

2014

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES PROGRAM

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



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<http://youtube.com/user/humanrightsadvocates/feed>

1 INTRODUCTION

I am from a country that has been characterized by a history of violence, human rights violations and genocide. Growing up in such a country, I personally experienced and witnessed a lot of human rights abuses.

These experiences made me want to contribute to human rights advocacy and peace building, hoping to diminish and/or prevent human rights violations and violent conflict from happening again.

2014 Advocate Theoneste Bizimana, Rwanda

The 26th Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) at Columbia University continued the Institute for the Study of Human Rights’ commitment to strengthening the skills, knowledge and networks of grassroots human rights leaders like Theoneste Bizimana of Rwanda.

The HRAP curriculum comprises academic coursework, skills-building workshops, mentoring and networking with the human rights, academic and donor communities, primarily in New York City and Washington, D.C. The 2014 Advocates came from Greenland, Kenya, Moldova, the Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan and the USA. Out of concern for their safety, two advocates asked not to have their names or countries published in this report. Together, the 2014 HRAP cohort of 10 advocates shared and deepened their expertise on a number of issues including HIV/AIDS, gender, LGBT rights, transitional justice and indigenous rights. They are now members of the HRAP alumni body, which has 281 advocates in 84 countries.



Iulia takes notes during one of the 2014 HRAP workshops.

2

THE ADVOCATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

We asked the Advocates to share with us what inspired them to work in human rights. Following each account are details on the Advocate’s experience in the 2014 HRAP.

ADAMA DIOP

Managing Director
Dekane Consulting
SENEGAL/USA

When I was around 8 years old, we had a neighbor who was beating his wife. The lady would come to our house seeking help, and my dad would mediate. I saw all this happen. One night, the lady came out, and the husband asked her to leave the house and go back to her father’s house. She had nothing. I was so mad. I cannot forget that—I’m 42 today. It was really clear to me that women in Africa needed help. Growing up, I would talk about it with my father—he’s very open and he raised us that way. We were able to discuss issues in society like domestic violence. Little by little, he pushed us to do what we wanted to do. For me, it was very clear: I wanted to be a businesswoman, but at the same time, I wanted to use any money that I made to help people. My grandmother would say, “Oh, she has a huge heart. All she does is spread her wealth around.”

When I was in my twenties, I began to use those resources to

empower women who were not in the same situation. I would give them some money to start a business. I would teach them budgeting the way I understood it at the time: when you spend something, you want to make a profit so you don’t lose money. If you buy something for one dollar, make sure you sell it for three or four dollars. This is something I wanted to do ever since I was little, it was inside of me. I did not plan to do it because my plan was to be a businesswoman and make money, I wanted to empower people. And that’s how I got to this work. After the Human Rights Advocates Program ends, I am hoping to look more at working at the foundations level. I’m hoping to be able to provide grants for marginalized populations.

What I have enjoyed the most about the Human Rights Advocates Program was the fact that I met all these Advocates from outside the US who are doing extraordinary work, and despite being from

different locations, we are able to relate to each other on the work that we do. It doesn’t matter if you are in the US, Greenland, Rwanda, or South Sudan. We have the same issues. This is priceless—I don’t think we could get this anywhere else. I grew from this experience. Another favorite aspect is the capacity building. The fundraising session was a wonderful

It doesn't matter if you are in the US, Greenland, Rwanda, or South Sudan. We have the same issues.

experience, because the facilitator came with simple ways of doing fundraising, and we learned that a funder is more impressed by a few pages of information that are clear and understandable over 50 pages that are not.

FACULTY MENTOR

Dr. Jack M. Saul
Assistant Professor, Clinical
Population and Family Health,
Mailman School of Public
Health, Columbia University

CLASSES

Human Rights and
Development Policy
Mainstreaming Gender in
Global Affairs

NETWORKING

New York City
American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Columbia Health, Sexual
Response Team
Ford Foundation
Huairou Commission
Human Rights Watch,
Africa Division
New York Peace Institute
United Nations Development
Programme

Washington, D.C.
ActionAid
Amnesty International USA
Center for Health and Gender Equity
FHI 360
Institute for Inclusive Security
International Center for
Research on Women
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for
Justice and Human Rights
World Bank Inspection Panel

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

*Bridging the Gap between
Grassroots and International
Organizations.* Sponsored
by SIPA Human Rights
and Humanitarian
Policy Department.

*Panel with the 2014 Human Rights
Advocates Program.* Sponsored
by the Columbia University
Partnership in International
Development and ISHR.



AVIÂJA EGEDE LYNGE

Head of Department for Further Education
Institute of Learning Processes/University of Greenland
GREENLAND (DENMARK)



Coming from an indigenous society and growing up in my grandparents' and parents' homes, equality was always an issue. I grew up with my grandmother who is white Danish and my grandfather, a Greenlander. I would sit in the kitchen and they would talk about equality. My parents were part of the first anti-colonialism movement for more cultural rights and language rights in Greenland. I grew up in a home where I did not see differences between whites, Greenlanders, or anyone.

When I became older and went to the public school, I learned that there was a big difference between those who knew the colonial language and the colonial ways of learning and thus had the chance of becoming something in the country, and those who couldn't, who would have no future. During high school, I experienced very strong stratification between the Greenlandic and Danish people. In order to become successful, I really had to be like the white people, the Danish people. I tried everything to be like the white people, learning the language and culture, and even earning a degree in a foreign country, but it was always another identity than my own. So when I finished my education and came home my father told me, "Now you have your white man's European

degree, now you have to learn to be human again, if you want to work for your people."

I came to a point in my life where I learned that I had to decolonize myself and find my identity. As part of that process, the passion for my people's rights grew more and more, especially in relation to the educational system. We have people working with indigenous peoples' rights in Greenland. However, the right and access to education is something that's not really being worked on. I began to give different workshops and speeches in communities around the coast, mostly to people who have gone through cultural assimilation. Eight years ago, I was hired to be part of educational reform, training teachers in a process of school reform that is more culturally appropriate. Eventually, I got the chance to get into indigenous women's rights work, and I was nominated to be part of the Global Leadership School of FIMI.

Hearing about the Human Rights Advocates Program was like a dream come true for me. My favorite part of the program was the combination between theory and practice. The three-minute presentations about our work [given during group meetings attended by all 10 participants] were hard for me as I'm used to putting everything in a much larger context. These are the things we need to learn here, and it's something I would have never gotten anywhere else. After HRAP, I will go home with much more courage. I now have the academic background and practical skills so I feel very confident that I will use this in my work going forward in Greenland.

