



# Global Youth Connect



## Executive Summary

### Global Youth Connect / AJPRODHO Winter 2010 Human Rights Delegation in Rwanda

#### Key Activities between December 28, 2009 and January 11, 2010:

- Cross cultural human rights training session for 15 International and 15 Rwandese human rights activists and students, and awarded certificates of completion
- Site/Observation visits conducted by mixed groups of US and Rwandan participants:
  - *The Rwandan National Prosecution Authority* where we were briefed on Juvenile Justice Issues as well as Gender Based Violence Justice issues, and where we had a chance to question and share about best practices in the USA and Rwanda.
  - *The Karongi Police Station*, invited by the AJPRODHO Legal AID for Vulnerable Youth Facing Criminal Prosecution, interviewed detainees about legality of their detention and treatment, and helped to negotiate proper health care for them at a local hospital
  - *The Mubuga Sector village/forest of the “potter” community* – where we observed and collected information for COPORWA’s continued advocacy and action related to the dire needs of the village. Visit conducted with COPORWA – Rwandan Community of Potters Organization
  - *Youth clubs, supported by FACT*, promoting awareness about gender based violence through theatre, poetry, and other forms of community mobilization. Visit to FACT’s Legal Aid program.
  - *Single mothers and orphans served by CIMS*, who advises them to understand the rights that abandoned children have to land, should they know who the father is
  - *Niboye Peace Village*, supported by Uyisenga N’ Manzi, discussed with the orphans in the village about their child headed households, and conditions for disadvantaged youth in Rwanda today
  - *United States Ambassador to Rwanda* and the political officers of the US State Department – engagement about the US State Department’s approach to human rights
  - *Genocide Memorials*: Kigali Memorial Museum, Nyamata Memorial Church, Nyange Secondary School -- where youth resisted dividing themselves into different ethnic groupings in 1997, and who are memorialized as heroes
  - *INEZA Craft Cooperative of HIV+ Women* (many survivors of the 1994 Genocide) H.R. Capitalism
  - *Gacacas* (appeal cases for Category I offenders) in the Gikondo and Kimisagara Sectors of Kigali
- “Differences” – dance piece by GYC Alumni Rebecca Davis and AMIZERO Dance Co.
- Volunteered<sup>1</sup> in Kigali for 4 days with the organizations with whom we conducted observation visits: AJPRODHO, FACT, COPORWA, CIMS, and Uyisenga N’ Manzi/Niboye Peace Village. One of many highlights: Final edits of FACT’s winning proposal (awarded 1-9-2010) to work with UNHCR-served refugees in Rwanda
- Held an *Alumni Event*, discussed next steps for advocacy involving Alumni, and the recent success of LGBT advocacy in Rwanda<sup>2</sup>

*The visit to the Police Detention center in Karongi helped AJPRODHO and its mission to protect the rights of youth in Rwanda. The fact that we were a mixed group of people, from the US and Rwanda, gave us a different kind of power than we normally have in the center. We drew upon the various skills of the participants to quickly develop a much improved client sheet/questionnaire, which we used to interview the detainees on the second day of the visit. The only thing I can say that would improve the situation is to have a conference with other local authorities in the community, not just the police chief, after the visit. We can even combine this with informing the authorities about the other situations we visit and observe in Karongi as well, with other orgs like FACT, CIMS, and COPORWA. Let’s do this in April.*

-- AJPRODHO Representative

<sup>1</sup> Many Rwandan participants decided to volunteer alongside the US based volunteers during these four days.

<sup>2</sup> See the 2009 Summer Program Report, available on the GYC website, for more information about GYC and AJPRODHO’s involvement in this LGBT advocacy. The Article in the penal code criminalizing homosexuality was dismissed in December 2009.



## Spring/Summer 2010 Human Rights Delegations to Rwanda

**Location:** Rwanda  
**Level:** Student/Young Professional  
**Tuition:** \$2200 (*per delegation, not including airfare and extra expenses*)

All three GYC Delegations to Rwanda will explore the roots of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, how this legacy of violence has impacted the country and its people, particularly Rwandan youth, and also how the country is rebuilding today. We will examine issues of truth, justice and reconciliation in the context of post-conflict Rwanda and what is needed to strengthen local institutions and programs dedicated to promoting a culture of respect for human rights. Participants will connect with young Rwandans and participate in a variety of collaborative projects aimed at promoting human rights. The delegation will meet with leading human rights defenders, government representatives, international institutions, youth and others from local communities to learn more about the political, economic and social challenges faced by Rwandans today.

