



Global Youth Connect

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

Rwanda Program Report

Human Rights Delegation: August 2 - 23, 2012

In partnership with INARA Legal Aid Services



Rwandan and International Delegates work with children in Mubuga, about the importance of going to school and including everyone (not discriminating).



The program helped me to understand that equal does not mean the same. We are all equal because we are all human. – Rwandan Participant

I didn't know as much about grassroots organizing as I do now. Learning about networking between organizations was also a crucial part of this program for me. – International Participant

Grassroots Projects:	20	Youth Engaged:	175	Blog Posts/Reports:	15
Site Visits/Meetings :	15	Gov. Officials Engaged:	3	Theatre Pieces:	2
Entities at Final Dialogue (British High Commissioner for HR + UNHCR):					15
Youth Delegates (15 International + 16 Rwandan):					31
Youth Delegates who reported learning intensively about Human Rights:					31

This report has been assembled to provide funders, partners and supporters with a snapshot of some of the most memorable moments from the August 2012 Rwanda Program, our fifteenth program in Rwanda since 2006, and our first hosted in partnership with INARA Legal Aid Service (INALAS).

Rwanda: August 2012

The delegation opened amidst the breaking news that international donors, even the United States, would be withholding aid from Rwanda due to the UN's continued reports that Rwanda has been arming the M23 rebel group in the mineral-rich North Kivu region of neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. President Kagame, known for his overwhelmingly positive record for using aid well, responded to the current crisis defiantly by encouraging all Rwandans to give to a special *agaciro* development fund as a reserve.

At the same time, in the social and legal sphere, abortion was largely legalized thanks to the advocacy of organizations like HDI (one of our partners), using position papers researched by GYC's volunteers and promoted by current GYC alumni like Cassien Havugimana, who now works for HDI.

Despite the tension and changes in the air, the 15 arriving international GYC delegates connected well with their counterparts (14 Rwandan + 1 Congolese Refugee living in the Kiziba Camp in Rwanda). A fruitful and open dialogue took place between them -- first about how each person defines and relates to the concept of human rights, and second about how all the news stories (and the stories *not* in the news) can be viewed via their human rights lens.

The group was together for three full weeks, in a program co-produced with Inara Legal Aid Services (INALAS), which was founded by a young lawyer (and GYC Alumnus) Jean Claude Rwibasira.

The workshops opened my mind to what people see as most important and helped me create my own definition of human rights. – International Participant

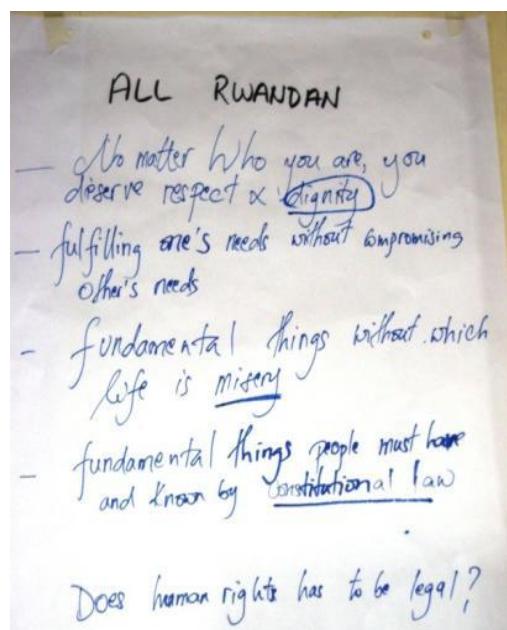
I have learned that Americans and Canadians come from liberal nations and can openly criticize their government. – Rwandan Participant



Even more tall buildings in Kigali since January.



For 15 years, makeshift buildings from the UNHCR have served Congolese refugees in Rwanda



Defining 'human rights', day one of the workshop. The word encircled is "dignity" and a long discussion ensued about how that word is also used by the UN.

Turikumwe! We are in this together!



