

Human Rights Advocates Program

2011 Program Report

Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Columbia University



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1 Introduction

“ *Anyone can do human rights but you must be prepared to rise to the challenges knowing that much more is possible.* ”

2011 Advocate John Mwebe, Uganda

The 23rd year of the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) at Columbia University continued the Institute for the Study of Human Rights’s commitment to strengthening the skills, knowledge and networks of proven grassroots human rights leaders—the people, as John observes, who “are prepared to rise to the challenges knowing that much more is possible.”

The HRAP curriculum comprises academic coursework, skills-building workshops and networking opportunities with the human rights, academic and donor communities, primarily in New York City and Washington, D.C. Through a very competitive selection process, 14 human rights advocates were selected from 287 applicants—the highest number of applications received in the program’s history. The 2011 Advocates came from Bosnia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India (2), Nepal, Nigeria (3), Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda (3) to share and deepen their expertise on a number of issues including HIV/AIDS, gender, LGBT rights, the rule of law, migration, sexual and reproductive rights and transitional justice.

HRAP alumni were involved with many facets of the 2011 class. Several HRAP alumni agreed to interview applicants for the 2011 Program. In addition to interviewing a number

of strong applicants, 2009 Advocate Elsadig Elsheikh returned to Columbia University to lead a very well-received workshop on negotiation and communication. 2010 Advocate Bakary Tandia led a workshop series on how the 2011 Advocates could maximize their time in the program. 2010 Advocates Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic and 2009 Advocate Florencia Ruiz held individual and group meetings with the 2011 Advocates.

The Advocates traveled to Ellis Island and the State of Liberty during Orientation Week.



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 each Advocate's experience in the 2011 HRAP.

Lana Ackar
Co-President
Pravnik
Bosnia and Herzegovina

For Lana Ackar, the inspiration to pursue human rights was nurtured in her as a child. After the end of the Bosnian War in 1995, Lana, only 13, noticed her mother attending meetings in the evenings with female lawyers she knew. Soon, Lana learned that her mother was starting an NGO to provide legal assistance to women in her hometown who faced effects of the war, such as dealing with property rights

and domestic violence. Lana even watched as her mother's organization assisted in drafting a law on gender equality in Bosnia. "I am my mother's daughter," she says. "I somehow wanted to contribute to what my mother and her colleagues were doing and that is why I studied law."

Lana grew up with many rights that other girls did not have. She explains, "My sister and I were raised to be allowed to say what we want. Although my voice was always allowed to be heard, I learned that a majority of women's rights are violated on a daily basis." Lana thus confidently pursued the study of human rights, specifically women's rights.

"I feel that when you do human rights work, you care—you're alive. Your senses become sharper, and you just feel differently about people. I have learned that people are not as simple as you think they are. Everyone has layers of personality and different needs."

Lana now works with the NGO Pravnik, which seeks to bring together professionals and scholars from Southeastern Europe and

beyond to study issues related to the rule of law and transitional justice. She hopes that the International Summer School Sarajevo project that Pravnik has been implementing for the last five years will contribute to the advancement of human rights in Southeastern Europe.

“Human rights work is not easy,” she comments. “You cannot do it if you do not have support from the closest people in your life—family, partner and friends. You may be doing great things but you need their support when it gets difficult. Learning through HRAP that there are so many people working in the field of human rights motivates me [because I see] that making the world a better place is possible.”

Faculty Mentor

Elazar Barkan

Professor of International and Public Affairs
Director of the Human Rights Concentration
School of International and Public Affairs
Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Classes

Globalization of Motherhood, Mailman School of
Public Health
Politics of History and Reconciliation, School of
International and Public Affairs

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service

Arcus Foundation
Amnesty International USA
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard
Kennedy School
Center for Economic and Social Rights
Equality Now
Journal of Human Rights Practice
Harriman Institute, Columbia University
Hollaback!
Human Rights Watch
International Center for Transitional Justice
Open Society Foundations
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to
the United Nations
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Russian Eurasian & East European Studies,
Columbia University
United Nations Development Fund for Women
WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Advocacy Project
Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia and
Herzegovina
Center for Development and Population Activities
Fund for Global Human Rights
Gender Action
Global Rights
International Center for Research on Women
National Democratic Institute
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human
Rights
School of Advanced International Studies, Johns
Hopkins

Georgetown University
Society for International Development
United States Institute of Peace
World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Challenges in the Field of Human Rights Work.
Sponsored by Prof. Andrew Nathan, School
of International and Public Affairs, Columbia
University.

Moderated *Gender, Sexuality and Human Rights.*
Sponsored by International House.

Presentation on *Legal Framework Combating
Gender-Based Violence as Challenge for Balkan
Masculinity.* Sponsored by Harriman Institute,
Columbia University.

Voices from the Field. Sponsored by Society for
International Development—Washington, D.C.
Chapter.

“ I feel that when
you do human
rights work, you
care—you’re alive.
Your senses become
sharper, and you
just feel differently
about people. ”



Nadia Juliana Bazán Londoño

Grants Coordinator

Fondo de Acción Urgente de América Latina y el Caribe Hispanohablante
Colombia

Though forced migration, rape and domestic violence are part of Colombia's everyday life, Nadia Juliana Bazán Londoño maintains that "there is also hope and willingness to improve our situation."

Nadia says that her mother's example motivated her to work in human rights. "I learned about inequalities [when I was] very young," she says, "[by] attending political meetings at the university where my mother was studying." In high school, she joined a group of conscientious objectors to military conscription. Through this group she first facilitated non-violent workshops for young people with the goal of changing their mindsets from war and violence to dialogue and non-violent strategies. Nadia then discovered the world of women's funds and found her niche in supporting the

"I have the sense of the right path and that in collaborating with others, you know you're not alone and can find strength."

impactful work of grassroots women's organizations by securing financial resources for women's rights.

She admits that in spite of the many challenges she faces in her human rights career, including stress and sometimes fear, she remains "strengthened by hope—the hope for transforming inequalities, the hope for clean water, and the hope for access to education, among other basic human needs. If everyone realizes that everything can be shared, then fulfilling rights will allow us to grow and develop as a nation. I have the sense of the right path and that in collaborating with others, you know you're not alone and can find strength."

Faculty Mentor

Pablo Piccato

Professor, Department of History

Director, Institute of Latin American Studies

Class

Seminar in Sexuality, Gender, Health, and Human Rights, Mailman School of Public Health

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service

Amnesty International USA

Arcus Foundation

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Clinton Global Initiative

Equal Shot

Equality Now

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Human Rights Funders Group

International Women's Health Coalition

Open Society Foundations

Social Accountability International

Overbrook Foundation

United Nations Development Fund for Women

WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Advocacy Project

Center for Justice and International Law

EarthRights International

Fund for Global Human Rights

Global Rights

Human Rights First

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights

United States Institute of Peace

World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Voices from the Field. Sponsored by Society for International Development—Washington, D.C. Chapter.

Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights. Sponsored by International House.