FACULTY MENTOR

Elsa Stamatopoulou

Human Rights Visiting
Scholar, School of Law,
Columbia University
Director, Indigenous Peoples'
Rights Program, Institute for
the Study of Human Rights,
Columbia University
Deputy to the Director, United
Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights

CLASSES

International Human Rights Law
Politics of History and
Reconciliation

NETWORKING

New York City

American Jewish World Service
United Nations Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues
Columbia Health, Sexual
Response Team
Ford Foundation
Human Rights Watch
New York Peace Institute
The New School
United Nations Collaborative
Programme on Reducing
Emissions from Deforestation

and Forest Degradation in
Developing Countries
World Conference on
Indigenous Peoples
World Summit on Indigenous
Philanthropy

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

*Global Human Rights Advocacy
Roundtable.* Sponsored
by International House.

*Implementing a Culturally
Appropriate Education
System in Greenland.*
Sponsored by the
Center for the Study of
Ethnicity and Race and
the Indigenous Peoples'
Rights Program of ISHR.

*Panel with the 2014 Human
Rights Advocates
Program.* Sponsored by
the Columbia University
Partnership in International
Development and ISHR.

*Panel with the 2014 Human
Rights Advocates Program.*
Sponsored by Prof.
Andrew J. Nathan.

*I came to a point in my life
where I learned that I had
to decolonize myself and
find my identity.*

CAROL DYANTYI

Founder and Director

Ikageng Itireleng AIDS Ministry

SOUTH AFRICA

I am an activist at heart. I was a student in the 1976 uprisings in South Africa, and I saw how we as students did that, and how things changed around us as a result. And as we marched, I began to

realize how many people actually fought for my country and how the world came together through boycotting certain South African products. As a young girl, I knew which was a “whites only” toilet

and which was a “blacks only” toilet. If I were to get sick and a “whites only” ambulance came, I knew I would rather be dead than to be taken in that ambulance.

I began to ask myself, what is it that I can do to make the lives of those in my community better? Eventually, I began to look into the affairs of children, especially the challenges that were most affecting their lives. I began to realize that many of these issues were around HIV/AIDS. It saddens me to realize that 30 years into the HIV/AIDS pandemic, my country is not doing that good. When you read the reports, it’s almost like we’re going back in time as far as prevention is concerned. I want the world to know that they should not be fatigued by HIV/AIDS. I’m seeing much activity around the AIDS Conference and World AIDS Day, but it cannot be only during the conferences and commemorative events that we are so “awake” about HIV/AIDS. The fact of the matter is that children are still losing their parents to HIV. I just want the world to know that HIV/AIDS is still there and to let more research be done on how we could actually have a zero-tolerance of HIV/AIDS. I think the face of HIV/AIDS has always been a black woman and a black child, and that’s the truth. And how do we empower them so that we change that face into a face of hope? Money is

needed, empowerment of women is needed, and gender-based violence needs to actually be addressed. I want to say to the world, especially to policy-makers, no, this is not how the children would want it to be. I just want to leave this world a better place for children. If I die having seen just a little bit of that, I will die a satisfied woman.

Through the Human Rights Advocates Program, I’ve been exposed to many different people and their knowledge. I’ve learned how other women are working: women from Kenya, women from Greenland, women from the Philippines, among others. I have been gathering information on how things could be done better back home, and how to use an evidence-based approach to my work, how to fundraise, and how to present my work. I’ve also been exposed to issues that I wasn’t as familiar with, such as LGBT issues. I will take this home with me. I am so grateful because I know for sure that when I get back home, we will move from being good to being great as an organization because of what I’ve been exposed to here.

FACULTY MENTOR

Robert E. Fullilove

Associate Dean, Community and Minority Affairs

Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

CLASSES

Community Health Analysis
Health and Human Rights Advocacy

I want the world to know that they should not be fatigued by HIV/AIDS.

NETWORKING

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project
Columbia Health, Sexual Response Team
Ford Foundation
Global Kids
Global Ministries
Horizons Leadership Project
Human Rights Watch, Africa Division
Human Rights Watch, Children’s Division
New York Peace Institute
Philantropia, Inc.
United Nations Development Programme

Washington, D.C.

Amnesty International USA
Fundors Concerned About AIDS
Futures Group
Global Rights
International Center for Research on Women
Institute for Inclusive Security
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
Vital Voices Global Partnership
World Bank Inspection Panel

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

HIV, Gender and Human Rights. Sponsored by Prof. Terry McGovern, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in the South African Context. Sponsored by Global Kids.

HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in the South African Context. Sponsored by Prof. Terry McGovern, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Health in Africa and the Role of Women. Sponsored by Prof. J. Paul Martin, Barnard College.

Bridging the Gap between Grassroots and International Organizations. Sponsored by SIPA Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy Department.

Global Human Rights Advocacy Roundtable. Sponsored by International House.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by the Columbia University Partnership in International Development and ISHR.



DORIS GATMAITAN RAMIREZ

Human Rights and Peace Desk Director

Lawyer's League for Liberty

PHILIPPINES

Fourteen years ago, I was a regular college student until I attended a one-week youth summit on human rights conducted by Amnesty International Philippines. At that event, I learned about various human rights issues and had the opportunity to be with victims of human rights violations. The firsthand stories told by the victims impacted me the most. I told myself that I would not wait until I or someone around me became a victim before I act and speak out for human rights. Since then, I have been a human rights advocate. While it can sometimes be disheartening to see the continued impunity and the endless struggles for justice, these are also the very same reasons why I continue to fight for human rights.

My favorite aspect of HRAP has been attending the different workshops that capacitate us to become more effective advocates and to have greater impact in our human rights work. It has been such a great opportunity to hear new ideas, presented in a simple and practicable manner that can be easily adapted and applied to the human rights situations in our home countries. The workshops—especially the one on Research, Writing and Documentation with Diederik Lohman and Jane Buchanan at Human Rights Watch, Jo Becker of HRW on campaign advocacy, Bukeni Waruzi of WITNESS on video advocacy, Erik Detiger on fundraising, and TR Lansner on media presentation—equipped us

with the tools needed to strategically improve our work. Another important workshop was the stress management workshop with Sheila Platt. The kind of work we deal with is truly challenging and oftentimes stressful. Frequently, advocates neglect to deal with their own situations and struggles. It was thus very helpful to have this session to learn ways to adequately cope and in the process become better advocates. Finally, the things I love most about HRAP are both the formal and informal conversations we have with our fellow advocates during and after workshops where we not only learn from each other, but at the same time develop a deeper sense of camaraderie and warm friendship.

HRAP has provided me with lessons that I can transfer not only within my own organization, but within the human rights community in my country. Specifically, I plan to include in our strategic planning the various aspects of advocacy I've learned from the program, which will include the revisiting of our advocacy methods and strategies to make them more efficient and effective, as well as intensifying our fundraising efforts wherein the networking activities we did will truly be helpful. I also plan to replicate the different workshops conducted in HRAP to help capacitate my fellow human rights

defenders in the Philippines. It has been a great privilege to be included in HRAP. I plan to maximize every opportunity I can to apply and further develop the skills and lessons I learned here, and share them with others as well.

