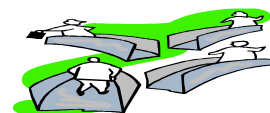


THE TIME IS NOW!



IFOR YOUTH NEWSLETTER

2005

EXPANDING HORIZONS!!

The International Orientation whose objective includes helping participants further their thinking and familiarity with critical international issues in conflict resolution, development, human rights and gender awareness has provided the platform for myself and the other intern, Rose Nassaka to expand our horizons.

For a period of one month at the secretariat, we gained a lot of experience from the activities we carried out which included, participation in celebrating the International Women's Day, visiting various organizations in peacebuilding, human rights and gender, making a video about the International Orientation, participating in the Training of Trainers (TOT) 2005 on gender and non-violence and the day to day office tasks.



Nelly & Rose during a visit to Amsterdam

My involvement in the Orientation has contributed to the increase in my knowledge on human rights, gender awareness and conflict resolution hence giving me a broader perspective. This in turn will help me in reaching out to many other young people in the world. This has reinforced my conviction of the invaluable resource we have in the youth. The youth make up 30% of the world population according to Agenda 21 therefore, working with the youth means working with the largest resource.

As a young woman, expanding my horizons has not been easy and getting this chance was a great boost and it made me think of the many other young people with a passion to make a difference but were limited by capacity to do so.

Thus the need for networks and support among ourselves & not limiting ourselves to what we are socialised to believe we can do. This can only be achieved if, as my friend would put it, "get outside the box!". It is our hope that as you read this newsletter on what other youth are doing to make a difference, you will make a decision to make the world a better place and using the available resources, expand your horizon!

IFOR through WPP, has enabled me to meet and interact with people from different countries hence increasing my networks and learnt that by empowering young people, we empower the future. The challenge lies within us.

Nelly Njoki

THE POWER OF SMALL ACTIONS

Amy Beckhusen, a young activist from United States of America who participated in last year's International Orientation at the IFOR secretariat, is making a difference in her community. She is planning a peace conference at her school, which will take place on August 31, 2005.

(This is a very special event because it commemorates the 100th anniversary of a peace conference that the Shakers held in 1905).

She will be facilitating a workshop at the conference about incorporating gender and peace into curriculums and what a better way to start than in her school where she is working on gender mainstreaming. Alongside that, she has begun to develop some curriculum about gender and peace, which she will test out this spring in her Ethics class. During International Women's Day, she asked the boys to refrain from using derogatory remarks to the girls since, "I thought it was a symbolic thing that would help kids to understand the power of small actions"

It was wonderful to hear girls throughout the day saying "you can't use that word today because it is International Women's Day"!

As a young activist, she affirms that, "no matter what happens, I will continue to work on raising awareness and effecting social change at this school", she concluded.

THE PEACE YOUTH NEWS LETTER

A newsletter is a publication used to acknowledge and broaden a reader's horizons. It could be quarterly, monthly, or annually published.

In this case, **THE TIME IS NOW! 2005** is a newsletter of the International Orientation, for the youth to share their experiences in youth activities carried out in the current and the previous year and to explore their talents and skills.

As International orientation is meant for young women to become leaders in the peace movement, the time is now newsletter is more gender sensitive. It involves all young women and men especially who put effort in peace building and gender sensitization all over the world.

In the previous news letters, youth from Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), IFOR members and affiliates like JYAK in Uganda, FOR-German, FOR-US, FOR-Nepal and Philippines, expressed their enthusiasm and devotion to take a lead in **promoting non-violent and peaceful means** of stopping and preventing conflicts.

My participation in the International Orientation is a result of my work as a volunteer in Jamii Ya Kupatanisha (JYAK) and writing articles and contributing ideas to the previous newsletter. My articles were considered with a positive response from Janne, the Education Officer in the Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) office. This gave me the encouragement to work hard in the peace movement.

In JYAK, I was a member of the organizing committee of the International Multicultural youth peace work camp in Soroti with the theme, "**Expressing solidarity with Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Teso**". I also represented JYAK in a camp organized by the Uganda Pioneers Association (UPA) in **promoting sanitation and sports**. All these camps were organized as a result of promoting the Youth Cooperation Program (YCP). More to this, I helped my organization in carrying out exhibitions; first with the theme "**Breaking the cycle of poverty, the role of the youth**" and secondly, "**Promoting networking through information**". All these were successfully done

I've also been a member of the peace education forum, in which we held a discussion on integrating peace education in Uganda's national curriculum development. All the organizations in peace building second this idea of which it has been forwarded to the Ministry of Education for further deliberations. My efforts were appreciated by JYAK administration and WPP, and currently here I am, at IFOR secretariat for the International Orientation, in charge of publishing "**the time is now 2005**", which is a viable experience for me.

