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Genocide Survivor To "Give Back" as a Peace Fellow in Mali

Eleven Peace Fellows will work for marginalized communities, including refugees in Europe



Bound for Mali: Rose Twagirumukiza, from Georgetown University, will volunteer with survivors of sexual violence in Mali

After fleeing the Rwandan genocide, which claimed the life of her father and other family members, Rose Twagirumukiza (left) spent much of her life in camps before being admitted to the United States as a refugee. On Friday Rose will leave for Mali as a Peace Fellow for The Advocacy Project (AP), to volunteer alongside survivors of war rape. It will be her first trip abroad as an American citizen.

"It's a personal thing," Rose said of her decision. "I've seen the way that armed conflict destroys families. Volunteers helped me to survive. Without them I would not have made it. I'm giving back to the people who have helped and inspired me."

Rose, who is studying for a Masters degree at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, will help her host organization <u>Sini Sanuman</u> to open a new training center in Bamako <u>and sell soap</u>. AP has

deployed 285 graduates from over sixty universities since the fellowship program began in 2003, and many have gone on to a career in human rights or development.

Eleven students are volunteering as Peace Fellows this summer (top photo) and several are on a personal mission, like Rose. <u>Ai Hoang</u>, who is studying at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, will spend six months in Vietnam <u>at the AEPD</u> working with families that have been devastated by Agent Orange. It will be Ai's first extended visit to Vietnam since she left at the age of nine.



Mattea Cumoletti, from the Fletcher School, will work with refugees in Greece

Rachel Wilson, from Arcadia University, will return to Kenya, where she served in the Peace Corps. Rachel will volunteer at the Children Peace Initiative, a new AP partner which resolves tribal conflict in the north. CPI purchases heifers for families on both sides of a dispute and asks them to manage the animals together.

Mattea Cumoletti and Allyson Hawkins, from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, will work with new AP partners on the front lines of the European refugee crisis. Ms Cumoletti will help the Greek Forum of Refugees to promote the rights of refugees in Athens. Ms Hawkins will help the Collateral Repair Project develop an

embroidery project with Iraqi and Syrian women refugees in Jordan.

Families of the disappeared are often ignored in the aftermath of conflict, and two Fellows will help family members to develop income-generating projects. <u>Megan Keeling</u>, a former Peace Corps volunteer now studying at the Fletcher School, will organize training for wives in Nepal through the Nepali network of families (<u>NEFAD</u>). <u>Daniel Prelipcian</u>, from Columbia University, will work through the <u>Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF)</u> to help Peruvian families of the disappeared stock and sell their lama wool.

Several Fellows will apply their energy to programs already supported by AP. <u>Amy Gillespie</u>, from New York University, will help the <u>Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU)</u> to install another accessible toilet for students with disability in northern Uganda. This year's project is funded through the online giving marketplace <u>Givology</u>.



"I'm worried about feeling lonely!" Morgan Moses, right, from Tulane University unburdened herself to Ash Kosiewicz during a podcast training for Fellows in May. Morgan will help to screen village women for uterine prolapse in Nepal.

Lauren Purnell, from Johns Hopkins University, will build on last year's program by helping CONCERN to place another 25 brick children in school in Nepal. Also in Nepal, Dorothy Khan from New York University will work with girls in the district of Surkhet where her host, the Women's Reproductive Rights Program, campaigns against early marriage.

Morgan Moses, from Tulane University, will help <u>Care Women</u>
<u>Nepal</u> to screen village women for uterine prolapse in the district of Dhankuta. Morgan will accompany several women to prolapse surgery next week and help manage a health camp in July. She captured the feel of Dhankuta in a lively recent blog.

Prior to their departure, AP provided a week of training for all Fellows. The expert trainers included Ash Kosiewicz, who himself served as a Peace Fellow in Peru in 2008 and now works at the World Food Program. Click here to listen to Ash's podcast interview with Fellow Morgan Moses.

- * Donate to our fellowship program here. Global Giving will match donations on June 15!
- * Click here to meet out wonderful interns, who are backing up Fellows from Washington
- * Read the early blogs of this year's Peace Fellows by <u>clicking on their photos here</u> please add a comment!
- * Click here to see photos from the Fellow training, held at Georgetown University
- * Click here to meet the 2016 trainers.

Thanks to Humanity United for supporting our fellowship program and to the Peace and Collaborative Development Network for re-posting our bulletins.