FACULTY MENTORS

Pratima Kale

Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Andrew J. Nathan

Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, Columbia University

CLASSES

Human Rights and Development Policy
Issues in Rural Development
Mainstreaming Gender in Global Affairs

NETWORKING

New York City

Amnesty International USA
Ford Foundation
Global Justice Center
Human Rights Watch

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Feminism in Southeast Asia.
Sponsored by Columbia Students for Southeast Asian Development and Service.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by the Columbia University Partnership in International Development and ISHR.



While it can sometimes be disheartening to see the continued impunity and the endless struggles for justice, these are also the very same reasons why I continue to fight for human rights.

EDNA CHEPKORIR KAPTOYO

Program Officer for Climate Change
Indigenous Information Network
KENYA

I did not start out working in human rights. All through my schooling, I was thinking I would go into the banking sector or other corporate sector, and never did it cross my mind that I'd end up working in a civil society organization. I was still in college when I came across an organization that was coming to the community to do trainings, and I was motivated to join them as I believed in their mission. I became attached to the work, specifically the work on climate change, because I could see food security issues in the community. I saw a mine company arrive, extract and leave—with no benefit to the community whatsoever. We wanted to stop the mining and to have a participatory approach with the community to discuss how it would impact them. I also saw these communities stressed by lack of water access as an impact of climate change, having to walk long distances for little water.

I was drawn to HRAP because it pulls in a lot of people from different backgrounds. I really wanted to draw on the experiences from others in the field to build up my work. I especially wanted to be able to bring human rights arguments into the discussions with developers about how they are planning their projects because in our work with the indigenous movement, this has created a lot of challenges.

I've really enjoyed the workshops offered by HRAP, especially the fundraising workshops and the one on stress management. These workshops helped me to see things in a different way and to see that things don't have to be complicated. It's been an amazing experience taking classes at Columbia University—it's made me stretch my limits and my understanding. I really enjoyed my class on Environment Conflict Resolution—it helped me to understand the aspect of conflict in relation to natural resources, climate change and how you can use that to add to your case with policy-makers. Within the international process, I think my understanding of the human rights and development nexus will enable me to better engage with international advocacy. Before HRAP, I was doing some work on documenting elders, climate change and traditional knowledge, and how communities were adapting. I didn't know that was considered oral history until I participated in the oral history workshops through HRAP. I realized I'm already doing that! I think

I think HRAP has made me realize how much more I could do to make my work better.

HRAP has made me realize how much more I could do to make my work better, and I think I have the knowledge and confidence now to really continue with the work when I return home.

When I get back to Kenya, my organization will host sessions where I'll be transmitting what I learned from the workshops and from the advocacy trainings on media, and I'll also be incorporating what I learned here into my work with the local indigenous women's leadership school.

FACULTY MENTOR

Elsa Stamatopoulou

Human Rights Visiting Scholar, School of Law, Columbia University
Director, Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University
Deputy to the Director, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



CLASSES

Environment Conflict Resolution
Human Rights and Development Policy
Issues in Rural Development

NETWORKING

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Columbia Health, Sexual Response Team
Ford Foundation
Huairou Commission
Human Rights Watch, Africa Division
Johns Hopkins Women's Alumni Network
MADRE
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
United Nations Development Programme
Women's Environment and Development Organization
World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Washington, D.C.

EarthRights International
Global Rights
Indian Law Resource Center
Institute for Inclusive Security
International Center for Research on Women
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
Rights and Resources Initiative
World Bank Inspection Panel
World Resources Institute

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Bridging the Gap between Grassroots and International Organizations. Sponsored by SIPA Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy Department.

Global Human Rights Advocacy Roundtable. Sponsored by International House.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by the Columbia University Partnership in International Development and ISHR.

The Impact of the Indigenous Women's Fund on Africa's Indigenous Women and the Role of Advisory Committees. Sponsored by FIMI at the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

ANONYMOUS

LGBT Activist

AFRICA

For security reasons, this Advocate has asked to remain anonymous.

In 2008, I moved to a coastal town and obtained a job at a manufacturing company. I was new in town so I looked for the gay community there, and was fortunate enough to meet a group in my town. They were meeting informally to find out how everyone was doing and see how they could support each other. I met with them a few times, and I asked why they were not formally organizing to push for their rights. I shared with them how LGBT organizations in our country's

capital city were really doing a great job of advancing the rights of gender and sexual minorities. One day the then-Chairperson asked me to join them officially and help in furthering this organization's work. I agreed. Two years later, I was appointed as the Programs Coordinator after the Board saw my commitment.

The networking meetings in NYC and DC have been the best part of the Human Rights Advocates

Program for me. Through HRAP, I have been able to meet potential partners and donors. I have also enjoyed the workshops, especially the Stress, Trauma and Resilience in Human Rights Work workshop. Most of the time, activists don't realize they are burned out. The stress management workshop has given me tools to know when I need to take a break and just pause. The facilitator reminded us that a burned-out human rights defender is not a productive one.



Jo Becker of Human Rights Watch worked with the Advocates on campaign advocacy tools.

Also, speaking at universities and at other functions gave me a chance to educate others on what is going on in my country and the region in terms of human rights for LGBT individuals. Students who want to work in these countries or who may become leaders in some of the humanitarian organizations were able to put a face to what they hear and get answers to some of the questions they had grappled with.

As an activist working on the human rights of gender and sexual minorities, individuals or institutions always ask us, what rights are those that the LGBT need and why are they so special? When I return to my home country, I will engage my colleagues on how to use the knowledge → hope → empowerment approach. This will ensure that as activists we can do something to make change and have a specific problem that needs specific solution and action. This will work better when engaging the media, judiciary, religious leaders, health-care providers and even the police in sensitizing and educating them on the human rights of LGBT persons in my country.

FACULTY MENTOR

Dr. Theodorus Sandfort

Research Scientist, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies
Associate Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences,
Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health,
Columbia University

CLASSES

Community Health Analysis
Health and Human Rights Advocacy

NETWORKING

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Anti-Violence Project
Astraea Foundation
Ford Foundation
Global LGBTI Human Rights Donor Conference
Human Rights Watch, Africa Division
Keep a Child Alive Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders
The LGBT Community Center
United Nations Development Programme

Washington, D.C.

Center for Health and Gender Equity Futures Group
Fundors Concerned About AIDS
Global Rights
Human Rights First
Institute for Inclusive Security
International Center for Research on Women
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
World Bank Inspection Panel

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Faith Voices for Inclusion. Presented at Global LGBTI Donors Conference hosted by the US Department of State and USAID with support from the Council for Global Equality.

HIV, Gender and Human Rights. Sponsored by Prof. Terry McGovern, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Hostility Faced by Activists Working on the Human Rights of the LGBT Community. Hosted by the Barbara Mandel Foundation and sponsored by American Jewish World Service.

Why There Needs to be More Focus on Giving to the Global South. Sponsored by the Global Philanthropy Project.

