



People Power

The Advocacy Project strengthens community-based advocacy



Curbing armed sexual violence in the Congo: AP partnership with *SOS Femmes en Danger* (DRC) and *Zivik* (Germany) rents land in South Kivu where women can cultivate together and in security. This reduces the pressure on women to work in the fields alone and far from home, where they are exposed to rape by armed groups. (Photo – *Walter James*)

THE ADVOCACY PROJECT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

www.advocacynet.org

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*This report is dedicated to the memory of Suvash Darnal,
Dalit leader, defender of human rights in Nepal,
committed Board Member of The Advocacy Project.*

1. Mission

The Advocacy Project (AP) was registered as a 501c3 organization in Washington DC, in July 2001. AP has a human rights mission. Its goal is to help marginalized communities around the world take action against the root causes of their disempowerment - in a way that benefits society as a whole and produces social change.

We do not initiate partnerships, but try to respond to requests – particularly when they come from small groups that lack allies and urgently need to raise their profile. We believe strongly that those who are directly affected by social injustice are best equipped to take action. Information is their first and maybe their greatest need.

The Advocacy Project works abroad through Peace Fellows (graduate students and young professionals) who volunteer with our partners and give generously of their time and talent. We view them as a valuable resource and are committed to encouraging international service on behalf of human rights.

Snapshot of 2011

- **Marginalized communities:** AP worked with 26 communities in 2011
- **Partners:** AP supported 26 CBOS in 2011
- **Telling the story:** AP produced 15 bulletins and digests; 427 blogs; 107 videos and video profiles; 3,382 photos
- **Putting out information:** AP Fellows trained 14 “accidental techies” in partner organizations and worked on 7 partner websites. 244,426 individuals visited AP online (Flickr photos and AP Website)
- **Outreach and fundraising:** AP helped to raise \$321,499 for partners
- **Campaigns for social change:** AP supported six campaigns in DR Congo; Sri Lanka; Kenya; western India; UK; and the Roma communities of Europe
- **Peace Fellows:** AP recruited 30 Fellows from 26 universities or university programs
- **AP staff and volunteers:** 74 individuals worked with AP in 2011 - three received compensation.

2. From the Executive Director

2011 was, for AP, the Year of the Quilt. Initially, our goals were modest: to see whether any marginalized community would be prepared to produce blocks/panels for a quilt and line up quilters to help in the US. By the end of the year we had over twenty gorgeous finished quilts⁵, produced by artists in 10 countries and assembled by seven quilting guilds in the US. Four quilts were made by Roma communities in Kosovo, France, and the Czech Republic.

Partners: We continued to work with a rich-cross section of community-based civil society and sent Peace Fellows to 26 organizations. Over half have been AP partners for over five years. Four more communities, (excluding the Roma) approached us in 2011, demonstrating AP's appeal to the weak and vulnerable. They represented Mayan women in Belize, LGBTI in India, women in the slums of Kampala, and parents who have lost children to sacrifice in Uganda.

Programs and social change: We invested heavily in two partnerships in 2011. One program, with the Home for Human Rights (HHR) in Sri Lanka drew to a close, while other, with *SOS Femmes en Danger*, in the DRC, intensified. Walter James took over from Ned Meerdink as our field officer in South Kivu, and endured death threats, malaria and typhoid with aplomb and resilience. Walter build on Ned's work with risk reduction by overseeing construction of a water well in Mboko, that relieved the need for women to travel long distances in search of water, where they might risk attack.

Fellowships – Focus on Universities: We deployed 30 Fellows, a slight increase over 2010 and partnered with three leading universities – Oslo, Ottawa and Georgetown. One feature of this year's program, described below, was the rich inter-cultural friendships built between Fellows and their hosts.

Money and administration: After downsizing in the wake of the 2009 financial crisis, we saw many benefits in remaining a lean organization! This meant working with the same core budget as in 2010 while continuing to raise funds (\$321,499) for partners. We were deeply grateful to Pamela Omidyar for supporting two Fellows from her former university, Tufts, and discovered two generous source of funding in the US government's Combined Federal Campaign and the World Bank's Community Outreach program, both of which allow employees to contribute to NGOs. Five partnerships – in DR Congo, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Nepal and India – generated income for AP.

We remain deeply fortunate in our staff and network of friends. Karin Orr, who had worked as a Peace Fellow for AP in Peru the previous year, took over from Erin Lapham as program manager. As in previous years, we employed eight excellent interns from Washington universities.

Our board continued to provide valuable support, although we suffered a grievous blow when our Nepali Board member, Suvash Darnal, was killed in a tragic car accident while visiting Washington. This report is dedicated to his memory. Suvash had faced down Maoist guerrillas and gone into hiding to escape arrest during the King's crackdown in 2005 in his own country. His death - on a Washington motorway – was a bitterly ironic postscript to a brilliant career. He will be deeply missed by his friends at AP and human rights advocates everywhere.

Iain Guest

3. The Challenge of Marginalization

Marginalized communities have been disempowered by conflict, poverty, discrimination and racism. Most of all they lack a voice. AP seeks to provide them with one.

Several new communities sought out AP in 2011. They included Mayan Indians in Belize whose see a threat to their livelihood in the Sarstoon Temash National Park; tribal women and people of transgender who face discrimination in the Indian state of Gujarat; Roma in Kosovo, France and the Czech Republic; women in the slums of Kampala, Uganda; and families in eastern Ugandan who have lost children to sacrifice.

AP worked for the following 26 communities in 2011:

- **Africa:** a) Survivors of sexual violence in East Kivu, DRC; b) People with disabilities in northern Uganda; c) Pygmies in Uganda; d) Child at risk from Sacrifice, Uganda; e) Recyclers in Uganda; f) Slum Dwellers in Nairobi, Kenya;
- **Asia:** a) Torture survivors in Sri Lanka; b) Women with uterine prolapse in Nepal; c) Vietnamese landmine survivors; d) Afghan women; e) Liberated child laborers in Nepal; f) Dalit in Nepal; g) Blind people in Bangladesh; h) Marginalized women in Malaysia; i) Waste-pickers in Delhi, India; j) Tribal women in Gujarat, India;
- **Europe:** a) Survivors of the Srebrenica massacre, Bosnia; b) Roma women in the Czech Republic; c) Roma women in Strasbourg, France; d) Roma women in Prizren, Kosovo; e) Roma women in Gračanica, Kosovo; f) Travellers in the UK;
- **Latin America:** a) Mayan Indians in Belize; b) Relatives of disappeared in Peru;
- **Middle East:** The Israeli Peace Movement;
- **North America:** Azerbaijani Political Prisoners in Iran (based out of Canada).

As in past years, these communities helped to underscore the many and varied faces of marginalization. Seven of the 26 communities have been deeply affected by **conflict**. Eleven communities are affected by gender discrimination, mainly against **women**. Several communities suffered from deep and persistent **discrimination**, ranging from caste discrimination in Nepal to the deep prejudice and exclusion that faces the Roma in Europe. We worked for **children** in Uganda, Afghanistan, and Nepal. Two new communities that appealed to AP in 2011 – recyclers in Uganda and Mayan Indians in Belize - underscored the close connection between **protecting the environment** and protecting the rights of people.

