the fund for fixing the generator. The rest will be put-in by the camp members, facilitated by UNHCR, whose budget is very strict and cannot be used for the generator at this moment in time.
- Visited with the family members and friends of the camp members who were participants in the program (Johnas and Ernest).



Ernest Kalisa, a Congolese refugee from Kiziba Camp, also a member of the delegation who volunteered for AJPRODHO and COPORWA, points to the KIZIBA camp high on the mountaintop -- during a site visit to the Batwa members at Karora/Mubuga, which he chose as his site visit in Karongi, so as to gain a different perspective.

Two Observation Visits and Interview Sessions with detainees at the Bwishyura police station in association with AJPRODHO's Access to Justice project

- Positive observations from June to August (less reports of detention beyond the legal date)
- Negatives continue (living conditions and reports of abuse and arbitrary arrest)
- Brought our findings to the police chief, to the mayor, and to the Minister of Internal Security in June, where specific action steps were discussed (see Site Visit Summaries)
- We committed some of *Turikumwe!*'s emergency fund money to purchasing insecticide for the detention center and for community education about detainees' human rights



Emmanuel, a Rwandan Delegate, is demonstrating here how the insecticide purchased from our emergency small grant fund is sprayed in the police detention center. The insecticide was purchased as a symbolic but effective, if small, gesture. We hope that the Ministry will be able to find other sources of funds for the other relatively small things that need to be done to improve living conditions in the police station. Emmanuel was visiting the detention center with AJPRODHO as part of the delegation activities in August. He was the focal point for ADBEF, which works on the human rights of Domestic Workers.

Facilitated two Human Rights Learning meetings with the Youth Leaders of Karongi District

- Discussed Human Rights Conceptually
- Discussed Human Rights Violation and Realization Mapping Exercises for Communities
- Discussed Advocacy Techniques (What works in Rwanda? What works in the USA/Canada?)
- Created two Theatre Plays on Human Rights in Rwanda and in the USA to spark Discussion with the youth in Karongi
- Recorded their perceptions of the human rights challenges faced by youth in their district



Engaging on Human Rights
Advocacy Strategies in Karongi
with local youth council members

Other Activities:

- Created an updated version of AJPRODHO's brochure
- Made a Facebook page for AJPRODHO and taught staff how to use it
- Wrote thank you letters to organizations and individuals that met with delegates of the Turikumwe Program

How do you start a dialogue about Human Rights? Try Theatre

TALK SHOW HOST: *So, dear human rights expert, what do you think was the most important lesson learned from this episode about hunger in the United States? We saw in this sketch that there was a man begging in the streets.*

HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT: *Well, I am glad you brought this up. I was just speaking about this with President Obama the other day. I mean it is such a shame that that man was squatting! I mean he should have a couch on the street where he can sit and be comfortable when he is begging. Really, it was an abomination to see this!*

--Dialogue from the Play created by the June Delegation to highlight the questions of "Is there a hierarchy of Human Rights?" and "What is a human rights expert?"

[Watch the Play on You Tube!](#)

**Reflecting on Time
at ADBEF:**

We felt very welcomed and appreciated by ADBEF. The work we did was meaningful and we felt that we were contributing to help grow the organization and to increase their visibility and partnerships. We were provided with opportunities to see firsthand the work they do, and were given the chance to advocate to the government on their behalf. Since this was the first time GYC has partnered with ADBEF, we hope that this partnership can continue in the future and that both organizations continue to benefit from this cross cultural dialogue on human rights.

And ... We Added Three New Organizations! (All Run by GYC – Alumni)

- **INALAS** Ashley Brown • Alexandra Saper • Grace Mutoni • Remy Munyaneza (June):
 - Edited previous grant proposals and identified areas that need improvement in future applications
 - Began searching for potential grants and funding to apply for in the future
 - Worked on establishing systems for record keeping, for case-loads
 - Installed password protection on the file to ensure it could only be accessed by volunteers
 - Assisted with the elaboration of INALAS' strategic plan
 - Created a Facebook and Tumblr/blog page for INALAS and conducted a tutorial session for new media
 - Prepared for and Implemented a "legal aid outreach" and "partnership creation" visit to the Gisimba Memorial Center – orphanage in Nyamirambo, Kigali – focused principally on property rights and allowing orphans access to their parents' property – the orphanage invited INALAS to come back at a later date to look over specific case files – the orphanage was very interested in establishing a partnership with INALAS
 - The team also combined with the AJPRODHO team to conduct interviews at the Bwishyura police station detention center
- **ADBEF** Krista Wells • Melanie Horne • Emmanuel Sibomana • Ismael Kayigema (August):
 - Created a facebook page for ADBEF
 - Created a promotional pamphlet on ADBEF and their goals and accomplishments
 - Visited a group of domestic workers (one family in Kimisagara sector) and exchanged with them on their experiences – and drafted a report for further discussions
 - ADBEF and GYC debate on human rights , to be held at the youth center
 - Visited the executive secretary of Nyangenge Sector and the National Youth Council – responded to interview from IGIHE online news portal
 - Engaged with ADBEF partners and beneficiaries at an official closing ceremony of our volunteer time
 - Conducted interviews at the Bwishyura police station detention center in association with the AJPRODHO access to justice project
 - Brought information to the police chief and to the mayor based on the findings and made plans for next steps (including this issue in the Civil Society Advocacy Session on Jan 15 and in future LAC Summit visits and plans)
 - Assisted in the writing and translation of AJPRODHO's Annual Report
- **Kigali Hope (Young Positives)** Freddy Rodriguez • Erika Parkins • Frank Gisha Mugisha • Aimee Kayumba (August):
 - Promoted Kigali Hope and Ways to Practice safe sex at the Rwanda Expo 2011
 - Established a blog, Facebook, Facebook Group
 - Wrote 2 fundraising proposals
 - General strategy discussions and brainstorming

Outcomes of the Site/Observation visits by the Turikumwe! Participants (June and August):



The June 2011 *Turikumwe!* Delegation after meeting with the Ministry of Youth

GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS:

