

PeaceInsight

Never Again Rwanda Newsletter

2019 Summer PBI



never
again

— Rwanda —

About Never Again Rwanda

A peace building and social justice organization that arose in response to the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Guided by a vision of a society that enjoys sustainable peace, development and social justice.”

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2019 Summer PBI attracts 14

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Never Again Rwanda would like to recognise our partners GIZ, USAID, Swedish Embassy, NURC, Interpeace, Palladium and the European Union in supporting our work.

Disclaimer:

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Never Again Rwanda or their partner organisations.

International Peace-builders

By: **Hannah Wood**,
Assistant Peacebuilding Coordinator

Peace is engrained in every level of our society. As part of the PBI team, I have had a chance to learn and grow with a magnificent and inspiring group of young adults who are building and creating spaces for peaceful dialogue, grassroots initiatives for community cohesion, and socioeconomic development. From June 17th to June 28th 2019, the Peacebuilding Institute welcomed 14 participants

from different parts of the world including Rwanda, DRC, USA, Armenia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Gambia for a 2 week training to become global peace ambassadors.

For the 8th year, the PBI has provided a proactive space for young peacebuilders coming from a large scope of backgrounds and expertise to

discuss the consequences of genocide and extreme violence, the counter actions to instill positive peace structures and how they, as a global network youth, can make a difference. The 2019 PBI cohort members brought expertise, lessons, and fun from 15 countries spanning Africa, Europe and North America. I had the great opportunity to see the transformation participants went through at the Institute. I witnessed this change as participants grew to appreciate their differences and unique contributions to peace and how this network of youth and young professionals could be enhanced, growing beyond the confines of the two-week Institute to inspire additional peace

initiatives to be born.

The PBI challenges participants. The Institute pushes experts in their field of study to look beyond the borders of what they have heard, studied, and researched to see first-hand how a live post-genocide society is operating; it challenges Rwandans to dive deeper into the details of what occurred before, during, and after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, going beyond family stories and accounts from their secondary school history classes. The PBI allows regional participants a chance to visibly observe the ways that their cultures and practices are intertwined, bringing a sense of harmony to what can

sometimes seem like strict divides or borders between them. As a safe learning space, the PBI has built bonds and friendships while also breaking down barriers and stereotypes and this network becomes stronger each year.

Today, PBI alumni are starting their own organizations, drafting revolutionary toolkits and guides to peacebuilding in an equitable world, and leading trainings and clubs for peace and conflict management. The PBI has taught us all that our journey of learning is never finished, that regardless of where we come from, or what we have known, nothing is insurmountable with help from our network of global peace ambassadors.



VOX POPS

My 2019 Summer PBI Experience



"Although I am Rwandan, I learned things that I did not know during PBI. I got to learn through experience sharing about the approaches that are being used in societal healing and reconciliation in post-genocide Rwanda. I also learned more about how to deal with trauma through a session by Ms. Jane Abatoni. Additionally, I improved my understanding of the steps of genocide how to prevent genocide, mass killing, and other human rights violations. All of what we learnt inspired us to contribute to our societies (whether post-conflict or not) through peacebuilding initiatives."

– **Esther Mbonjubuhamya**,
University of Rwanda



"The Peacebuilding Institute showed me how Rwanda has a practical lesson to teach the world. Comparing how far Rwanda has come as a nation and the pace at which it is going gives me hope that we Africans can achieve something if we work together. The most valuable lesson I learned was related to women empowerment and The Role of Women in Peace and Security, which I think my country would greatly benefit from as we strive to achieve sustainable development."

– **Innocent Byringiro**,
Southern New Hampshire University
student from DRC



"The 2019 Peacebuilding Institute program has been an amazing experience. In my opinion, the site visits were the greatest part of the program. We visited two memorials: Kigali Genocide Memorial and Murambi Genocide Memorial. The visits caused a lot of extreme emotions and a lot of thoughts. The brutality and cruelty of the perpetrators shocked me but I strongly believe that everyone should face it in order to understand what genocide is and how it affects victims, their families, and the whole society. We need to understand that even though the Genocide Against Tutsi happened 25 years ago, there are still people suffering from it."