Disability is another cause of disempowerment and in 2011 AP worked with advocates for the blind in Bangladesh; war-disabled in northern Uganda; and landmine survivors in Vietnam. **Sexual orientation:** While some societies are growing more tolerant of sexual preferences, others appear to be moving in the opposite direction. In Gujarat, India, the LGBT community is under such pressure that transgender women (Females to males) and women who chose to live with other women are often disowned by their families.

Cultural practice: Finally, in 2011, we found ourselves again confronting practices that are justified as “cultural” but are in fact deeply abusive. In eastern Uganda, witch doctors earn large sums of money from killing children and selling their body parts. In western Kenya, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is still practiced, even though it is illegal. Another practice which preys on ignorance and superstition is found in

Western Nepal, where new mothers are banished to a dog shed, known as *chhaupadi*, because they are considered unclean.

4. Community-based Partners

AP supports marginalized communities by partnering with advocates who emerge from their ranks. AP worked with the following 26 community-based organizations in 2011:

- **Africa (7):** SOS Femmes en Danger in DRC; Hakijamii in Kenya; the Kakenya Center for Excellence in Kenya; United Organization for Batwa Development (UOBDU) in Uganda; Gideon Foundation in Uganda; Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU) in Uganda; Kinawataka Women's Initiatives in Uganda.
- **Asia (10):** Afghan Women's Network in Afghanistan; Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO) in Bangladesh; Backward Society Education (BASE) in Nepal; Women's Reproductive Rights Program (WRRP) in Nepal; Jagaran Media Center in Nepal; eHomemakers in Malaysia; Chintan Environmental Action and Research Group; Vikalp/Parma in India; Home for Human Rights Sri Lanka; The Association for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (AEPD) in Vietnam.
- **Europe (5):** The Bosnian Family (Bosfam) in Bosnia; The Dzeno Association in the Czech Republic; PROGRAEK in Prishtina, Kosovo; *Iniciativa 6* (Prizren); The Dale Farm Housing Association in the UK.
- **Latin America (2):** The Sarstoon-Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM) in Belize; The Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF) in Peru.
- **Middle East (1):** The Alternative Information Center (AIC) in Israel.
- **North America (1):** The Association for the Defense of the Azerbaijani Political Prisoner in Iran (ADAPP), based in Canada.

The power of personal experience: All but four of these organizations were founded, or are led, by individuals who emerged from the community and have been directly exposed to the same pressures. This gives them great motivation, and also credibility with their stakeholders. Kakenya Ntaiya turned into a pioneer for girls' education in Kenya after she was forced to undergo female genital mutilation by her father. Beba Hadzic was principal of the Srebrenica primary school when she was expelled from Srebrenica at the start of the Bosnian war in 1992. Marceline Kongolo started *SOS Femmes en Danger* in the eastern DRC after her father and brother were killed in front of her eyes. Few AP partners have been more motivated than Santos Labeja and his wife Leah. Together, they launched the Gideon Foundation after their five-year old son, Gideon, was murdered and sacrificed. They are now providing solace for other families and pressing the Ugandan government to eradicate the practice at the highest levels.

Priority partners: AP is able to work with a small number of priority partners on long-term campaigns which typically last for three years. In 2011 we collaborated on two campaigns, with the Home for Human Rights in Sri Lanka, with SOSFED in DRC-Congo (below).

Feedback from a partner: Benedicta Nanyonga is the founder and inspiration of the Kinawataka Women's Initiatives (KIWOI), which supports orphans and women in a Kampala slum. She received a first Peace Fellow in 2011. Late in the year she wrote to thank AP: "Greetings from Benedicta and the Children.

I always appreciate all the wonderful things that you have done for us as a family. I can only thank God for giving you such a big heart.”

5. Telling the Story (Producing Information)

The struggle against marginalization is first and foremost a struggle to be heard. AP works through Peace Fellows to help partners produce content about their work through news bulletins, blogs, research papers, video and photos. We also profile the work of partners on our website and YouTube pages, thereby introducing them to a new audience. AP greatly expanded its use of video in 2011.

News bulletins: AP’s partners may struggle to get heard but their work is often newsworthy. AP turns their news into bulletins which were sent out through our online news service, AdvocacyNet to 5,885 subscribers in 2011. We produced 6 blog digests summarizing the best blogs from Fellows, and the following 9 bulletins:

- [Village Chiefs Ease the Re-Entry Pains of Congolese Rape Survivors](#) (December 2, 2011)
- [Fear and Uncertainty as Dale Farm Travellers Face Eviction](#) (August 30, 2011)
- [Empowering Persons with Disabilities In Bangladesh, Uganda and Vietnam](#) (August 16, 2011)
- [Israeli Activists Challenge Israel's Anti-Boycott Legislation](#) (August 1, 2011)
- [Mladic Arrest Brings Little Comfort to Srebrenica Relatives](#) (July 7, 2011)
- [Congolese Army Deserters Blamed for Mass Rape of 170 Women in South Kivu](#) (June 28, 2011)
- [Thirty Peace Fellows to Support Community Advocates in 15 Countries](#) (June 7, 2011)
- [Quilters Unite Across Continents to Denounce Sexual Violence in the Congo](#) (May 20, 2011)
- [Kenyan Educationalist Rebukes US Congress For Rejecting Child Marriage Bill](#) (January 6, 2011).

Blogs: AP introduced blogging when the fellowship program was launched, in 2003, and every Fellow to go through the program has produced weekly blogs. These are archived and available on the AP site. Fellows produced 427 blogs in 2011. Walter James, who worked with SOSFED in the DRC-Congo for most of 2011, wrote the most blogs (62). Walter’s blogs provided one of the very few authoritative accounts of the politics behind sexual violence in South Kivu – an area that is largely ignored by the mainstream media. Together with Charlie Walker, who also went to work with SOSFED as a Fellow, Walter had a ringside view of the December presidential elections, which he described in his blogs.

Several other Fellows drew on their very considerable skills as writers. Amy Bracken is a professional journalist, and it showed in her blogging which was prolific and elegant. Blogging can also be therapeutic: Like several previous Fellows who went to work with the Alternative Information Center in Israel, Nikki Hodgson used her blogs to express her own sense of personal frustration at the Israeli occupation.

Blog comments: One important measure of the impact of blogs is the number of comments, and many Fellows built up a loyal following in 2011. They included Charlotte Bourdillon, who spent several months at the Kakenya Center of Excellence in Nairobi. Other comments were distinctly unfriendly. Susan Craig-

Greene continued to defend the Travellers of Dale Farm in her blogs right up to their final eviction, drawing the ire of readers (“Angry in England”) and provoking openly racist comments.

Profiles and Video: In telling the story of partners and their campaigns, AP relies heavily on video and has exploited the popularity of YouTube. Peace Fellows in 2011 produced 107 new videos on 24 organizations. AP provided a day of training in video photography and editing during the week-long training for Fellows in May 2011. We also contracted Megan Orr, a skilled video editor, to produce a series of short video films on the Congo project in late 2011. AP’s YouTube pages now carry over 350 videos.

Many Fellows showed flair and imagination in capturing the work of their hosts on video. Rebecca Scherpelz produced a moving film on people with disability in northern Uganda, *In Our Own Words*. Chelsea Ament, in Nepal, produced a hilarious video on travelling by bus with goats on the roof. Amy Bracken used video to document her work with Mayan quilters in Belize and complemented this with a beautifully-written blog on her struggle to engage the quilters. (Amy produced eight videos in total, providing a visual look at the park and its wild wife.) Charlotte’s profiles were reprinted on the website of her host organization, KCE, as agents of change.

