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Peace Fellows to Confront the Legacy of Conflict in Asia, Africa and the Middle East



Picture perfect: Peace Fellows Kirstin and Vicky polish their photography skills at training in Washington

Undeterred by upheavals at home and abroad, [nine resolute students](#) will volunteer for The Advocacy Project this summer as Peace Fellows in Vietnam, Nepal, Uganda, Kenya, Lebanon and Jordan. All but two will work with survivors of conflict.

"This will be exciting," said Vicky Mogeni, a Kenyan-born student at the Fletcher School (Tufts University) who will work with relatives of the disappeared in Nepal. "I hope to do a lot of learning!"

Several Fellows will work on innovative campaigns that are funded through AP. Lauren Halloran (Middlebury Institute of

International Studies) will help the Gulu Disabled Persons Union to build an accessible toilet for students with disabilities at the Ogul School in northern Uganda.

Jacob Cohn, from the Fletcher School at Tufts, will help the Association for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Vietnam to manage livestock projects for families poisoned by Agent Orange. [AP has funded four families over the past year.](#)



Nepali hosts: Prabal Thapa, left, is the first AP Associate to work with Peace Fellows. Sarita Chetri's father disappeared during Nepal's civil war

local university student (AP Associate) to support their Fellow in the field. The first Associate, Prabal Thapa (photo), studies at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Prabal will accompany Kirstin Yanisch (Georgetown University) and Vicky Mogeni while they work with relatives of the disappeared in Bardiya and Kathmandu.

Also new this year, AP has recruited Alberto Gimenez directly through the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, as a first step towards building a long-term relationship with academic programs. Alberto will serve at Peace Labs in Lebanon, which helps communities to manage religious tensions and the influx of refugees from Syria.

Several of these programs will be funded through [AP's Nepal campaign on Global Giving](#), which has yielded over \$24,000 to date. Fellows will also post their own appeals. Reina Sultan (University of California) has already raised money for her host organization, the Collateral Repair Project in Jordan, which supports refugee women from Syria and Iraq.



Asking the tough questions: Ash Kosiewicz was one of 14 professionals who trained Fellows in Washington

In Nepal, Rachel Petit (Sciences Po) will work in the remote district of Dhankuta, where her host Care Women Nepal screens women for uterine prolapse. Also in Nepal, Cynthia Boruchowicz, who is studying for a PhD at the University of Maryland, will accompany field officers from CONCERN as they follow up with [50 children who have been rescued from brick factories](#) and placed in school.

Talley Diggs (George Washington University) will help the Children Peace Initiative in Kenya to promote conflict resolution among warring pastoralists in northwest Kenya.

In a departure from past years, host organizations have agreed to recruit a

Fellow in the field. The first Associate, Prabal Thapa (photo), studies at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Prabal will accompany Kirstin Yanisch (Georgetown University) and Vicky Mogeni while they work with relatives of the disappeared in Bardiya and Kathmandu.

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This year's cohort brings to 294 the total number of students deployed since the fellowship program began, and several former Fellows were on hand last week at training. They were a reminder that international service can lay the foundation for a stellar career in peace and human rights.

One trainer, Ash Kosiewicz (photo), [served as a Fellow in Peru in 2008](#) and developed a passion for blogging. Today Ash uses his skills to make podcasts about hunger for the UN World Food Program. AP has profiled other success stories [on this page](#).

This year's team will be backed up from Washington by Karen Delaney, AP's fellowship coordinator, and three talented interns - Talia, Brianna and Natalie - who are earning credit from their universities.

Our thanks to the many donors who have supported our fellowship program, directly or through Global Giving. [Click here to donate.](#)

Thanks to Humanity United for supporting our 2017 program and to the Peace and Collaborative Development Network for re-posting our bulletins.