The team, after a visit to the Ministry of Justice. [Read the report about the Visit to MINIJUST.](#)

Before I thought that human rights were protected in the same way all over the world, but from this program I learned about many different ways in which human rights are protected according to the country. – Rwandan Participant

I was sitting in a car with a guide and a driver. We began talking about Rwanda and the new abortion law. The guide was a staunch Christian but he asked me what I thought. I told him my opinion and gave an example of rape... he then softened up and he wasn't aware that the law had changed [to legalize abortion in cases of rape]. The driver in the car supported abortion. So we had our mini-discussion. – International Participant

I noticed that human rights is still a long war to win because human rights issues are not only present in developing countries, but also I was astonished that in the USA and Canada those issues are also present. – Rwandan Participant

Before I used to judge people by the way they dress, the way they perceive things, but I have come to understand that it is his/her right, so long as he/she is not violating others' rights. – Rwandan

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

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



GYC had visited this site before, but never in such close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which created the camp in 1997.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the visit was the opening meeting with the leader of the American Refugee Committee (ARC), currently serving as the titular head of the camp, a rotating position among international NGOs.

At this meeting, the GYC delegates got a great overview from numerous camp officials and employees, but most importantly, *there were at least ten Kiziba refugee youth present at the meeting, and these youth were able to ask questions that illuminated some of the key human rights challenges facing them: “Why can’t we get good paying jobs working in the camp after we finish our secondary school or even after finishing a university degree at a Rwandan university?” “Why is it that we youth are not taught our human rights, as refugees?”*

Both questions resonated greatly with the GYC delegates in the room. Read a blog post from Adam Moscoe about the first question. The second question inspired Melissa Demyan to inquire -- first at the camp’s secondary school and secondly during our follow up visit at the UNHCR field office -- about whether a curriculum could be put in place at the school for human rights education. Melissa is currently working on this idea. And she has written about the experience of bringing it to the attention of the UNHCR.

[Read the full report of the visit here.](#)



Historically Marginalized “Potters” in Mubuga Sector



“I learned we still have inequality in our society. I have to do something for promoting human rights especially in villages.”

– Rwandan Participant



The Community of Potters organization (COPORWA) has previously led GYC delegations to view the dire living conditions of a group of historically marginalized “potters,” in Mubuga Sector, and do advocacy with local authorities.

Prior to this delegation’s visit, we learned that local government has donated land where new permanent houses can be constructed for the “potters” (along with other vulnerable people). Our visit began with umuganda community service, to help build new houses for the “Potters” on the new land. When we arrived the local leader and COPORWA had already organized the whole community (including both “potters” and “non-potters”) to avail hoes and other tools to start clearing the land where the foundations will be built (some soon, some in 2 years).

At the request of COPORWA, we also did a special theatre and dialogue session with the children in the community (again, all the children, not only the “potters”). Using simplified human rights themes, the objective was to try to break down the stigma associated with being from the “potter” village, create some camaraderie between the children, and encourage all children to attend school together. Overall it was successful, with good participation from all children in the community and some parents watching-on. We set an example that the leaders and NGOs can follow.

One conclusion was that such a visit/activity could have an even greater impact if there was someone from the community of Mubuga in our human rights delegation, the same way we include a member of Kiziba in our program!

[Read the full report here.](#)

Site Visits (Experiential Learning)

The Global Youth Connect program is based on experiential learning. As opposed to a strict classroom learning approach, the participants were given skills in interviewing, reporting and advocating and led discussions during the site visits the group made throughout the program. To read more about the different organizations and places we visited, please follow the links below:

- [Nyange School](#)
- [Search for Common Ground](#)
- [US Embassy and the US State Department](#)
- [Kigali Memorial Centre](#)
- [Ministry of Justice \(MINIJUST\)](#)
- [Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion \(MIGEPROF\)](#)
- [Akilah Institute for Women](#)
- [Rebecca Davis Dance Company](#)
- [Nyamata Memorial Church](#)
- [National Commission for Human Rights](#)
- [Alumni screening of The Tall Grasses \(about Syria\)](#)

"As a recent returnee to Rwanda, it was my first time to visit a memorial site." – Rwandan Participant



What advocacy strategies did you learn?

"I am excited to have a greater understanding and appreciation for theatre as a means of advocating for human rights."

"This program will help me to write so many articles about human rights. I am able to teach others about their rights."