Video and photos on the DRC: AP also produced a series of videos on the Congo project against sexual violence. One offered footage of women without commentary (“I Fear Nothing”). A second showed SOSFED renting communal fields, where women can work in security. A third film showed how the installation of a water well has reduced the distance women have to walk, and with it their exposure to rape. A fourth film covered SOSFED’s use of messaging to publicize the impact of rape. Peace Fellow Walter James provided commentary and context in all four films.

Several films also showed the Ahadi quilts in the making in the DRC. Two films profile women at work in the centers, making embroidered bags and blocks/panels. A third film profiles woman quilters in Maryland as they assemble the blocks/panels into quilts and come to understand the horror of what is happening in the DRC. In April 2011 the US Mission to the UN in Geneva produced a short video clip on an exhibition of quilts at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, which included one of the Congo quilts. AP also produced short films after the quilts were shown at Georgetown University at the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin.

These films did more than attract visitors to the AP and SOSFED websites. They helped to inform viewers and build a constituency for SOSFED and the Congolese woman. Anna McGuire, 11, was so inspired by AP’s films that she opened a website and raised \$600 for the woman. SOSFED used the money to buy two sewing machines. Later in the year, a group of students at the University of Massachusetts was inspired by Anna’s example to start their own web page and organize a showing of the quilts on campus. Their money was matched by the president of the university, helping to raise over \$2,000 for SOSFED.

Photos: Peace Fellows produced 3,382 photos in 2011, and many were of the highest quality. Among the most visited were the photos of Catherine Binet in Peru, Susan Craig-Greene in the UK, Charlotte Bourdillon in Kenya and Corey Black in Nepal. AP’s Flickr library contains 13,476 photos at the end of 2011, organized into 232 sets.

Tweets: AP posted 1,190 tweets during the year and had 394 followers by December 31. AP assigned an intern (Pegah Asgari) to write tweets from the blogs of Peace Fellows and several Fellows made good use of Twitter during the summer. Susan Craig-Greene put out scores of tweets during the eviction of the Dale Farm Travellers.

6. Putting out the Story (Disseminating information)

AP began providing IT support for partners in 1998, the year it was founded. Over the years, we focused more on explaining how IT could support their advocacy and on building demand for IT and on helping partners to maintain their IT tools. By 2011, the rapidly evolving technology had placed many more tools at their disposal, and AP Peace Fellows found a ready audience when they shared their enthusiasm for social media.

IT training: Our main goal in 2011 was to identify “accidental techies” from partner organizations, who instinctively understand IT but lack technical expertise. Sixteen Fellows worked with volunteers or staffers in 14 organizations, helping them to work on websites and develop social media. Peace Fellows worked on 6 websites during the summer, and set up 12 social media platforms in the summer of 2011.

AP online: AP also disseminates stories about partners through our online news service *AdvocacyNet*, on the AP website, and through social media. 137,252 individuals visited the AP site in 2011. During 2011 we posted 9,879 photos to Flickr, where they were seen by 256,224 viewers. By the end of the year, AP’s Flickr pages had received 488,255 views. Our videos (YouTube platform) received 101,274 viewers during 2011, bringing the total number of visitors to 253,170 by the end of the year.

Dissemination to the Media: During 2011, 29 articles were published by or about AP Peace Fellows. Nikki Hodgson produced 20 articles for her host, the Alternative Information Center in Jerusalem. Maria Skouras also wrote four articles about her host, the eHomemakers in Malaysia. Amy Bracken, a former producer for Public Radio International in Boston, produced two radio pieces for PRI’s *The World* and Radio Amdala in Belize about Leena Vernon, who had just translated the Belize national anthem into Creole. Peace Fellow Catherine Binet produced four articles for an online paper. Amanda Lasik’s photos about disability in Bangladesh were used by the European Union.

7. Advocacy Quilting

In 2011, AP drew several different quilting projects into a coherent program. Our goals were to offer AP partners another way of telling their story, build an international constituency for their work, generate funds, and promote their campaigns.

Inspiration from Bosnia: The inspiration for advocacy quilting stemmed from AP’s experience with our Bosnian partner, Bosfam. Bosfam’s members include several weavers who lost family members in the 1995 massacre and in 2004 AP purchased several hand-woven kilims from them to show them at events in the US. The exhibitions attracted press coverage and allowed AP to raise funds for the weavers.

In 2007, at AP’s suggestion, the Bosfam weavers turned their skills into producing a memorial quilt that carried the names of their lost relatives. AP launched the quilt on July 11 in St Louis, which has a large

population of Bosnians. Over the next two years, AP exhibited the quilt among the Bosnian diaspora across North America and raised over \$40,000 for Bosfam. Meanwhile, in Bosnia, the weavers continued to produce memorial quilts. They were able to exhibit 15 quilts at the scene of the massacre on July 11, 2010 - the fifteenth anniversary of the massacre.

Between 2007 and 2010, inspired by the Bosnian example, AP suggested quilting to other partners. Several responded: survivors of the Rio Negro massacres in Guatemala (2008); people with disability in north Uganda (2010); survivors of sexual violence in DRC (2010); and child laborers in Nepal (2010). The DRC project proved particularly inspiring because none of the women had produced handicrafts before and many were new to sewing. This is described in detail in the 2010 Annual Report.

During 2011, AP decided to turn these ad hoc projects into a program and create a process that could be offered to all future partners. Peace Fellows would clearly play an important role, and we included a session on quilting at our 2011 training for Fellows. The 2011 Fellows produced another 10 quilts and confirmed that quilting not only allows women to express themselves but also produces many other unexpected benefits.

Partners that made quilts in 2011: AP worked with two different groups in 2011: partners who had made quilts and wanted to make more, and those who were new to the concept. BASE, was in the first category. AP sent two Fellows to BASE in Nepal, Maelanny Purwaningrum and Chantal Uwizera, and together they produced three new quilts. Maelanny helped two groups of free bonded laborers – all children – to make two Love Blankets, while Chantal worked with villagers in the West of Nepal to make a quilt from hand fans (known as *byanas*) that are unique to the Tharu Another Fellow in Nepal. Chelsea Ament, returned to the district of Siraha to meet with women who had made painted tiles for the *uterine prolapse* quilts in 2010. She took video interviews with those artists who had not been interviewed the previous year.

In the second category, AP Fellows helped seven partners to produce quilts. Each came with a rich story: Clara Kollm, who volunteered with Chintan, in Delhi, purchased scraps of recycled material and then took these to a school for children of waste-pickers. She helped the children paint designs onto the material with felt pens and brought the blocks/panels back to the US at the end of her fellowship.

Amy Bracken in Belize was skeptical about producing a quilt until she happened to see Mayan women sewing exquisite designs during a visit to the village of Midway. She returned with an official from her host organization, SATIIM, and suggested that they make embroidered blocks/panels that would tell the story of the Sarstoon Temash rainforest. She recorded their non-committal response **in a hilarious blog**, but twenty of the women responded by sewing beautiful embroidered blocks/panels depicting wild life.

Our biggest push involved Roma women. Past quilting projects have shown that quilting brings out hidden skills and can be profoundly empowering to women who have no other form of expression. Inspired by this, AP wondered whether this might also apply to the Roma, who are among the most marginalized people in Europe. We approached friends at the Council of Europe and won their agreement to support a pilot project with a small group of Roma who lived outside Strasbourg, France. The women were sadly typical of many Roma in Europe: they had been expelled to Romania and returned to France where they

depended for their livelihood on begging and even prostitution. The office of the Special Representative for Roma at the Council agreed to help, and Peace Fellow Kelly McBroom oversaw the process. By June the team had produced a wonderfully colorful quilt, named after the Council's campaign against Roma discrimination ("Dosta!"). This was displayed at the Biennale in Venice.

