

Peace Fellows to Take on Agent Orange, War Rape and Plastic Pollution

- New [AP website](#) will support 2014 Fellows and their hosts -

Dealing with the devastating impact of Agent Orange in Vietnam. Helping survivors of war rape in Mali to recover and learn a skill. Eliminating plastic bags from a Uganda slum.

These are some of the campaigns that will be launched this summer by 12 community-based organizations that partner with The Advocacy Project (AP), with help from graduate volunteers (Peace Fellows) and a new AP website. The Fellows were selected by AP from over 400 applicants and received training in Washington Last week.

AP has sent 253 graduates to work with community advocates since the fellowship program was launched in 2003. This year's Fellows study at 11 universities in Europe and the US, and include two former Peace Corps volunteers.

AP's fellowship program matches the skills of graduate students with the needs of partners, in the hope that they will work together to develop campaigns for social change.

While the campaigns are initiated and led by partners, past experience has shown that Peace Fellows can "think outside the box" and leverage new resources for their hosts.

With this in mind, [Seth McIntyre](#) from Brandeis University will help the [Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Vietnam \(AEPD\)](#) to develop a new program on Agent Orange. [Giorgia Nicatore](#) (Georgetown) will help Sini Sanuman in Mali to open centers for victims of war rape in Mali. [Kathryn Dutile](#) (Manchester University, UK) will help the [Gulu Disabled Persons Union](#) to lobby for accessible toilets in an area of widespread disability, caused largely by the LRA rebellion.



On their way: the 2014 Peace Fellows



Peace Fellow Silvia Irace presents on social media to other Fellows at training

[Katerina Canyon](#) (Tufts), [Sugam Singh](#) (Oregon) and [Richa Adhikari](#) (Wesleyan) will help three Nepali NGOs build a collaborative campaign to [combat illegal child labor in Nepal](#). [Silvia Anna Rosa Irace](#) (Georgetown, left) will help the [Ain Leuh weaving cooperative](#) to develop a center for Berber women's culture in Morocco. [Katie Baczewski](#) (Tufts) will work at Care Women Nepal, which seeks to make surgery more available to women with uterine prolapse in Nepal.

[Gisele Bolton](#) (Minnesota University) will help the [Vikalp Women's Group](#) to set up two women's courts for tribal women in western India. [Shannon Orcutt](#) (George Mason) will help the women of KIWOI to recycle plastic straws in the Kinowataka slum in Kampala. [TJ Bradley](#) (American) will introduce [advocacy quilting](#) to a former war zone in Peru. [Elizabeth \(Libby\) Jawish](#) (Grand Valley State University) will help the Democracy and Workers Rights Center campaign for a minimum wage for women workers in Palestine.

All Fellows, and most of their hosts are profiled in AP's new website, launched last week. In time, the site will carry pages on all past and present AP partners.

AP's second goal for this summer is to offer services that address the needs of partners. Known as "5x10" (five services in ten weeks) these draw from AP's experience in working with CBOs. They will cover non-profit management; fundraising; IT (websites); video and photos; and the media. This initiative is funded by [Humanity United](#).

Each partner will be asked to select two services, based on their needs. Their Fellow will then produce a number of deliverables (websites, content, proposals, strategic plan etc) that will increase productivity and create demand for the services after Fellows leave.



UMD Professor Robert Grimm (right) presents on nonprofit management at the 2014 training. Sugam Singh (front left) will be working with SWAN in Nepal.

"This is right on the mark," said Sugam Singh, one of this year's Peace Fellows, at training last week. "I have worked with CBOs, and found that lots have the same needs particularly IT and fundraising. Five by Ten would definitely help." Sugam, a Nepali national, is studying for a Masters at Oregon University. He will be working on child labor in Dang District, Nepal.

Among the experts who helped at last week's training were [Robert Grimm](#), director of the Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership at the University of Maryland (photo above), and [Emily Goulding-Oliveira](#), a fundraising consultant.

Fellows also heard last week from former Peace Fellows who have gone on to stellar careers. "I can honestly say (the fellowship) was the best and most useful experience at that stage of my professional life," said Ted Samuel, who volunteered with the Dalit in Nepal and is now finishing a PHD on anthropology at Maryland University.

- Meet the [2014 Fellows](#), follow their [blogs](#), comment, and [donate](#).
- Meet the [host organizations](#) and donate by clicking on the button on their page.
- Visit and comment on the [new AP website](#) and give us your feedback!
- Read the [front-page story](#) about Peace Fellow Gisele Bolton.