### April 3 – 25, 2010 : Memorial Delegation

*Application Deadline: January 29, 2010*  
*Age Range: 18 – 35*

Overlapping with the start of the Genocide Memorial period – and the official national memorial week of April 7 – 14, this delegation will focus even more on the 1994 Genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda. Though not exclusively focused on survivors, many site visits and volunteer fieldwork opportunities will focus on serving survivors of the Genocide and/or working on issues of trauma counseling, healing, and reconciliation. Following the achievements of the Winter 2010 delegation, we will highlight Kibuye.

### July 1 – 23: Youth Human Rights Delegation

*Application Deadline: January 29, 2010*  
*Age Range: 18 – 30*

Cross-cultural examinations of human rights in a workshop setting combined with site visits and volunteer field-work which focus on a variety of human rights related issues catered to the needs/skills of the individuals who apply and the particular needs/skills of local partner NGOs.

### July 31 – Aug 22, 2010 Arts for Peace Delegation

*Application Deadline: January 29, 2010*  
*Age Range: 18 – 35*

The core activities will be particularly, though not exclusively, catered to the arts. We will employ the arts as a tool for cross-cultural human rights education in a workshop setting, as well as a tool for raising awareness, inspiring action, and aiding in healing processes. As with all of our delegations, the precise approach/activities and outcomes of the delegation will depend on the participants and organizations involved. As fieldwork, a performance/play and/or visual art piece could be created by the international delegates and the Rwandan-based youth/young-professionals on a specific topic such as post-conflict reconciliation. We will also explore and/or contribute to the arts-based human rights programming of individual organizations in Rwanda. Applicants should possess at least some skill/experience in artistic disciplines, or the ability to assist with the documentation of the delegation.



GYC Rwanda Alum with Members of the Millennium Village  
Handicraft Cooperative

*"The past month has been an experience of my lifetime. The activities and volunteer work provide a great glimpse into the Rwandan culture, and human rights. The time here has showed me how much I can contribute to the promotion of human rights, and how to do so. It was a humbling experience and has made me get to know myself in another spectrum. I am truly thankful for this experience."*

--Participant, Rwanda Summer 2007

## General Information

Thank you for your interest in applying to participate in a Global Youth Connect's human rights delegation!

This packet contains important information about the program. **Please read through the following information very carefully before submitting an application.** Information on how to apply can be found at the end of this packet of information. For your convenience, the application form is available as a Word document.

We also recommend that you take the following steps prior to submitting an application:

- ✓ Find out more about Global Youth Connect and why our work matters
- ✓ Read through the goals and activities of the human rights delegation program
- ✓ Learn some basic information about Rwandan history and culture
- ✓ See what past participants in GYC programs have to say about their experience
- ✓ Review the answers to frequently asked questions
- ✓ Check out our fundraising ideas and tips and consider how you can find the money needed to participate
- ✓ Discuss the program with your family, friends, teachers and other important people in your life
- ✓ Reflect on why this program is a good fit for you, including what you hope to learn and what you hope to contribute

## About Global Youth Connect

Global Youth Connect's mission is to build and support a community of youth who are actively promoting and protecting human rights, and to educate and inspire the

next generation to work for peaceful change. We believe educated, compassionate and empowered youth are the key to achieving tolerance, peace and justice. Our programs encourage young people to work together to stand up to abuses of human rights. GYC practices a holistic approach to youth education and action which is grounded in a commitment to the principles of human rights, community-building, reconciliation and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

GYC was founded in 1997 by young people and leaders in the fields of human rights and genocide prevention who were intent on finding new ways to prevent the crimes against humanity then ravaging the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and other zones of conflict around the world. As a result, a group of international young leaders bonded together to build an organization whose goal would be to prevent such atrocities from occurring in the first place.

The answer is clear: one key to preventing massive violations of human rights and protecting basic freedoms lies in organizing the world's youth to take action. Today, our programs and activities are challenging youth to work to transform the world around them. Our programs support and inspire the passions and lives of young people and help create change on a wide variety of human rights and social justice issues around the world.

## Human Rights Delegations

Human rights delegations are a unique, first-hand opportunity to cross cultural boundaries and learn about the daily reality of human rights as experienced in a complex and increasingly globalized world. Each delegation brings together a committed group of young participants who are dedicated to working and learning together.

A human rights delegation typically includes a mixture of the following general types of activities:

- Educational training workshops connecting North American participants with their peers from the project country where they can share ideas, analyze problems and create collaborative projects.
- Site visits and dialogue with local human rights defenders, government representatives, youth and local communities, putting human rights concerns into context and exploring practical strategies to achieve change.