Encouraged by the success of the Dosta! quilt, AP then turned to other Roma communities. Working through partners in Kosovo and the Czech Republic, we located Roma activists in the towns of Gracanica and Prizren (Kosovo) and Mimon (Czech Republic) and sent two Fellows to work with them. Once again, none of the three groups had experience of embroidery or handicrafts. But working with local artists they all produced beautiful quilts – the first ever produced by Roma.

The last partner to take up quilting was the Kinawataka Women's Initiatives (KIWOI), in Kampala. This was the KWOI's first year as an AP partner. Their mission is to collect and recycle straws, which they wave into straw bags. We asked our fellow (Scarlett Chidgey) to explore the possibility of making a quilt of straws. After many false starts, the women wove over 1000 straws into a large mat and produced several paintings on the bark of palms trees, which they then attached to the straw mat.

Peace Fellows and quilts: Peace Fellows have been the catalysts for quilts ever since Yvette Barnes, a student at Georgetown's Business School, helped the weavers from Bosfam in Bosnia to produce their first memorial quilt in 2006.

Eleven Fellows worked on advocacy quilts in 2011: Kerry McBroom (France Roma); Samantha Hammer (Kosovo); Beth Wofford (Czech Republic); Amy Bracken (Belize); Sarah Kolm (Chintan, Delhi); Scarlett Chidgey (Uganda); Cleia Noia (Kenya); Charlotte Bourdillon (Kenya); Maelanny Purwaningrum (Nepal); Chantal Uwizera (Nepal); and Chelsea Ament (Nepal). Every member of this exceptional cohort reinforced the message that was emerging clearly: the primary role of Peace Fellows is to create demand for quilting and coordinate the making of blocks/panels. Participants will take it from there.

Involving American quilters: Where possible we prepare blocks/panels (also known as tiles and blocks) in the south, and then turn to quilters in the north to assemble them into finished quilts. This ensures that the finished product will be spectacular and helps to build a constituency for the work for partners in the north. Much of the credit should go to Sylvia Bisangwa, who worked in the summer of 2010 with SOSFED in the DRC and helped rape survivors to produce no fewer than 120 embroidered blocks/panels. Sylvie also profiled the women online. This process is described in detail in the 2010 report.

Sylvie brought the blocks back with her to the US in late 2010, and divided them into two batches: violent designs on the one hand, and more gentle designs on the other. She kept the gentle designs and approached the Capitol City Quilt Guild in Michigan with an unusual request: would they assemble the blocks/panels into quilts? Meanwhile, in Washington DC, AP located another active and energetic quilting group – the Faithful Circle Quilting Guild in Maryland. The two guilds coordinated their work and produced six exquisite quilts. AP exhibited them widely in 2011, as described below.

We also returned to the Faithful Circle Guild for help in assembling the 40 or more blocks on uterine prolapse that were made in Nepal in the summer of 2010. Four dedicated members of the guild assembled

the blocks into 3 powerful quilts. A fifth quilter, Maria O’Haver, who has a national reputation, then finished the process off to ensure that each of the 40 blocks/panels was firmly attached to the backing. These two quilts were so large that they were not completed at the end of November 2011.

AP also found quilting guilds to assemble the wastepicker blocks/panels (Rhode Island), the Belize blocks/panels (Rhode Island), and two Maasai quilts (New Jersey and Indianapolis). One of the Roma quilts (from Gracania) began to come apart, so this was sent to South Carolina to be reassembled.

By the end of 2011, AP had worked with seven American quilting guilds and come to an important conclusion – assembling the quilts was almost as informative and empowering for the American quilters as for the women who produced the blocks/panels. Onalie Gagliano, from New Jersey, wrote: “Thank you! And thank you for the opportunity to work on it... it touched my heart in a way you can't imagine!” Also, in assembling the quilts we were also building a constituency for partners in the south – an exciting and entirely unexpected outcome.

Quilts as Outreach: During 2011 AP organized a series of events around quilts in Europe and North America that showed how quilting can complement human rights advocacy. The first event took place in Geneva at the spring meeting of the UN Human Rights Council and featured two of the early quilts, from Bosnia and the DR Congo. The quilts were located at the entrance to the Council where they attracted the attention of delegates. The theme of the exhibition was women in conflict. It was organized by Quilt for Change, a new AP partner organization and launched by the ambassadors of the UN, Canada and the head of the UNFPA office in Geneva.

After the Geneva exhibition, AP took the Congo quilt to Berlin for the tenth anniversary of Zivik, the German organization which supports SOSFED’s work in the Congo. Marceline Kongolo, the director of SOSFED, was also invited to Berlin. AP then showed all six Congo quilts together at Georgetown University and took them to the UN in New York. This produced a commitment from UNFPA to show the quilts in early 2012.

The DRC quilts also featured at an event at the University of Massachusetts in November 2011. This initiative came from UMass students, who found AP online. They created an online page for donations and – with a matching grant from the University President – raised over \$2,000. AP showed all six quilts before more than 100 students. The students also sewed their own quilt in a touching gesture.

In September, AP organized two showings of the BASE Love Blankets (on child labor) in Washington, at American University and the Church of the Pilgrims. The events were opened by the director of BASE, Dilli Chaudhary, who was visiting Washington. The response to the quilts, and to Dilli’s presentation, was so enthusiastic that it strengthened the partnership between BASE and AP and encouraged both organizations to start work on developing a program to end the servitude of child and bonded laborers. Meanwhile, in Norway, Maelanny Purwaningrum showed one of the Love Blankets that she had made in the summer as a Peace Fellow, to her class.

The following month, October, AP exhibited the Roma quilts in Grenada Spain, at the third International Congress of Roma Women. The invitation came from the Council of Europe, which also invited Emilie

Horackova, one of the Czech quilt makers. Emilie used the occasion – and the quilt – to denounce discrimination against Roma in her country, where 33 Roma had been murdered since the fall of Communism. Emilie’s entry into the world of international Roma networking at Grenada was another welcome but unexpected outcome from our quilting work in 2011.

In November, the Institute for Community Research in Hartford Connecticut organized a showing of hand-woven kilims (Bosnian carpets) that were made by former Bosnian refugee women now living in the Hartford area. They asked to hang one of the Bosfam quilts, and sent \$400 to Bosfam.

Rounding off a remarkable year for quilting, AP organized the first-ever showing of the three Nepal uterine prolapsed quilts in Washington in November. The event also featured a first showing of the Butonde quilt from Uganda, made out of recycled straws. The event was attended by members from the Washington club of Zonta, which has supported AP’s quilts, and several of the quilters who put the quilt together.

Quilting and social change: In early 2011 AP partnered with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on a quilting project with Roma. AP’s Executive Director, Iain Guest, visited Strasbourg and pitched the idea to the Special Advisor on Roma Issues at the Council. Together, they then took one of the Congolese quilts to a group of Roma caravans on the outskirts of Strasbourg, where eight families had been living precariously for some years. Most were from Romania, and had come to France in search of better economic opportunities. Most of the women relied on begging for their livelihood.