On "Human Rights":

This program has increased my understanding and awareness of how the phrase "human rights" can mean something different and include different things for different people. But I have never really encountered anyone who did not agree with me that basic human rights (i.e. water and food) must be given a priority over others. – International Participant

Volunteering with Grassroots Organizations

In addition to our large group work with COPORWA and the UNHCR, all of the participants (International, Rwandan, and Congolese) split into smaller intercultural teams of 2-6 people to work hand in hand with Rwandan organizations advancing human rights in a variety of ways. ***Below are some of the projects undertaken/assisted by the GYC volunteers:***

Health Development Initiative (HDI)

- Wrote articles for an [on-line forum](#) that HDI is developing concerning sexual education (STIs, HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, contraceptives, LGBTI issues)
- Wrote strategic planning articles on abortion
- Wrote strategic planning articles on TB
- Contributed to education session on Gender based violence, including theatre and other community mobilization techniques (important note: we were talking about other forms of GBV in addition to the most commonly sighted – i.e. rape)

Reflecting on Time at HDI:

The field visit to the Gender Based Violence (GBV) awareness project at Bugesera gave us practical experience and the opportunity to be involved in the community and understand their different views.

Uyisenga N' Manzi

- Completed the sorting of books at Uyisenga's youth centre in the Eastern Province
- Visit to one of Uyisenga's first key projects (villages) in Kigali: the Nibuye Peace Village



Community of Potters of Rwanda (COPORWA)

- Translated articles from French into English
- Researched and did outreach to potential donors
- Met District and Sector Officials concerning Karora Community and Wrote Report

Kigali Hope (Young Positives)

- Worked on a Grant Proposal
- Worked with the accountant
- Listened to testimonies

This experience helped me realize that I really do want a profession in Human Rights, and that with enough ambition, anything is possible. – International Participant

I learned how to write a report and to make a project. – Rwandan Participant



INALAS

- Prepared presentations for knowledge sharing on topics relevant to INALAS' strategic objectives: (a) NGO Networking; (b) fundraising; (c) legal aid policy in Canada and the US; (d) Project Design & Management
 - Fieldwork visit to Gisimba Orphanage
 - Bolstered INALAS' social media presence with a Facebook Group for volunteers

**Reflecting on Time at
INALAS:**

Gained valuable insights into the successes and challenges faced by the current Rwandan legal system; and by a much needed grassroots organization without stable funding.

Genocide Survivors Student Association in Rwanda (AERG)

- Designed peer-to-peer mentoring program to address trauma and other mental illness among members
- Researched new ways to attract international volunteers
- Researched internal volunteer opportunities
- Enhanced "Green Light" monthly membership magazine
- Researched grants/scholarships for the organization
- Created a template for collecting testimonies based on research



Imbereheza Sewing Cooperative For HIV+ Women

- Mobilized pro-bono legal support (from INALAS) to help the cooperative officially register as a cooperative
- Organized the first official meeting of the cooperative and the signing of the official documentation.
- Conducted interviews & took photographs to assist with [Handmade Peace](#), the marketing campaign created by GYC volunteers (Jan 2012), promoting Imbere Heza in the USA.
- Mobilized other GYC members to assist in future. Using some of the GYC Small Grants Fund of 2011, Rose Tuyishime, Lambert Mugabo and Gisele Ukamariya, and Jean Claude from INALAS, will assist the women to identify cooperative training programs, ICT and English training.



Blogging

During and following the program, several of the participants published blog pieces on youthpolicy.org and gycvillage.org concerning the complex challenges facing Rwanda, the region, and the world.

Theatre



Delegates were introduced to different ways of processing information and discussing the information, including image theatre and performance. Above two sketches about laws in Rwanda concerning education (LEFT) and laws in the USA that inhibit human rights (such as the Immigration Law recently passed in Arizona). Watch video of the Theatre representation of "We are All Rwandans."

Final Dialogue



Using our blogs, reports and theatre (including audience participation), we presented our impressions and findings on the final day of the program to an audience that included representatives from the UNHCR and the British High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as GYC Alumni from Rwanda. The topics of discussion included the human rights of refugee youth and action steps for the participants (focusing on human rights personal interactions as well as in policy-making/work).

Participant Biographies

Joel ARUSHA

Joel ARUSHA is a Rwandan by nationality. He is 19 years old and lives in Kigali, Kabeza near Kigali International Airport. He is an agribusiness student at the Higher Institute of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. He is State Alumni member of RUSA(Rwanda US State Alumni). He participated in a youth leadership program with facing history and ourselves in 2008-2010 between two schools in Massachusetts and two schools in Rwanda. He is the coordinator of Human Rights Keepers Organization with a purpose of increasing human rights awareness among Rwandan students.

