



NEWS BULLETIN 267
TUESDAY JUNE 9, 2015

Peace Fellows to Tackle the Legacy of War and Disaster



Undaunted: The 2015 AP Peace Fellows.

[Maya Washington](#) is no stranger to emergencies, after being evacuated from Kenya while serving with the Peace Corps. This summer she is taking on another difficult assignment as a Peace Fellow for The Advocacy Project (AP) in Nepal, where she will help to organize a health camp for rural women in an area that is still reeling from the recent earthquakes.

"It'll be a challenge, but I'm up for it" she said after completing a week of training by AP in Washington DC.

AP has deployed 264 Peace Fellows since 2003. Although this year's program has opened on a somber note following the earthquakes in Nepal, the emergency has also underscored the importance of AP's community-based partners like [Care Women Nepal \(CWN\)](#), which is hosting Maya this summer. CWN has credibility and contacts in Dhankuta district and will draw on both in organizing the health camp. Maya will help CWN to manage the project and develop a long-term plan for more camps.

Six of this year's Fellows will tackle the legacy of war - in Vietnam, Bosnia, Peru, Mali, Nepal and Vietnam. Sarah Reichenbach, from George Washington University, will help widows cope with the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia and has already [blogged movingly about these remarkable women](#). Sarah's host organization, [BOSFAM](#), hopes to display its unique collection of memorial quilts at the scene of the massacre.



Maya Washington from Brandeis University will help Care Women Nepal to organize a health camp.

[Mariel Sanchez](#) worked on refugee resettlement in Houston before entering the Masters program at the Fletcher School. This summer she will help the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) organize a field school for practitioners of transitional justice in Ayacucho - scene of Peru's "dirty war" against terrorism.

[Dustin Pledger](#) (Brandeis University) will conduct similar work in Nepal with [NEFAD](#), the network of families that lost members to disappearances during the Maoist rebellion. NEFAD has insisted that the government create two truth commissions, but many fear these plans will be put on hold following the earthquakes.

[Armando Gallardo](#), from the University of Peace (photo below) will tackle another persistent remnant of war in Vietnam, where he will help the [Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities \(AEPD\)](#) to design a program for victims of the herbicide Agent Orange.

In another conflict-related fellowship, [Refilwe Moahi](#), a national of Botswana who recently graduated from Brandeis University, will work with survivors of armed sexual violence in Mali. Refilwe's host organization Sini Sanuman will offer training in soap, clothes-making and embroidery to 150 survivors as a way to earn a living and as therapy.

Apart from conflict, the other main themes for this year's fellowships are women and children. [Josh Levy](#) (Columbia University) will help the Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU) to [install an accessible toilet for students with disability](#) at the Tochi school in northern Uganda. [Katie Conlon](#) (Ohio University) will work at the Palestinian House of Friendship, where she will promote literacy among children in Nablus and produce an advocacy quilt.

Also in Nepal, [Joty Sohi](#) (City University of London) will work with CONCERN to identify poor children who are likely to [work in brick kilns](#), and enroll the children in school. [Kenza Elazkem](#) (University of Peace) will help the Tilsa Women's cooperative in Morocco to attract tourists and preserve Amizigh (Berber) weaving traditions.

These projects are intended to jump-start larger programs and also strengthen the host organizations. For the first time, AP is also providing seed money. A current [AP appeal through Global Giving](#) has so far raised \$6,820 for Nepal, while Peace Fellow Josh Levy has raised almost \$4,000 for his project in Uganda [through gofundme](#). Inspired by his example, all 2015 Fellows will post a crowd-funding page for their host organizations.



Armando Gallardo (University of Peace) will work with victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam

- * Meet the [2015 Fellows](#)
- * Donate to [AP's appeal for Nepal](#)
- * Donate to [Josh's appeal for the Uganda toilet program](#).

Thanks to Humanity United for supporting our fellowship program and to the

Peace and Collaborative Development Network for re-posting our bulletins.