The Council then gave a small grant (6,000 Euros), which enabled AP to recruit Kerry McBroom, a former Fellow who was living in France. Kerry located a local artist and a Romanian interpreter and organized a first meeting at the caravan site. It was not a success. Curious husbands and drunken strangers came by to look, much to the embarrassment of the women. They all decided to move to a room at the Council of Europe, where they worked in a spirit of companionship under the watchful eye of Kerry and Eleni Tsetsekou from the Council.

Several of their blocks/panels depicted the lives of Roma women in harsh detail. One showed a police raid and deportation. Another showed shortages of food and medicine. Several showed begging, and domestic violence. Like the women in the DRC, these Roma artists used quilting as a tool of denunciation. But their blocks/panels were exquisite. The quilt took its name from a striking central panel, which carried the word Dosta! – meaning enough in Romany. Dosta! is also the name of a campaign by the Council.

The Dosta! quilt was no sooner completed, in June, than it was much in demand. The Council of Europe showed the quilt in its atrium, where the Council’s Deputy Secretary General, Maude de Bocacio, met with the weavers to congratulate them. The quilt then travelled to Venice, where it was exhibited in the Roma Pavilion at the famed Biennale. Ms de Bocacio attended the opening and framed her address around the quilt.

At the urging of the Council the mayor of Strasbourg agreed to provide the quilters with housing and a work permit. Eleni Tsetsekou, from the Council, summed up this important result: *“I can confirm that all of the women who participated in our little project have been relocated with their families by the City of Strasbourg to a new site just behind the station. They have water, electricity, washing machines etc. The city government is seeking a way*

to integrate them into commercial life, through a training and apprenticeship in French. All the children are in school and none has dropped out. The people at the Mayor's office who are managing this are impressed by the civility of our Roma partners. So for the moment, the news is all good."

This signal achievement came about the time that the Dale Farm Travellers were being expelled in the UK and showed that advocacy quilting could produce some very positive outcomes. The director of the Human Rights Center at Norway University wrote to say: *"This is quite remarkable. Will you be following this over time?"*

The Council of Europe expressed delight. Irene Weidemann, from the Council's Cultural Department, wrote: *"I would like to congratulate and thank you for the great work you had done for the Quilt work in Strasbourg, but also in Kosovo and Czech Republic. I find the artistic work excellent. The women have a real talent. I am also impressed at the concrete impact the quilt in Strasbourg had on the municipality for the benefit of the women and their families."* Maude de Bocacio wrote: *"This is really great!"*

The Council, unfortunately, was unable to build on this strong start, but AP took the initiative and recruited another two Fellows to work with Roma communities in Kosovo and the Czech Republic in the summer of 2011. Samantha Hammer went to Kosovo, where she helped coordinate two quilts; and Beth Wofford went to the Czech Republic, where she identified a group of friends in Bohemia willing to make a quilt. By the end of the year, all four Roma quilts were part of a set. It was the first time ever that Roma women had participated in such a project.

We saw another type of impact from quilting in Belize. As noted above, Peace Fellow Amy Bracken had been unimpressed by the quilting concept during training. She then saw some Mayan women sewing, and underwent a change of heart. Shortly afterwards, Amy visited the village of Santa Teresa in Belize to seek recruits for a quilt. Initially, the women were skeptical, and Amy wrote a wonderfully graphic blog about how they came around.

But the real eye-opener for Amy was how quilting together gave these women a chance to break the mould of gender relations: *"We were all surprised by how beautiful the blocks/panels turned out to be and by the effect the process had on the community. It's a tiny village but many of the women had never had a chance to get to know each other because they spend so much time at home looking for after their husbands and children. This project belonged to them and they were really excited about it."*

By the end of the year, it had become clear that quilting was more than just a way of telling the story. It was also a builder of friendships across continents, a tool for advocacy, an act of witness against cruelty, a source of income and – as in Strasbourg and Belize – a way to effect change.

But many questions still remained. How could quilting be sustained? Could it generate an income for the artists and quilters? AP had tried and failed to find a sustained market for the Bosfam carpets in Bosnia - but we did produce a set of greeting cards from quilt designs for the December 19 event, and they sold well. AP also asked the two Fellows in the DR Congo, Walter James and Charlie Walker, if they would help women make some experimental bags. They found a tailor in Uvira and Charlie returned with several colorful bags. This, too, seemed promising.

Another fascinating question was whether quilting could help to heal the wounds of war? Clearly, women who have suffered a great trauma find it comforting to sew together and swap stories. But can this produce long-term benefits. Can it even be integrated into humanitarian aid?

Hopefully, these and other questions can be answered in the future. In the meantime, women all over the world were no doubt surprised at what they had managed to produce. Emilie Horácková in the Czech Republic, wrote to us: *“We are looking forward to further cooperation. Women are eager. Still I query whether this will continue. I'm the one I started to work too much fun and interesting, it's a great experience for me. I have space to devote to embroidery, which I'll implement the various activities (sic) - a club where mothers will meet regularly and finding common solutions to change.”*

8. Building an International Constituency

AP's location in Washington and our network of contacts, put us in a strong position to lobby for partners and amplify their message internationally. During 2011, we reached out to several new constituencies in the US, starting with American quilters. In addition, we met with visiting delegations.

Human Rights Advocates Program (Columbia University). On November 3, Stefanie Grepo, from HRAP, visited AP with 9 prominent advocates from the Global South who were enrolled in the HRAP program. They included Evis Mbembe Binda, Co-founder and President of the Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights in Rwanda, who requested partnership and a Peace Fellow in 2012.

US State Department: AP gave three briefings on the AP model and on advocacy to advocates who were visiting Washington at the invitation of the US Department of State. The first briefing occurred on June 29, with three advocates from Thailand. On August 4, we met with a 4-person delegation from civil society in the Kyrgyz Republic. On September 21, we met with Mr. Hendra Fadli, Coordinator for the Aceh Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence, from Indonesia.

Universities: AP visited several leading universities to review the Fellowship program and discuss AP's model: Columbia, Tufts, University of Maryland, Georgetown, Oslo, Georgetown Law School, Ottawa, and New York University.

Outreach using quilts: AP showed the **Ahadi (Congolese) quilts** at the Center for Global Affairs, at New York University; the UN Population Fund (UNFPA); the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva; the tenth anniversary of Zivik, in Berlin; Georgetown University; and the University of Massachusetts. AP showed the **Roma quilts** at the second annual conference of Roma Women, Grenada, Spain; and the Venice Biennale. AP showed the **Mahalako Swastha (Nepal) quilts** in Washington (December 2011); the Faithful Circle quilters, in Maryland; and The New England Textile Museum, in Lowell, Mass. The **Nepali Love Blankets** were exhibited at the Church of the Pilgrims in Washington (November); American University (November); Georgetown Law School; and the Bureau of Democracy, Labor and Human Rights (US State Department.) AP showed the **Srebrenica Diaspora Memorial Quilt** at the Connecticut Cultural Heritage Arts Program Institute for Community Research in Hartford, Connecticut. See above for more on quilting as advocacy.

Partners: AP organized meetings at the US State Department for Sherine Xavier, the director of Home for Human Rights in Sri Lanka; and for Dilli Chaudhary, the founder and president of BASE in Nepal. AP's Executive Director also participated in a panel meeting at the National Endowment for Democracy, to remember Suvash Darnal, tragically killed in a car accident in August.