- Fieldwork projects to gain hands-on experience. These projects vary from program to program and year to year and have included: mini-internships with local organizations to small and large group projects such as leading educational workshops, interviewing documenting the stories of young activists, and more traditional service projects (such as painting murals, planting trees, construction projects, etc.)

For the past 10 years, GYC has been organizing delegations for high school students, college and graduate students, and young professionals to the following countries: *Bosnia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Rwanda, and Venezuela*. The topics and themes vary from program to program and have included: *conflict transformation and peacebuilding, children's rights, indigenous rights, human rights/social justice and refugee issues*.

## Program Goals

- Increase participants' understanding of both the context and practice of human rights activism. In particular, we aim to better understand how the promotion and protection of human rights can be used as an effective tool to help prevent conflict, minimize the potential for mass violence and eliminate the threat of genocide.
- Build the skills, knowledge and confidence of youth to raise awareness, take action and work collaboratively on projects to promote and defend human rights.
- Facilitate cross-cultural dialogue, enable critical thinking and analysis of complex issues and encourage joint problem solving to address shared human rights concerns.
- Foster personal and emotional growth by testing boundaries and limitations, reflecting critically on our own cultures, exploring how the choices we make affect the lives of others, building strong cross-cultural connections and finding positive outlets for service to promote human rights.

## Delegation Activities

Delegation participants will connect with young Rwandans, and get involved in a variety of collaborative

projects aimed at promoting human rights, in all their complexity, in Rwanda.

Participants will meet with leading human rights defenders, government representatives, international institutions, youth and others from local communities to learn more about the political, economic and social challenges faced by Rwandans today.

A human rights workshop ("learning community") will bring U.S. participants together with their Rwandan peers to build common frameworks of understanding, analyze shared human rights concerns, build new skills to promote and protect human rights, and share ideas for collaborative projects.

Workshop topics may include: perspectives of human rights in Rwanda and the U.S., creating a shared definition of "human rights," a case study analysis of international human rights standards, human rights in pre- and post-genocide Rwanda; human rights of survivors of the 1994 Genocide; human rights documentation and monitoring, educational strategies to promote human rights including alternative methods such as the arts, critical leadership and action skills.

As a group, we will consider the ways in which young people in the U.S. can help raise awareness on the issues and provide collaborative support to young Rwandans already working to create change. Through hands-on fieldwork activities, participants will work side-by-side with Rwandans to find ways in which we can share our talents, experience and knowledge to help support existing efforts to strengthen a culture of respect for human rights.

## Sample Schedule

<b>Day 1</b>	Participants arrive in Rwanda <i>Same as delegation start date April 3, July 1, or July 31</i>
<b>Day 2</b>	Orientation, community-building and initial training
<b>Day 3/4</b>	Cross Cultural Human Rights workshop begins with Rwandan participants, with visit to National Ceremonies (April 7, July 4)
<b>Day 5</b>	Day Off
<b>Day 6/7</b>	Human Rights Workshop continues

- Day 8/9** Morning: site visits to National Attorney General's office, Niboye Peace Village; Reconciliation Programs
- Afternoon: debriefing sessions
- Day 10/11** Fieldwork Begins
- Day 12** Site visit to Memorial Church in Nyamata and Community based organization in Nyamata serving vulnerable youth
- Day 13-17** Fieldwork projects continue
- Afternoon: Site Visits with Human Rights NGOs and Government Officials in Kigali
- Day 18** Gacaca site visit (if Gacaca is still in session), otherwise, another site visit
- Day 19/20** Volunteer fieldwork activities continue with Afternoon Site Visits (e.g. to a Health Center, NGOs in Kigali, Kigali City Council – Youth Office)
- Day 21** Alumni Meeting with previous Rwandan participants, Press Conference, Presentations
- Day 22** Debriefing/Wrap-Up/Action-Planning Activities and Meetings Begin
- Day 23** Delegates Depart or Stay in Rwanda Solo

## Alumni Action Network

After you return home, you will join a growing network of Global Youth Connect alumni from around the world. The in-country is only the beginning of what our collaborative energy can accomplish. In fact, we strongly encourage all participants to remain involved with GYC programs, stay connected with other participants, and find ways to provide on-going support to youth and organizations in the program country. As part of its Alumni Action Network, GYC generally organizes the following post-program activities:

- Listserv for all GYC alumni around the world to stay connected to each other and keep updated on how to remain involved
- Articles by alumni in our biannual newsletter

- Retreats, events and meetings bringing together past program participants for renewed dialogue, reflection and action
- Involvement in on-going educational efforts, such as helping to organize speaking engagements in your local community

As our Alumni Action Network evolves over the coming years, we hope all program participants will take part and contribute their ideas and energy to creating a global movement of young human rights activists working together for compassion, human rights and responsibilities.