Ngungua Sangua Gisèle

Coordinator

Action Large des Femmes Avocates

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ngungua Sangua Gisèle insists that, “Anyone can be a human rights activist. It’s not necessary to be a judge or lawyer.” Gisele started her career in human rights as a volunteer at a women’s organization when she was 17. While later working as a journalist, her interest in human rights intensified. She recalls, “The injustice that I saw made me want to be a voice for the voiceless. I hoped to change the injustice.”

After completing law school, Gisèle attended a human rights training in Cameroon, an event that would define her future involvement in human rights. “During the conference,” she says, “it was suggested that women lawyers were needed to address the situation of women. So we decided to create a group of women lawyers.” She helped establish the women lawyers association known as Action Large des Femmes Avocates (ALFA), where she now serves as coordinator. The nine staff members of ALFA provide legal representation and advocacy for women affected by discrimination and sexual and domestic violence.

Gisèle also hopes to fight against the negative clichés and images associated with

Africa. “Human rights,” she says, “means living simply together in diversity. It doesn’t mean imposing on others a certain way of life but rather enhancing an exchange of cultures and customs within international agreement.”

Faculty Mentor

Carole Vance

Associate Clinical Professor of Sociomedical Sciences

Mailman School of Public Health

Director, Sexuality and Health Track

Classes

Seminar in Sexuality, Gender, Health and Human Rights, Mailman School of Public Health

International Human Rights Law, School of International and Public Affairs

Transitional Justice, School of Law

Community Language Program–English, Teachers College

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service

Amnesty International USA

Arcus Foundation

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Clinton Global Initiative

Crisis Action

Equality Now

Global Fund for Women

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
Hollaback!

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

Open Society Foundations

United Methodist Women

WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Center for Health and Gender Equality

Enough Project

Fund for Global Human Rights

Gender Action

Georgetown University Law Center

Global Rights

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Center for
Justice & Human Rights

United States Department of State

United States Institute of Peace

Voice of America

Women for Women International

World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Analyzing the Pre-electoral Situation in DRC and Making the Call for Peace. Sponsored by Voice of America.

Challenges in the Gender Work Field. Sponsored by Prof. Eugenia McGill, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Elections Panel: *A Farewell to Arms.* Sponsored by the Institute of African Studies, Columbia University.

Interview on *Perspectives of Transitional Justice in DRC.* Sponsored by Refik Hodžić, International Center for Transitional Justice.

Leadership and Advocacy Program for Women in Africa. Sponsored by Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program, Georgetown University.

“ The injustice that I saw made me want to be a voice for the voiceless. ”



Hasina Khan

Secretary-General
Awaaz-e-Niswaan
India

For Hasina Khan, the pursuit of human rights developed from personal experience. As the fourth daughter in a traditional conservative family, she explains, “I was the first woman in my family educated and the first non-believer in compulsory marriage for women. The traditional family demands marriage for women and does not accept a non-heterosexual person.” In rejecting these norms, she has had to separate herself from her family and her community, forcing her to fend for herself in order to pursue a higher education and a more free life.

Hasina found strength and support in the grassroots women’s rights movement more than 20 years ago, especially at the organization Awaaz-e-Niswaan (Voices of Women). “Through Awaaz, I met and saw lots of women with experiences and in situations similar to as my own.” Since then, Hasina has been working with women who struggle with the traditional and religious norms that do not welcome them.

“People have the freedom to take a stand and say that this is my choice,” Hasina says. “Being aware but silent is problematic because the laws will not change.” While change has been slow, she readily speaks

about the lessons her career in human rights has taught her. “It’s not magic that happens and makes change,” she says. “I expect not for today, but for tomorrow.” As a testament to her words, she explains that her nieces are talking openly to her and looking to her for guidance in their own challenges. Her community has also recognized the success she has achieved in her career. “They look to me now because of my awareness and successes. I continue my work for them and other women. I can’t jump in to say the traditional family and laws are not correct, but I can make the choice and help other women to make theirs.”



Faculty Mentor

Lila Abu-Lughod

Joseph L. Bottenwieser Professor of Social Science,
Department of Anthropology and Institute for
Research on Women and Gender Director,
Center for the Critical Analysis of Social
Difference

Classes

Women and Gender in the Muslim World,
Anthropology Department
Seminar in Sexuality, Gender, Health and Human
Rights, Mailman School of Public Health

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Arcus Foundation
Asia Catalyst

Barnard Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence
Support Center
Clinton Global Initiative
Equality Now
Global Fund for Women
Human Rights Watch
International Center for Transitional Justice
WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Advocacy Project
American Jewish World Service
Centre for Development and Population Activities
Enough Project
Fund for Global Human Rights
Global Rights
Human Rights First
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human
Rights
United States Institute of Peace

Speaking Engagements

The Rights of Women and Girls in India. Sponsored by
American Jewish World Service.

Experience in the Field of Human Rights. Sponsored
by Human Rights Working Group, School of
International and Public Affairs, Columbia
University.

Muslim Women and Sharia Law. Sponsored by Prof.
Lila Abu-Lughod, Anthropology Department,
Columbia University.

*Theoretical and Practical Aspects about Muslims and
Law.* Sponsored by Prof. Lila Abu-Lughod,
Anthropology Department, Columbia
University.

“ I expect not for today,
but for tomorrow. ”

Athili Anthony Sapriina

Executive Member

Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights
India

Athili Anthony Sapriina is a member of the Naga, who live in the far northeast of India and in Myanmar's northwestern division. In India, where he resides, Athili says he is easily recognized as Naga and is thereby racially abused. "India looks at us [the Naga] not as Indian, but as Chinese," he explains, and he has struggled with his identity himself. "My relatives wanted me to join the civil service, but I felt there was no future with India," he says.

The home of the Naga people in northeast India has been the scene of a long internal struggle between India and the Naga, who have been seeking independence since the flight of the British from India after World War II. "India's economic growth is attacking our existence," Athili says. "While the guns have fallen silent [for now], rivers are being dammed and forests destroyed in the name of security."

Athili has also been acting to combat a psychological war against the Naga people. "Media is used to stifle the Naga movement," he explains. Working as a journalist since 2003, he has also witnessed the influx of non-Naga elements in Naga youth networks on Facebook, intended to confuse the youth

about their identity. "I want to expose this," he announces, "but to do so is to risk my life."

Emboldened by the struggle of the Naga and the discrimination he has faced, Athili has become an advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples. He has been serving with the NGO Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights since 1995, seeking to defend the rights of the Naga to live as a free people. Adhering to the UN Declaration on Rights of the Indigenous Peoples, which grants the right of self-determination "is one of the surest ways to peace," he affirms. "This is what I want for the Naga."