9. Fundraising for Partners

AP raises funds for partners by connecting them to donors, drafting proposals and transferring funds. Between 2003 and 2011 we raised \$2,280,716 for 25 community partners. Of this, \$321,499 was raised in 2011, directly and indirectly:

Direct - \$223,876 for partners. This included all funds that were earmarked for AP partners, and were raised by the efforts of AP, Fellows, or friends and transferred through AP:

- Sri Lanka (*Home for Human Rights*) - \$78,825.00
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (*SOS Femmes en Danger*) - \$149,874
- Nepal (*Backward Society Education*) - \$1,196.26
- Nepal (*Women's Reproductive Rights Program*) - \$950
- Bosnia (*Bosfam*) - \$500
- Kenya (*Hakijamii*) - \$50
- Uganda (*Gulu Disabled Persons Union GDPU*) - **\$18,000**
- Bangladesh (*Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization*) - \$500.

As in 2010, Zivik was the largest single donor, followed by the US State Department, which transferred \$78,825 to AP and our Sri Lankan partner in 2011.

Indirect - \$90,000 for partners. This covers the funds raised by AP and Peace Fellows. Fellows provide their hosts with three months of free technical assistance. The cost of a fellowship averages out at around \$3,000, and is born by AP and by Fellows. During their deployment, many Fellows also worked on fundraising for their hosts.

Many programs and individuals gave generously to AP Fellows, starting with their own universities and followed by their families and friends. They are listed at the end of this report. As in past years, AP would also like to thank the Jennifer Jessica Cohen Foundation, a family foundation set up in memory of Jennifer, who died at the age of 25 from a brain tumor. Since 2000, the Foundation has given grants to 12 AP Peace Fellows. Many others gave generously.

GRAND TOTAL (2011): \$321,499

10. Taking Action for Social Justice and Producing Change

AP's inputs are aimed at helping partners to develop long-term campaigns that will eventually remove the causes of discrimination and produce social change. AP is able to develop and work on between 2 and 3 projects a year with priority partners, but we also urge all partners to try and identify the goals of long-term campaigns. In 2011, we supported several campaigns:

10.1 Reducing the exposure of women to war rape in the Eastern Congo

This partnership started in 2008. Since 2010, it has received funding from Zivik (Berlin) with money from the German Government. The budget for 2011 was \$138,000. AP recruited Walter James, who served as a Peace Fellow in the DRC in 2010, to serve as field officer in DRC. He was joined by Charlie Walker, another Fellow, in August.

AP's partner, SOS Femmes en Danger (SOSFED) runs two centers which take in survivors of armed sexual violence for 3 months. The women are then escorted home. In addition, the project uses small development projects to help women reduce their exposure to attacks by militia. AP raises funds for the program internationally by showing Ahadi quilts at events in the US and Europe. The project yielded the following deliverables/outcomes in 2011:

- Took in over 160 women into one of the two centers for three months of rest, rehabilitation and psychosocial care.
- Constructed a water well in the village of Mboko. This provides 800 families with fresh and reduces the pressure on them to travel long distances to fetch water. (Many women are attacked when fetching water.)
- Rented 40 hectares of land, close to the villages of Kikonde and Mboko, where the 170 women cultivated together and produced food for themselves and the centers. No repeat attacks have been reported on the fields in the past two years.
- Helped the 170 women return home and intervened, where necessary, with husbands and village chiefs to ensure that the women were received back into their families. Only one faced problems at home.
- Provide sewing machines for the two centers and provided training in sewing for women from Mboko and Kikonde villages. SOSFED and AP Peace Fellows produced 20 prototype bags, carrying blocks/panels woven by beneficiaries from the centers, that AP will try and sell in the US.
- Provided insights and commentary on the complex war in south Kivu, through the blogs of field officer Walter James and Fellow Charlie Walker.
- Produced seven video films on the project.
- Generated \$19,000 for AP's core budget.

10.2 Promoting Human Rights in Sri Lanka

This project began in September 2008 and ended on December 31, 2011. It sought to develop community groups in 15 strategic villages, and then work with "motivators" in the villages to organize development groups that could take on community actions and eventually lobby for human rights. The program was managed by AP's partner in Sri Lanka, the Home for Human Rights, and funded by the US State Department.

By December 2013, the project had achieved the following:

- Created 65 community development groups. (The European Commission and USAID funded an additional 50 groups)
- Deployed two Peace Fellows (Lauren Katz and Kerry McBroom)
- Funded 65 economic empowerment projects (milk cooperatives, seed banks etc)
- Created a model for human rights protection, and the recovery of torture survivors, under an authoritarian government. This was described in our interim report to the donor (August 2010)
- Scaled up: The State Department funded 15 village groups. The European Union and USAID then opted to support another 50 groups
- Arranged a briefing by Sherine Xavier, the HHR president, at the US State Department.
- Generated \$22,000 for AP's core program over 3 years.

10.3 Combating child labor in Nepal

AP has sent five Fellows to BASE between 2009 and 2011. The partnership has:

- Produced over twenty profiles of child and bonded laborers.
- Produced several videos, including one by our first Fellow, Kan Yan, that continues to generate donations for free child laborers.
- Produced 4 Love Blankets, made by freed child laborers.
- Brought Dilli Chaudhary, the BASE founder, to Washington in November 2011 to promote his work and meet with donors.
- Drafted an outline proposal for BASE to combat child labor and establish a High Commission on Child Labor.
- Generated \$2,300 for AP's core program.

10.4 Combating FGM in Western Kenya

AP's partnership with the Kakenya Center of Excellence began in 2009 with the deployment of two Peace Fellows and has burgeoned into an important partnership for AP. Kakenya Ntaiya is an inspiring Kenyan educationalist who offers a boarding school education to 94 girls in Western Kenya as a way to prevent them from being cut. The partnership has generated important outputs and outcomes:

- Produced hundreds of high-quality photos, which have been widely used by Kakenya and her partners
- Deployed a long-term Peace Fellow, Charlotte Bourdillon, who represented the project for most of 2011, managed the school, and kept Kakenya's Board informed of developments in Washington. Charlotte was joined by a second Fellow, Cleia Noia, for three months.
- Provided IT training on new computers.
- Remade Kakenya's website.
- Supported high-profile outreach events by Kakenya in the US, including: a) an appearance on [The Dianne Rehm show](#) (National Public Radio) with the World Bank President, following the release of a major Bank publication on women; b) headlining an event on 7 billion at the *National Geographic*, with Nathalie Imbruglia and other celebrities; c) Appearing in [the October 22 issue of The Economist](#); and d) spending a day in the company of UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon.

- Generated \$5,000 for AP.

10. 5 Fighting Discrimination against LGBTI people in Gujarat, India

In 2010, AP applied for funding from Georgetown University for a project to support the Vikalp Women's Group in Gujarat, India. Vikalp works on transgender issues and has helped to build women's courts for tribal women. AP submitted the application with the Community Justice Program at Georgetown Law School. Limited funding came through in 2011 and allowed the partners to:

- Send a team of four Georgetown students and a professor to Vikalp for 2 weeks.
- Help Vikalp to develop a methodology for surveying its beneficiaries, train Vikalp, and complete a first estimate of numbers.
- Send two students back in the summer to serve as Peace Fellows.
- Produce a strategic plan for Vikalp.
- Produce advisory memoranda on a range of transgender issues (weddings, divorces etc).
- Produce content for a new Vikalp partner page on the AP site.
- Produce blogs on Vikalp's transgender work.
- Generate \$2,000 for AP.