○ Karongi Mayor's Office

- In June, our visit with the Mayor was cancelled due to impromptu elections for his party (the RPF). In August, the mayor was very busy on the day we were to meet with the strategic plan of the district, so we engaged in brief dialogue about the activities we did in his district (*See AJPRODHO and COPORWA listings above for details about the visits in the Karongi district which were carried out in association with those organizations*)
- The Mayor said the rumor from the Karongi youth, about how there is a bank tendered where the youth center should be built, is incorrect. He said there is land and they are just waiting for the budget from the Ministry of Youth to build the center.
- On the topic of the visit to the Potters in Mubuga: We thanked him on the building of the houses, and he said that he understands our frustrations with the issue of management of aid, gifts of land, pigs, educational materials, etc. We said we'd try to come up with a solution, discussing with COPORWA, and he said he would reflect on the report and our suggestions.
- The mayor wrote down our concerns about the Police Station, and we plan to send him the report for further reflection and action, but in general he repeated that he could not do much to improve it without more budget

○ [Ministry of Youth](#)

- The permanent secretary fielded questions on when condoms will be available in schools, on economic opportunities for youth, refugee youth concerns, and he said he would be willing to read a report on arts opportunities for youth, and on the importance of arts education, and to promote this with the Ministry of Education.

Note: There is an immense amount of material from this summer, and there is only so much of it that we can put into this program report. We highly suggest that you click on the hyper-links that you find in this report, and to scroll down the blog post to find the issue/visit that you are looking for. And leave comments there if you so desire!



Inspired by his volunteer experience at Health Development Initiative (HDI), Tharcisse (right) addresses a question on special protections for LGBTI people in Rwanda to the Rwandan Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights, Unity, and Genocide.

- [Rwandan Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights, Unity, and Genocide](#) (See above)
- [Ministry of Justice](#)
 - The Honorable Minister fielded several questions on our observations in the police detention center, and about the penal code that is in the Senate for final review
 - Press interviews about the meeting, GYC on TV!
- [Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion](#)
 - The Minister fielded over an hour and a half of questions and provided immediate feedback about how she could help (e.g. listening to the concerns of Potter Community Women and Children's Issues). She also indicated clearly where she could not advocate (e.g. for LGBTI populations – this is not an official gender issue in Rwanda according to the Minister). She also indicated a wish to meet with future HRLA programs.
- [Ministry of Internal Security](#)
 - The Minister fielded numerous questions about the situation in the police detention center we had visited. He said “this is partnership” and that he would follow-up on all of our concerns, even the one about building the youth center. He would convene other ministries, he said.
- [National Commission Against Genocide](#)
 - The legal affairs representative gave us an overview of the Commission's important work, and he responded positively to a question from one of the participants about a mass grave that is yet to be exhumed and cared-for at the Mudende area, near Congo. The representative said, “we will look into this, please call me about it.”
- US State Department and USAID
 - Expanded our understanding of the kinds of Human Rights issues monitored and addressed by the US State Department and USAID -- (USAID even has some influence on civil and political human rights, given that some of the funding it gives to Rwanda is based on the Millennium Challenge analysis of progress on civil and political rights issues in the country).
 - We shared our impressions on several key issues and clarified the proper channels for lodging complaints/observations in the future (including about malnutrition among the potter community)

**How can I/we
prevent
Genocide?**

***Emphasize the
need for respect
and dignity for
all people,
though my
actions and my
words.***

***Be sure to use
language that
always
emphasizes the
humanity of
individuals and
never
dehumanizes
them.***

***Acknowledging
all history, even
the ugly parts,
and parts that
are not flattering
of those in
power.***

***Visit the victims
and show them
some love coz
it's help for the
Human***

***To fight against
denial.***

***Figure out ways
that
Responsibility 2
Protect is not
just an empty,
unenforceable
convention.***

***Take this
experience back
to my
community and
inform my peers***

CIVIL SOCIETY AND EDUCATION

- [Genocide Memorials:](#)
 - Kigali Memorial Museum
 - Nyange School
 - Nyamata Memorial Church in Bugesera
- [Rwanda Development Organization \(RDO\)](#)
 - In the context of our workshop discussions about Development and Human Rights
- [Kigali Institute of Education's Gender Studies Program](#)
 - This brand-new program is already training numerous leaders from Rwandan government and civil society who are concerned with Gender issues, or who feel Gender studies is crucial to their work. Studies range from constructs of masculinity to sexual orientation to traditional gender roles.
- [RUYAC](#): The Association for Rwandan Youth Affected by Armed Conflict (largely for former child soldiers – who were demobilized from the Congo where they fought for Hutu militias)
- Met with Human Rights Watch's researcher in Rwanda on several occasions to learn more about how HRW works in Rwanda
- [Bwishyura Primary School Senior 6 Class](#)
- [Norwegian People's Aid \(NPA\)](#)
- [Search for Common Ground](#)

Two days after the visit to Rwanda Development Organization (RDO), we had a chance to travel to Bugesera, one of the Districts in the Eastern Province where RDO has been working for over a decade, and where the tree-planting initiative in RDO's Environmental Conservation program, among others, helped turn a region that was once a land of drought and deprivation -- where the Tutsi population had been relegated to suffer by the Habyarimana government-- into a bread-basket that can now even feed other parts of the country. Let's mark RDO's work as of the many human rights achievements we

Outcomes of Other Activities:

We hosted two HRLA sessions with GYC Rwanda Alumni in Kigali. Current participants facilitated small dialogue groups with Alumni and other guests on these subjects:

- **Legalizing some forms of Abortion** (which had been part of the work of the Turikumwe! volunteers at HDI, during which they were asked by HDI to produce a draft of a position paper called "Why Decriminalizing and Legalizing Abortion is Necessary to Achieve Women's Rights")
- **Respecting the Human rights of domestic workers in Rwanda** (which had been part of the work of the Turikumwe! volunteers at ADBEF)
- **Respecting the Human Rights of People Living with Disabilities** (Initiated by Alexandra Saper)
- **Advocacy for the Arts** (sessions led by the *Turikumwe!* team of volunteers which had worked for ISHYO)
- **Respecting the Human Rights of LGBTI People** (led by the HDI volunteers from the June

