



From the Blogs

September 17, 2014

Thanks to Our Summer Heroes!

The work of 2014 Peace Fellows, told through their blogs

So far this year, AP has recruited eleven Peace Fellows to work for social justice in eight countries. Four are still deployed on long term assignments. We encourage you to [visit their blogs](#) and share your thoughts on their excellent work.



Peace Fellow Giorgia Nicatore (left) with Alpha Boubeye and Sitan Konate, from Giorgia's host organization Sini Sanuman in Mali

[Giorgia Nicatore](#) (Georgetown University) is working at [Sini Sanuman in Mali](#) with survivors of war rape. Giorgia tells the story of one survivor in her blog, *H3J1U*: "I was at home alone with my mum that Thursday, when two rebels showed up at our door with guns. My mum asked what they wanted, and one of the rebels pointed at me and said: *'That one - that one is what we want.'*" [Read more...](#)

[Gisele Bolton](#) (City University London) is helping [CONCERN](#) in Nepal to expose coercive child labor in the brick kilns of Nepal. In her blog *Income Generation Program*, Gisele describes how CONCERN helped one former child worker, Ramesh, to find rewarding work: "Ramesh now runs a small restaurant, making anywhere from 700-1,000 N.R a day (7-10 USD)." [Read more...](#)

[Jefferson Seth McIntyre](#) (Brandeis University) worked at [AEPD](#) in Vietnam, where he helped to survey 500 survivors of Agent Orange. Participating in the survey was an eye-opening and occasionally disturbing experience - as Seth explained in his blog *Father, Son and Granddaughter: Agent Orange through the Generations*: "The sight of me (a white, Caucasian, American male) sends Dung into a frenzy. He cries out in Vietnamese *'Don't let him arrest me! Don't let him arrest me!'* - a fully grown man thrashing his arms and screaming." [Read more...](#)

[Katerina Canyon](#) (Fletcher School at Tufts) worked with [CONCERN](#) in Kathmandu to reduce child labor in the brick kilns. Katerina's final blog, *Just a Girl*, describes the life of the child worker in a poem: "Not quite a woman; But carries the burden of a mother; Brick-laden, knock-kneed and hunch-backed; Age 8." [Read More...](#)

[Katie Baczewski](#) (Fletcher School at Tufts) helped [Care Women Nepal](#) to organize health camps and raise funds for prolapse surgeries. In her blog *Dispatch from a Health Camp* Katie writes: "I had the chance to see several cases of 3rd degree prolapse and it was even more horrible than I'd imagined. I talked to several of the women after their examinations and many of them had similar stories - they live in a rural area, never attended school, had children young. Almost all of them had had at least a couple children die." [Read more...](#)



Seth McIntyre (left) helped AEPD to survey 500 victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam



The 2014 Nepal Peace Fellows: Katerina, Sugam, and Richa (left to right) worked on child labor. Katie (far right) helped women with uterine prolapse.

my brother, he beat her so much that my brother was born with a disability. She did not want the same thing to happen to me..." [Read more...](#)

[Shannon Orcutt](#) (George Mason University) is helping [KIWOI](#) in Uganda to campaign for the elimination of plastic bags from the Kinwataka slum in Kampala. In her blog *Overcoming the Challenge of Plastic in Uganda*, Shannon writes: "Here in Kinwataka, kids climb trees above giant trash piles and play in them without a care in the world." [Read more...](#)

[Sugam Singh](#) (University of Oregon) helped SWAN in central Nepal to develop a project to prevent girls from going into domestic service. Sugam's blog, *Delusional Altruism*, describes his fascinating encounter with a woman who employs a young girl, against the law: "I work in an NGO and know the appalling conditions that exist," says the woman: "We are not like THOSE people. There are people out there who mistreat girls, but we are not like those people." [Read more...](#)

[Richa Adhikari](#) (Wesleyan College) worked with [BASE](#) in Dang district to build a new website and profile working children. In one blog Richa profiles a girl who was sent out to work by her desperate mother to escape domestic violence: "My father was always drunk... When my mother was pregnant with

[Kathryn Dutile](#) (Manchester University, UK) is helping the [GDPU](#) in northern Uganda to build accessible toilets for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Kathryn recently surveyed PWDs on the accessible bus park toilet and found that the toilet had "made people feel safe and avoid disease." Most public toilets are in dreadful shape: "Water is flooding everywhere. People leave their droppings anyhow." [Read more...](#)



Peace Fellow Shannon Orcutt (right) has helped Benedicta Nanyonga, the founder of KIWOI, to launch a campaign against plastic in Uganda

[Silvia Rosa Irace](#) (Georgetown University) helped the [Ain Leuh Weaver's Cooperative](#) in Morocco to set up a nonprofit association and develop a center for Amizigh (Berber) weaving. The center will be opened to tourists in 2015. In her blog, *Delving into ancient traditions*, Silvia writes about dyeing wool: "Like witches preparing a potion, we proceeded to immerse the yarn into wanwoori, a tree that is typical of Ain Leuh region and whose leaves are used to obtain a mustard-yellow hue." [Read more...](#)



Silvia Rose Irace (lower right) helped the Ain Leuh weavers to set up a cultural center in Morocco

[Thomas Bradley](#) (American University) is helping the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) to expand its program of field schools for practitioners of transitional justice. In his blog *Mama*, T.J. describes how one woman saw her husband for the last time before he was kidnapped and killed by the Shining Path in 1989: "They were led away to a hut and badly beaten. The men, including her husband, were separated so they couldn't speak with each other." [Read more...](#)

- [Cook with Silvia](#) and members of the Ain Leuh weavers as they prepare traditional Moroccan couscous
- Meet families affected by Agent Orange through Seth's [photos](#)
- [Meet rescued child laborers](#) in Nepal, profiled by Richa

We are grateful to Humanity United for supporting the fellowship program this year, and to the Peace and Collaborative Development Network (PCDN) for re-posting our blogs and bulletins.