## Program Staff

### Jesse Hawkes, Rwanda Program Director & GYC Interim Executive Director

Jesse is a social activist, professional actor, theatre director, author, and youth development worker who has been living and working in Kigali, Rwanda for nearly six years. In addition to serving as GYC's Program Director for Rwanda since January 2007, Jesse founded and now serves on the board of directors of Rwandans Allied for Peace and Progress (RAPP) ([www.rapsida.blogspot.com](http://www.rapsida.blogspot.com)). Jesse's work at RAPP has included developing and managing a creative, engaging HIV prevention program for over sixty Rwandan high schools and communities, utilizing a combination of innovative theatre methods, peer education, and outreach activities. He has also written episodes of *Ishuti Solange*, a popular radio drama series on HIV/AIDS and other public health concerns, as well as films about HIV Prevention in the Rwandan military for Population Services International (PSI-Rwanda). In collaboration with the Rwandan Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport and Mashirika Performing Arts, Jesse performed at the 10th memorial service of the 1994 genocide at Amahoro Stadium, Kigali. He also directed the short films, *Sinigurisha* (now seen on Rwanda TV) and *Ingabire*. As a founding member, assistant program director and chair of the Board of Directors for Centers for Social Responsibility, Jesse led outreach campaigns to schools for the Rwanda By Invitation program, chaired the Sister Schools program where he led secondary school students on a trip to Rwanda, and designed and delivered presentations on Rwandan history and culture to local high schools in Vermont. He also served as a visiting artist at the Community Arts Project in Cape Town, South Africa where he directed, wrote and facilitated a community development theatre project in collaboration with the South African government, township youth and South

African artists. As an educational consultant for Parents, Teachers and Students for Social Responsibility, an organization implementing educational programs and projects designed to empower young people with the knowledge and attitudes needed to become proactive citizens for social justice, he led a group of high school youth from the US on a visit to Haiti. Jesse graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in history.

## **Program Tuition and Conditions**

GYC is committed to providing a high quality experience to all participants. We believe that our educational program offers significantly greater benefits than independent travel. We have done everything possible to minimize the costs to participate in this program.

### **Program Tuition**

The program tuition for each delegation to Rwanda in Spring / Summer 2010 is **\$2200**.

Please note that the program tuition does NOT include the cost of international airfare, many meals and personal expenses. Please read below for a list of what is and is not included in the tuition and a breakdown of how this money helps realize the goals of the program.

### **Fundraising**

We recognize that financial obstacles are often one of the biggest challenges for our participants. It is our past experience that participants of all means and backgrounds have been able to successfully locate sources of funding to participate in our programs using many of the ideas and strategies presented in the GYC Fundraising Guide.

You can download the fundraising guide from our website at the following link:

[www.globalyouthconnect.org/fundraising\\_guide.pdf](http://www.globalyouthconnect.org/fundraising_guide.pdf)

**At least two GYC scholarships of \$200 USD each will be available to participants from each delegation, with a separate application to follow the initial payment.**

### **Payment Deadlines**

April Delegation:

February 7	\$600
February 28	\$800
March 14	\$800

July Youth Human Rights Delegation:

February 21	\$600
March 31	\$500
April 30	\$500
May 31	\$600

August Arts for Peace Delegation:

February 28	\$600
April 10	\$500
May 10	\$500
June 15	\$600

Please note that all tuition payments, once received, are non-refundable and non-transferable to another GYC program. Accepted applicants are not guaranteed a spot in the program until the initial tuition payment of \$600 is received. Selected applicants who fail to pay the deposit by the deadline will forfeit their spot to a participant on the waiting list. If a participant fails to make payments on the program tuition by the deadlines stated above they will forfeit their spot in the program and any tuition payments made up to that point may not be refunded according to GYC's refund and cancellation policies.

### **Additional Estimated Expenses**

International airfare	\$1,700-\$2,300
Food	\$200
Medical	\$150
Cancellation Insurance	\$135 ( <i>optional</i> )
Personal	\$200

Actual costs will vary depending on where you are traveling from, your personal financial circumstances, your spending habits and how soon you are able to purchase your plane ticket.

### **Program Tuition Breakdown**

45%	Staff support and project management in U.S. and Rwanda, including U.S.-based and Rwandan staff
35%	Hotel and project travel expenses

10% Direct costs of training and service projects (excluding travel and hotel). The participation costs of the Rwandan participants are included in the program fee.