This meeting with Search for Common Ground provided the delegation with great insight into different strategies and tactics for conflict resolution, not only in Rwanda, but across the globe. We learned some new approaches and reflected on how Search for Common Ground might be good partner organizations for some of our volunteer placement organizations to consider developing a partnership with. We learned that there are many complexities that come with conflict resolution and it seems as though Search for Common Ground has found a balance with some of this complexities, positioning them well within many different groups of people. – Christina Callingham

GYC Soccer (*Football!*) Match

Friday July 29th, 2011



GYC delegates use sport as a method of cross-cultural dialogue -- Reported by: Krista Wells

After a long week of workshops and site visits, the GYC delegates decided to unwind with a friendly of soccer. As to make it fair for the international delegates, teams were made up of both Rwandan and international delegates. A total of 16 players showed up, along with a with a large contingent of fan support.

We enjoyed a lively game, with goals scored by Lowell, Krista and Ernest. While the final score was 2-1, everyone was happy to have had the chance to engage with get to know each other in a different setting. We also attracted quite a crowd of spectators, and it was positive for them to see both males and females of different nationalities playing together as one team.

I was happy to have the opportunity to engage with the other delegates using the venue of soccer because sports play such an important role in my life back home. I also like the idea of using sports to empower people by helping to build confidence and self-esteem and teaching the importance of working together to achieve a common goal. I think this is a perfect analogy for GYC's work with the Rwandese in helping to empower youth and teach about human rights in Rwanda. With the overwhelming positive feedback after the game, we played another one on August 12th after our visits to the Ministry of Justice and Gender!



Participant Biographies

RWANDAN PARTICIPANTS JUNE 2011

BAHATI KAZUNGU JONAS -- Is a Congolese refugee in Kiziba camp, 26years old, one of the refugee camps in Rwanda located in Karongi district. Am completing my secondary school at Karengera high school (Nyamasheke district) is also in charge of education and social affairs in the whole camp and also in charge of discipline at college AMAHORO DE KIZIBA. His time this program he intends to use his growing knowledge and experience to empower individuals through the current human rights dialogue. Bahati has worked in many NGO's as a volunteer, some of them are UNHCR, JRS, AHA, and also acted as Master of ceremony (M.C) in the refugee camp.

MUTONI GRACE -- Grace is 26 years old and a student at Akilah Institute for Women. She has worked with KK Security as a sales agent. She is so interested in this training as it is her passion to meet different people plus share ideas with different people. Moreover, she likes helping people.

UMUHOZA JANET -- Is a Rwandese aged 20 years old. I completed my high school in 2010 and planning to join university next year. I have been volunteering with HDI since November 2010, in a project called (share) sexual health and reproductive education; this is a project that educates the youth about reproductive health, family planning, HIV / AIDS, STD'S Human rights alcohol awareness. I personally hope that the Rwandan youth will be aware of HIV/ AIDS and will create a new generation free from HIV /AIDS, and the youth rights will be respected in years to come.

The Rwandan delegates greeted us with a song in Kinyarwanda, while the international delegates performed a mash-up of the national anthems of the countries where we come from or were born (USA, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, and Columbia). We also sang the Rwandan national anthem, with a lot of help from the Rwandan delegates of course! And Lowell, who speaks some pretty mean Kinyarwanda already! – Krista Wells, Canada

MUGISHA JEROME -- Am an artist and comedian in my first year in commercial art in Kampala international university, but in a break right now. Am an actor and comedian volunteering in every social work available in order to learn the lifestyle and understand the situation and cost of living in Rwanda. I think GYC will help me discover many things about Rwanda and will learn more about human rights. I want to be able to help other artists.

KALISA SAMMY-- Am a project manager of Amajwi y' ubuzima at RAPP. I pursued an advanced diploma in Peace building and conflict resolution at Mindoro Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia. Before I went to Zambia, I used to be a journalist at Radio Rwanda, the leading radio station in Rwanda, after my studies, I joined Lutheran World federation and worked as a community development coordinator. I have experience in cross culture issues, human rights, conflict resolution and development.

MUHIZI SAMUEL -- Am 24 years old, am at the university of RTUC(Rwanda tourism university college) in the department of travel and tourism management, am on the degree program, am in my third year and I will be graduating next year in November. I love the fact that am Rwandese, and am so happy that am going to be sharing ideas with different people of different cultures, more to that am so happy that am going to do some volunteering which is away of improving my knowledge about human rights.

MUSENGIMANA DEVOTA-- AM 27 years old, I have a bachelors degree in social sciences,(department of sociology at Kigali independent university) ULK, where I was in charge of social affairs of the students before joining ULK, I

also worked for PROJETO RWANDA an association of Italians, then after I worked for Cross link services limited Rwanda. That's why am so happy about being trained about human rights so as to improve my knowledge about human rights. Am very much looking forward to the experience I will have plus the opportunity of being a participant in this training.

NGARUKIYINTWALI THARICISE -- Am a student at Kigali institute of science and technology (KIST) , pursuing a degree of science in computer science program. Is the president of computer studies club, which is a network of students in computer fields and they meet once a month to discuss major needs and challenges in computer usage. After completing my high school I worked with various youth centers so as to teach computer usage. This project oriented me a leadership position of convincing the youth to become journalists for peace instead of hatred. This position rose up the interest of human rights according to the workshop and seminars I participated in. Am intending to gain more experience from this human rights training.

NIYIBIZI JULIEN -- I grew up from a rural area and graduated with a degree in Linguistic from Annamalai University in India is now working as a lecturer in Rukara college of Education as a tutor in language department. I participated in different workshops and trainings organized by the ministry of local government. Although I have never participated in any human rights workshops or seminar. So I intend to benefit from this coming workshop and would like to encourage Rwandans to be aware of their rights.