Faculty Mentor

Elsa Stamatopoulou

Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology,
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race
Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program, Institute for
the Study of Human Rights

Classes

Politics of History and Reconciliation, School of
International and Public Affairs
New Media-Development Communication, School
of International and Public Affairs
Governmentality, Citizenship and Indigenous
Political Critique, Anthropology Department

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA

Arcus Foundation
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard
Kennedy School
Global Information Network
Human Rights Watch
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Peace Institute
Open Society Foundations
Public International Law and Policy Group
Skylight Pictures
United Confederation of Taino People
United Nations Headquarters
WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Academy for Educational Development / FHI 360
Enough Project
Fund for Global Human Rights
George Mason University
Global Rights
Human Rights First
National Endowment for Democracy
National Museum of the American Indian
Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice &
Human Rights

“ I want to
expose this
but to do so
is to risk my life. ”

United States Institute of Peace

World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

*The Development in the Indigenous Peoples Global
Debate with Special Reference to the Indo-Naga
Peace Process.* Sponsored by United Nations
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, United
Nations.

Empowering Indigenous Voices. Sponsored by United
Nations Department of Economic and Social
Affairs.

Topics on Indigenous People. Sponsored by Prof.
Yasmine Ergas, School of International and
Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Indo-Naga Peace Process and Domination through
Negotiation.* Sponsored by Alma College and
George Mason University.

The Naga Situation. Sponsored by Rotary Club of
the Stroudsburgs.



Rita Mainaly

Assistant Professor and Coordinator
Human Rights & Gender Justice Program
Kathmandu School of Law
Nepal

For Rita Mainaly, human rights and human responsibility are inseparable. “To be a good citizen,” she says, “you need to act for the community. My parents taught me that I can be a role model for my society.”

As a pro bono lawyer at the Center for Legal Research and Resource Development, an NGO that helps to address cases of violence against women, Rita is a firsthand witness to the beating, harassment, trafficking and violence against women that goes unreported in Nepal. In rural Nepal especially, where Rita is from, there are two forms of discrimination that affect women. The first, she explains, is gender-based. Women are discriminated against simply for being women. The second is the caste hierarchy of Nepal in which women are victimized for being of a certain caste. “Women are considered second-class citizens and have no access to education,” she says. “These facts have encouraged me to follow human rights. I know I should do something for the women of this country.”

Describing a mission for her country, she says that while human rights are

indivisible, women’s rights in Nepal are invisible and need to be made visible. “The defective value system in Nepal is the root cause of discrimination against women,” she says, adding that there needs to be “zero tolerance” for discrimination and violence against women. The challenge of achieving this, however, is one that Rita knows she cannot overcome alone. “For human rights,” she says, “a single person cannot do anything. We must work together to win together.”

Faculty Mentor

Yasmine Ergas

Adjunct Associate Professor of International and Public Affairs
School of International and Public Affairs
Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Classes

Elections and Political Development, School of International and Public Affairs
International Human Rights Law, School of International and Public Affairs

Networking

New York City

Adhikaar
American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Arcus Foundation
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Center for Reproductive Rights
Clinical Education Department, Columbia Law School
Human Rights Watch
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Peace Institute
NGO Committee on the Status of Women
Open Society Foundations
United Nations Development Fund for Women
V-Day
WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Advocacy Project
Centre for Development and Population Activities
Center for Health and Gender Equality
Earth Rights International
Fund for Global Human Rights
Global Rights
International Women’s Media Foundation
Just Associates
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights

Society for International Development
United States Department of State
United States Institute of Peace
World Bank Inspection Panel

Boston

Due Diligence Project, School of Law, Northeastern University

Speaking Engagements

Protection of Rights of Domestic Workers Under International Law. Sponsored by Adhikaar.

Voices from the Field. Sponsored by Society for International Development—Washington, D.C. Chapter.

“ We must work together to win together. ”



Abu Tunde Irunukhar

Program Manager

AIDS Alliance in Nigeria
Nigeria

“To ask me why I am doing human rights,” Abu Tunde Irunukhar says, “is to ask me why I am human. Human rights is about being human.” Tunde came to understand human rights while working with the HIV/AIDS community in Nigeria, where persons living with HIV/AIDS are not only stigmatized and rejected from society, but are seen as less than human on account of their HIV status. He began challenging this view by mobilizing communities and raising awareness about HIV and by strengthening the capacity of persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS to obtain their rights. “When you provide rights,” he explains, “you make people live life to the fullest.”

For Tunde, human rights advocacy started during a year of service during which he provided basic items to orphaned babies and prison inmates. He recalls, “Through reaching out to these communities, I was reaching out to humanity and bringing excitement and joy by delivering the most basic items.” Tunde became involved in advocacy by joining AIDS Alliance in Nigeria in 2003. When some of the people he worked with died during treatment

for the disease, the importance of human rights became even clearer for him. “Only people with an awareness of rights can assert themselves to procure treatments and come back to life in the community,” he says. Tunde has since used human rights to demand services and care and push for access to a comprehensive continuum of care, accountability and transparency in the utilization of HIV/AIDS funds; greater involvement of people living with HIV; and workplace policies for those infected by HIV/AIDS.

In his own life, meanwhile, human rights has offered him a new outlook as well. “I think holistically,” he says, “because human rights come in bunches—you can’t talk about one right without other rights.”

Faculty Mentor

Peter A. Twyman

Regional Program Director

International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs

Mailman School of Public Health

“ *Only people with an awareness of rights can assert themselves to procure treatments and come back to life in the community.* ”

Classes

Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, Barnard College

Health and Health Systems in Low Income Countries, Mailman School of Public Health

Networking

New York City

AIDS-Free World

American Jewish World Service

Arcus Foundation

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center

Crisis Action

Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society at the CUNY Graduate Center

Gay Men’s Health Crisis

Health People

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

United Nations Development Programme

Wellsprings Advisors

WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

ActionAid

Advocacy Project

Academy for Educational Development / FHI 360

Centre for Development and Population Activities

Center for Health and Gender Equality

Fund for Global Human Rights

Funders Concerned about AIDS

Global Rights

Human Rights Campaign

Institute of International Education

International Budget Partnership

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights

United States Department of State

United States Institute of Peace

World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

HIV/AIDS & Health Budget Advocacy. Sponsored by School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Understanding the Global Health Track. Sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.



Colins Imoh

Project Director

Centre for Social Transformation and Human Development
Nigeria

Colins Imoh describes the Niger Delta as one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. Unfortunately, the exploitation of oil has polluted the region. He recalls sailing there, and when touching the water, feeling oil in his hand. “Oil exploration has destroyed people’s livelihoods and the environment,” he says. “People are poor and have no access to the resources of the region. Things just need to change.”

Colins became involved in advocacy through student organizations while completing his university studies. He realized the importance of collective action as a response to abuses that corporations have inflicted on the local communities. “Those with access to power,” he explains, “determine who gets resources. Poor communities are stuck with dirty, polluted water while workers at the oil companies are protected by government forces and big corporations who provide their staff with bottled water.” He says the resolution lies in human rights. “I can make a change,” he says. “I need to develop my skills to teach others how to access their human rights together and break out of the circle of poverty.” This is the goal Colins cites for developing

the Peace Club, a project he developed through his organization, Centre for Social Transformation and Human Development.

“The problem,” Colins says, “is the perception of hopelessness and being powerless. But the knowledge that everyone has human rights overcomes this and teaches people how to actively seek justice.” He proclaims, “People have the power to change their situation. They need to believe in themselves and be both internally and externally motivated.”