10% GYC administrative costs

### **Included in the Program Tuition**

- Coordination and planning of workshops, meetings, site visits, fieldwork projects and other formal delegation activities
- Pre-trip departure information (including advice on fundraising and logistics), required reading packet, participant support and mentoring
- Costs associated with selecting and including youth participants from the project country in the training workshop and other activities
- Costs and expenses related to coordinating and planning fieldwork projects as organized by GYC. Please note that some transportation costs for fieldwork projects may not be covered for small group or individual projects.
- In-country orientation and community-building activities
- Logistics coordination
- Basic medical travel insurance
- Shared accommodations in culturally appropriate, low-budget hotels or guest houses
- Ground transportation for group activities, including airport transfer, with the exception of some transport costs for individual or small group fieldwork activities
- Experienced staff support, including a program director, program coordinator/assistant and local staff
- Post-program inclusion in a growing network of program alumni/ae working together to share ideas, resources, strategies and projects for human rights

### **Not Included in the Program Tuition**

- International airfare
- Meals and food expenses with some exceptions, (e.g., during the conflict transformation workshop)
- Personal expenses
- Some in-country transportation, especially related to fieldwork projects and personal travel
- Vaccinations, medications and other health expenses

- Trip cancellation insurance (optional)
- Travel that is not a part of the formal program schedule

## **Application Information and Procedures**

### **Application Deadline**

January 29, 2010

*You may apply to more than one delegation. See application below for more information.*

### **Application Instructions**

To apply, please submit the following:

- 1) Completed application form
- 2) Current resume

Please send all completed applications and supporting materials to [jesse@globalyouthconnect.org](mailto:jesse@globalyouthconnect.org) and [contact@globalyouthconnect.org](mailto:contact@globalyouthconnect.org)

***Only electronic applications will be accepted.***

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Age 18-35 [July Delegation 18 – 30]
- U.S. or Canadian citizen, permanent resident of the U.S. or Canada, or current student at a U.S. or Canadian university or college
- Demonstrated interest and experience in human rights, social justice, activism, community development, and/or international issues. Practical experience in any of these areas will be looked upon highly favorably.
- Emotional and psychological maturity and the ability to adapt to challenging circumstances
- Demonstrated interest in actively participating in all of the activities of the program, a strong desire to learn and serve, and a commitment to share the experience with others upon return to the U.S./Canada; to continue to work on collaborative projects building upon the delegation experience
- Ability to raise the necessary funds to cover the program tuition and travel costs associated with participation in the program

We strongly encourage individuals of diverse backgrounds, in terms of gender, race, culture, sexuality, class, nationality, and other backgrounds to apply. We are committed to bringing a team together that possesses a diversity of voices, opinions, experiences and perspectives.

### Selection Process

Participants will be selected for these delegations on a competitive basis. As we keep the program size small (average program size can range from 10 - 14 participants), we typically receive more applications than we have spaces available in each program. Submission of an application does not guarantee participation. Therefore, we strongly advise you to take the application process seriously and respond thoughtfully and thoroughly to all questions.

We will confirm receipt of all applications. Please contact us if you do not receive confirmation of receipt of your application. All applications will be reviewed by the program director. A short list of applicants will be contacted via e-mail to arrange a phone interview shortly after the application due date. The final group for this program will be selected from those invited for interviews. Participants who are interviewed and not selected to participate and some of those who are not interviewed may be invited to serve as an alternate in case someone drops out of the program. All potential participants will be notified about their acceptance into the program on a timely basis.

**Applicants invited to participate in the program will be asked to make a decision within no more than 5 (five) days of being notified by the program director of their acceptance into the program and will be required to make an initial non-refundable deposit of \$600 to hold their space in the program according to the dates set forth in this document.** Participation in the program is not guaranteed until an applicant has made the initial deposit.

## Delegates' Feedback

### Summer 2009 Final Evaluations (Various)

*I've learned that I am a lot more independent than I thought and that I truly love working in Africa. I've learned that I can communicate through difficult situations and learn the culture of a totally different nation. I've learned that I love simple things and don't need a whole lot of material possessions to be happy. I'm happier without them in fact.*

*My participation in the delegation has validated my focus as a change agent for children's rights in sub-Saharan Africa, to help mobilize and empower the children to be active in the change they wish to see and develop for a bright future.*

*I learned that I do indeed want to pursue a career in Human Rights and or conflict resolution. I've become a more healthy, well-rounded, cultured person as a result of this trip.*

*I've been surprised by how strong I have been emotionally with these issues and the new living conditions.*

*I learned that Rwanda is much more than a place where a genocide took place; I've learned that there are more than just Hutus and Tutsis living within its borders; I've learned that the government is working hard to improve the lives of its citizens, but that some of the mechanisms they are employing might not be ideal.*