MUNYANEZA REMY -- Am a Rwandan human right activist, I have obtained a bachelors degree in law at the national university of Rwanda and now pursuing a post graduate program in legal practice at the institute of legal practice and development. Am very interested in human rights issues, at the end of my university studies, me and my colleagues came up with ideas of how to help our country by strengthening human rights in our society, and that's when we founded "I.N.A.L.A.S" a.s.b.l, which is a national non governmental organization which provided legal aid to vulnerable people, such as orphans, prisoners, widows etc. I hope to build my understanding of human rights in this program, which will be of great importance in my career of being a human rights activist. After finishing this program , I hope to continue working on the field of human rights, and more to that am a member of the Kigali BAR association from April 2010.

MUKASEKURU JEANNE D'ARC -- MUKASEKURU Jeanne d'Arc is a student at Kigali Independent University in computer science. She is a member of COPORWA which is an association of Rwandan potters, which has the mission of promoting their rights and their development through advocacy to education, policy making in order to have access on land so that they may be integrated in Rwandan society because they had been historically marginalized and isolated among other citizens. In this workshop she is the focal point of COPORWA which is the national organization working for the promotion of potters people of Rwanda with the mission of promoting education even establishing adult literacy center using reflect methods. It's about helping potter's communities to have or to know their rights as Rwandese even though they are the minorities, to be sensitized more about local, national and international policy. It also helps the minority communities to get advocacy on land, accommodation and insurance life. "Out of my organization, I like studying, peace and I dislike any kind of marginalization. Through this workshop I expect to gain more knowledge about sharing national and international cultures, learning English and public speaking, more to that coporwa would be so happy because their beneficiaries will be visited."

NYIRARWAKA QUEEN -- Am 21years old, I completed my high school at Alliance high school, after completing my high school I went to Uganda to study university, now I have finished my first year in social work and social administration. My intention about field work is to know each and everything e.g. skills on how to serve clients or how I can handle people, and I used to be a volunteer at my high school. Where by I helped with traumatized students , that's why am so happy to participate in this program.

NDOLI JASPER I am called Jasper Ndoli aged 30; I have bachelors' degree in Law and am single. I have been doing different activities related to my profession "Lawyer" but also economic development and health as mentioned in my CV where I attained certificates. This takes me straight to my point of why I decided to choose Rwanda Allied Peace and Progress (RAPP), I love peace and development and without education, health and economic development my dream would be myth. Therefore, I wish to attend or be able to know more about this organization and put in practice what I have learnt either by experience or in theory. It is more advantageous of being trained or working in related Organs like Akazi Kanoze (good work) and HIV/AIDS at campus National University of Rwanda (NUR). All in all, I wish to gain more about promoting peace, education, economic development, health and give what I believe to be helpful to those who believe in the mentioned perspective ways of transforming our society particularly and world in general.

Tumukunde Jacky -- I'm doing AGRIBUSINESS in the faculty of AGRICULTURE at national university of Rwanda. And so far I did some internships related to my field as I mentioned in my C.V, I interned with Garden for health. As a Program Associate, strengthening community management of malnutrition. I also got an opportunity of working with some NGO'S out of the country and learnt how they are working towards development of agriculture like Cotton conservation initiative Uganda (CCIU) worked as fieldwork supervisor Improving trainings provided to farmers and marketing strategies. Still looking forward to find more opportunities to improve my field skills. In that way I choosed to work with health development initiative, and Rwandans allied for peace and progress (RAPP) because i feel much interest in this as it works directly with people improving their health as well as supporting their well being. After this i don't hesitate that i will learn more and be able to contribute a lot to my society and the world in general. And i hope to put in practice this and let other people be involved in contributing in building peace in our country and all over the world.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS JUNE 2011

Cecilia Black Cecelia is completing a degree in International Studies focusing on African studies at George Washington University in Washington DC. Outside of class, Cecelia volunteers with Health Leads, an organization that employs college volunteers as social advocates for low-income families at Children's National Medical Center. During her semester in South Africa, she became particularly interested in transitional justice while taking a course on truth commissions. Cecelia also enjoyed jumping the world's highest bungee jump during her semester there! Cecelia hopes that by participating in Global Youth Connect's delegation she will gain a better understanding of successful transitional justice programs, as well as learning more about the complexities of a post-conflict state's transition. After returning home, Cecelia hopes to continue to promote human rights while pursuing a graduate degree in public health or development. Later Cecelia hopes to pursue a career in the Foreign Service or with USAID in hopes of further promoting human rights in US policy.

Angela Brown is 24 years old completing her final year of graduate study at St. Cloud State University (SCSU) pursuing her Master of Science degree in Social Responsibility. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa with a double major in Sociology and Psychology and a minor in Art: Studio. Her research is focused on strategies and outcomes of youth leadership development and mobilization within the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) movement, an interest that was magnified while interning with two LGBTQ youth serving organizations in the Midwest dedicated to racial, gender, sexual, and economic equality. For two years Angie has managed the Pathways Program for Incarcerated Students at SCSU, a program that offers higher education to offender students that is committed to reducing rates of recidivism for marginalized populations. As a social justice activist, she is eager to learn through GYC how to develop and implement effective strategies of community organizing and advocacy for human rights as well as to increase her cultural awareness and challenge her personal assumptions, ideologies, and privileges.

Ashley Brown Ashley is currently pursuing her master's in Global and International Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara, with an emphasis in human rights and development. In 2008, Ashley graduated with her B.A. in Communications and a minor in Black Studies from UCSB. After graduation, Ashley became involved with a local micro-financing organization, absorbing as much as she could from the process, and was inspired by how powerful community-based organization could truly be around the world. Inspired by the work of international NGOs and her travels, and her own involvement with the Human Rights Group on campus, Ashley became a strong advocate for community-based development projects. Her research interests include sustainable development practices and the formation of policy regarding social justice and human rights issues within a global framework. Following her time in Rwanda and graduation, Ashley intends to use her growing knowledge and experience to empower individuals by revitalizing the current human rights dialogue and aid in the formation of a more conscientious world.