Hey, it is your turn to support the "time is now". You don't have to have money, just your talents, skills, achievements and effort. Remember, opportunity strikes once.

-Nassaka Rosemary

RADIO PEACE TALK: THE ZAMBIA EXPERIENCE

When soldiers or rebels of one sort seize the reins of power, they secure their positions by taking over the broadcast media. Equally leaders manipulate the perceptions of a population through media. Over the centuries, the media have proved to be a powerful tool in support of terror and violence. But fortunately, the opposite is also true and Zambia's Youth Forum for Peace and Justice (YFPJ) under the Peace Education Programme proves that radio has enormous positive potential.

In February 2005, they started the second phase of the radio peace talk component which had a six week series of radio programmes. These were 3 in Ibibemba and 3 in English. We opted to include three programmes in the local language to ensure we capture a reasonable audience since people are often constrained using and even understanding in English.

During the radio programme we had YFPJ staff speak and teachers and pupils from the schools that benefited from the first phase of the PEP. Following the six programmes the response from the public has been overwhelming. More schools have expressed interest to have the Clubs started their schools and we have people coming to our offices to enquire to get more information on our activities.

We have thus far held a successful Peace Education Talk in Mufulira city. We were privileged to have one of the last year's speakers speak at this talk. Again the response was very encouraging and we had students from five schools coming together to attend the talk.



Peace Education Talk in Mufulira City

We hoping to have two Peace Education talks this month [March] and we are struggling to keep the pace and momentum.

Email:yfpj1999@yahoo.com

Tilla Titus Sichanga

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS ..MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

The youth are the bearer's of our planet's future. They can help and correct each other mutually, and be role models and true friends for one another.

Your reasons for volunteering are as individual as you are, but no matter what your reasons you can get a lot out of volunteering. You can learn about yourself, learn about others and meet a lot of interesting people by volunteering. You can help others as you help yourself.

By interacting with and assisting those in need, youth volunteers establish a sense of awareness and personal achievement. Volunteering in community service gives youth the opportunity to help and teach others, make new friends and learn more about themselves and their community.

PUT YOURSELF IN A POSITION WHERE MONEY IS NOT AVAILABLE AND EVERY PIECE OF WORK CALLS FOR EXPERIENCE !!!

We dedicate this column to share with you stories of young people who are making a difference in our communities.

Gregory Kennedy-Salemi is FOR Austria's volunteer from the USA. Gregory conducts Global Issues youth education workshops with High School students throughout Austria. He spends two weeks per month traveling and working with students on issues such as Fair Trade, global warming, child labor, gender, conflict, debt, AIDS, poverty, natural capitalism, the environment and human rights.

Gregory is also a webdeveloper who developed the websites for IFOR in Holland and FOR Austria. Gregory also produced a documentary film about IFOR featuring an interview with IFOR's honorary president Hildegard Goss-Mayr.

Amy Shifflette an IFOR volunteer from USA. Her duties include: IFOR in Action editor, Assisting with "International Reconciliation (IR)", Member of Publications Working Group, Evaluate publications, website, media strategy, Communication with BGAs and potential member organizations, IT/technology: Database & server updates, Website maintenance and day-to-day office tasks.

Delphine Poire an IFOR volunteer from Belgium. She is responsible for promoting the decade for a culture of peace and non violence for the children of the world (2001-2010), voted by United Nations and led by UNESCO, by reporting on what IFOR's Branches, Groups & Affiliates have done to promote the decade. Research project on how children between 3-6yrs old learn about nonviolence and the creation of a peace kit on skills and knowledge to 14-18 yrs old to initiate their own school peace clubs and spread the idea of non violence to their fellow students.

Achievements: Exposure, Experience, Knowledge, improving skills, Inter-cultural exchanges and fun.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR NEXT STEP?

Rose and Nelly

Pentecost Conference EIRENE International

The ecumenical organisation EIRENE International, which gives people the opportunity to work one year or longer as a volunteer in different countries in projects for peace, justice and development will have her annual conference on 14th, 15th and 16th May 2005 in Diessen, close to Tilburg, Netherlands.

