

The Time Is Now!

IFORYOUTHNEWSLETTER

2006

Insights from field work: working with the young

After I participated in the International Orientation 2005, WPP program, I went back home to Uganda and joined **Rainbow House of Hope Uganda (RHU)**, an organization for disadvantaged children and youth located in Nsambya slums, in Kampala. The youth and children in RHU are faced with different social problems. Some are refugees from Kenya, DRC Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, and Tanzania. Some children are displaced by the wars in Northern and Western Uganda and cattle rustling from the East part of the country. Others are orphans and victims of domestic violence and HIV/AIDS.

I was happy to see the organization being directly in touch with its target group. Membership in this organization is free and open to every child and youth who is willing to participate in RHU activities and many are joining all the time.

When I joined RHU in September 2005, I felt that these children and youth needed my hand in building a peaceful and reconciled society among them. I went on to use the brass band which they themselves established to mobilize more young people in the community around for the trainings and *the social gathering parties at Rainbow House.* (See photo)



Part of my work involves holding human rights trainings on child rights. I hold talk sessions with young people on conflicts and other social problems they face in their lives. I assist them in finding ways of dealing with these conflicts/problems and sometimes I refer them to people who can help them better. Since I also work in the secretariat, I do some administrative work in which I try to apply some of the knowledge and skills I got from the IFOR secretariat. For example, editing quarterly newsletters, disseminating information to avoid miscommunication, holding meetings every Monday and discussing issues concerning weekly events and tasks as shared in previous meetings. I have tried to strengthen networking by keeping in touch with most of the people I met during my stay in the Netherlands, by conce in my work.



advocate for peace
re youth I meet and
with IFOR and the organi-
1. In addition, I always en-
t their experiences as well,
lecting situations and how
they manage them. When I get their articles, I publish them in RHU newsletters and reports to share them with other fellow youth and children, who learn from them as well.

I believe in young people's potential to work for social change and peace. I would like to end with an encouragement for the youth in Eritrea and Ethiopia to stand up and criticize the war that is going on between these two countries. They are damaging the young generation, and they should look at the women and children as the most marginalized group.

*Peace is looking for us everywhere,
we should look for it as well!*

By Rosemary Nassaka, Uganda

INITIATIVES *By, With, For* THE YOUNG

Say NO to the war machine: Youth Counter Recruitment Camps

Text source: <http://notyoursoldier.org>

The Not Your Soldier Project gives youth the tools to stop the military invasion in the schools and communities of the United States, serving as inspiration for actions that can be taken all over the world. **Not Your Soldier Action Camps** bring together young people who are heavily targeted by military recruitment. At the camps, youth learn how to take action to fight military recruitment, the poverty draft, and the corporations that profit off of war.

Organizing against military recruitment not only involves communities to work to stop war but also questions the whole system that the military is built on. The organization fights the way that recruiters prey on the lack of affordable housing, healthcare, and the decrepit state of the schools and also, most importantly, they are building skills and resources within the new generation of youth leadership for justice.



Watch their short flash movie, get inspired and contribute to starving the war beast all over the world!

<http://notyoursoldier.org/article.php?list=type&type=14>

Also keep an eye open for a new excellent documentary "Sir! No Sir!" coming soon in cinemas about soldiers' resistance in the Vietnam War that raises questions about the military as an institution.

United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)

Text source: www.unoy.org



The United Network of Young Peacebuilders, started in 1989. It is a global network of young people and youth organizations active in the field of peacebuilding, mostly working in violent conflict and post-violent conflict regions. Their mission is to link up the initiatives for peace of young people and youth organizations in a global network of young peacebuilders, to help empower their capacities and to help increase their effectiveness. Their vision is to have young people building together a world in which peace, justice, solidarity, human dignity and respect for nature prevail.

Their main activities are networking, training, empowerment for action, advocacy and campaigning. Thus they seek to enhance young people's peace-building initiatives in the fields of: Conflict Transformation, Peace Education, Traditional Methods/ Culture & Religion, Young Women Building Peace, Youth Advocacy, Child and Human Rights related issues.

Currently they are developing the **Peace It Together Campaign** to which everybody is invited to contribute by organizing various types of local events wherever it may be in the world.

Join the young peacebuilders team!

Bring your contribution to peace!

GET INSPIRED

How do you handle adversity?

A story about coffee, carrots and eggs

A young man went to his father and told him about his life and how things were so hard for him. He did not know how he was going to make it and wanted to give up. He was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

His father took him to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first he placed carrots, in the second he placed eggs, and in the last he placed ground coffee beans. He let them sit and boil, without saying a word for about 15 minutes after which he took the carrots, the eggs and coffee out and placed them in separate bowls.

Turning to his son, he asked, "Tell me what you see." Carrots, eggs, and coffee," he replied.

His dad brought him closer and asked him to feel the carrots and the eggs and to drink some coffee. He noted that the carrots were soft, the eggs were hard after breaking the shell while the coffee had a rich aroma. The son then asked, "What does it mean?"