Rachel DeFoe Rachel is twenty years old and grew up in a small rural midwestern town without a single stoplight. Now, however, she is a political science and international studies double major at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas (the seventh largest city in the US). During the Fall, she completed a semester abroad in London, and while there, worked as an intern for the Conservative Party and UK Parliament. Rachel has a passion for politics and foreign policy. After graduation, she hopes to become a Foreign Service Officer for the US State Department, and get stationed in a country where she can help the people and work to create a greater good on a global scale. After taking a class during her freshman year of college about Rwanda and the genocide, she has been interested in the country and the reconstruction and renewal process. With that being the case, she is very much looking forward to the experiences she will have with the opportunity of being a part of the human rights delegation in Rwanda, a truly amazing country.

Hierete Desta Hierete is currently a student at American University in the School of International Service in Washington, D.C. She is pursuing a Master's degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution, with a focus on identity and conflict in Africa. While an undergraduate student at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, she was awarded a fellowship to travel and research HIV prevention efforts in Ethiopia, concentrating specifically on the dissonance between knowledge and behavior amongst youth. In the spring of 2010, she interned at the U.S. Department of State addressing issues of peace-building in East Africa. Hierete then traveled to Brussels for a summer internship at a non-profit organization where she researched and drafted reports about conflict prevention and the proliferation of small arms across Sub-Saharan Africa. She hopes that participating in the delegation to Rwanda will provide her with the experience and insight necessary to supplement her graduate coursework and become an effective practitioner of conflict resolution.

Hillary Lee Ditmars Hillary is a junior at Harvard College, concentrating in Social Studies with a specialized focus field on mental health and social justice in Africa. She is pursuing a secondary concentration in English and is working to fulfill pre-med requirements as well while at Harvard. Next year, Hillary will be writing her senior thesis on the role of expressive cultural production and art-based therapies in post-genocidal reconciliation and healing in Rwanda. Hillary is interested in the multifaceted nature of global health, and spent last summer as an intern at the World Health Organization, working on palliative care policy for tuberculosis patients within the Stop TB Strategy department. An active violinist and avid music lover, Hillary is a member of several musical ensembles on Harvard's campus, and also teaches music lessons to neighborhood youth through a volunteer outreach program. Hillary is also a peer counselor at Harvard. She hopes that participating in the delegation to Rwanda will provide her with first-hand insight into the intersection of grassroots efforts, community rebuilding, and the arts as a tool

for social change. After graduation, Hillary plans to contribute to ongoing global health efforts related to mental wellness and conflict-resolution before attending medical school.

Frances (Ke) Feng Frances is originally from Beijing, China. She came to the United States at age of 18 to pursue her Bachelor Degree with a double-major in international relations and economics. In particular, she is passionate about the education and development, especially with a focus on the unequal education between different genders. Also, she's interested in how international organizations function in developing countries in terms of education. Started from high school, Frances has been volunteering in various schools of small villages in China. In 2010, she participated Wheaton College Tanzania Program and spent a whole month there to research on its education system and do volunteer teaching. Through those experiences, she realizes the urgency for educational empowerment and reassures her passion to work in this field in the future. In her spare time, she learned Karate for 4 years and kept practicing piano since the age of 6. Her long-term goal is to work in an organization like UNESCO, UNICEF, or UNIFEM to bring worldwide assistance on education, especially for girls.

Jessica Haldeman Jessica is pursuing her graduate degree in International Studies focusing on African studies at Ohio University in Athens, OH. In December 2008, Jessica participated in a month-long service-learning trip in Rwanda, coordinated by Otterbein College. During her time there, she volunteered in health clinics, schools, and orphanages, as well as with the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project. By participating in the delegation she hopes to deepen her understanding of the role of grassroots human rights efforts in post-conflict countries. She also hopes to help create positive and sustainable change in Rwanda. Following the delegation and graduation, Jessica hopes to pursue another graduate degree in Peace and Conflict resolution, and later hopes to work in the human rights field in Africa, specifically with refugees and internally displaced persons.

Semir Hasedzic Semir is completing his fourth and final year at the University of Washington, where he is pursuing a degree in International Studies with a focus on Nationalism and Ethnicity. In his spare time, Semir is involved in different activities around campus. In the last two years he has participated in a Model EU, volunteered with the East African Community Services, and non-conventional gigs such as a youth soccer coach. After graduation from the University of Washington, Semir looks towards Washington D.C. as the gateway for his master's degree in foreign affairs as well as the jumping point for networking opportunities. By participating in the Rwanda delegation he hopes to further gather knowledge about what kinds of efforts are possible in post-conflict countries. He is very interested in the areas of children's rights, humanitarian interventions, and reconciliation in a post-conflict society. Added to his interests is the fact that he was born in Bosnia in 1988, only to flee the country four years later due to the genocide.

Ariel Murray Ariel is pursuing her undergraduate degrees in Political Science as well as Communication Arts in Rhetoric at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. Currently, Ariel is beginning her training to work as a tutor with the Schools of Hope program that assists underprivileged elementary and high school students. In addition to volunteering, Ariel is working to prepare for the LSAT with the hopes of attending law school when she graduates next June. Within the legal profession, she hopes to pursue a career in international and human rights law. Her interest in these areas of law have shaped and guided her academic career throughout college and even high school. While most of her experiences with international law and human rights issues have been confined to a classroom, she hopes that the Rwandan delegation will provide firsthand knowledge of international conflict and conflict resolution so that she can be well-equipped to work for change and justice in her future.

Stina Amanda Renvall Stina is a rising senior studying Global Relations at Sewanee: The University of the South with a concentration on social, economic, and political development. She is also pursuing a minor in French language. Stina attends the University of the South thanks to the Posse Foundation Leadership Award. Posse scholars around the country are committed to spreading diversity at a variety of campuses. Stina's interest in activism was sparked when she attended Annapolis Senior High School, where the division of the student body based on socioeconomic lines was significant. Stina was born in Järvenää, Finland and currently lives both in Annapolis, Maryland and Hyvinkää, Finland.