Theme: Voluntary service a challenge or a difficult job? Besides listening & talking, there will also be time for meeting, information about Eirene, singing and enjoying the nice area together.

Used languages: English, German.

More information: eirene@antenna.nl,

tel: 030 - 2714376,

website: www.eirene.org/nl

A SONG FOR PEACE

*We will talk, talk and talk
Talk about the term peace
A sense of happiness and joy
That every soul longs for
But look, the world around
Is conflict stricken
Wars, violence and conflicts
Rebellion and terrorism
Characterize us now
Uganda, dear motherland,
Northern Uganda with all beauty
You are most afflicted
Kony and comrades, with
evil acts, lead to IDP camps and violence
But all in all, lets all
One but all, prioritize peace
Happiness be wrought amongst us
Gender being the foreman
The leading resolve today
"Men are gold, women are cloth"
So they say to the feminine,
Think they have no brains
"You've got to dance to my tunes"
Keep saying with arrogance
This time round, we are all up
On our feet to realize gender
and Peace as its right-hand man
Hope to see women and girls smile
Therefore happiness and harmony in Uganda*

Maurice Mugenyi - Uganda



YOUTH QUOTES

Youth is to all the glad reason of life; but often only by what it hopes, not by what it attains, or what it escapes.
Thomas Carlyle

At twenty we worry about what others think of us; at forty we don't care about what others think of us; at sixty we discover they haven't been thinking about us at all.
Anonymous

"There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age."
Sophia Loren

UGANDAN YOUTH SING FOR PEACE

The MS Denmark /MS Uganda YCP piloted in Uganda in 2004 gave a new framework for linking youth development, intercultural cooperation to peace, human rights promotion and development work.

In the CRY Uganda 2004 youth peace camp, youth were organized for an international peace music concert that had youth music, drama and dance performances from Uganda and Rwanda. This was done to commemorate the international day for peace that falls on 21st of September every year.

Traditional music and dance in Africa in general is often a tool used to gather people and for the youth it is the best way of mobilizing and organizing them. The youth afterwards were more energized for peace building training and discussions, which ran for a week. There was, mid way of the camp program- a multicultural festival where youth from different ethnic groups or countries did exhibit their works in form of dances, songs, languages and drama. Later the troupe joined a modern Jazz band to for a solidarity concert for peace before a mammoth crowd of Internally Displaced Persons(IDP).



CRY Uganda has taken the idea of intercultural exchange further. Three traditional music and dance groups have been promoted and they include *Emorimor international.com* troupe, Macadonia and Bisina jazz bands where the word jazz is used in the local Uganda jazz music,

The impact has been in many folds: youth got a forum to meet from different levels, races, tribes, and countries. They contributed their different talents in music, dance and drama to a common cause- that is cry for peace in Uganda and planet earth, They showcased their creativity in terms of music instruments used, drama skits, improvisation that amazed and surprised so many participants.

The music gathers the children youth where upon they engage in the promotion of peace building, development activities to name a few. Sadly, most of these youth are themselves orphaned due to HIV/AIDS and war and have found a sense of belonging though joining the drama, music, and dance bands. Through the music and dance over 60 youth and children are engaged in anti AIDS campaigns; they are engaged in tree planting and agro forestry and what they called *adult education* for their members who are school drop outs due to war and poverty and HIV/AIDS calamities, all this they do as members of the drama, dance, music groups. In this regard they continue to contribute to psychological relief and advocacy for peace building and human rights promotion using music, dance and drama.

For more information on the music bands, contact:

Joseph Agula, Conflict Resolution by Youth-Uganda (CRY)

E-mail: beup1@yahoo.com

YOUTH RIGHTS

We believe that all young people should be treated with full and complete respect. We fight for having our voices heard everywhere, and having young peoples thoughts be listened to and respected all the time, and in all

Is it not true that basing rights on age is the advocacy of age discrimination? Too often we forget the "second class" status of youth, once we hit the magic number 18.

Advocates of age restrictions believe it's OK, but only as long as it does not apply to them, as long as they do not have to worry about it. In reality, age discrimination is an ancient double standard truly reminiscent of the Class Society. Aristotle once wrote,

"The justice of a master or father is different from that of a citizen, for a son or a slave is property and there can be no injustice to one's property."

www.youthrights.org

DID YOU KNOW?

