



Winter Human Rights Delegation - Rwanda

Location: Rwanda

Dates: Dec 28, 2014 – Jan 12, 2015

Level: Student/Professional (ages 18-35)

Program Tuition: \$2250

Application Deadlines:

Early Decision Deadline: October 1

Regular Decision Deadline: October 23

During this GYC delegation, International participants from around the world will join with Rwandan peers to explore the human rights situation in Rwanda (and the world) and to take concrete action steps together to support current and future efforts for human rights protection and promotion, both in Rwanda and abroad.

Through a **combination of workshops, site visits, advocacy meetings, and volunteer service with grassroots NGOs**, we will learn and act on numerous key human rights issues in Rwanda, including but not limited to: **gender and human rights, human rights of children, LGBTI populations, historically marginalized indigenous groups, refugees, domestic workers, poverty reduction, public health, juvenile justice, freedom of expression and the arts.**

In advance of and during the delegation, all participants will examine the roots of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, and see how its legacy has impacted the country and its people, particularly Rwandan youth, and also how the country is attempting to rebuild today.



"It was so wonderful to know that even during this intensive human rights learning experience we really took action in several important ways. I felt that we all, the Rwandans and North Americans working together, in collaboration with organizations, made a positive impact on a variety of issues in a variety of ways.

-- Post Program Evaluation, Winter 2011

General Information

Thank you for your interest in applying to participate in a Global Youth Connect 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 and an application form can be found at the end of this packet of information.

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
- ✓ Visit our website and blogs to see what past participants in GYC programs have to say about their experiences
- ✓ 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



Rwandan and International Participants at the Nyange School Memorial, Rwanda

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 Learning & Action (HRLA) Delegations

GYC's HRLA Delegations are unique, first-hand opportunities 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 with their peers from a host country, like Rwanda.

Each delegation typically includes a mixture of the following general types of activities:

- Educational training workshop connecting the international and host-country peers during which they can share ideas, analyze problems and create collaborative projects with local NGOs which are also represented in the workshop/community.
- Site visits and dialogue with local human rights defenders, government representatives, youth and local communities, putting human rights concerns into context and exploring the organizations' practical strategies to achieve change.
- Volunteer service projects with grassroots NGOs to gain hands-on experience and contribute to changes taking place in the host country. These projects ideally build upon the work already being done at the organization (sometimes work that has previously benefitted from partnerships with GYC volunteers), and may include assisting with the preparation, implementation, facilitation, and reporting of advocacy conferences.

For the past 12 years, GYC has been organizing delegations to human rights Learning and Action Communities in 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*. This winter we are focusing exclusively on Rwanda. If you are not interested in going to Rwanda, check back in December for more information about GYC's Summer 2012 Delegations.

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 a human rights framework 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 documentation and monitoring, educational strategies to promote human rights, and 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.



"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

Lead Rwandan Partner Organization

INARA Legal Aid Service a.s.b.l. (INALAS) was founded by independent lawyers in February 2009 in the City of Kigali. INALAS is a non-profit making, non-governmental and non-political organization. Its name is formed of Kinyarwanda word INARA (from UMUNARA= Tower) which means something very high. Its name simply means legal aid services of high quality. INALAS headquarters is based in the City of Kigali, Nyarugenge District, Kimisagara Sector. It is a legally registered organization and it has been granted the legal status by the Ministerial Order no 38/08.11 of 3rd/04/2010. Ultimately, all people living on the Rwandan territory benefit from INALAS' legal services. Directly, vulnerable persons, particularly women and children, prisoners and people with low income are the main target groups, so that they may understand, enjoy their rights and can successfully claim in case of violation. Our services include human rights education and legal assistance program in which we provide legal advice, administrative follow up, mediation and legal representation.

INALAS' objectives include:

- To sensitize the population about their rights as provided by the laws
- To facilitate representation of its clients before the courts and tribunals
- To offer legal advice to those who seek them on different legal issues
- To collaborate with administrative authorities by advising them on the appropriate law to be applied in case of administrative intervention
- To emphasize on alternative disputes settlement mechanisms like mediation, conciliation and negotiation



GYC Participant Adam Moscoe from Ottawa, Canada, with Jean Claude Rwibasira (INALAS Director), wearing their “Justice for All – INALAS” Sweaters

Other Rwandan Partnering Organizations

AIMPO (www.aimpo.org) is an organization of/for Historically Marginalized Persons (HMPs, formerly “Abatwa”) people of Rwanda. They work for the promotion and protection of the rights of the “abatwa” and help them realize their economic, social, civil, political, and cultural rights.

Health Development Initiative (HDI Rwanda) strives to improve both the quality and accessibility of healthcare for all Rwandans through advocacy, education, and training. HDI was founded in 2005 by a dedicated group of Rwandan physicians working in health facilities and communities across the country. They work with marginalized groups including the LGBTI community in Rwanda.

Uyisenga N’ Manzi (www.uyisenganmanzi.org) contributes to the psychological and economic rehabilitation of unaccompanied children affected by HIV/AIDS and genocide as well as young girls who were victims of rape or other forms of sexual violence, placing them in child headed households and supporting their villages in a variety of ways.

Esperance - Football for Hope: is a civil society organization of young Rwandan athletes and cultural activists, with a focus on using soccer (football) and interactive theatre for both local and regional reconciliation (conflict-resolution) and gender equity.