Alexandra Saper Alexandra is an undergraduate honors student at Drew University in Madison, NJ, where she is pursuing a specialized major in Behavioral Science and a minor in French. She has served in various areas of community and youth development in Argentina (2010), and has lived and worked at an orphanage in Haiti (2011). Alexandra has also served as an in-kind donations intern at the International Rescue Committee in Phoenix, AZ (2010) and currently works as a tutor and mentor for junior high students in Harlem, NY. She is in the process of writing her senior honors thesis focusing on the social, cultural, and psychological perspectives on the reconciliation process in post-genocide Rwanda. Through participation in the delegation, Alexandra hopes to receive further insight into the efforts of grassroots development organizations as mechanisms for change, as well as understanding the psycho-socio-cultural barriers to and methods for conflict resolution.

Eirena Akaliza Shalita Akaliza is pursuing her B.A. in communications at the University of Maryland College Park. She is an active member of the college park chapter of NAACP and holds the position of SGA liaison on the executive board. She has also spent time volunteering with her university's chapter of Invisible Children, as well as, the non-profit organization Baltimore BORN. She considers herself to be at the beginning of her life's journey. This program will offer her an opportunity and hopefully direction to enact change. Through the program's hands on approach, she will gain experience in this field of social change and a better understanding of how to advance development and human rights. Upon graduating this spring she intends to take a year off and work, volunteer, or intern for either an NGO, governmental, or for profit organization hopefully in Rwanda, Uganda or the U.S.. After, she plans on attending graduate school to study either social policy or international development, or attending law school where she would study comparative law. Akaliza also works at the first Rwandan coffee shop started in the USA, Bourbon Coffee.

Marisa Way Marisa plans to obtain an undergraduate degree at the University of Iowa in International Studies with an emphasis in African Studies, a degree in Interdepartmental Studies, and a certificate in Global Health Studies. With her degree in Interdepartmental Studies, Marisa is designing a major that combines human rights and creative writing as a way to explore art with a social conscious. She is particularly interested in human rights issues with a health or health care component, and is hoping to study abroad or intern at an organization that focuses on health-related issues in developing countries. After completing her undergraduate studies in 2013, Marisa wants to travel for a few years, either working in the Peace Corps or for an NGO in Africa, before returning to graduate school.

Ruxi Zhlang Ruxi is pursuing her undergraduate degree in International Studies with concentrations in Human Rights and Russian Studies at Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota. Each summer Ruxi volunteers as a translator and an assistant event organizer at Beijing Institute for the Study of Christianity and Culture (China). From 2009 to 2010, Ruxi was a volunteer artist at The MT Space Multicultural Theatre (Canada), co-writing and performing dramas theming the life of new immigrants and refugees. She also raised funds for the impoverished Chinese girl children to support them receive education. By learning and taking actions during the 2011 summer delegation in Rwanda, Ruxi hopes to gain hands-on experience on human rights advocacy and activism, to increase her ability to identify problems as well as to work on the solutions. In the aftermath of the Rwandan delegation, Ruxi will take

courses with deeper insights on human rights studies and to apply to graduate school after graduation. She plans to become a volunteer at American Refugee Committee and an intern at The Advocates for Human Rights in her sophomore and junior years. Later on, she hopes to devote in defending human rights in Asia.

RWANDAN PARTICIPANTS AUGUST 2011

Benoit Tuyisenge is a student in computer sciences at Université Libre de Kigali. He also has experience in product designing and has worked on some Rwandatel products like Christmas gift promotion. Furthermore, He is the creator and designer of the well known “Zahabu Times”, an online independent news source in Kinyarwanda. He developed the layout and content of website, designed and configured the website. You can access his work via the website:www.zahabutimes.com. He work on several activities with Ishyo arts centre such as Advertisement, IT issues, he worked also on a screenwriting and production of an animation film.

KYAGABO Vicent -- Was born in Uganda but a Rwandan by nationality. I completed advanced level of education in human science in the year 2008. In 2005 earned Uganda ordinary Certificate of education. After completing advanced level, attended the solidarity camp in Ruhengeri in Northern Province of Rwanda where I earned Certificate in Unity and Reconciliation studies. I also worked as a freelance in the newspaper company in Rwanda called The New Times. Currently, I am a volunteer working in Uyisenga N’Imanzi and living in Niboye Peace Village with genocide survivors. I wish to continue with my studies next year in the faculty of social sciences at the National University of Rwanda.

TUYINGIRE REMY -- My name is TUYIRINGIE Remy, 26 years old, single. I am a student at Kigali Independent University and I work in the Rwandans Allied for Peace and progress (RAPP). I have a driving license category B. I like music, going out with friends and reading books to refresh my memory.

KAYUMBA AIME -- My name is Kayumba Aime, I am a student in rural development and agribusiness. I am also planning to graduate in higher institute of agriculture and husbandry. I am a secretary of Kigali Hop Association. I like to work in social entrepreneurship activities, international relations, human rights and peace building. In my free time I like to read books, enjoy jokes with friends, watch movies (comedies and investigation series). In addition to that, I appreciate freedom and respect in my life.

SIBOMANA EMMANUEL -- I am SIBOMANA Emmanuel, Rwandese by nationality, 26 years old and single. I am a student at National University of Rwanda in computer science. More to that, I am a residence of Nyarugenge district, Kigali city. I like swimming and I play tennis.

Kayigema Ismael is a graduate of Kigali institute of Science and Technology in ICT and he also is a youth development worker/mobilize. His core competencies are Experiential Training (Teambuilding, trust building, peace building, effective communication and life skills); Project Cycle management (Baseline Survey, Project Design, Budget preparation and Tools development); Youth and community Leadership and livelihoods skills development. ICT (Hardware engineering, networking engineering system, Software installation, Website development & management); Facilitation of retreats, workshops and conferences. He has received training from the Educational Development Center and Plan International. He has worked for Plan International, Frontiers Adventures Great Lakes, Urugano Youth Media and the Amani Great Lakes Film Festival, among others.