Looking forward, Colins envisions a time when oil companies take responsibility for the environmental degradation in the region, as well as uphold their corporate and social responsibility to the communities where they work. He also looks forward to a peaceful and prosperous Niger Delta and believes in making the environment sustainable to end poverty in the Niger Delta. “You have to believe in what you’re doing to work in human rights,” he says. “Seeing the poor, I believe that with human rights I can make a difference.”

“ *Things just need to change.* ”

Faculty Mentor

Monisha Bajaj

Assistant Professor of Education

Department of International and Transcultural Studies, Teachers College

Classes

Human Rights Education in Africa, Teachers College



New Media–Development Communication, School of International and Public Affairs
Human Rights and Development Policy, School of International and Public Affairs

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Arcus Foundation
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
Center for African Education, Teachers College, Columbia University
Center for Economic and Social Rights
CUNY Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society
Global Kids
Hague Appeal for Peace
Health People
Human Rights Watch
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Peace Academy
International Peace Institute
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Meaningful World
Open Society Foundations
Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations
United Nations Children’s Fund
United Nations Development Programme
WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Academy for Educational Development / FHI 360
ActionAid

Fund for Global Human Rights
 Fund for Peace
 Global Rights
 National Endowment for Democracy
 Pact
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights
 Search for Common Ground
 United States Department of State
 United States Institute of Peace
 Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
 World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Challenges in the Field of Human Rights Work.
 Sponsored by Prof. Andrew Nathan, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Environmental and Human Rights in Niger Delta.
 Sponsored by Prof. Andria Wisler, Georgetown University.

Environmental Rights and Justice in the Niger Delta.
 Sponsored by Global Kids.

Moving Forward, Getting to Zero: A Panel Discussion, Interactive Brainstorm and Reception with Leaders in the Many Realms of the Fight against HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by New York University.

Peace and Human Rights in the Niger Delta Area of Nigeria. Sponsored by Prof. Kimberly Foulds, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Resource Development and Human Rights. Sponsored by Prof. Judith Gearhart and Prof. Rainer Braun, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

The Conflict in the Niger Delta. Sponsored by Sahara Reporters.

Ifeanyi Orazulike

Executive Director
 International Centre for Advocacy on Rights to Health
 Nigeria

After losing a corporate job when his boss learned of his sexual orientation, Ifeanyi Orazulike focused his career on the LGTBI movement in Nigeria. He says Gani Fawehinmi, a Nigerian human rights activist, was his inspiration. “I took his quote and hung it on my wall,” Ifeanyi explains. “I wanted to do like he did and stand up for what I believe and for other people who feel the same thing I feel.”

Only two months after joining the staff of the International Center for Advocacy on Rights (ICARH), he became the Executive Director due to the death of his predecessor. He says, “For me, this is the best job there is. I don’t get paid much, but I am happy. My pursuit of human rights has been a great challenge, but it has given me the strength to get where I am today as well as to encourage others.”

As he explains, ICARH’s growth and development have fostered other LGTBI organizations in Nigeria as well as community centers for men who have sex with men (MSM) and sexual minorities. “Before [my organization], people could not talk about their sexuality and come out,” he

explains. “I couldn’t accept this, and I don’t take ‘no’ for an answer.” Ifeanyi now runs the first and only MSM clinic in Nigeria. As he affirms proudly, “I want to achieve results. I want to expand the work I’m doing, especially the clinic so that people can have more health access.” He plans to use human rights documentation and litigation cases to provide sexual minorities with more access to services, particularly since Nigeria considers homosexuality illegal.

Although he was originally driven to the LGBTI movement in Nigeria by his own personal experience, he says that now, “the impact and lives I’ve touched through my work have ignited a passion in me. What I have succeeded to do for others in my own struggles motivates me to go further. By being focused, I have overcome many challenges. If I stay focused, I can overcome any challenge.”

“ My pursuit of human rights has been a great challenge, but it has given me the strength to get where I am today as well as to encourage others. ”

Faculty Mentor

Theodorus Sandfort

Research Scientist, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies
 Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences in Psychiatry
 Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health

Class

Seminar in Sexuality, Gender, Health and Human Rights, Mailman School of Public Health



Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service

Arcus Foundation

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

Gay Men's Health Crisis

Health People

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Advocacy Project

Center for Health and Gender Equality

Fund for Global Human Rights

Funders Concerned about AIDS

Global Rights

Human Rights Campaign

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights

United States Department of State

United States Institute of Peace

World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Implementing HIV Programs for MSM in Challenging Contexts. Sponsored by University of Maryland.

LGBT Health and Human Rights in Nigeria and South Africa. Sponsored by Queer Health Task Force, School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Overcoming Homophobia in Africa. Sponsored by New School, New York City.

Stop Bullying: Ending Violence and Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Sponsored by International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission and United Nations.

Pride and Prejudice: Perspectives on Homophobia and LGBTQI Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sponsored by Human Rights Working Group and Gays and Lesbians in International Affairs, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Taking Leadership to Address LGBT Human Rights Around the World. Sponsored by Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York.

Voices from the Field. Sponsored by Society for International Development—Washington, D.C. Chapter.

Ifeanyi introduced his mentor, Dr. Theodorus Sandfort, to Nadia at the Welcome Reception.

Elvis Mbembe Binda

President

Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights

Rwanda

“I experienced discrimination on a small scale within my own family,” he says. “My Congolese father, who was a polygamist, needed to separate from my mother when I was 10 years old simply because having a Rwandese wife would not serve his political ambitions. I was therefore raised by my stepmother, who had her own kids. In such a situation, it was hard to expect equal treatment.” The discrimination he experienced as a Rwandan knew no borders. Simply because his name does not sound Rwandese, Elvis always needed to provide details on his family to get services provided to Rwandans even though he holds a state-issued ID from Rwanda. He was denied a passport by the Rwanda immigration office due to his father’s Congolese name. “This was the law in 2005,” he explains, “for children born of a father who was a foreigner.

“ People may know human rights exist, but change can only happen when human rights are lived and promoted. ”

I was not considered a citizen with the same rights.”

During his troubles at the immigration office, Elvis discovered that there were many other people in similar situations and decided to do something about it. “Together we wrote a letter to the minister of justice denouncing the law,” he recounts. This advocacy effort succeeded as the law was finally changed in 2008 to grant full citizenship to children born to at least one parent who was a citizen. Meanwhile, Elvis came to a stark realization: “The event triggered in me the thought that others in different situations may be victims of other kinds of discrimination, too, so I should do human rights advocacy.”



In 1997, he helped form the organization, *Assez!*, which advocated for the rights of children, especially those experiencing domestic abuse. With other young people facing similar discrimination and exclusion in Rwanda, Elvis co-founded a platform called Forum d’Echanges pour la Cohésion Sociale to offer all persons facing identity issues due to having parents from different countries an opportunity to share their frustration and experiences as a way to find personal relief and mutual support. He also served for three years as the Deputy Coordinator of the Access to Justice and Human Rights Education Project at another organization that he co-founded, Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights, before becoming the organization’s President in August 2011.