- Today up to 5 children will die from abuse or neglect.
- In 13 seconds, another child will be abused in the U.S.
- Among substantiated victims of child maltreatment, approximately 44% suffered neglect, 24% physical abuse, 15% sexual abuse, 6% emotional maltreatment, 2% medical neglect and the remaining 9% other or unknown forms of maltreatment.
- 85% of the 1.2 - 1.5 million runaways are fleeing abuse at home.
- Today 6 children will commit suicide.
- Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death (ages 15-24)...and the 6th leading cause of death (ages 5-14).
- Untreated child abuse increases the likelihood of arrest for a violent crime by 38 percent.
- Today 3,086 public school students will be corporally punished & 3,356 high-school students will drop out.
- 60 million survivors are former victims of childhood sexual abuse in America today.
- 38% of all women & 20% of all men have been sexually abused by the end of adolescence.
- It is estimated that 3% to 6% of the clergy population has abused a child in their congregation.
- The typical child sex offender molests an average of 117 children, most of whom do not report the offence.

Source www.geocities.com/heartland

WHERE WORDS FAIL, MUSIC SPEAKS!

The voice was melodious, the sound had a smooth and calm effect and the people knew the song by heart. This is a song from Iran on peace and love by a group of women from all parts of the world. As I sat with them trying to comprehend the passion and power that diversity can bring unity, one thing was clear for me, we can build bridges with music.

Musicians Without Borders founded in 1999 during the Kosovo crisis is an international network of musicians who use the power of music to contribute to building open, peaceful societies. They co-operate with musicians and music organizations in many countries and they offer human rights and peace organizations innovative approaches to peace building. They thus initiate projects that build differences of culture, ethnicity, and ideology and help to create a culture of peace.

As musicians, they recognize the power of artistic experiences to shape, inspire and even transform lives. Musicians without Borders believe in the power of music to create moments of inspiration and interconnection that can deeply affect both listeners and performers. This spirit is best expressed in their concerts, workshop rehearsals, and spontaneous musical happenings.

Some of their projects include:

- § Songs for Srebrenica, a concert that brought comfort and recognition to survivors of the mass murder in Srebrenica through a program of Bosnia Songs and poetry.
- § Music bus in Bosnia- Herzegovina, a Dutch-Bosnia team of musicians visits villages and refugee camps to offer the children the chance to express and develop themselves by singing and dancing together.
- § Pop music school in Kosovo, to provide young people from the divided city of Mitrovica with the opportunity to learn and make pop music.
- § Alomtonen, women get to know each other by teaching each other their songs and singing together. In this project Dutch women sing with their foreign neighbors in centers for asylum seekers.
- § Guitars for Uganda & Brass Band for Sudan, used to bring people in refugee camps together through music and a brass band could be started for children in a prison in Sudan.

It has not always been easy but it has been worth it and it has brought healing and reconciliation in areas of conflict and their projects have proven that, **“if we can sing together, we can live together”**

Music creates order out of chaos: for rhythm imposes unanimity upon the divergent, melody imposes continuity upon the disjointed, and harmony imposes compatibility upon the incongruous.

Yehudi Menuhin



Sarajevo Oct. 2003

For more information visit, www.musicianswithoutborders.nl or info@musicianswithoutborders.nl

By Nelly Njoki

HOW CAN I KEEP MY SELF LEARNING?

This is a question I hope each one of us would love to ask. Have you taken trouble to find a suitable answer? To me it does not sound a no man's business question, rather a get together issue.

2005 Training of Trainers (TOT) held at hotel Kontakt der Kontinenten (Netherlands), organized by WPP at IFOR has an answer. It is a gender sensitive active non-violence training, facilitated by Shelley Anderson and Diana Francis.

Women from Africa, Asia and Europe participated. They demonstrated their solidarity and determination in gender sensitive non-violence and skills attained in the basic TOT 2004, which they had put into practice back home.

In the advanced TOT 2005, much emphasis has been put in improving the skills attained, and in this context, we looked at some useful topics in a more detailed and professional manner.

- Understanding the culture of non-violence
- Hints, tips and ideas on facilitating. (co-facilitators and solo facilitators.)
- Workshop planning and designing
- How to be innovative and creative
- Action learning cycle & Spiritual dimension
- Say hard things without being offensive (Hassel lines)
- Handy hints for writing a good report
- Handling project funds.

Lots of useful materials like workshop kits and training manuals, last year's TOT reports, handouts, posters, brochures were distributed, and souvenirs for both the facilitators and the women from their home countries were given out.

Women proved to have a lot of devotion to further their work and so did the facilitators.