Why Is It Human Rights and Not Gay Rights? Sponsored by Prof. Terry McGovern, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by Prof. Andrew J. Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.

The stress management workshop has given me tools to know when I need to take a break and just pause.

The facilitator reminded us that a burned-out human rights defender is not a productive one.

IULIANA MARCINSCHI

Director

Human Rights Information Center

MOLDOVA

My human rights work started when I volunteered with the organization GENDERDOC-M in Moldova. I then joined Amnesty International to see what was going on there. Unfortunately, there was a conflict at Amnesty International at that time due to the homophobic views of some members who decided that, “If they come, we leave.” It was a good thing that only those that stand for ALL human rights remained at Amnesty in Moldova.

I decided not to stop at LGBT rights. Obviously, you can’t say there’s only one problem in society. When you tell people about gender equality and LGBT rights, they say, “There are problems bigger than that. Why don’t you tackle them?” I say, “We do. We work on all of them. You can work on them, too, if you want!” It’s still hard to work on LGBT rights being a gay or lesbian person. You’ll be tagged as someone who is defending your own interests and pushing your “gay agenda,” whatever that is.

In 2011, I joined the Non-Discrimination Coalition as it and other organizations were proposing a new law on anti-discrimination. At that time, everything that was named anti-discrimination was labeled “gay.” Unfortunately, the law got that label, too. The Non-Discrimination Coalition became very visible as it responded to LGBT

opponents. The coalition got the reputation of being a “first source.” The Ministry of Justice decided to rename it “the Law on Ensuring Equality.” The good thing about the entire episode is that the entire society discussed this law. Now every gay person in Moldova knows that this law is going to protect them.

2011 was a very fruitful year for me personally. I did an alternative report for the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It was my first report ever. A human rights adviser for the UN in Moldova encouraged and helped

me to do this work. I presented it to Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. I was very happy that the outcomes included the recommendations from my report. Of course when I went back with the report and recommendations, Moldova did not just endorse them fully. That’s when I understood I have to push a little—put a little pressure—to have the full effect.

Since my experience with the Coalition was quite overwhelming, I decided to do something less reactive and more proactive. I joined a UNDP program that supported



decentralization in Moldova. As a human rights adviser, I encouraged the inclusion of a human-rights based approach at the local level. Projects needed to be conducted in a wide, participatory, and inclusive manner at the local level. It was a very challenging process. It’s not finished. We can expect to see the results in three to five years. That should not be disappointing but rather should set you to a reserve mode. Things do change, if you’re patient enough to see the change and not burn out, as happens to most activists.

After UNDP, I found a really terrific opportunity as Director of the Human Rights Information Center (Moldova). My work is divided between representation (going to meetings, sitting for interviews) and accounting (sign this, sign that, go to the bank). It was challenging as well. While I thought (as Director) that I should be helping people, that’s not what I’ve been doing. I now understand an organization cannot help people without the work I am doing.

While in HRAP, I liked the course Human Rights and Development Policies the best in terms of the knowledge that I gained and the discussions with Professor Rainer

Things do change, if you’re patient enough to see the change and not burn out, as happens to most activists.

Braun. The course that nourished my soul was Narrative, Health and Social Justice with Dr. Sayantani DasGupta. As homework, we watched movies and read books, including art books, which touch upon social issues. The combination of the professor presenting the whole skeleton of the course—you should read this, and you should discuss that—with the inputs of the students was very enriching as an experience.

When I return to Moldova, I want to incorporate some of HRAP into the Academy for Human Rights: sessions on social justice, the collection of narrative stories, and how to work with volunteers.

FACULTY MENTOR

Jack Lewis Snyder

Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Relations, Department of Political Science and the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University

CLASSES

Human Rights and Development Policy
International Human Rights Law
Narrative, Health and Social Justice

NETWORKING

New York City

American Civil Liberties Union
American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Arcus Foundation
Columbia Health, Sexual Response Team
Ford Foundation
Human Rights Watch
New York Peace Institute

Open Society Foundations
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders
The LGBT Community Center
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Women

Washington, D.C.

Amnesty International USA
FHI 360
Institute for Inclusive Security
International Center for Research on Women
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
Vital Voices Global Partnership
World Bank Inspection Panel

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Bridging the Gap between Grassroots and International Organizations. Sponsored by SIPA Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy Department.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by Prof. Andrew J. Nathan.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by the Columbia University Partnership in International Development and ISHR.

Who are the Moldovans and Where Are They Heading?: A Discussion on Identity, Human Rights and Aspirations of the Citizen of the Republic of Moldova. Sponsored by the Harriman Institute, Columbia University.

ANONYMOUS

Human Rights Lawyer
ASIA

For security reasons, this Advocate has asked to remain anonymous.

I am very pleased with the opportunity I had to attend HRAP, a very exciting and interesting program that broadened my views on human rights.

First of all, HRAP provides a multicultural exchange and an opportunity for communication among human rights advocates from different countries. This was exciting and interesting for me. My country has many problems with human rights

thereby directly affecting our security and rights. If I did not attend HRAP, I would not pay attention to other countries' human rights situations. For example, I learned about human rights in many countries in Africa. I believe that before meeting me, my African colleagues did not care about the human rights situation in my country.

Although I still have some trouble communicating with other advo-

cates in English, I have gained tremendous knowledge about the human rights problems that they are facing in their countries, and I also shared with them my country's human rights situation. My fellow advocates from different countries are so excellent and have moved me with their devotion to their human rights work.

Human rights issues do not belong only to one country—they are in-

ternational topics. We ... have built good relationships through HRAP and I believe we will cooperate on ... human rights in the future.

HRAP taught and trained us how to develop and administer an NGO by exposing us to many different approaches. We studied how to reduce stress and heal trauma. We learned how to raise funds. We also learned how to sit for an interview and how to write reports on human rights abuses. All of these workshops were very useful to me because I did not have a chance to attend such trainings before.

Although we meet much more trouble and pressure in my country now, we will continue to develop our civil society and ... organize NGOs. I will modify my strategy on the development of civil society with HRAP as a guide.

My fellow advocates from different countries are so excellent and have moved me with their devotion to their human rights work.



HRAP introduces the Advocates to human rights experts including Jo Becker, Child Rights Advocacy Director at Human Rights Watch.

FACULTY MENTOR

Andrew J. Nathan

Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science Columbia University

CLASSES

International Human Rights Law
International Human Rights Movements

NETWORKING

New York City

American Civil Liberties Union
American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Center for Constitutional Rights
Columbia Health, Sexual Response Team
Ford Foundation

Fordham Law School
Human Rights Watch, Asia Division
New York Peace Institute
New York University School of Law
Open Society Foundations
United Nations Development Programme

Washington, D.C.

American Bar Association
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
Institute for Inclusive Security
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
World Bank Inspection Panel

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

A Discussion with Rights Defenders.
Sponsored by the Human Rights Institute, Columbia Law.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program.
Sponsored by Prof. Andrew J. Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia Law.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by the Columbia University Partnership in International Development and ISHR.