Sharon Batamuriza

After graduating from Groupe Scolaire Apred Indera, Sharon received a full scholarship to study at Bennington College in Vermont. Her focus of study is International Studies, Women's Studies and Human Rights. As an active member in her community, Sharon has a deep interest in making the world a better place through community works and provides skills for the adjective supporting the empowerment of development.

I realized the power of the individual.

– International Participant

Montana Butler

Montana Butler is currently in her second year at the University of Calgary in pursuit of a degree in Development Studies. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering at the Calgary Drop-in and Rehabilitation Center as well as Inn From The Cold, a community center which provides families and individuals with the means to an education and a career. Attending this delegation through Global Youth Connect will be her first time traveling in such a way as to volunteer, network and work with such a wide variety of people. She hopes to gain a new perspective from this experience in such a way that she is able to fully grasp the progress that must be made in a post-conflict scenario to rehabilitate a community by collaborating with the community itself. After this program and her undergraduate studies she aims to continue her education by attending school to become a lawyer, focusing on international law. She dreams of volunteering internationally and eventually working for the United Nations under the High Commissioner of Refugees.

Vanessa Colomba

Vanessa is a 24 year graduate pursuing a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She also hold a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in History, also from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Her interest in genocide studies was ignited during a lecture on the Holocaust when her professor asked: How could ordinary citizens contribute to the murder of millions of people? To answer this question, Vanessa began dedicating her academic research to applying social psychological theory to understanding how situational forces and leadership contribute to an environment conducive to human rights violations, mass murder, and genocide. To

further this research in an effort to promote peace building and security in post-conflict societies, her current thesis project is focused on understanding how these same circumstances can contribute to the process of healing and coexistence for both victims and perpetrators. With a special focus on Rwanda and the Unity and Reconciliation Laws, Vanessa hopes that her participation in GYC will demonstrate how current human rights issues are being addressed in Rwanda in addition to understanding the progress already made in their efforts at promoting safety, national development, peace, and coexistence. In addition to being a full-time student, Vanessa is also a Direct Care Counselor at a therapeutic group home working with teenage girls committed to the Department of Youth Services. She has also worked with youth diagnosed with behavioral, emotional, and mental disabilities between the ages of 7-18 for 4+ years in a variety of community and home based settings.

Melissa Demyan

Melissa Demyan was born in Moorpark, California and attended Chaminade College Preparatory in Chatsworth. She matriculated with honours in 2009 as a member of the National Honor Society, receiving both the President's Student Service Award and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Community Service Award (for 500 hours or more of community service). She began her undergraduate degree in Political Science at Seattle University in Seattle, Washington where she worked as an Overnight Supervisor at ROOTS Young Adult Homeless shelter and completed a summer internship in Dublin, Ireland at the charity Jobcare, where she worked with the unemployed population. After realizing a notable connection with Dublin, Melissa applied to and was accepted by Trinity College, where she has been an international visiting student for the past academic year.

Before leaving to study in Dublin, Melissa gained considerable experience working on a campaign for women's reproductive rights and health-care as a grassroots canvasser/community organizer and field manager, where she approached people about the current situation, with the hopes of recruiting another activist. In 28 shifts, she spoke with 843 people about the urgency of ensuring access to trusted community health centers, the reproductive healthcare and rights movement, and the advancement of global health; she successfully involved 108 members of the community by raising \$8,978 for Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She has been accepted to finish her degree at Trinity College as a member of the PPES (Philosophy, Politics, Economics, Sociology) programme, specifically Joint Honours Politics and Sociology. Currently, Melissa's career goals include running for public office, with the hopes of being a politician influencing policy surrounding critical human rights implementation and promotion work.

Overall, GYC was a wonderful program with a wonderful staff. If asked to do it again, I would. I think all of the site visits were important. I cannot wait to share my experiences with others. – International Participant

Seeing the successful projects of GYC alumni (Rebecca Davis, Elizabeth Dearborn-Hughes, Jean Claude Rwibasira, etc) inspires me to do the same or to understand that I have the capacity to do so after everything we learned from this program. – International Participant

Michelle Dragoo

Michelle lives in Los Angeles, California where she was born and raised. She will always consider L.A. her anchor while she follows wherever the trail towards her goals might take her. Even though she has been to many places, right now, her journey involves a little more time at school as she is finishing up two masters degrees in Cultural Anthropology and International Relations and Conflict Resolution (with hopes of moving forward for a Ph.D.) at California State University, Los Angeles. In the field of anthropology, she specifically focuses on genocide anthropology, with interests in prevention and intervention strategies. Her aim, overall, is to study the mechanisms and processes of genocide to investigate more effective human rights intervention and prevention procedures. She anticipates a time in the future when she can consult with policy makers about any human rights intermediation.