10. 6 Empowering survivors of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia

This program works with AP's oldest partner, the Bosnian family (Bosfam), to publicize the 1999 Srebrenica massacre, help massacre survivors return home, bring justice to the perpetrators and identify the missing. The program made important progress in 2011. Bosfam secured funding from a Slovakian donor to open a center in Srebrenica where women could meet, learn weaving, and socialize. It is the only such space for women in the town.

By the end of 2011, 55-60 women were using the center regularly, and several veteran Bosfam weavers (Magbula, Hajira, and Esmā) were providing training to other women. Also, the pace of returns was accelerating to villages around Srebrenica. AP sent two Peace fellows to help out at the center in 2011. Meanwhile, the Srebrenica Diaspora Quilt was displayed at several events in the US.

10.7 Supporting the Travellers of Dale Farm in England

AP began supporting the Travellers in June 2005, after the Basildon Council ordered 86 Traveller families evicted from Dale Farm. AP has invested heavily in their grass-roots campaign over the years, and helped to produce some significant outcomes:

- The first-ever sympathetic account of the Travellers, in the form of blogs written by AP Peace Fellow Zach Scott, who worked at Dale Farm in 2007. Zach's blogs generated more comments than any other Peace Fellow. Almost all of the comments were critical. Many bordered on racist.
- AP's second Fellow, James Dasinger (a former US Air Force officer) produced an assessment of the Travellers which showed they would be vulnerable to eviction. This was used by the legal team in appealing to the High Court.

- AP's third Fellow, Susan Craig-Greene, produced spectacular photos, transported Travellers, and procured essentials for them during the count-down to eviction.
- The British High Court heard two appeals from Dale Farm. The first case suspended the decision to evict and insisted that recognized minorities, like the Travellers, could not be evicted if they would be made homeless as a result. The second ruling reinstated the eviction order but retained this key provision.
- AP's videos on Dale Farm have attracted thousands of viewers.
- AP has produced several forceful bulletins, mapping the Dale farm campaign.

The Travellers were evicted on October 19, 2011. By the end of the year, they were living in their caravans next to their former yards (housing plots), in extremely unsanitary conditions. AP will continue to follow them.

11. Fellows for Peace

Peace Fellows enable AP to work directly with community-based partners, while building their own understanding of human rights and different cultures. By 2011 the program was in its eighth year, and had recruited 230 graduates.

a) Deployment: AP received 214 applications and deployed 30 Peace Fellows from 23 university programs to the following 19 countries:

Africa

- Walter James (University of Maryland) and Charlotte Walker (UK) worked with *SOS Femmes en Danger* in the DRC.
- Kristen Maryn (Georgetown Law) worked with *Hakijamii* in Kenya.
- Charlotte Bourdillon (Tufts University) worked with the *Kakenya Center for Excellence* in Kenya.
- Cleia Noia (Tufts University) worked with the *Kakenya Center for Excellence* in Kenya.
- Dina Buck (Denver University) worked with the *United Organization for Batwa Development (UOBDU)* in Uganda.
- Jamyel Jenifer, (Clark University) worked with the *Gideon Foundation* in Uganda.
- Rebecca Scherpelz (Butler University) worked with the *Gulu Disabled Persons Union (GDPU)* in Uganda.
- Scarlett Chidgey (Denver University) worked with the *Kinawataka Women's Initiative* in Uganda.

Asia

- Zarin Hamid (American University) worked with the *Afghan Women's Network* in Afghanistan.
- Amanda Lasik (University of California San Diego) worked with the *Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO)* in Bangladesh.
- Maelanny Purwaningrum (University of Oslo) and Chantal Uwizera (American University) worked with *Backward Society Education (BASE)* in Nepal.
- Chelsea Ament (McMaster University) worked for the *Women's Reproductive Rights Program (WRRP)* in Nepal.
- Corey Black (University of Edinburgh) worked with the *Jagaran Media Center* in Nepal.
- Maria Skouras (New York University) worked with *eHomemakers* in Malaysia.

- Clara Kollm (University of Maryland) worked with Chintan Environmental Action and Research Group in India.
- Samantha Syverson (Georgetown Law) and Meredith Williams (Georgetown University Law) worked with *Parma/Vikalp* in India.
- Lauren Katz (Georgetown University) worked with the *Home for Human Rights Sri Lanka*.
- Ryan McGovern (American University of Cairo) worked with the *Association for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (AEPD)* in Vietnam.

Europe

- Julia Dowling (Smith University) and Quinn Van Valer-Campbell (Monterey Institute of International Studies) worked in Bosnia for the *Bosnian Family (Bosfam)*.
- Beth Wofford (University of Maryland) worked for the *Dzeno Association* in the Czech Republic.
- Kerry McBroom (Cornell University) worked with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.
- Samantha Hammer (Columbia University) worked with PROGAREK in Prishtina, Kosovo.
- Susan Craig-Greene (Essex University UK) worked with the *Dale Farm Housing Association* in the UK.

Latin America

- Amy Bracken (Tufts University) worked with the *Sarstoon-Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM)* in Belize.
- Catherine Binet (University of Ottawa) worked with the *Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF)* in Peru.

Middle East

- Nikki Hodgson (Monterey Institute of International Studies) worked with the *Alternative Information Center (AIC)* in Israel.

North America

- Sarah Wang (University of Toronto) worked with the *Association for the Defense of the Azerbaijani Political Prisoner in Iran (ADAPP)*, based in Canada.

b) Long-term Fellows and teams: Walter James (DR Congo), Lauran Katz (Sri Lanka), Charlotte Bourdillon (Kenya), Maria Skouras (Malaysia), Susan Craig-Greene (UK), Zarin Hamid (Afghanistan), Chelsea Ament (Nepal) Corey Black (Nepal) Julia Dowling (Bosnia) Catherine Binet (Peru) all served for more than 6 months. Eight Fellows served on teams (Bosnia, western India, the DR Congo and Nepal (BASE)).

c) How they Lived - a Day in the Life of Fellows: Several Fellows produced lively videos on their day-to-day experiences: Charlie Walker opened her fellowship in the DR Congo with a simple but effective description of the tasks of a Fellow; Chelsea Ament produced a hilarious video on travelling in Nepal with a goat on the roof; Rebecca Scherpelz produced an elegant and moving video about disability in Uganda; Ryan McGovern's video portrayed his life in Vietnam with war amputees; Kristen Maryn depicted life in crowded Nairobi; Amy Bracken in Belize described her feelings at the news that her father had suffered a heart attack, luckily non-fatal.

d) Cross-cultural connections: 2011 emphasized, yet again, the cross-cultural nature of AP's fellowship program. The richest example probably occurred in Nepal, where Maelanny Purwaningrum, an Indonesian studying in Oslo teamed up with Chantal Uwizera, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide who now studies at American University in Washington, to work on child labor in Nepal. Cleia Noia, a former corporate lawyer from Brazil who is studying at Tufts University in Boston, worked with girls in Kenya. Ryan McGovern, a US veteran who had cleared mines in Iraq during his tour of duty, volunteered to work with war amputees - casualties of the US bombing during the Vietnam war; Sarah Wang, a Chinese-Canadian, worked for Azerbaijani-Americans in Vancouver, Canada. Dina Buck, of Korean background, again worked with pygmies in Uganda.