RABECA MATHEW FULI MORIKU

Taskforce for the Engagement of Women
Institute for Inclusive Security
SOUTH SUDAN

Human rights have always been a part of my life. My father passed away when I was only two. My mother moved us to a refugee camp in Northern Uganda. She was my role model. She took care of us, she made sure we had food to eat, and that we went to school. She's never been to school—she doesn't even know how to write her name—but she was so passionate about sending us to school. She was also very active in community mobilization, especially in the local women's organization. Every week, she would meet other women in the refugee camp to discuss issues affecting them. They used to think of activities where they can generate income to support their family. I learned a lot from her.

When I reached secondary school, I got a scholarship and was named a "Girl Child Ambassador." I got involved with an organization called Health of Adolescent Refugee Program. I used to go with the project staff from one refugee camp to the next to talk to girls and their moth-

ers about the importance of staying in school. I did that throughout high school.

I like everything about HRAP. The classes, networking, mentoring and workshops have been amazing. There's nothing I don't like. It's important for me to transfer what I learned in HRAP to every single work that I do in the future, whether it be to an international organization, a community-based organization or my informal work. What I learned here really is valuable. It has added a lot of width and depth to my understanding. The transitional justice course at Columbia Law School has given me a deep understanding of what it means to prosecute, give amnesties, set up a truth commission, forgive, reconcile, and repatriate. Thanks to the knowledge I gained from my gender mainstreaming class, I am able to look at all the tools and mechanisms for transitional justice through a gender lens. Thanks to Issues in Rural Development and Human Rights and Development

Policy, I now understand what it means to have a rights-based approach to development and a people-centered kind of intervention. I also look forward to integrating oral history and historical dialogue to conflict-transformation programming as I found the tools from the Politics of History and Reconciliation class to be very useful.

FACULTY MENTOR

Pratima Kale

Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

CLASSES

Human Rights and Development Policy
Issues in Rural Development
Mainstreaming Gender in Global Affairs
Politics of History and Reconciliation
Transitional Justice

NETWORKING

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Columbia Health, Sexual Response Team
Crisis Action
Ford Foundation
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
Huairou Commission
Human Rights Watch, Africa Division
New York Peace Institute
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library
United Nations Development Programme
Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

Washington, D.C.

FHI 360
Fund for Peace
Institute for Inclusive Security
International Center for Research on Women
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
Search for Common Ground
Vital Voices Global Partnership
Voices for Sudan
World Bank Inspection Panel

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by Prof. Andrew J. Nathan.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by the Columbia University Partnership in International Development and ISHR.



It's important for me to transfer what I learned in HRAP to every single work that I do in the future.

THEONESTE BIZIMANA

Founder

Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities

RWANDA

I am from a country that has been characterized by a history of violence, human rights violations and genocide. Growing up in such a country, I personally experienced and witnessed a lot of human rights abuses. These experiences made me want to contribute to human rights advocacy and peace building, hoping to diminish and/or prevent human rights violations and violent conflict from happening again.

What I loved most about HRAP were the workshops and networking meetings that I attended. Attending these workshops with the other Advocates helped me understand human rights issues with a broader view. For example, hearing from my fellow Advocates and visiting organizations that support LGBT and indigenous peoples' rights inspired me and helped me start thinking about how I can expand my work to include these groups. Also visiting potential

funding organizations helped me learn that human rights and peace building work is not just one organization's work—there can always be a way of partnering and complementing each other.

Through the HRAP workshops I learned a lot of skills and new ideas from both my colleagues and trainers. I have been in this work for the last 10 years, and I have always been giving myself to others and ignoring my own well-being. Through the Stress, Trauma and Resilience in Human Rights Work workshop, I was again reminded of the importance of taking care of myself before I take care of others. Once I get back home, I am going to develop a regular routine that will help me make my work less stressful. I visited many organizations, and I met with many important people who might be potential partners to work with in the future. I am going to try to keep the con-

nections going. I plan to use the skills I learned from both the trainings and classes to improve my work. For example, I'm going to use Google Calendar [which HRAP uses to organize the schedules of participants] to organize my daily work. I plan to teach it to my co-workers and other friends who do not know about it because I think it's a very important tool. The fundraising skills I learned will help me write clear proposals based on what interests the donor. Before, I didn't know that it's very important to know what the interests of the donor are before writing a proposal. I also learned the importance of doing research, writing, and reporting about issues before you start doing anything, so as I think of expanding my work to other groups, I'm going to do a lot of research to know exactly what the problem is, and what are the solutions and actions that should be taken. I am not going to keep all these new skills to myself. As soon as I get back home, I will start sharing all the skills with my co-workers and other organizations that do similar work as well because I believe that there should be no competition in human rights and peace building work. We should collaborate and support each other.

Theo was the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Fund Advocate in 2014.

I believe that there should be no competition in human rights and peace building work.

We should collaborate and support each other.



FACULTY MENTOR

Dr. Jack M. Saul

Assistant Professor, Clinical Population and Family Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Ford Foundation

Human Rights Watch, Africa Division

International Peace Institute

New York Peace Institute

Quaker United Nations Office

CLASSES

Building Peace After Conflict

Politics of History and Reconciliation

Transitional Justice

Washington D.C.

Amnesty International USA

Enough Project

Fund for Peace

Institute for Inclusive Security

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

Search for Common Ground

World Bank Inspection Panel

NETWORKING

New York City

8th Annual African Diplomatic Forum

Columbia Health, Sexual Response Team

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Global Human Rights Advocacy Roundtable. Sponsored by International House.

Helping and Rebuilding Our Communities. Sponsored by Arcadia University.

Helping and Rebuilding Our Communities. Sponsored by the Columbia University School of Social Work.

Panel with the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. Sponsored by the Columbia University Partnership in International Development and ISHR.

3 WORKSHOPS

The Advocates attend skills-building workshops aimed at enhancing their advocacy skills. HRAP deeply appreciates the time—which always goes beyond the scheduled class time—that workshop instructors devote to the Advocates.

DOCUMENTATION

Pamela Graham
Columbia University

The Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research at Columbia University holds an extensive collection of archives of human rights NGOs. Director Pamela Graham discussed the collecting program and the process of working with NGOs to preserve their records. She noted the value and importance of preserving the record of human rights advocacy. The CHRDR is also developing the Human Rights Web Archive, an online resource that captures and preserves the websites of human rights organizations and blogs. Graham demonstrated the HRWA and discussed the issues associated with preserving this information and encouraged advocates to consider contributing their websites to this collecting effort.

EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS

Stephanie V. Grepo
Columbia University

The Advocates learned how to make concise and effective presentations on their work. Step-

hanie encouraged the Advocates to provide constructive feedback to one another.