Gloria Imanishimkie (bio not available)

I was thinking before that we should observe rights given by the constitution or the Bible only, but now I recognize the rights of same sex couples, the woman's right to a safe abortion, etc.

– Rwandan Participant

Blandine INEZA

Blandine INEZA is 23 years old, Rwandan by nationality. She lives in Kigali. She is the first born in her family. They are 4 children, 3 girls and 1 boy. During the course of the August 2012 Program, Blandine graduated as part of the inaugural class of the Akilah Institute for Women.

Dieudonné IYAMUREMYE

Dieudonné IYAMUREMYE is a Rwandan by nationality, born in 1977 in Kigali/Nyarugenge/Nyamirambo Sector. He studied at Kigali Independent University (ULK) in the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Administrative Sciences after having learnt literature and languages at CIESK/Nyamirambo. At the University he has learnt the course of conflict management that will help him to deal with social conflict matters as also he was in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide period, he will be able to reduce conflict based on ethnism and regionalism in his country and even the Great Lakes Region.

Immaculate KYARISIIMA

Immaculate KYARISIIMA is 25 years old. She is doing a Bachelor's degree in nursing at Kigali health Institute. After this program she dreams to aim higher and achieve a master's degree as a professional nurse. She is also interested in human rights advocacy.

Meghan Lovett

Meghan is currently a senior at the University of Massachusetts Lowell studying Political Science, French and Sociology. She has experience as an intern with Lowell Community Health's Teen Coalition, where she works with high school students of African origin and enjoys sharing their various cultures. When

she finishes her bachelor's degree in the spring, she hopes to continue her education in the area of African Studies. She also hopes to one day get her law degree in international law. She has long been an advocate of human rights especially in Central Africa and hopes to one day live and work in the region. Most importantly she takes any experience she has in life and uses it to spread to other people she encounters in her life. She hopes to one-day start her own non-profit organization aimed at rehabilitating women children affected by the terror of war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She believes that the GYC program will give her the proper tools and experience needed to carry out her dreams. She is particularly interested in learning the best way to carry out advocacy and how best to make important issues of human rights relatable to everyone in the world, not just those effected by mass atrocities.

Kevin Maxwell

Kevin is a student at the University of Tennessee where he is pursuing one B.A. in History and another in Global Studies. In the near future, he hopes to continue his education in pursuit of an M.A. in History. In addition, Kevin desires to spend some time serving the various needs of some of the less developed areas of the world in fields such as education, health, and agricultural sustainability. He would like to be a professor in the future so that he can maintain the flexibility to travel and continue learning. Aside from his academic and professional endeavors, Kevin enjoys exercising, listening to music, and meditating. Through participation in the Rwandan delegation Kevin is interested in learning about conflict resolution, human rights, and humanitarian and foreign aid.

There is no way that I could possibly explain how the bonds, connections, and friendships will lead to actions together for the protection and promotion of human rights. Lambert and Vanessa talking about promoting education. Meghan wishes to continue working with Coporwa. Samantha told me of her commitment to work on water access in Rwanda. – International Participant

Adam Moscoe

Adam Moscoe is completing his undergraduate degree in psychology and international affairs at the University of Ottawa. He is currently interning for the Honourable Irwin Cotler, Liberal Justice and Human Rights Critic, and former Minister of Justice of Canada. As part of this role, he helps prepare Mr. Cotler for his work on the House of Commons Subcommittee on International Human Rights, as well as the All-Party Genocide Prevention Committee. In 2011, Adam was named as one of Canada's "Top 20 Under 20" for his community leadership and advocacy. Adam is one of the leaders of Hillel Ottawa and the Canadian Federation of Jewish Students, and is an active member of STAND Canada. Adam coordinates Holocaust Education Week, allowing youth to connect meaningfully with Survivors and advocate for Canada to strengthen its international role in the prevention of mass atrocity. Adam is working to build bridges between youth of different faith and cultural backgrounds through collaborative community service and dialogue initiatives. Adam has held leadership roles in projects which promote civic engagement, including the inaugural TEDxYouthOttawa, the Spirit of the Capital Youth Awards, Ottawa Kindness Week and Towards 2020: Canada's Commitment to Children and Youth. Also an award-winning singer and actor, Adam uses musical theatre to empower individuals with developmental disabilities through his volunteer work with the Tamir Foundation of Ottawa.