e) Qualifications and work themes: 2011 underscored, yet again, the rich life experience that Fellows bring to their host organizations. This was particularly true of three fellows who worked on disability. Rebecca Scherpelz (Uganda) and Amanda Lasik (Bangladesh), took time off from their full-time jobs, where they worked with mental disability to work with people with a disability. Ryan McGovern had first-hand experience of amputees during his work in Iraq.

f) University Partners: AP was able to develop solid partnerships with several leading university programs. This provided us with exceptionally qualified candidates, ensured that the partner organizations would receive long-term assistance, and generated modest income for AP. Oslo University covered the costs of Maelanny Purwaningrum's fellowship in Nepal and paid for AP's Executive Director to visit Oslo and make a presentation to students. As noted above, AP partnered with the Justice Project at Georgetown Law School to recruit two law students to work at the Vikalp women's group in Gujarat. This project also covered the costs of a visit to Vikalp by the Project director and 4 students – a valuable learning experience. Finally, the Ottawa-based Human Rights Internet recruited three students from Ottawa University to serve in its own fellowship program (funded by the Canadian government) and asked AP to take them on as Fellows. They were deployed to AP partners in Peru and Nepal for six months

g) Innovation and Adaptability: Several Fellows showed a remarkable ability to adapt to difficult circumstances:

- Beth Wofford (University of Maryland) arrived in the Czech Republic, only to be told that her host organizing was closing down. We asked Beth to locate a group of Roma women to make a quilt, which she was able to do. Beth also wrote insightful blogs on the situation of Roma in the Czech Republic.
- Samantha Hammer (Columbia) was another Fellow who was thrown in at the deep end in Kosovo. Asked to develop a relationship with Roma artists, again for a quilt, she was able to rise above organizational feuding and produced material for two exquisite quilts.
- Clara Kollm (Georgetown and Maryland) ventured deep into the slums of Delhi and helped children produce blocks/panels for another wonderful quilt.
- Chantal Uwizera was another Fellow with no prior experience of quilts, who went on a quest and produced a most unusual quilt from bamboo sticks and Tharu embroidery.

In all, eleven Fellows used their imagination to oversee the production of blocks/panels for a quilt. Quilting seems to bring out the best in AP Fellows – perhaps because it gives them a concrete goal and draws on the artistic flair that lies within many self-starters. Amy Bracken wrote of the satisfaction she felt at persuading Mayan women in Belize to use their sewing skills on a quilt: *“Yes, because I discovered from the quilt how much fun it can be to be part of something communal.”*

h) The value of a fellowship: Fellows are asked to evaluate their experience after returning home, and rate how it has affected their skill-set, academic plans and general behavior.

i) Skills; Academic/education; Behavior: Ultimately, we hope that the experience gained in a fellowship will be of benefit to our former Fellows in their careers, and we continue to help as we can. In 2011, as in past years, we wrote around 15 letters of recommendation. Kerry McBroom wrote to us after serving for AP in Sri Lanka in France: “This was definitely on my mind when I was deciding whether or not to take the Delhi job offer.....This is long term (minimum two years) job doing exactly what I want to do. Of course, there's no way I would have had the job offer without my AP experiences. Thanks again for everything.”

AP has now sent over 230 graduates out to work with human rights advocates since 2003, and also all have used the experience well, like Kerry. This is an important outcome, and while we do not formally measure it, we remain deeply proud of our alumni – particularly those who remain closely connected. Following in the footsteps of Stacy Kosko (Czech Republic, 2004) Karin Orr (2009 Peru), now manages the fellowship program at AP.

12. People at AP

Seventy-four dedicated people worked for the AP family in 2011.

- **Staff (3):** Iain Guest (Executive Director) and Karin Orr (Fellowship Coordinator) served on the AP staff.
- **Contractors (2):** Megan Orr edited several video films on our project in DR Congo; Meena Bishnoi from the firm of Revis, Jones and Maresca, helped prepare our audit.
- **Interns (8):** Our thanks to Erica Burdick, Laura Jones, Gordon Guay, Beth Wofford, Max Van Praag, Pegah Asgari, Kelly Payton and Jennica Sehorn who volunteered at AP during 2010.
- **Board (9):** Scott Allen; Mary Louise Cohen; Teresa Crawford; Suvash Darnal; Claudia Fritsche; Devin Greenleaf; Susan Martin; Bayo Oyewole; and Iain Guest performed their duties as Board members and contributed generously.
- **Quilters (22):** Our thanks to the individual quilters and quilting guilds that helped assemble quilts in 2011.
- **Peace Fellows (30):** As stated above, 30 Peace Fellows acted as short-term field officers for AP and allowed us to work directly with partners.

13. Feedback

From Benedicta Nanyongo, founder and director of the Kinawataka Women’s Initiatives (KIWOI) pictured below right: “I write to you this email with so so so much happiness. It is my honor to thank you for sending to our organization Ms Scarlett Chigdey who has been of too, too much importance. During her stay with us she helped Kinawataka Women Initiatives so so so so much that we never wanted her to leave us, but it was beyond our control. She is a very good person - very jolly, very

happy person very temperance person, very good at children and loving. It was really so good for our organization to get such a person to help us.”

From Scarlett Chidgey, KIWOI Peace fellow (pictured below, center): “I have to thank you so much for selecting me for this fellowship. I can't tell you how meaningful it has been to me. Benedicta even gave me a gomez (the traditional dress) as a thank you gift. I've grown really attached to the group and I want to continue doing outreach and helping with campaigns after I return to the US for sure, so you can count on my support.”



Financials (Year Ending December 31, 2011)

AP worked with a zero-growth budget, as in 2010. This continued to produce important benefits – greater focus, more efficiency, and lower administrative costs. AP’s overhead was 7% in 2011.

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Grants	\$229,132
Contributions	\$55,151
In-kind Contributions	\$62,460
Program Services	\$12,000
Rental income	\$11,265
Other income	\$4,117
Total Revenue and Support	\$374,125
EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$370,175
Total expenses	\$370,175
INCOME	
Individual contributions (below)	\$51,889
Foundations (below)	\$38,827
Corporate Contributions	\$50
Government Grants	\$193,506
NGO donations	\$12
In-kind donations	\$62,460
Contract Revenue	\$11,265
Miscellaneous	\$16,117
Total income	*\$374,125
- Fellowship Program	- \$24,968
- Partners	- \$199,594
- Institutional Support	- \$149,564
Total income	\$374,126
EXPENSES	
Salaries and benefits	\$103,749
Payroll taxes	\$3,064
Bank service fees	\$3,095
Business expenses	\$0
Insurance	\$2,803
Meetings and conventions	\$3,070
Office supplies	\$6,455
Postage and delivery	\$1,279
Professional Services	\$8,353
Rent and utilities	\$19,111
Staff development	\$60
Telephone and communications	\$2,950
Travel	\$19,400
Website services	\$835
Partners & fellow remittances	\$195,951
Total expenses:	\$370,175

With thanks to:

Foundations & other donors: America's Charities, Copyright Clearance Center, Department of Health & Human Services, Embassy of Liechtenstein, Georgetown University Law Center, Humanity United Fund, Human Rights Internet, Oslo University, The Brimstone Fund, The Council of Europe, The Institute for Community Research, The Journey Fund, University of Massachusetts, Verizon, World Bank Community Connections Fund, Zivik Funding Programme, Zonta Club of Washington Foundation.

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