For Elvis, human rights is not an abstract topic, but a powerful force for change in the world. “Human rights are like drugs,” he says. “The more you work in it, the more you get addicted. People may know human rights exist, but change can only happen when human rights are lived and promoted.”

Faculty Mentor

J. Paul Martin

Adjunct Professor and Director of Human Rights Studies
Barnard College

Elvis contributed to a discussion on transitional justice.

Classes

Human Rights Education in Africa, Teachers College
Transitional Justice, School of Law
Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, Barnard College

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Arcus Foundation
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
Clinton Global Initiative
Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society at the CUNY Graduate Center

Global Information Network
Human Rights Watch
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Peace Institute
MacArthur Foundation
Open Society Foundations
United Nations Development Programme
WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Advocacy Project
Centre for Development and Population Activities
Fund for Global Human Rights
Funders Concerned about AIDS
Gender Action
Global Rights
National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights
United States Department of State
United States Institute of Peace
United States Agency for International Development
World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms: Experience from Gacaca Courts. Sponsored by Prof. Francis Ssekandi, School of Law, Columbia University.
Human Rights Field Experience. Sponsored by Human Rights Working Group, Columbia University.
Challenges in the Field of Human Rights Work. Sponsored by Prof. Andrew Nathan, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.
Human Rights in New Constitutions. Sponsored by Rightslink, Columbia University.
Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights: Overview. Sponsored by Prof. Kimberly Foulds, Teachers College, Columbia University.
Interview on *Transitional Justice and Reconciliation.* Sponsored by International Center for Transitional Justice.
Interview on *My Organization, HRAP, and Life in New York City.* Sponsored by Dr. Lawrence Nii Nartey, WKCR Africa Show (89.9 FM), Columbia University.
Offenders’ Rehabilitation: Lessons from Rwanda’s Post-Genocide Criminal Justice System. Sponsored by Dr. Zelma Henriques, John Jay College at the City University of New York.
Voices from the Field. Sponsored by Society for International Development—Washington, D.C. Chapter.



Huda Shafiq

Vice President

Gesr Center for Development

Sudan

“For me,” says Huda Shafiq, “human rights are a way of life. I want to promote human rights more in my country and build a peaceful country.” Huda, who grew up in war-torn Sudan, was inspired to work for human rights by becoming aware of the need for human rights in her country. “I lived in a relatively safe city in Sudan, rarely affected by war, but I knew other cities and parts of Sudan were not like this.” She explains how she had been fortunate to be raised in a family that supported women’s education, work and mobility explaining that her own situation is not that of most other Sudanese women.

Huda first joined political activists while completing her university studies. “We asked for a student union,” she recalls, “but we were faced with arrests and threats. This shocked me. It was then that I learned it was like that all over the country.” Huda decided to help spread the message and increase awareness of human rights among fellow students to change this oppressive culture. During her activism, though, she discovered her special interest in women’s rights. She says, “Gender-based violations of human rights are protected by the law in Sudan. Women have strong intellects but have not been given the chance to prove themselves.”

With her organization, Gesr Center for Development, she continues to work toward the promotion of human rights.

Though early in her human rights career, Huda already expresses the great impact that her pursuit of democracy and human rights for her country has had on her. She says, “I’m more understanding, respectful and accepting of others. Human rights has made me stronger because it has given me a purpose and made me committed to convince others how necessary human rights are.”

Faculty Mentor

Elazar Barkan

Professor of International and Public Affairs
Director of the Human Rights Concentration
School of International and Public Affairs
Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Classes

Women and Gender in the Muslim World,
Anthropology Department
Transitional Justice, School of Law

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Arcus Foundation
Barnard Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence
Support Center
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard
Kennedy School

Clinton Global Initiative
Crisis Action
Global Fund for Women
Hollaback!
Human Rights Watch
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Human Rights Funders Group
Open Society Foundations
United Nations Development Fund for Women
WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Academy for Educational Development / FHI 360
Advocacy Project
Center for Health and Gender Equality
Centre for Development and Population Activities
Enough Project
Fund for Global Human Rights
Global Rights
Human Rights First
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice &
Human Rights

United States Department of State
United States Institute of Peace
World Bank Inspection Panel

Boston

My Sister’s Keeper

Speaking Engagements

Challenges in the Field of Human Rights Work.

Sponsored by Prof. Andrew Nathan, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Two Sudans: For Better or For Worse? Sponsored by the Humanitarian Affairs Program at School of International Affairs, Columbia University.

Women and Gender Situation in Sudan. Sponsored by Prof. Eugenia McGill, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

“ Human rights has made me stronger because it has given me a purpose and made me committed to convince others how necessary human rights are. ”



Lydia Cherop

Founder

Women Integrated Initiative for Development
Uganda

Lydia Cherop did not have the opportunity to spend her childhood in her home country, Uganda. “As a girl,” she tells, “I lived with my parents in exile in Kenya but didn’t know why.” Her parents hid their identities while in exile such that she wasn’t even aware of their real names at the time. After her father returned to Uganda, entered politics and helped Lydia and her family to return to Uganda, Lydia says, “I began to live my real life. I went to school and saw a future.”

Her challenges had not ended, though. Growing up, Lydia was faced with calls from her grandmother that she be circumcised and prepare for marriage. “I said no to her,” Lydia recounts, and after earning her diploma, “I started working in radio where I talked about the rights of women and girls and at the same time raised money for my university degree.”

While Lydia is advancing her education at Uganda Martyrs University and is aware of her rights, others are not as fortunate. “Education in human rights opens doors to other rights,” she says, “but rights are still lacking. The difference between illiterate and literate women is a change in suffering.”

Lydia started an organization called Women Integrated Initiative for Development that promotes and protects the rights of rural women and girls.

Lydia continues to look ahead to three goals: reducing poverty among women, realizing the rights of women and educating girls. “I am enlightened and can recognize human rights gaps,” she says, “because I am educated. I can understand human rights, but most women, unless educated, do not.” Lydia is aware that her achievements on behalf of women through human rights advocacy have rendered her a respected leader in her community, which continues to motivate her. “My parents are so proud of me,” she says. “My community honors me because I am a better person. This drives me to help them.”

Faculty Mentor

Pratima Kale

Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs

School of International and Public Affairs

“ *The difference between illiterate and literate women is a change in suffering.* ”

Classes

Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, Barnard College

Issues in Rural Development, School of International and Public Affairs

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service

Amnesty International USA

Arcus Foundation

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Equality Now

FeelGood

Global Fund for Women

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Peace Institute

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Open Society Foundations

The Hunger Project, 2011 Africa Prize for Leadership

United Methodist Women

United Nations Development Fund for Women

United Nations Development Programme

V-Day

WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Advocacy Project

Academy for Educational Development / FHI 360

Centre for Development and Population Activities

Center for Health and Gender Equality

Enough Project

Fund for Global Human Rights

Funders Concerned about AIDS

Gender Action

Global Rights

Human Rights Campaign

National Endowment for Democracy

United States Department of State



United States Institute of Peace
World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Activism, Visionarism, and Making Change.

Sponsored by The City University of New York.

Challenges in the Field of Human Rights Work.