Adam hopes that by participating in the Global Youth Connect program he can explore the human dimensions of international human rights - moving beyond the legal and political realms - as well as post-genocide redevelopment. He also looks forward to the opportunity to experience Rwanda and to meet innovative Rwandans rebuilding Rwandan civil society - for the next generation - through community-based solutions.

Moving forward, Adam plans to study law in Canada - while continuing to promote positive social change at every opportunity.

Sean Motl

Sean Motl is an Honors student at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. He has taken on an active role in his university and community, holding many leadership positions. As a board member for the San Angelo Early Childhood Center and Sonrisas Therapeutic Riding, he has helped provide economically disadvantaged parents with affordable and educational child care and free hippotherapy sessions to physically and mentally handicapped children. After graduation he plans on enrolling in medical school to eventually become a doctor in international medicine, promoting not only physical health but also psychological and social health within the respective community. From his time in Rwanda, he hopes to gain a broader and more complete perspective of the world around him in order to become more cognizant of the role he can play in global human rights.

Lambert MUGABO

Lambert MUGABO is currently working in Rwandan Cultural Health Center which is a company that promotes Rwandan culture in various aspects. As he is also interested in business, he combines cultural promoting activities with network marketing with forever living products.

Prior to his business background, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Applied Statistics from National University of Rwanda and he has had a fortune time to volunteer in National Community services held at Gisagara District in may 2009 and he trained people in business and ICT skills during his internship with Digital Opportunity Trust Rwanda from May 2001 to February 2012.

Jeanne d'Arc MUKASEKURU

Jeanne d'Arc is a student at Kigali Independent University in computer science. She is a member of, and now works for, 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."

Innocent NDAYISHIMIYE

Innocent NDAYISHIMIYE is 19 years old. He finished his Senior Secondary School in the option of Computer Sciences. He is an orphan and he dreams to defend the rights of orphans because he knows many troubles orphans face in their life when there is no one to look after them.

Josué NSENGIYUMVA

Josué NSENGIYUMVA finished his studies in 2009 in the combination of physics-chemistry and math (PCM) at Groupe Scolaire Saint Joseph Birambo. He is living at KIZIBA Congolese Refugee Camp in Karongi District.

Nikita Otto

Nikita is a 23 year old military spouse pursuing her double Bachelor's degree in History and Cultural Anthropology from Ashford University, via their online studies program. Following the completion in 2012 of both Bachelor's, she plans to continue her education by getting a Masters in Holocaust and Genocide Studies with a concentration in Human Rights. Prior to her move to Turkey, Nikita has extensively volunteered through a variety of venues, including the American Red Cross, educating students on the dangers of bullying, advocating in court for abused and neglected children, crisis mapping, human rights activism, and guiding tours at museums. As a participant with the Global Youth Connect in Rwanda, Nikita hopes to witness firsthand the aftermath of genocide so that she may enrich her professional career, increasing her ability to educate herself and others on the issues of human rights that are still problematic around the world. Following her education and experience, Nikita intends to become involved with an advocacy group, be it a small grassroots organization or a more widely known organization like the United Nations.

Raquelle Pasquel

Raquelle is currently a senior at the City University of New York Hunter College. She is geography major, with a concentration on cultural and human geography. Raquelle has always been compelled by human rights activism. Through her experience as an intern for the American Jewish World Service, a human right's nonprofit organization she had the opportunity to gain hands on experience in philanthropy. After graduating with a bachelor's degree she plans to attend NYU to participate in the Human Development and Social Intervention Master of Arts Program for graduate school. By participation in

GYC program she hopes to obtain a broader and more extensive perspective of both past and current global social issues and to understand how effective solutions are developed and executed.