His father explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

Which are you?" he asked his son. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I?

Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a break-up, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavour. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation you.

When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, elevate yourself to another level!



Quotes on peace and nonviolence



"Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermaths of war".

Herbert Clark Hoover

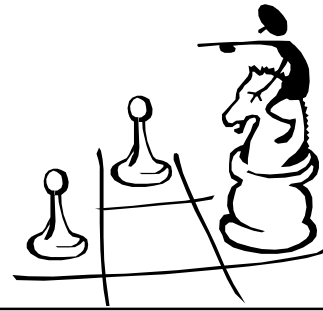
"Nonviolence is not for the elite few, it is for everyone to live, it is a way of life based on respect for each human person, and for the environment. It is also a means of bringing about social and political change, and resisting evil. It is a whole new way of thinking".

Mairead Corrigan-Maguire

"Nothing could be worse than the fear that one has given up too soon, and left one unexpended effort which might have saved the world".

Jane Addams

A Winner is not the one who never fails but who never quits!



A little girl-the 20th of 22 children, was born prematurely and her survival was doubtful. When she was 4 years old, she contracted double pneumonia and scarlet fever, which left her with a paralyzed left leg. At age 9, she removed the metal leg brace she had been dependent on and began to walk without it. By 13 she had developed a rhythmic walk, which doctors said was a miracle. That same year she decided to become a runner. She entered a race and came in last. For the next few years every race she entered, she came in last. Everyone told her to quit, but she kept on running. One day she actually won a race. And from then on she won every race she entered.

Eventually this little girl-Wilma Rudolph, went on to win three Olympic gold medals.

Officials rejected a candidate for a news broadcaster post since his voice was not fit for a news broadcaster. He was also told that with his obnoxiously long name, he would never be famous.

He is Amitabh Bachchan.

In 1962, four nervous young musicians played their first record audition for the executives of the Decca Recording Company. The executives were not impressed. While turning down this group of musicians, one executive said, "We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on the way out."

The group was The Beatles.

In the 1940s, another young inventor named Chester Carlson took his idea to 20 corporations, including some of the biggest in the country. They all turned him down. In 1947, after 7 long years of rejections, he finally got a tiny company in Rochester, NY, the Haloid Company, to purchase the rights to his invention, an electrostatic paper-copying process.

Haloid became Xerox Corporation

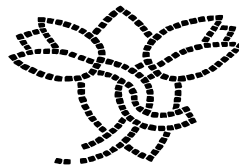
When **Thomas Edison** invented the light bulb, he tried over 2000 experiments before he got it to work. A young reporter asked him how it felt to fail so many times. He said, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2000-step process".

Quotes on peace and nonviolence

"The nonviolent approach does not immediately change the heart of the oppressor. It first does something to the hearts and souls of those committed to it. It gives them new self-respect; it calls up resources of strength and courage that they did not know they had. Finally it reaches the opponent and so stirs his conscience that reconciliation becomes a reality." **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"As long as there is no justice for women and girls there is no peace. The self-confidence of girls must be increased so that they learn not to give up their responsibility for the world to boys, to politicians or to the military. This means mothers and fathers must educate their daughters in a different way".

Irmaard Ehrenberger



that the planet does not need people. But it does desperately need makers, healers, restorers, storytellers of every kind. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make the world habitable and humane. And these qualities have little to do with success as our culture has defined it". **David Orr**

"If we just worry about the big picture, we are powerless. So my secret is to start right away doing whatever little work I can do. I try to give joy to one person in the morning, and remove the suffering of one person in the afternoon. If you and your friends do not despise the small work, a million people will remove a lot of suffering. That is the secret. Start right now." **Sister Chän Khöng**

Imagining Ourselves: A Global Generation of Women

Text source: <http://imaginingourselves.imow.org>

Imagining Ourselves – a project in partnership with the International Museum of Women IMOW- connects women in their twenties and thirties around the globe, inspiring them to create positive change in their lives, their communities, and the world. The project includes not only a groundbreaking online exhibit, but also a series of global events, a celebrity blog on Yahoo!, and a dazzling book published by New World Library.

Among the goals of Imagining Ourselves are to increase young women in leadership positions, and to increase international community among this first global generation of women. The magic happens when young women are able to form connections across international boundaries—and use those connections to improve each other's lives.

A mini-exhibit previewed to international delegates at the United Nations Beijing +10 conference in 2005, and has since toured the world. Over 60 distinguished leaders from around the globe have signed on to be ambassadors for the project, as have major international organizations such as Amnesty International and the World Association of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides.

IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) partnered up with IMOW, Imagining Ourselves project, during the 2006 May 24 event on International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament. WPP is IMOW's main partner during the month May, with its online exhibition focusing on the theme Culture and Conflict.

Join them for a historic global conversation!

Be inspired, get involved, take action!