Sponsored by Prof. Andrew Nathan, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Experience in the Field of Human Rights—Challenges and Success Stories. Sponsored by Human Rights Working Group, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights. Sponsored by International House.

Moderated Investing Back: Lessons from Successful Women Leaders. Sponsored by BARAZA Young African Women's Leadership Initiative, Barnard College, Columbia University and the Athena Center for Leadership Studies.

Rural Girls: Progress and Challenges in Africa. Sponsored by Working Group on Girls.

Salima Namusoby

Senior Legal Advisor and Grants Manager
Refugee Law Project,
School of Law, Makerere University
Uganda

Just before entering law school, Salima Namusoby discovered her calling. At the time, her cousin was turned away from an engineering job simply because she was a woman. “I felt she had been treated unfairly,” Salima explains. “She had gone through the full process and had the qualifications for the job but was turned down for not being a man. This story informed my decision to study human rights as one of my elective courses, and my undergraduate dissertation was specifically about discrimination of women in employment.”

“ I have learned that the promotion of human rights requires continuous advocacy. ”



After earning her law degree, she focused on the rights of forced migrants while working as a Research Assistant for a member of the Uganda Parliament representing one of the constituencies in Northern Uganda—a region that had been affected by armed conflict since 1986. “People don’t know there are standards out there,” she explains, “and that government has an obligation to protect, respect and fulfill rights, including socio-economic rights like food, housing, health and development.”

John and Salima worked together at the workshop on negotiation and conflict resolution.

Of her human rights career, she says, “What I do directly impacts people. Clients come back to me and say, ‘Thank you.’ There is the sense of being useful.” Salima is currently the Senior Legal Advisor for Refugee Law Project and affirms that in her work of legal advocacy of human rights, she can cause an individual case to have an impact on thousands. She says, “I’m a more positive person now, having seen change happen. I have learned that the promotion of human rights requires continuous advocacy. I think that human rights advocates should be more strategic, and make interventions that cause legal, policy and social changes that will impact many people, for example through public interest litigation.” As an example,



she cites a current legal case in which she is involved where her organization is seeking an interpretation of Ugandan law to consider qualifying Rwandan refugees as citizens. “If this one case succeeds,” according to Salima, “it will rewrite the status of refugee rights throughout Uganda.”

“People should know that human rights advocacy is not something ‘out there,’ meant for a specific group of individuals,” she says. “It is something anybody can do—sign a petition, call the police, be aware. Each human being has a role to play. What is important is for everybody to ask themselves what role they can play. Given where I sit, I continue to ask myself, how else can I contribute? How can I make an impact?”

Faculty Mentor

Fred Ssewamala

Associate Professor of Social Work and International Affairs, School of Social Work
Senior Research Fellow, New American Foundation

Classes

Transitional Justice, School of Law
Seminar in Sexuality, Gender, Health and Human Rights, Mailman School of Public Health

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International USA
Arcus Foundation

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Center for Economic and Social Rights

Global Fund for Women

Global Information Networks

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

Open Society Foundations

United Nations Development Programme

UN Women

WITNESS

Women’s Refugee Commission

Washington, D.C.

Academy for Educational Development / FHI 360

Enough Project

Fund for Global Human Rights

Global Rights

National Endowment for Democracy

ORAM International

Oxfam America

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights

United States Department of State

United States Institute of Peace

Women for Women International

World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Brown Bag Lunch Discussion with Human Rights Advocates. Sponsored Human Rights Working Group, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Gender, Sexuality, and Human Rights. Sponsored by International House.

John Mwebe

Program Assistant

Uganda Land Alliance
Uganda

“Once you start human rights work,” says John Mwebe, “you will never stop. You will keep advocating for one issue after another.” John, who has run from shoot-outs and rallied in the face of threats from landowners violating the rights of others, can be championed as the symbol of his own statement. “Anyone can do human rights,” he says, “but you must be prepared to rise to the challenges knowing that much more is possible. Based on all I’ve had to contend with in this work, I keep feeling that the rights of the common man over land can be upheld.”

John began learning about human rights during his studies at Makerere University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Development Studies. “The best way to give back to our society is to take what we learn and apply it,” he says. After graduation, he co-founded Luwero Youth Integrated Development Program, a community-based

organization. Shortly thereafter, he joined an agriculture organization to advocate for food security and land rights. From there, he realized the importance of land rights and joined the Uganda Land Alliance. “Ultimately,” he concludes, “I’m fighting for the land rights of poor and vulnerable women, men, and children. The right to land stands central to all other rights especially in the agrarian state that Uganda is—no right stands alone.”

John’s pursuit of human rights has also left an indelible mark on him. Aside from the danger in which he has found himself defending land rights, he explains, “There is an attachment developed while doing human rights work. When someone is evicted from their land and has nothing left, you feel affected too.”

John would like the Ugandan land tenure system to undergo a full overhaul to

“ The best way to give back to our society is to take what we learn and apply it. ”



incorporate the rights of every Ugandan to equal access, ownership and use of land. Most importantly, he wants to see the government realize that land belongs to the people and that the opinion of the people should be sought first. Despite the magnitude of achieving such a vision, John is driven by his faith in human rights to push forward its implementation. “Every morning,” he says, “I wake up, and I believe it will get better. I love my country, and I can’t give up.”

Faculty Mentor

Francis M. Ssekandi

Lecturer-in-Law, School of Law

Judge of the World Bank Administrative Tribunal

Classes

Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, Barnard College

Transitional Justice, School of Law

Networking

New York City

American Jewish World Service

Amnesty International USA

Arcus Foundation

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Clinton Global Initiative

GROOTS International / Huairou Commission

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Peace Institute

Open Society Foundations

Oxfam America

United Nations Development Programme

Wellspring Advisors

WITNESS

Washington, D.C.

Academy for Educational Development / FHI 360

Advocacy Project

Enough Project

Fund for Global Human Rights

Global Rights

International Center for Research on Women

International Law Institute

School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights

United States Department of State

United States Institute of Peace

World Bank Inspection Panel

Speaking Engagements

Moderated discussion on the film *The plight of unwelcome development by U.N. Habitat and Dominion Farms for the Affected Communities in Kenya*. Sponsored by Undergraduate Human Rights Program, Columbia University.

Offenders' Rehabilitation: Lessons from Rwanda's Post-Genocide Criminal Justice System. Sponsored by Dr. Zelma Henriques, John Jay College at the City University of New York.

Presentation on a Documentary on the Role of Transitional Justice in Post-War Northern Uganda. Sponsored by International Center for Transitional Justice.

3 Workshops

HRAP organizes a number of skills-building workshops to help the Advocates succeed in their advocacy efforts. The Program deeply appreciates the time—which always goes beyond the scheduled class time—that workshop instructors devote to the Advocates.

Building Strategic Campaigns, Winning Human Rights Victories

Ana M. Polanco, Amnesty International USA

Through this interactive workshop, Ana M. Polanco, the Head of Organizing at Amnesty International USA, worked with the Advocates to explore how to build a successful campaign. The Advocates

discussed how to develop strategic goals and interconnect them to message development and strategy, audience analysis, decision makers identification and campaign planning. Ana encouraged the Advocates to see themselves as teachers and learners working together in a collaborative space to advance the idea of organizing, building leadership and ultimately using campaigns as an effective tool for winning human rights victories.