Samantha Reynolds

Samantha Reynolds is an international programs officer at Charles University's Faculty of Arts in Prague, Czech Republic with a commitment to international education. She earned a Master of Arts in International Administration with a concentration in International Law from the University of Miami. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in International Business from the University of Tampa. While pursuing her master's degree, Samantha received a scholarship to study abroad at the Faculty of Law at Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic). She was later employed by the same institution to contribute to the development of a new study abroad program for U.S. undergraduate students. She currently manages the program and leads student field trips to Poland, Germany, Austria, and Turkey with a primary focus on 19th and 20th Central European history.

Samantha's passion for higher education and inspiring students to broaden their understanding of global affairs and cultures resulted from her own enriching experiences gained through travel and living abroad. Her devotion to humanitarian efforts has been fostered by the many student excursions she led to concentration camps throughout Eastern Europe and the time she spent in Brazil exploring the dynamics of devising clean water systems for underdeveloped countries. She is equally dedicated to the protection of all wildlife and has recently returned from Thailand where she spent time at Elephant Nature Park caring for and studying rescued elephants and their young. During her brief stay, it became clear to her that wherever her life journeys took her, the opportunity to help and enhance awareness of animal rights would be at the forefront of her life's work. By participating in the Rwanda delegation, Samantha looks forward to taking the knowledge gained and disseminating it to others to create a more peaceful society with mindful citizens.

Kelsey Rogers

Kelsey is currently a junior at Mount Holyoke College, a small all-women's, liberal arts college in Massachusetts, pursuing an undergraduate degree in International Relations, with a focus on human rights and transitional justice. She is passionate about local reconciliation in the aftermath of genocide and state violence, as well as the use of media and journalism in relation to human rights. This will be her first time to Africa, although she has been abroad once before to Europe to study the Holocaust and World War II. She can't wait to participate in GYC and volunteer at an organization that will help her understand more about community reconciliation and recent human rights dialogue occurring in Rwanda. After she graduates from Mount Holyoke College, she hopes to work for an organization located in a post-conflict country focusing on peacemaking efforts and justice mechanisms.

Methode RUZIMBANA

Methode RUZIMBANA was born in 1990, in Bugesera District, Eastern Province. Methode lives in Rwanda in Bugesera District. He likes peace and people. He is a student in the school of Finance and Banking at SFB where he does business administration (BBA) in 2nd year.

He is also a national 1st Vice Coordinator of AERG which is Genocide Survivors Student Association. He is in GYC/INALAS as a Focal Point of AERG.

Anna Schmitt

Anna is a junior studying International Relations and Law, Politics, & Society at Drake University. She was born and raised in Green Bay, WI, and enjoys going for runs, hiking, reading, and of course, attending Packer games. Currently, she is spending her semester abroad at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, where she is learning Kiswahili, studying African Politics, and volunteering at a local orphanage. Her course work at Drake inspired her interest in Africa, and especially Rwanda. By participating in this delegation, Anna hopes to gain a more in-depth understanding of grassroots human rights and the role restorative justice can play. After completion of her undergraduate degree, Anna hopes her experiences abroad will lead her to a career path that has international human rights focus.

Gisele Ukamariya

Gisele is a young Rwandan woman of 27 Years. She was born in Rwanda and lives there now. She has always loved the work on the field, so, during her secondary school she did veterinary studies and graduated in Development studies from 2010. She is most interested in Community development, women empowerment and human rights. Following her participation in the Turikumwe program, she is now following a 12 weeks course titled “Introduction to minority rights, regional human rights mechanisms and minority rights advocacy” online . In addition, she is a self-employed consultant in Project designing and management, she enjoys volunteering activities and she runs a small agribusiness.

Dydine UMUNYANA

Dydine UMUNYANA is a high graduate in Computer Sciences and management. She is the executive Director of Umbrella Inema Promoters.

Yvette UMUTONI

Yvette UMUTONI is a Rwandan by Nationality. She is a Law Student at Lay Adventist Institute of Kigali (INILAK). She is 27 years old, married and has four children. She has participated in different seminars on conflict resolution and management . She is the INALAS's Focal Point in this August program.

Carine MUTABAZI UWAMARYIA

Carine is 20 years old and a high school graduate from Fawe Girls'school. She hopes to continue her studies in International Business and also desires to get a law degree one day. As a high school student, she has been involved in many different activities especially youth centered children and orphans in a program called “Create a Smile” which mainly focused on helping these orphans believe in who they are and think about their future. She has also been working with HDI in a program to fight against AIDS where they mainly sensitized people to get themselves tested and she is currently working with a non-profit youth literacy organization centered on students and promoting the reading and writing culture

among Rwandan youth. She will do what it takes to promote human rights among Rwandan youth and wherever else she may go.