THE FIELD OF ORAL HISTORY

Mary Marshall Clark
Columbia University

Mary Marshall Clark, the director of the Columbia Center for Oral History, spoke about the breadth of the Center's holdings and its vision for developing oral history as a field of study and practice. The Center provides international leadership in the field of oral history through its educational programs, teaching, digital capacity, and innovative research projects that touch on the central historical issues of our times.

FUNDRAISING

Erik Detiger
Philantropia Inc.

With more than a decade of experience working in the field of international philanthropy and fundraising, Erik Detiger provided the Advocates with an overview of concepts and strategies in international fundraising. The workshop focused on fundraising from institutional donors and individuals.

HUMAN RIGHTS SKILLS AND ADVOCACY

Jo Becker
Human Rights Watch

Jo Becker, Advocacy Director for the Children's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch, frequently represents Human Rights Watch before the media, government officials and the general public on issues including child soldiers, abusive child labor and juvenile justice, her primary areas of expertise. In her workshop, Advocates explored broad-based human rights campaigns, the use of the media, and advocacy with UN bodies, the U.S. government and the private sector (corporations).

INTERVIEWING

Thomas R. Lansner
Columbia University

Thomas R. Lansner provided basic skills and tips for preparing and presenting positive and proactive media and public appearances that promote the Advocates' messages.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUNDATION CENTER

Susan Shiroma
Foundation Center

Susan Shiroma, a senior librarian at the Foundation Center, offered the Advocates a comprehensive look at the resources available through the Foundation Center's online resources and libraries in New York City and around the globe.

MAXIMIZING YOUR TIME IN HRAP

Bakary Tandia
African Services Committee

2010 Advocate Bakary Tandia helped the Advocates to maximize their time in HRAP. He described the U.S. government system through the lens of advocacy and presented resources available to advocates in the USA. Tandia is a case worker and policy advocate at African Services Committee in New York City. He is working on his master's at The Fletcher School.

ORAL HISTORY AS A TOOL IN THE SERVICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Nicki Pombier Berger

Nicki Pombier Berger worked with the Advocates on how to plan oral history projects and conduct oral history interviews, touching on some of the issues that arise when doing oral history in the context of human rights work and sharing examples of such projects. Nicki is an oral historian whose current work focuses on disability. In October 2013 she graduated from the Oral History Master of Arts program at Columbia University. The

centerpiece of her graduate thesis, *Nothing About Us Without Us*, is an online collection of stories from self-advocates with Down syndrome, and she is currently working on two projects at the intersection of oral history, intellectual disability, and social change.

RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING

Diederik Lohman
Jane Buchanan
Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch Senior Researchers Diederik Lohman and Jane Buchanan led a six-part workshop on Research, Documentation and Writing. The workshop covered the conceptualization of a research project, interviewing victims and witnesses, interviewing perpetrators and accomplices and writing.

STRESS, TRAUMA & RENEWAL

Sheila Platt
Community and Family Services International

A psychiatric social worker and consultant to the United Nations on the support of emergency relief

workers, Sheila Platt led a workshop on understanding stress, trauma and renewal from the perspective of human rights workers. Advocates reflected upon their own experiences and learned how to care for themselves while they care for others.

THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED

Jeremiah Drake
Riverside Church

Jeremiah Kyle Drake of the Education Ministry of The Riverside Church in The City of New York introduced the Advocates to Theatre of the Oppressed, a forum of participatory theatre.

VIDEO ADVOCACY

Bukeni Waruzi
WITNESS

The Advocates traveled to WITNESS in Brooklyn, where they participated in a workshop on the effective use of video advocacy as a complement to traditional approaches to human rights advocacy. Advocates learned the ways in which stories, visual evidence and personal testimony can be used as part of a human rights advocacy strategy to inform policy.



Advocates consistently say the peer-to-peer learning that occurs is one of the highlights of their HRAP experience.

4 SUPPORT

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights is very grateful to the following for their financial support of the 2014 Program

ARCUS FOUNDATION

FORO INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES INDÍGENAS

HARRIMAN INSTITUTE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

KEEP A CHILD ALIVE

SPERRY FUND

WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. MEMORIAL FUND

ANONYMOUS DONORS



Diederik Lohman and Jane Buchanan of Human Rights Watch have been working with HRAP participants for many years.

5 HRAP ADMINISTRATION

STEPHANIE V. GREPO

Stephanie V. Grepo joined ISHR as the Director of Capacity Building in 2008. From 2000 to 2007, she was seconded by the U.S. Department of State to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the world's largest regional security organization. Stephanie organized the first post-conflict elections and developed multi-ethnic experiential education programs in Kosovo; implemented confidence-building projects in the former crisis region of Macedonia; worked on return and integration issues and led a field office of 10 staff in central Croatia; and served as the youth and education advisor in Serbia. As an international observer for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, she observed elections in Bosnia (2010) and Georgia (2012). In 1999, she co-directed a UNESCO-funded summer school for secondary school students on the Croatian island of Vis. She is a part-time lecturer at The New School. Stephanie earned a master's degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Previously, she worked as an editor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her volunteer experience with resettling Bosnian refugees through Catholic Charities of Boston led her to work in human rights.

ROSE ANDERSON

Rose Anderson was the Program Coordinator for the 2014 Human Rights Advocates Program. She is an October 2014 graduate of the Human Rights M.A. program of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Before coming to Columbia, Rose was a Program Coordinator at WITNESS, an international organization that trains and supports activists to use video for human rights documentation and advocacy. At WITNESS, Rose worked on the gender-based



Rose Anderson will always be remembered by ISHR staff and the 2014 Advocates for her professionalism, kindness and positive outlook.

violence campaign, conducting trainings and supporting activists from Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Kyrgyzstan in the strategic use of video in their campaigns. Rose also led the development of a guide on best practices for conducting interviews with survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Rose has worked for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom's PeaceWomen Project and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in Costa Rica. As an undergraduate, Rose studied with the Global College program of Long Island University and studied in England, Costa Rica, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Nicaragua and Cuba. In 2015, Rose joined Scholars at Risk at New York University.

CAROLINE FIDAN TYLER DOENMEZ

Caroline Fidan Tyler Doenmez is the HRAP Program Assistant. She is a student in the Human Rights M.A. program of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. A graduate of Smith College, Caroline has taught at the Dublin School, assisted with conflict resolution workshops as a Program Assistant with the Cyprus Friendship Program, conducted research for the Global Campaign for Peace Education Newsletter and interned at UN Women. Her master's thesis is focused on sexual violence against indigenous women in Canada.

6 ISHR STAFF

RANDI AHO

Program Coordinator

IRENE ATAMIAN

Business Manager

ELAZAR BARKAN

Director

KRISTINA EBERBACH

Director, Education

STEPHANIE V. GREPO

Director, Capacity Building

GERGANA HALPERN

Program Coordinator

ARIELLA LANG

Director, Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability

DAVID L. PHILLIPS

Director, Peace-building and Rights

ANDREW RIZZARDI

Program Coordinator

ELSA STAMATOPOULOU

Director, Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program

JOHN WASHBURN

Adjunct Research Scholar, International Criminal Court Program



Carol shares from her experience caring for children in South Africa.