Effective Presentations

Stephanie V. Grepo, Columbia University

The Advocates practiced how to provide concise and effective two-minute presentations on their work. Stephanie V. Grepo, Capacity Building Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, encouraged the Advocates to provide constructive feedback to one another.



Hasina and John shared their ideas at the workshop on negotiation and communications.

Ethics and Compliance

Prof. Michael Silverman, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Michael Silverman, Adjunct Associate Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs, spoke with the Advocates on the broader issues of managing organizations to meet their respective compliance and ethical challenges. Michael has held various positions specializing in strategic planning, program management, compliance and policy development in both the public and private sectors. He presented the Advocates with his book, *Compliance Management for Public, Private or Nonprofit Organizations* (2008), McGraw-Hill, New York, New York.

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.

Gender, Conflict and Peace Building

Jelena Prosevska, Avala Associates, LLC

Advocates explored the role of women in conflict and peacebuilding scenarios, including examples of both global and grassroots efforts in conflict resolution.

David Tolbert welcomed the Advocates to the workshop at the ICTJ on transitional justice, which Refik Hodzic (right) led.



Nadia and Huda attended the workshop on transitional justice.



Topics included how gender-based violence has come to be defined by the international community as a war crime, the work of women's groups in post-conflict transitional justice and women in peacekeeping missions.

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

Prof. T.R. Lansner, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

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

Maximizing Your Time in HRAP

Bakary Tandia, African Services Committee

2010 Advocate Bakary Tandia worked with the Advocates over three sessions to help them 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 U.S. He also facilitated discussions in which the Advocates shared what they learned in the various courses they attended while in the Program.

Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Elsadig Elsheikh, The Ohio State University

2009 Advocate Elsadig Elsheikh, Senior Research Associate at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity



2009 Advocate Elsadig Elsheikh led a workshop on negotiation and communications.

at The Ohio State University, presented an interactive workshop on negotiation and conflict resolution geared toward human rights work. The Advocates worked on critical aspects of effective communication skills that help them to acquire better tools to engage their advocacy within and beyond their communities. Through mapping the conflict theories, role plays and discussion, the Advocates used real-life scenarios drawn from their own experiences.

Oral History

Nicole Pombier Berger, StoryCorps

A graduate student in the Oral History Masters of Arts program at Columbia, and Senior Coordinator in the Community Engagement department at StoryCorps, Nicole Pombier Berger offered a two-part workshop on using oral history tools to advance human rights work. The first

workshop focused on discussions of what oral history is, guiding principles and best practices for conducting oral history interviews, and how these compare to other forms of interviewing. In the second workshop, the Advocates used case studies to identify characteristics of good oral history projects and raise important questions about oral history tools and human rights work. They worked in small groups to outline their own ideas for projects in their home communities.

Outreach in Transitional Justice

Refik Hodžić, International Center for Transitional Justice

Refik Hodžić, Director of Communications at the International Center for Transitional Justice, provided the Advocates with an overview of the role of outreach in implementing transitional

justice measures. As part of the workshop, he screened the documentary *Justice Requires Outreach*, a look into the outreach efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and national courts in affected communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Advocates and Refik then analyzed the evolution of outreach in international courts ranging from the ICTY to the International Criminal Court.

Research, Documentation, and Reporting

Diederik Lohman and Fred Abrahams, Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch Senior Researcher Diederik Lohman and Special Advisor Fred Abrahams offered 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, and 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 offered a two-day 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.

HRAP organizes highly interactive workshops that encourage the Advocates to learn from one another.





Chris Michael led the workshop at WITNESS on video advocacy.

Video Advocacy

Chris Michael, WITNESS

The Advocates traveled to WITNESS in Brooklyn, where they attended 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. Training Manager Chris Michael discussed the vital role that video can play in advocacy campaigns without great expense or the involvement of video professionals.

Theatre of the Oppressed

Jeremiah Drake, Riverside Church

Over two sessions, 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. Advocates were introduced to the main aspects of Theatre of the Oppressed: Forum Theatre, Image Theatre and Invisible Theatre in addition to a newly emerging branch, Aesthetics of the Oppressed.

4 Support

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights is very grateful to the following for their financial support of the 2011 Program:

- American Jewish World Service
- Arcus Foundation
- Dr. Zelma Henriques, John Jay College of Justice
- Open Society Foundations, Africa Programs
- Open Society Foundations, International Women's Program
- Sperry Fund
- Tribal Link
- Anonymous Donors

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights is very grateful to the following HRAP alumni who kindly interviewed candidates for the 2011 HRAP:

- Evalyne Achan, Uganda
2009 Advocate
- Susan Aryeetey, Ghana
2010 Advocate
- Elsadig Elsheikh, Sudan/USA
2009 Advocate
- Nazibrola Janezashvili, Georgia
2009 Advocate
- Peter Mulbah, Liberia
2008 Advocate
- Akinyi Ocholla, Kenya
2009 Advocate
- Florencia Ruiz, Mexico
2009 Advocate



2010 Advocate Bakary Tandia attended the Welcome Reception. He led a workshop for the Advocates on how they could best maximize their time in the Program.

5 HRAP Administration

Stephanie V. Grepo

Director, Capacity Building

Stephanie joined ISHR in August 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 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 OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, she observed the elections in Bosnia in October 2010. Stephanie earned a master's degree in human rights from The Fletcher

School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in 2000. Previously, she worked as an editor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her volunteer experience with resettling Bosnian refugees in Boston in the early 1990s led her to work in human rights.

Junghwa "Sam" Lee

Program Coordinator

During the 2011 HRAP, Sam coordinated logistics for 15 advocacy skill workshops, 35 courses at Columbia University and 130 professional meetings with organizations in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Prior to her work with ISHR, she earned her bachelor's degree in Education from Seoul National University of Education in 2009 and served as a Research Assistant at Yonsei University's Graduate School of International Studies coordinating human rights workshops, forums and publications in South Korea. She is currently working on her master's degree in International Educational Development at Teachers College, Columbia University. After the 2011 HRAP, Sam joined the capacity development program at United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

> Junghwa "Sam" Lee attended one of the final workshops of 2011 HRAP.

< During Orientation Week, the Advocates had lunch with past Advocates including 2009 Advocate Florencia Ruiz (top row, 2nd from left) and 2010 Advocates Andrea Nulia and Bakary Tandia (bottom row, 2nd and 3rd from right). Photo courtesy of S. Grepo.

Chris Sfetsios

Program Assistant

In the first half of the 2011 HRAP, Chris accompanied the Advocates to their networking meetings in NYC and assisted workshop instructors with logistics. He provided an invaluable service during the networking trip to Washington, D.C., when he used his firsthand knowledge of D.C. to ensure that the Advocates found their way around the Capitol in a timely and efficient manner. Chris is working toward a master's degree from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He previously worked for the United States Institute of Peace.