Association des Etudiants et Elèves Rescapés du Génocide (AERG), is an association made up of student survivors of the Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsi. It is an organization run by students, for students. The main mission of AERG is to identify the problems faced by student survivors, and to try to find solutions for these problems. These problems include homelessness, lack of parental care, poverty, psychological trauma and unemployment.

Amahoro Association & CHABHA (Children Affected By HIV/AIDS): Amahoro is an association of youth affected by HIV who care for orphans and other children affected by HIV/AIDS. As a vulnerable community-based organization led by young adults who understand children’s needs because they too lost parents at an early age, Amahoro receives support from CHABHA in the form of skills building activities, psychosocial support, and educational assistance, including theatre for social change trainings.

Sample Schedule

Dec 28	International Delegates arrive individually – met at airport by GYC
Dec 29	Orientation Day for international delegates, includes Tour of Kigali with Visits to INEZA Women's Cooperative and Nyanza Memorial
Dec 30, 31	Human Rights Workshop with Rwandan and Congolese participants & Site Visits in Kigali (e.g. Legal Aid Forum, Rwanda Media Commission. Search for Common Ground) <i>New Year Celebrations</i>
Jan 1	Day Off (Start Homestays – 2 nights)
Jan 2	Human Rights Workshop Continues
Jan 3	Travel to Karongi District <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit Nyange School en route• Visit Historically Marginalized Persons
Jan 4	Kiziba Refugee Camp (near Karongi)
Jan 5	Return to Kigali
Jan 6-9	Volunteer Service Days with Local NGO's (see list on page Visits in Afternoon to Government Offices, US Embassy, International NGOs,
Jan 10	Day Off
Jan 11	Wrap-Up Day and Presentations to Alumni and Special Guests
Jan 12	International Participants Depart

Program Staff

Jesse Hawkes **GYC Executive Director**

Jesse is a social activist, professional actor/singer, theatre director, writer, researcher, and youth development programmer. Jesse has served as GYC's Executive Director since 2009, and has also been GYC's Rwanda Program director since 2007, organizing an average of two human rights learning and action youth summits per year in collaboration with local Rwandan partner organizations. After receiving his BA in History from Harvard University in 1999, Jesse continued his performance career based out of NYC and soon began to pursue a life-long dream of contributing to community development theatre projects in other parts of the world. In 2002, he 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 the township of Langa in collaboration with South African artists and youth. Jesse lived and worked in Kigali, Rwanda for six years, where he co-founded Rwandans Allied for Peace and Progress (RAPP). Jesse's work at RAPP included developing and managing a creative HIV prevention program for over sixty Rwandan high schools and communities, utilizing a combination of innovative theatre methods, peer education, and outreach activities. With RAPP, he co-wrote a radio mini-series for the Rwandan Ministry of Education, and also directed four short films for PSI/CNLS and the first Rwandan Film Festival. He also wrote films about HIV Prevention in the Rwandan military and Condom Promotion for Population Services International (PSI-Rwanda). As a founding member of the Centers for Social Responsibility, Jesse led outreach campaigns to schools for the Rwanda By Invitation program, and led secondary school students on a trip to Rwanda. Jesse has performed in over forty plays, ranging from Shakespeare to musicals and opera, working with companies such as the National Shakespeare Company, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the American Repertory Theatre, and the Living Theatre. 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.

GYC Alumni Global Village

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 GYC Alumni Village, 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 the 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

We hope all program participants will take part and contribute their ideas and energy to the global movements of young human rights activists working together for compassion, human rights and responsibilities.



GYC Alumni, Hari Acharya and Elizabeth C.H. Lee at a recent event in NYC. Hari served on GYC's Board of Directors. Liz currently is on the Board.

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 this delegation is **\$2250**.

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 program tuition and a breakdown of how this money is spent to 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

Payment Deadlines

Upon Acceptance	\$500
Nov. 6	\$1000
Dec. 4	\$750

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 \$500 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	\$300
Medical	\$150-\$300
Cancellation Insurance	\$135 (optional)
Transport to Work	\$50
Personal/Gifts	\$200

Actual costs will vary depending on where you are traveling from, your personal financial circumstances, your spending/eating 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
- Vaccinations, medications and other health expenses
- Trip cancellation insurance (optional)
- Travel to fieldwork placements in Kigali & Travel that is not a part of the formal program schedule

Application Information and Procedures

Application Deadline(s)

- ***Early Decision Deadline: October 1*** (up to one-half of the positions on the delegation can be filled)
- ***Regular Decision Deadline: October 15*** (those not accepted Early decision, will be granted a chance to be accepted in this round as well as the new applicants)
- ***Applying after October 15? Check with us for availability before applying***

Application Instructions

To apply, please fill the application at:

<http://globalyouthconnect.org/apply.html>

Please send all resumes to:

contact@globalyouthconnect.org

Eligibility Requirements

- Age 18-35
- 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 participant's home country and to continue to work on collaborative projects building upon the delegation experience
- Commitment 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 this program on a competitive basis. As we keep the program size small (average program size can range from 10 - 16 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 via email. Please contact us if you do not receive confirmation of receipt of your application. All applications will be reviewed by the program director.

Participants who are interviewed but 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. Once we receive a verbal commitment from selected participants, GYC will send additional information and materials on the details of the program.

Those who accept the invitation to attend will be required to make an initial non-refundable deposit of \$500 to hold their space in the program by no later than 1 week after acceptance into the program. Participation in the program is not guaranteed until an applicant has made the initial deposit.

At least one GYC scholarship of \$200 USD will be available to participants following the initial payment, with a separate application in October.