7 ALUMNI SUPPORT

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights is very grateful to the following HRAP alumni who kindly interviewed candidates for the 2014 HRAP:

1996 Advocate **AURORA PARONG**, Philippines

2009 Advocate **AKINYI OCHOLLA**, Kenya

2009 Advocate **AMBIKA PAUDEL**, Nepal

2010 Advocate **BAKARY TANDIA**, USA

2010 Advocate **NAJLAA AHMED**, Sudan

2011 Advocate **LANA ACKAR**, Bosnia

2011 Advocate **COLINS IMOH**, Nigeria

2011 Advocate **ELVIS MBEMBE BINDA**, Rwanda

2011 Advocate **JOHN MWEBE**, Uganda

2011 Advocate **SALIMA NAMUSOBYA**, Uganda

2011 Advocate **HUDA SHAFIG**, Sudan

2012 Advocate **RACHEL WAMBUI MBURU**, Kenya

2013 Advocate **NINA GELASHVILI**, Georgia

2013 Advocate **ABSOLOM SHALAKHA**, Kenya

2013 Advocate **BIEL BOUTROS**, South Sudan

Doris and Adama work on an exercise during their workshop with Jo Becker of HRW.



8

CONNECTING COLUMBIA STUDENTS WITH HRAP ALUMNI TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This year, a total of three students traveled abroad to volunteer at organizations with HRAP alumni. Two of the students went to Uganda through the Graduate Student Volunteer Program (GSVP), which was created by ISHR in 2011 to support HRAP alumni and to provide Columbia University students with overseas work experience. The Columbia Global Policy Initiative Student Research Fellowship, made possible with the support of the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation, supplemented the Davis Peace Prize, which International House awarded to a third student who traveled to Nigeria to work with an alumna of HRAP. Following are excerpts from the reports written by the students after their volunteer assignments.

JACLYN SAWYER

School of Social Work 2015

Jaclyn Sawyer, School of Social Work 2015, won the Davis Peace Prize from International House to purchase and deliver more than 20,000 books to Nigeria, where she and 2013 Advocate Sylvester Uhaa, the Executive Director of CURE-Nigeria, developed prison libraries. Jaclyn reported: “I met 2013 Advocate Sylvester Uhaa during his residency at Columbia, and it led to the opportunity to work with his organization, CURE-Nigeria. Our collaboration began with mutual interest in prison education programs,

CUSSW student Jacklyn Sawyer (2nd row, far right) traveled to Nigeria to work with 2013 Advocate Sylvester Uhaa (front row, center) on prison libraries.



and resulted in the actualization of the Books Behind Bars project in Abuja during the summer of 2014: a project that brought 22,000 books to Nigeria to develop libraries in adult and juvenile prisons. This project is only one of the many efforts CURE-Nigeria is making to improve conditions in Nigerian prisons. They are working on all

levels to decongest and reform the prison system, and protect the human rights of every single person involved in the system. They are doing remarkable work, and I am so thankful to HRAP for introducing me, a graduate student at Columbia, to these issues, this work, and for making this collaborative work possible.”

I am so thankful to HRAP for introducing me, a graduate student at Columbia, to these issues, this work, and for making this collaborative work possible.

Jaclyn Sawyer, School of Social Work

I gained a more profound understanding of the human rights situation in Uganda as well as how to engage in effective advocacy.

Rita M. Sandoval, M.A. Human Rights Studies

RITA M. SANDOVAL

MA Human Rights Studies 2015

Rita M. Sandoval, M.A. Human Rights Studies 2015, went to Uganda to volunteer with the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) founded by 2011 Advocate Salima Namusobya. Rita reported: “During my time at ISER, I was given the opportunity to design and conduct two field research projects. The first took place in the central district of Kayunga, where I interviewed local officials and community members to assess the challenges they face in accessing safe water. The second project sought to assess the impact of underfunding on the Ugandan Universal Primary Education (UPE) system. This project was undertaken in three districts—Mukono, Kayunga and Apac—to identify patterns and differences in the implementation of UPE. I visited over thirty UPE schools and collected data on their funding and expenditure to aid ISER in its suit against the federal government for proposing a reduction in expenditure on UPE in 2014. The information collected during field research was utilized to create advocacy material tailored to different stakeholders, including members of parliament and civil society organizations. Throughout my time with ISER, I aided in the production of videos, photo-essays, reports and the establishment of a social media presence. I gained a

more profound understanding of the human rights situation in Uganda as well as how to engage in effective advocacy.” 2011 Advocate Salima Namusobya sent the following email to Stephanie V. Grepo, Director of Capacity Building at ISHR: “Rita was of great assistance to the organization, especially in terms of improving our social media presence and research. Due to external circumstances beyond our control, she did not directly work on the project we thought she would work on, but she was very flexible and took on other work. We were very happy to be part of the internship programme, and we would be happy to continue being a part of it once you have students interested in coming to ISER.”

HELEN PATRICK

SIPA 2015

Helen Patrick, SIPA 2015, volunteered with Cheshire Services Uganda (CSU) and was supervised by 2013 Advocate Richard Mukaga, who is CSU’s Head of Programs. Helen reported: “My duties included writing and presenting human rights training sessions for

CSU staff, covering the international legal framework, CRPD, CEDAW and CRC; involvement in the Girls’ Education Challenge funded by UKAID, visiting schools, leading Child Protection Training for teachers, meeting with other grant recipients, a monitoring meeting with the donor and planning meetings with head teachers; and fundraising activity, including a review of work undertaken by a third party and application to the UK Foreign Commonwealth Office. My experience with CSU was incredibly valuable, and I learned a great deal from my very talented and welcoming colleagues. Their input into their human rights training was passionate and well informed. I particularly enjoyed my visits to three of the seven Cheshire Homes. I was inspired by the resilience of the residents and by the skills CSU staff had developed to deal with the challenges of the limited resources available for their important work. Before beginning my internship I lacked experience in operating in developing countries. I pursued this placement to gain knowledge of service delivery and other NGO activity in support of persons with disabilities with limited resources, national governance challenges and community hostility towards PWDs. Whilst I still have a lot to learn in all of those areas, my time at CSU provided an invaluable grounding and insight that I will use throughout my career.”

My time at CSU provided an invaluable grounding and insight that I will use throughout my career.

Helen Patrick, SIPA

9

TESTIMONIALS

I always look forward to meeting the Advocates as they embark upon their journey at Columbia. They come with such interesting backgrounds and have so much to offer. I had the good fortune of talking to one of the advocates at the end of her stay, and she said it was life-changing. She returned to her country with more tools, greater awareness, and a new appreciation of the challenges of human rights advocacy. I'm so proud to have been able to participate in this educational and professional experience. Columbia deserves enormous credit for offering such an impressive program.