Upcoming Events

Fellowship of Reconciliation Summer Camp –
Germany, August 5th – 20th, 2006

Theme: „Environmental Protection – Integrity of the Creation”

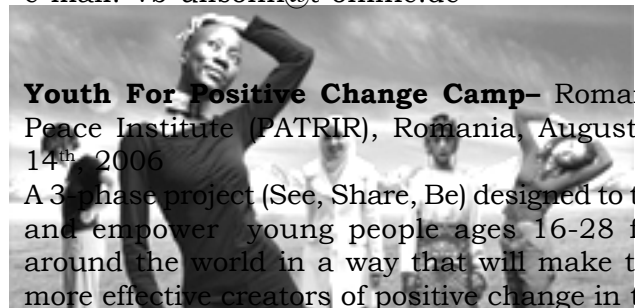
Participants: Youth and young adults, 17 to 26 years old

Schedule: The program will focus mainly on the camp theme –“Environmental Protection – Integrity of the Creation.” Other essential components of our schedule include late morning gardenwork and afternoon freetime opportunities (e.g. swimming at the nearby Lake Grimnitz, excursions, games, music and country reports), visiting environmental organizations and projects, enjoying cultural events, museums, a historical city tour, and the big farewell party in the backyard.

Costs: 120 • - ... / For East European participants 30.- •.

For further information and registration:

Versöhnungsbund, Regionalbüro Berlin, c/o
Uli Sonn Tel. 030-8431 9550
Pacelliallee 61 , 14195 Berlin,
e-mail: vb-ulisonn@t-online.de



Youth For Positive Change Camp– Romanian Peace Institute (PATRIR), Romania, August 1st-14th, 2006

A 3-phase project (See, Share, Be) designed to train and empower young people ages 16-28 from around the world in a way that will make them more effective creators of positive change in their communities.

Focal themes

Peace building and conflict transformation, human rights, women's rights, community participation and development, building open societies, overcoming discrimination, racism and social prejudices, and promoting environmental and ecological sustainability.

Activities

The Camp would include training programmes, workshops, discussion groups, simulations, teambuilding, and leadership development, in addition to artistic, cultural and sporting celebrations that promote intercultural learning.

www.patrir.ro/peacecamp

International Cultural Diversity Conference-
International Center for Conflict and Human
Rights Analysis (ICCHRA) , October 24th-31st
2006- Accra-Ghana

Theme: celebrating the beauty in diversity of cul-
tures- a key to national unity and development.
The conference will be a gathering of the youth
around the globe to discuss critical and timely
issues in their country while forging friendships
and bridging cultural understanding through
their interaction. It aims to launch a compre-
hensive campaign for youth empowerment and
cultural understanding between and among
nationalities.

For further info: www.icchra.org; info@icchra.org

Building Peace Skills 2006 Training Seminar,
United Network of Young Peacebuilders,
Ukraine, August 19th-25th 2006

The theme of the training is "Empowering and
Training Young People for Non-Violent Social
Change" and is aimed at youth workers (aged be-
tween 18 and 29), especially from South-East-
ern Europe and Caucasia, who are already in-
volved and active in local and national associa-
tions, community organisations, youth clubs,
youth councils and youth initiatives.

If you are interested in applying to participate
in the training seminar please contact the orga-
nization for the application form before the dead-
line **by 30 June 2006.**

UNOY, Katharina Block, Henry Wasung
Phone: 0031-70-3647799
www.unoy.org; info@unoy.org

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

**Drawings for International Women's Day for
Peace and Disarmament, May 24th**

The theme for 2007 May 24 pack is Girls over-
coming Violence. We are interested in drawings
from girls (up to age 18) that show their idea of
peace. If you would like to participate, please in-
clude with the drawing one sentence on your
definition of peace, your name, country and
age. The deadline for pictures is July 30, 2006.

Please ask your daughters, grand daughters, and
nieces!

Send the drawings to:
Shelley Anderson, IFOR - WPP
Sporstraat 38, Alkmaar, 1815 BK
The Netherlands

USEFUL LINKS

<http://www.freechild.org/>

Connecting young people to create social change.

<http://www.worldyouth.org/>

Empowering youth to have a voice in society
through intergenerational and diverse leadership
opportunities and civic engagement.

<http://www.youthactionnet.org/>

Spotlighting the vital role that youth play in
leading positive change around the world.

<http://www.iyfnet.org>

Working to improve the conditions and prospects for
young people where they live, learn, work, and play.

<http://www.empowering-youth.org/index.htm>

Providing counseling and information to victims of
violence.

<http://www.noys.org/>

Promote youth empowerment and leadership, and
building partnerships that save lives

The Time is Now! 2006 is produced by Suheir AbuMohor and Ina Curic in the framework of the Women Peacemaker Program (WPP) International Orientation as a forum for youth across the globe. Women Peacemakers Program is an initiative of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR). Since 1919 IFOR has pioneered spiritually based active non-violence. For more information about this newsletter, to apply for the International Orientation Program, or for more information about the WPP or IFOR branch in your country, please contact the IFOR International Secretariat at:

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