6 Institute for the Study of Human Rights

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights was established in 1978 at Columbia University as the Center for the Study of Human Rights. In spring 2010, Columbia University elevated CSHR to the level of an institute. ISHR is committed to its three core goals of providing excellent human rights education to Columbia students, fostering innovative interdisciplinary academic research and offering its expertise in capacity building to human rights leaders, organizations and universities around the world.

ISHR (then CSHR) was the first academic center in the world to be founded on an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights. This remains one of our most distinctive features. We recognize that

human rights research must transcend traditional academic boundaries, departments, and disciplines, reaching out to practitioners so as to address the ever-increasing complexities of human rights in a globalized world. ISHR's emphases on interdisciplinarity, engagement and globalism draw from and complement the strengths that have long characterized intellectual life at Columbia.

ISHR Staff

Irene Atamian, Business Manager

Elazar Barkan, Executive Director, ISHR

Veronika Burget, Project Director, Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability

Kristina Eberbach, Director, Education

Yasmine Ergas, Associate Director, ISHR

Danielle Goldberg, Program Coordinator, Peace-building and Rights Program

Stephanie V. Grepo, Director, Capacity Building

Matthew Heaphy, Associate Research Scholar, International Criminal Court Program

Joe Kirchhof, Assistant Program Officer

Ariella Lang, Program Coordinator

J. Paul Martin, Senior Scholar

David L. Phillips, Director, Peace-building and Rights Program

Maya Sabatello, Director, Disability Rights in Society Program

Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantánamo Public Memory Project

Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director, Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program

John Washburn, Adjunct Research Scholar, International Criminal Court Program

7 Comments from HRAP's Partners

We were delighted to meet the 2011 Advocates and their dynamic director Stephanie Grepo.

Thanks to them all for visiting us at The Advocacy Project in Washington. We've been allies of HRAP for some years now, and always try and steer our own partners towards the program. We know that HRAP gives advocates a unique grounding in advocacy, human rights and academic rigor. We also like the way you select advocates for people

who find it difficult to get their message out. We look forward to more collaboration in the years ahead. Keep up the great work!

Iain Guest
Executive Director
The Advocacy Project

Gisele, Nadia and Lydia learned about video advocacy at WITNESS.



The engagement with the Human Rights Advocates Program was one of the highlights of my brief time with the ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice). The wealth of experience and knowledge these activists bring to discussions on transitional justice is vast and invaluable. This greatly benefited exchanges on outreach in transitional justice and made their visit a learning experience for me as much as for them. We at ICTJ are proud of this new partnership and hope it continues with future generations of Human Rights Advocates [from Columbia University].

Refik Hodžić
Director of Communications
International Center for Transitional Justice

Each year, we at WITNESS look forward to collaborating with the Human Rights Advocates Program. The depth and breadth of experience and expertise of the Advocates ensures we have a rich and engaging discussion and training on how video and multimedia can best be used safely and effectively to advance human rights.

Chris Michael
Training Manager
WITNESS

Junghwa Lee, 2011 HRAP Coordinator, accompanied Gisele and Lydia on the tour of Ellis Island.



Leading the Gender, Conflict and Peacebuilding workshop at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University, was exceptionally rewarding. The human rights activists who participated shaped and enriched the workshop by bringing their diverse experiences and forward thinking. It was truly a privilege to facilitate a space in which bright minds exchanged ideas on these important topics.

Jelena Prosevski
Principal
Avala Associates LLC

The RFK Center is honored to have been included in the Advocates' 2011 schedule.

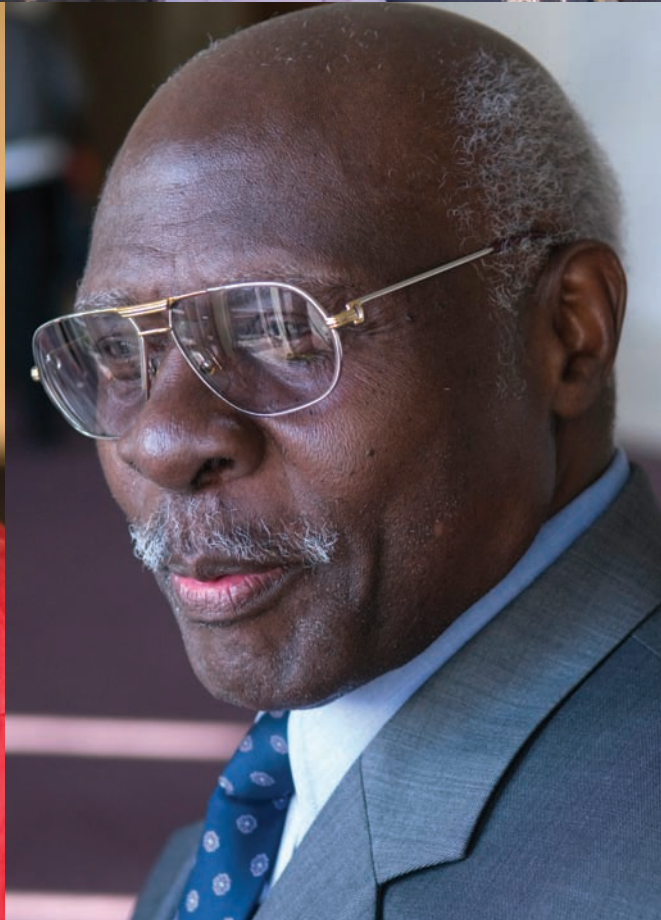
It is the fourth time we received them during their visit to Washington, D.C. The HRAP is comprised of such a diverse and committed group of grassroots advocates, and an important network to contribute with every year. I was excited that this year two Advocates from Uganda could be present at the award ceremony honoring the 2011 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award Laureate of Uganda, Frank Mugisha. Frank is a prominent young advocate for the rights of sexual minorities in Uganda, and the Executive Director of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), a leading organization of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) movement in that country. In Uganda, LGBTI organizations operate in a dangerously hostile climate and Frank is one of the few openly gay LGBTI

activists. The Ugandan Advocates presence at the U.S. Senate award ceremony meant a lot to Frank, SMUG, and the RFK Center, and their support is vital to SMUG both home and abroad. Thank you, HRAP!

Marselha Gonçalves Margerin
Advocacy Director
The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice
& Human Rights (RFK Center)

The Advocates truly engaged with our discussions on the challenges and opportunities of using oral history to advance human rights work. They raised fundamental questions that should be front and center for anyone working to record, preserve, analyze, raise, or otherwise engage the voices of those whose human rights have been violated. Is it enough to simply "raise voices" if this doesn't effect concrete change? Is oral history a tool for advocacy, or is it an act of advocacy itself? What are the complications and benefits of having interviewers from the community versus interviewers who are "outsiders"? What are the responsibilities of those who collect stories to those who tell their stories? The Advocates' willingness to ask tough questions, to debate one another and to bring their own experiences and expertise to the table made our conversations rich and productive. I know I learned a lot. I am a great admirer of the HRAP Advocates.

Nicki Pombier Berger
Coordinator
StoryCorps





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