KALISA M.ERNEST -- My name is Kalisa M.Ernest, 26 year old, a Congolese refugee in Kiziba camp. A student from National University of Rwanda 4th year, in the faculty of economics and management a specialist in accounting sciences. I like music, and sharing ideas with others.

YVONNE UWAMARIYA -- I am Yvonne UWAMARIYA, a student at Akilah Institute for Women, a residence of Gasabo district, Kigali city. I live with my mother. Two younger brothers and with my older sister. I like to play volleyball, drinking yoghurt and reading history books. The special thing I know about myself is that I am a good listener, courageous and confident. I realized that when I was working as an adviser in the Rwanda Red Cross workshop.

M.FRACOISE UZAMUKUNDA -- I am called M.Francoise UZAMUKUNDA, a Rwandese by nationality, single and a student from National University of Rwanda. Am doing linguistic and literature. I was doing arts during my high school and this helps much in my studies. I like to read books and watching movies.

MARTIN KABERUKA -- Martin KABERUKA is a young graduate from Kigali Institute of Education with in academic year 2010 in social sciences with education. He is a residence of Kigali city Kimironko, Gasabo district. He worked with different organizations which deal with under privileged people, especially orphans and women. While still studying in university he served as a volunteer and interpreter in global grass roots. His biggest ambition is to work with any organization that strives for providing economic development based on equal opportunity to human beings.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS AUGUST 2011

Julie Andrus Julie is pursuing her graduate degree in International Relations with concentrations in Security and Development at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. She received her Bachelor's degree from The George Washington University in International Affairs with concentrations in Conflict and Security and African Studies. She is especially interested in the field of Post Conflict Reconstruction. This will be her second trip to Africa, and her second stop on the continent this summer. She worked in Kenya in 2006 as a volunteer in a rural orphanage. This summer she has interned at the International Organization for Migration helping to rescue and reintegrate trafficked children. She has been passionate about the Great Lakes Region of Africa for years and is excited to experience the cultures she has read and studied so much about. After graduation she hopes to work in the field of PCR focusing on emergency humanitarian aid and refugee and IDP issues. She is also passionate about the reintegration of former child soldiers during and after conflicts. By participating in this program she hopes to learn about human rights and issues surrounding rule of law and rebuilding countries after mass violence and civil war.

Kristin Bain Kristin is a graduate student at the University of Denver pursuing her Master's degree in Conflict Resolution. She obtained her Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Psychology, doing a study abroad in Australia. She then helped to run the family business before becoming a para-educator that specializes in behavior management and working with children that have a dual diagnosis. Since beginning her degree program she has become very interested in restorative justice and volunteers at a local center for restorative justice as a community member. She has always had a passion for different cultures and is very excited to be a part of the delegation knowing it will give her a unique perspective of what it is like to be a youth in Rwanda. She is very excited to discover what is being done to promote healing in Rwanda, as well as to find out what she can specifically do to promote human rights in that country.

Lowell Brower Lowell is a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard in the Department of African and African American studies, focusing on African literature, especially oral storytelling traditions. He is currently studying the Kinyarwanda language and will have a full year under his belt by the start of this program. Lowell spent the last

semester investigating pre-colonial Rwandan history, as well as post-genocide storytelling projects and transitional justice initiatives in Rwanda (including films, memorials, national theatre and communal storytelling). He also spent almost two years living in Tanzania, conducting research on the Swahili oral tradition, and is fluent in Kiswahili. He hopes to work in the fields of human rights and social justice, as well as in academia.

Christina Callingham Christina is pursuing her graduate degree in Counselling at the University of Ottawa. After living in Canada's arctic, she has become passionate about promoting empowerment and a youth voice in Canada, specifically for marginalized youth, believing that, we, as young people, are the driving force for this change. Christina readily participates in helping to organize youth conferences which aim to help systematically provide access to knowledge building resources, extracurricular activities, and overall engagement to youth across Canada. Recently, she has taken her stories and knowledge from the north and developed an interest in participating in larger international human rights efforts in Rwanda. Upon returning to Canada, Christina hopes to apply her experiences to her counseling practice, to better develop a local awareness and sense of cross-cultural experience and communication. Christina aspires to begin her continued involvement in human rights projects, both on a local and international scale, by taking personal steps towards appreciating historical, economical, and individual, cross-cultural experiences, which will certainly benefit her and those impacted by this movement towards a better world.

Brittany Cassell Brittany is currently pursuing her Masters of Arts in Conflict Resolution, with an international focus, from the University of Denver. In her spare time, she works a part-time job at Ann Taylor clothing store, skis, and runs a non-profit organization, Harambee, Inc. This non-profit organization is focused on individuals bettering their lives through education in order to have an impact on the world as a whole. Still in its first year, Harambee, Inc. is focused on providing secondary school scholarships for ten girls as well as sewing machines for the graduates of the polytechnic school, all in the Chepnyal region of Kenya. By participating in this delegation, Brittany hopes to learn more about education's role in rebuilding post-conflict societies, as well as how to involve the community as a whole in the rebuilding efforts. After graduating in November of 2011, she plans on living on the continent of Africa, through working in the Peace Corps, volunteering with World Teach, or working with another international organization. Specifically, she would like to teach English and conflict resolution techniques or work in the HIV/AIDS field. After her time abroad, she plans to go to law school to study international or criminal law.

Mary Brittany Gholson Brittany is a third year undergraduate at Southeast Missouri State University working toward her B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on Political Science, Speech Communication, and Criminal Justice. She is currently an intern for the Department of Justice at the United States Attorney's office of the Eastern district of Missouri. One of her main goals in life is to be of assistance to others, and she has realized that a law degree will provide her with many of the opportunities and experiences in order to do so. She will focus her law studies towards criminal and international law, with emphasis in the area of human rights, and hence this program was a natural fit for her.