Rona Peligal
Deputy Director
Africa Division
Human Rights Watch

I had the honor of hosting a presentation on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery for the 2014's HRAP participants at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a research unit of The New York Public Library system. The Center is recognized as one of the world's leading institutions focusing exclusively on the African-American, African Diaspora, and African experiences. The group asked many thoughtful questions on a topic they knew very little about and the session was highly productive. To share the experience of a tragic past—characterized by the

denial of all human rights—with advocates who are working on human rights issues today was quite enlightening, as well as humbling.

Dr. Sylviane A. Diouf
Director
Lapidus Center for the Historical
Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery
Schomburg Center
The New York Public Library

Some of the Advocates came to my undergraduate Introduction to Human Rights class, described their work to the students and answered questions. I can't tell you how inspiring it was. The students were deeply engaged, and many of them thanked me afterwards for

arranging the visit. It gave them a concrete sense of what human rights work is about, the obstacles it faces, and why it makes a difference.

Andrew J. Nathan
Class of 1919 Professor of
Political Science
Columbia University

International House, a residential program center for graduate students from around the world, has been honored to serve as a home away from home for the Human Rights Advocates since 1989. By engaging in I-House programs and sharing their expertise with fellow residents, the Advocates widen

I had the good fortune of talking to one of the advocates at the end of her stay, and she said it was life-changing.

Rona Peligal, Human Rights Watch

To share the experience of a tragic past—characterized by the denial of all human rights—with advocates who are working on human rights issues today was quite enlightening, as well as humbling.

Dr. Sylviane A. Diouf, The New York Public Library

their impact and their network of future human rights leaders. This past summer, for example, Jaclyn Sawyer, a current I-House resident studying social work [at Columbia University], was awarded a \$10,000 Projects for Peace grant which enabled her to partner with 2013 HRAP and I-House alumnus Sylvester Uhaa on a project with Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE)-Nigeria that coordinated the shipment of 22,000 books from the USA to Nigeria to develop prison libraries and education programs.

Susan Storms
Director of Programs and
Resident Life
International House

Thank you so much for encouraging them to take the course. I hope to have future advocates in

my courses next fall. They provide amazing contributions from practice and represent the diversity of approaches to advocating for equality from all over the world. SIPA courses would not be the same without them.

Kristy Kelly
Adjunct Assistant Professor
School of International and
Public Affairs
Columbia University

I have been happy to have a number of human rights advocates auditing my course on Issues in Rural Development at SIPA, and to work with some of them as their mentor over the past few years. During the fall 2014 semester, I had Rebecca Moriku, Doris Ramirez and Edna Kaptoyo in my class and I had an opportunity to work with Rebecca and Doris as their mentor.

It has been indeed a pleasure to work with them, to get to know about the complex issues of human rights they try to address in their home countries with much commitment and courage, and to observe how they plan to apply new ideas picked up and lessons learned from multiple sources throughout the fall semester at ISHR.

Pratima Kale
Adjunct Professor
School of International and
Public Affairs
Columbia University

Each year I hope to have the privilege to mentor one of HRAP's trainees. Each time that happens, it is an incredibly rewarding experience to see trainees take it all in and rapidly reach a higher professional level while maintaining their humanity. What an amazing opportunity and what a wonderful program!

Theodorus Sandfort
Research Scientist
HIV Center for Clinical and
Behavioral Studies
Associate Professor of Clinical
Sociomedical Sciences
Department of Sociomedical Sciences
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University

Carol's experience working with children in South Africa allowed for an invaluable contribution to the class. She was able to articulate and illuminate the possibilities and challenges of implementing human rights concepts on the ground.

Terry McGovern
Professor of Population and
Family Health
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University

10 RECENT ALUMNI NEWS



1993 Advocate Aung Myo Min (center), ED of Equality Myanmar, at President Obama's recent meeting with civil society leaders during his trip to Myanmar.



2013 Advocate Geoffrey Mayamba, the ED of Prisoners' Future Foundation in Zambia, reports that PFF

secured a grant from the Riverside Sharing Fund.



2007 Advocate Priscila Rodriguez Bribiesca, an indigenous peoples lawyer, is working with the Ese'Eja Nation from the Peruvian Amazon. She reports: "I am leading an international legal strategy before

the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. About 100 years ago their population was 15,000 and now it is a little more than 500 due to the common tendency to expel communities from their ancestral lands in the name of 'conservation,' which leaves the land open to exploitation."



2002 Advocate Leo Reales of Colombia (far right) was in NYC to speak on a panel during the three-day AfroLatin@ Forum, which examined the structural and ideological barriers to full Afro-Latino representation and discussed opportunities for positive social change.



1996 Advocate Twesigye Jackson Kaguri, the Founder and ED of Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project, honored Professor Emerita Joan Ferrante for her dedication to Nyaka at an event in NYC.



The 2014 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders was awarded to **2005** Advocate Alejandra Ancheita. As the founder and ED of ProDESC in Mexico, she has worked with migrants, workers, and indigenous communities to protect their land and labor rights vis-à-vis transnational mining and energy companies.



2009 Advocate Akinyi Ocholla of Kenya attended the 2014 International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association Conference in Mexico City.



2010 Advocate Agnes Atim, a PhD student at the School of Human and Environmental Studies, received an Honorary Award

from the Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limited and the International Labour Organization. She was recognized for making a difference in the lives of grassroots women through her action-research project in Uganda. She is the co-founder of the Hope Development Initiative.



2012 Advocate Kemal Pervanic presented his documentary film PRETTY VILLAGE at the United States Institute of Peace in October 2014.



Amnesty International invited **1996** Advocate Aurora Parong (2nd from left) of the Human Rights Victims Claims Board in the Philippines to visit Japan as part of its campaign to stop torture.



2011 Advocate John Mwebe of Uganda is currently in the USA as an Atlas Corps Fellow assigned to the International Accountability Project.



2013 Advocate Maria Eugenia Carrera of Guatemala recently presented at the ICRC with Antonio Gonzalez Quintana, the Subdirector General de Archivos en Comunidad de Madrid, and Pablo de Greiff, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.



2013 Advocate Biel Boutros of South Sudan received the LLM from the University of Pretoria, South Africa on December 10, 2014.



2008 Advocate Dr. Alejandro Rivera co-hosts Sexo en Serio, a radio program in Mexico.



2013 Advocate Sylvester Uhaa was awarded a Commonwealth Shared Scholarship to study for his master's at Oxford. His organization, CURE-Nigeria, recently received a grant from the Riverside Sharing Fund.

2004 Advocate Lilian Keene-Mugerwa, the ED of Platform for Labor Action and chairperson of the Africa Platform on Social Protection, was honored



with the female human rights lawyer of the year award from the Uganda Law Society.



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