Emily Verburg

Emily is currently a senior at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin where she has been studying African politics and development. She has recently focused her studies on the genocide in Rwanda, and is writing her thesis on post genocide ethnic tensions and Rwandan politics. In her spare time she is involved in a number of campus activist groups such as the social justice club and the ONE campaign to combat poverty. This semester she plans to become an English tutor with the Stateline Literacy Council. She is also using her organizing experience at NARAL Pro-choice Wisconsin to create programming which will educate the community about local women's health issues. Last year she took a semester to move to Washington D.C. and intern for Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. The experience opened her eyes to a disconnect between international issues and U.S. politics. Emily believes that the study of past conflict is one of the few sure ways to prevent future violence and she is excited to have the opportunity build upon her knowledge of Rwanda with real experiences. She hopes that her time spent in Rwanda will enhance her knowledge of human rights issues while giving her a better idea of how her education can translate into action in this area.

Staff Biographies

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

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

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

Jean Claude received his Bachelor's Degree in Law in March 2009 from the National University of Rwanda. Since February 2009 Jean Claude has been acting as the Executive Director of INALAS. In 2010 he joined as one of the Rwandan participants in his first 'Turikumwe Program' with GYC, co-led by AJPRODHO. Since then, he has been active in all the activities organized by GYC/AJPRODHO and he is proud that INALAS has been able to take the torch from AJPRODHO to become GYC's main implementing partner in Rwanda. He has worked with Avocat Sans Frontières (Lawyers without Borders) where his organization was partnering in the monitoring of trials project to monitor if the principles of a "fair trial" are respected in genocide ideology, genocide denial, political and rape cases. He has skills in human rights observation. He is passionate about protecting and promoting the rights of poor people and vulnerable groups, especially orphaned children and women, and since 2009 up to date he is working as a volunteer to provide legal aid services to these targeted groups. Working with GYC opened his mind on the issues of historically marginalized people ("potters"/"Batwa") and today he is committed to advocate for them to improve their living conditions. It is in that perspective that he is specializing in minority rights and minority rights advocacy at Minority Rights Group International. He is also enrolled in the Master of Public International Law where he hopes to enhance his skills in human rights protection, promotion and advocacy not only in Rwanda but also around the world. Jean Claude is convinced that human rights are fully respected when a country is democratically ruled. This is why he is

also following a three month course on participatory democracy, urban management and crisis capitalism at Centro Cultural de la Cooperacion, Campus Virtual. With this course, he hopes to deeply understand state reform and governance, decentralization and citizen participation, deliberative and participatory dimensions of democracy, local development and local power in the context of globalization.

Amy Lambe, GYC Rwanda Program Assistant

Amy received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, specializing in Peace and Post Conflict Studies with Distinction in November 2009. Since then she has been actively engaged in Global Youth Connect programming both for the Alumni and for the Rwanda Program. Her first trip to Rwanda with GYC in 2008 showed her the power youth yield when they know their actions contribute to development and peace, and since then, she has continued to support her passionate peers. Amy has worked on Aboriginal Residential School Settlements in Canada, on private development contracting in Washington, DC, and on the Ignite Change Now! Global Youth Assemblies in Edmonton (2007, 2009 and most recently 2011). She is currently the Program Coordinator for the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights, and is looking forward to beginning her graduate studies in Theoretical, International and Cross- Cultural Education this September. Her research will focus on popular human rights education initiatives in Canada and Rwanda.

Remy Munyaneza, INALAS Treasurer (GYC Rwanda Program Assistant)

Remy Munyaneza received his bachelor's degree of law in 2009 at the National University of Rwanda. In 2011 he did a post graduate diploma in Legal Practice at the Institute of Legal Practice and Development. Believing that the youth has a real power to change the society in which they leave in, Remy has been involved in the establishment of a Local Non Governmental Organization called "Inara Legal Aid Services" (INALAS) which is a youth organization of lawyers working in providing legal aid services to those indigent and vulnerable groups that cannot afford legal services. In 2011, he has been part of the Global Youth Connect learning and action delegation before having the opportunity to participate as the Program Assistant of the GYC 2012, August delegation. Remy is registered at the Kigali Bar Association and has his own law firm called "Cabinet Munyaneza & Associés".