Facilitators pointed out that it is an investment, when they support people in the TOTs and they create an impact in societies affected by gender imbalance and violence. Men too hold a useful tool, in this cause, because Gender is not "a woman" issue, rather a unisex.

“Once the actuality or possibility of war becomes the context within which we live, men and women are forced into set roles” by Shelley Anderson

I therefore recommend the youth to join hands to support the Women Peacemakers Program to make our world a better place to live.

Take time to read our publications, reports and Internet programs on www.ifor.org/WPP. For we have to spread the word widely, as the TOT gave us wider knowledge on how to make facilitation more efficient and effective in our daily work as trainers in gender sensitive nonviolence.

Diana Francis reminds us “the TOT is a basis to think about our function as trainers. We need to think about how to make learning happen” WPP 2004 TOT report.

**There we go.
How can you and I keep ourselves learning?**

By Nassaka Rosemary

International Meeting of Young Peace Workers
May 15- May 29 2005

For young people who have already become active in peace work themselves, for people who have collaborated in existing projects, or initiated own projects. The goal is the building up of an international network of engaged people who link their knowledge and their work - for the ending of the war and for the healing of the Earth; for a "Movement for a Free Earth".

Facilitation: Katja Long and Amélie Weimar, Price: 400 Euro/
Youth Price: 200 Euro,

For more information and applications contact, Katja Long on igf@tamera.org Ph: 283 635 484

Useful Links

World Youth Day www.wyd2005.org. Young people from around the world meet in Germany to celebrate the youth day

Youth and nonviolence www.freechild.org connecting young people and the need for social change

Youth School www.tamera.org enabling the youth to learn how to think and act responsibly and with commitment school.

Students Partnership Worldwide www.spw.org sends young volunteers in rural Africa and Asia to work on health, education and environment projects.

FGM www.afrol.com Analyses, facts and regularly updated news on FGM in Africa

Women's Human Rights www.law.lib.utoronto.ca Diverse information on women's international Human rights via the internet. 1995-2005 celebrating 10yrs of women's human rights

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality www.siyanda.org

UNICEF Voices of Youth www.unicef.org/voy recognizing young people as having rights and the role of Governments

HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/facts
Young people at risk.

Youth Links and Resources www.youth.nsw.gov.au/youth-links

Conflict Resolution. www.crinfo.org. Links to internet resources, and information about publications and organizations

The Women Peacemaker Program can help women in **IFOR branches, groups and affiliates visit other IFOR branches, groups and affiliates** in order to exchange experiences. In addition, support is offered to women peacemakers **all over the world** to attend a conference that is important for their work, or to follow a university course to improve their knowledge, or to participate in a peace camp, etc. (NOTE: This option is **not** limited for IFOR members). The costs of international travel, food, accommodation costs, insurance and visa for such exchanges can be covered by the WPP. Contact WPP for more information.

OPPORTUNITIES IN IFOR BRANCHES, GROUPS, AND AFFILIATES
CONFERENCE

Darrow School and the Shaker Museum library are collaborating to present a conference on shakers concept on peace and conflict resolution. For more information please contact, _skoomler@shakermuseumandlibrary.org

On October 27-30,2005, upto 2000 women rights leaders and activists from around the world will converge in Bangkok at the 10th AWID International Forum to discuss the question, "How does change happen?" for more information visit, www.awid.org

The Non-violent Peaceforce is organizing a leadership youth conference from June 21-25, 2005 in Minnesota, USA. The conference will help youth learn about third party non-violent strategic action. For more information please visit, www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org

INTERNSHIPS

UN www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/youthrep.htm Be a youth representative for the UN.

FOR-USA www.forusa.org/programs/internships/internships.html 11 month Internships at FOR-USA. Mentorship, housing, living stipend, and health benefits provided.

VOLUNTEER

National Volunteer in peacebuilding in Nyack, New York contact Yvonne Royster at for@forusa.org
International Volunteers for Peace www.ivp.org.au

IFOR volunteers 2006, preferably a native french speaker contact David Mumford at d.mumford@ifor.org

Australian Volunteers www.australianvolunteers.com

The Time is Now! is produced by Nelly Njoki and Nassaka Rosemary 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:



International Fellowship of Reconciliation
Sporstraat 38, 1815 BK Alkmaar
Tel: +31 72 512 3014
Fax:+31 72 515 1102
Email: office@ifor.org Website: www.ifor.org

Sincere gratitude for all the responses we have received.
With your encouragement this newsletter has become a possibility.