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## 31 PEACE FELLOWS TO VOLUNTEER WITH COMMUNITY ADVOCATES IN 18 COUNTRIES

May 29, 2007, Washington, DC: 31 graduate students from American universities will shortly be leaving to volunteer with community-based advocacy groups in 18 countries, including Afghanistan, Nepal, Bosnia, Bangladesh, Guatemala and the United Kingdom.

The students have been recruited under Fellows for Peace, the internship program of the [Advocacy Project \(AP\)](#) which supports advocates for social justice and human rights around the world. They completed 3 days of training here last week.

This year's fellows were recruited from over 170 applicants and are almost double the number of interns recruited last year. AP sees this as a sign that young Americans are keen to engage with the rest of the world as friends and partners, at a time when America's role in the world is being widely questioned.

"They really are ambassadors for peace," said Scott Allen, a retired banker who serves on the AP board. "They're setting a wonderful example. We're very proud of them."

This year, as in the past, fellows will be posting weekly blogs, and most will be working with long-standing AP partners. But eight organizations will be taking fellows for the first time, including the Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO), which advocates for the blind in Bangladesh; the Afghan Institute of Learning in Peshawar, Pakistan; Undugu, which works for street children in Nairobi; and the Dale Farm Travelers in the UK, who face imminent eviction from their land.

Four fellows will work in the Middle East, with the Alternative Information Center and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Jerusalem), the Women's Affairs Technical Committee and the Democracy and Workers Rights Center (Ramallah). Two fellows will work with Supporting Kids in Peru (SKIP), a group which helps poor families to secure primary education for their children in the poor neighborhoods of Trujillo, Peru.

Also for the first time this year, four fellows are being deployed in rural Nepal for the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP), a network that which will be organizing its local members for Constituent elections later this year.

In another new feature, all fellows are being asked to find an outreach partner in the US that will follow their blogs and promote the work of their host. Devin Greenleaf (American University) and Ted Samuel (Georgetown) will be sending back information

about cast discrimination from the Jagaran Media Center in Nepal to the Nepali-American Society for Oppressed Community (NASO), a Dalit advocacy group in Arlington, Virginia.

Alison Morse (Tufts), will be working from Bosnia to help her host organization, Bosfam, participate at a commemoration of the Srebrenica massacre in St Louis on July 11. The event will be organized by the Bosnian diaspora.

Jennifer Hollinger, (Georgetown) will be working in Albania for the group Churches against Sex Trafficking in Europe (CHASTE), while Leslie Ibeanusi (George Washington) and Michelle Lanspa (Georgetown) will be supporting the anti-trafficking work of Transnational AIDS Prevention among Migrant Prostitutes in Europe Project (TAMPEP) in Turin.

As well as building bridges between civil society in Italy and Albania, the three fellows will also report back to their outreach partner, the Zonta Women's Club in Washington, which is seeking to learn about innovative anti-trafficking initiatives.

Ten individuals or small foundations have agreed to sponsor fellowships, thus providing fellows with a stipend and offsetting some program costs. They include the actor Kevin Bacon, whose online initiative Six Degrees enabled AP to raise \$5,000 in donations.

AP is also using the fellowship program to partner with others who share AP's commitment to supporting community-based civil society. The Institute for Sustainable Communities, in Vermont, is recruiting two peace fellows to help Macedonian partners use information in their advocacy. AP has also recruited students from the universities of Tufts, Columbia and American, which have signed agreements with AP.

- Follow the 2007 Peace Fellow's [blogs](#)
- To sponsor a fellow, visit The Advocacy Project [website](#)

AdvocacyNet is a service of The Advocacy Project (AP) that is offered to advocates working for human rights and social justice at the community level. AP is based in Washington, DC. Phone +1 202 758 3328. For more information visit our website <http://advocacynet.org/> or email us at [dcoffice@advocacynet.org](mailto:dcoffice@advocacynet.org).