Melanie Horne Melanie, 19, is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in Psychology along with a minor in Global Studies at Christian Brothers University. In her spare time, Melanie acts as Service Chair for her sorority raising money towards breast cancer education and awareness. While pursuing her degree, she participates in many local mission-oriented organizations such as 30 Hour Famine, Soup Kitchen, Foot Soldiers, etc. During her mission trip to Acapulco, Mexico in 2007, she helped repair an elementary school, participated in events within the community, and taught Bible stories and the English language. During her summers, she also volunteers in the Appalachian Service Project helping to rebuild homes for families that live in poverty within the mountains. She has also been a delegate for political programs such as Volunteer Girls' State and the Mayor's youth Council. By participating in this

delegation, she hopes to gain insight on what struggles take place in Rwanda and to further her knowledge of the repercussions of the genocide. Following this delegation and graduation, Melanie hopes to continue to enact her passion for traveling, direct service, and raising awareness.

Hye-Won Kim Hye-Won is a junior undergraduate at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. She is pursuing Bachelor of Arts in Political Science concentrating on International Politics. She was born and raised in South Korea, but started going to school in the states when she was a sophomore in high school. Her family still lives in South Korea so she goes back for breaks. She experienced different cultures and lived with different families when she was in high school. She is nevertheless interested in continuing to learn about other cultures and this delegation marks her first time in Africa. Hye-Won is especially interested in human rights and she will be joining the International Law and Organizations program at American University in the Fall 2011. Her ultimate goal in life is working at the International Court of Justice.

Adrianna Lawson Adrianna is finishing her honors degree in Political Science- International Relations and Diplomacy before going on to her masters in Genocide Prevention and Accountability. She spends her spare time working with SAFE, standing up for animal rights and Refugee Support helping refugees who have recently arrived here in Christchurch adjust to their new lives. From participating in the delegation, Adrianna hopes to gain valuable firsthand experience working to advance human rights and make a contribution, hopefully the first of many, to preventing future genocides occurring through human rights protection and promotion. After her time in Rwanda, Adrianna would seek to share her experience with fellow students at Canterbury through the university media. Upon her graduation Adrianna hopes to volunteer with the Red Cross providing help specifically with genocide prevention and accountability.

Erin Mosely Erin is a doctoral student at Harvard University concentrating on African Studies and History. Her research explores the production of historical narratives in the aftermath of prolonged conflict and war, particularly through expressive cultural and artistic means. She is especially interested in what these alternative forms reveal about the social, political, and ideological underpinnings of more 'official' approaches to dealing with the past (e.g. truth commissions), as well as how they interact with and re-imagine such approaches. During the summer of 2010 she worked on a project in Kenya, assisting in the creation of a traveling history exhibit on resistance and nationalism during the colonial era. She has a B.A. in American Studies from Northwestern University and a M.Sc. in Human Rights from The London School of Economics and Political Science. Professionally, she worked for two and a half years at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. where, among other things, she had the pleasure of serving as a media relations and research assistant to Ms. Betty Bigombe, one of Uganda's leading peacemakers and the former Chief Mediator between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army. Following her time in Rwanda, Erin hopes to conduct fieldwork for her dissertation and successfully complete her Ph.D., after which she will pursue a career as a university professor in African Studies.

Jordan Nowotny With a B.A. in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Saginaw Valley State University and an M.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jordan is a Ph.D. candidate in criminology, law and justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago with a concentration in genocide studies and state violence. While working toward his graduate degree Jordan teaches courses in research methods, statistics, and social deviance at the University of Illinois at Chicago and St. Xavier University. In addition to his studies, Jordan is involved in health and fitness related endeavours including triathlon participation, working as a personal trainer, and volunteering with Girls in the Game, a Chicago-based non-profit promoting leadership development of inner-city girls through sport and fitness based programs. Through participation in the Rwandan delegation Jordan hopes to gain a better

understanding of the residual effects of genocide on individuals living in the areas affected and on their perceptions of other current mass atrocities taking place in the international community.

Erika Parkins Erika is a recent graduate of the University of California, Irvine (UCI), graduating in June 2011 with a dual degree in Criminology, Law and Society, and Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations. Aside from being a student, Erika is a Resident Advisor in the UCI freshman housing complex, a UCDC Washington D.C. Summer Internship Program Coordinator, an intern with the Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, and is also conducting research comparing individual experiences of altruism during the Holocaust, Rwanda, and Bosnia and Herzegovina genocides. In summer 2010, Erika lived in Washington D.C. as part of the UCDC program and interned at Shared Hope International advocating for victims of sex trafficking. Through participation in the delegation, she hopes to learn more about conflict resolution, prevention of human rights abuses, and the role of human rights organizations in the protection of human rights. Upon returning from the delegation, Erika hopes to attend American University and obtain her graduate degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution with a concentration in human rights. Eventually she hopes to work in the human rights field, more specifically with grassroots conflict prevention and advocacy.

Joelle Rodenburgh at 23, is living just outside of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She has recently finished her Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing Management and will be attending the University of Guelph for her Master's of Science in International Rural Planning and Development. She hopes to have a successful career in international development and eventually complete her PhD. in Global Affairs with a focus on Sustainable Development. She has participated in building projects in Peru and social development projects in Kenya. She has also had the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Egypt and Jordan. Joelle is an excitable, outgoing and compassionate person who loves life and can't wait to live every moment of it! She will be spending the rest of her summer after the delegation doing various volunteer works and travelling in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Krista Wells Krista has a B.A. in political studies, with a focus on development studies, as well as a B.Ed. She is currently teaching high school social studies, and is a former national team wrestler who now coaches athletes. She is politically involved in her community, sitting as an executive member of the board for her constituency, as well as volunteering with various different initiatives relating to social justice and sustainability. Krista spends her summers travelling and volunteering abroad, and has taught summer programs in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Brazil. She teaches about global issues and human rights to her students, and hopes to use this experience to enhance her lessons and to add meaning for her students. Krista also plans to go back to school to get her M.A. in international development studies. When she is not teaching, coaching or volunteering, she is actively training for triathlons, and will compete in her first half ironman this year.