– **Małgorzata Myl**,
University of Silesia in Katowice
(Poland)



“As a health practitioner, when I came to PBI I was especially interested in learning about NAR’s approach to healing and how the program was piloted. Other topics we covered that were new, interesting, and demanding for me were the sessions on the UN Responsibility to Protect, The Role of Women in Peacebuilding, Developing Gender Sensitive Programs, and the Role of Education in Genocide Prevention. Site visits were educational and fun but the visit to the Murambi Genocide Memorial broke me. It is not that seeing the bodies was too much; as shocking as it was, I believe we need to be shocked in order to keep the reality of genocide alive and to make sure it happens never again.”

– **Natalia Love** ,
Bulgarian-American participant



“Personally, my experience from the activities of the 2019 Summer (PBI) was really a great one. The discussion on Causes and Stages of Genocide as well as Role of Education in Genocide Prevention were very useful to me. During the engagements, I understood the potential causes of genocide and other forms of conflicts. These include classification, issues around identity, scapegoating, and more. Learning these made me notice the emergence of some of these signs in my own country.”

– **Lamin W. Sanneh** ,
The Gambia



“As a youth and an aspiring journalist, I learned a lot about media which was used to spread hatred among people and now I believe that it’s my duty to use media as a connector and a bridge that brings people together so that what happened in Rwanda will never happen again.”

– **Nicole Giraneza**,
Rwanda



“Before joining PBI, I thought I knew what peacebuilding was. However, I realized that I only knew about peacebuilding in theory and how to write about it. After the two weeks, I now understand peacebuilding, conflict management and prevention, genocide causes, effects, and ways of prevention, my role in reconciliation, and eradicating genocide ideology. I am going to share whatever I got from PBI with young people that we are mentoring in Youth Impact Mission. I am sure together we are building a better Rwanda.”

– **Peter Nkotanyi**,
Rwanda

HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

No one is Free until we are all Free

Human trafficking, the modern day form of slavery, affects the lives of many people globally. It is against this background that NAR conducted comprehensive research on the situation of human trafficking in Rwanda. The research aimed to determine the scope of the issue of human trafficking in Rwanda and its characteristics and associated factors, in order to formulate evidence-based recommendations for strengthening the response to human trafficking locally and nationally.

On 19th July 2019, in partnership with IOM Rwanda and the Ministry of Justice through the support of USAID Rwanda hosted a national validation meeting of the research report on understanding the causes, effects and impact of human trafficking in Rwanda. During this validation meeting, the upcoming awareness campaign against human trafficking was introduced and attendees were briefed on how to prevent human trafficking or report human trafficking.

Human Trafficking has become a global issue and some of the root and driving factors include:

- Socio-economic circumstances,
- Family pressures,
- Youth unemployment
- Vulnerability of women.

Refugees are at a high risk for human trafficking; global literature reports that camps are often unsafe and increase exposure to risk factors, including human trafficking.

Facts and Figures

Did you know?

87.01%
of trafficked persons are youth

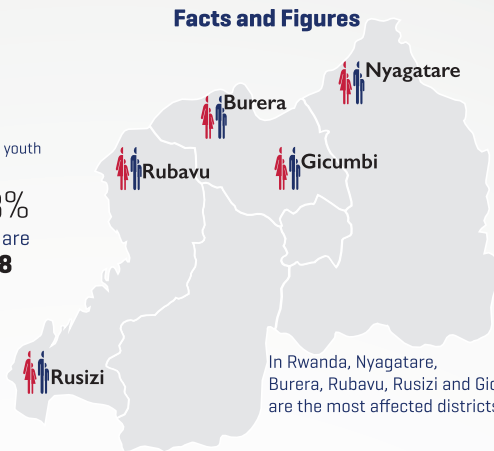


18.8%
of them are under 18

95.24%
of victims in Rwanda



[between 2016 and 2018] are female



In Rwanda, Nyagatare, Burera, Rubavu, Rusizi and Gicumbi are the most affected districts by TIP

How can you prevent human trafficking?

- Use media and social media to raise awareness on human trafficking
- Have discussions on human trafficking risks in all community dialogues

If you have any information about human trafficking, call the following Toll free lines:

- National police: **3512**
- Gender Monitoring Office: **5798**
- Prosecutor General: **3677**
- Gender Desk: **3945**

www.iom.int



Youth Voices

The essence of a platform for youth and by youth

One of the best ways people learn is through interacting and sharing life experiences. With youth being the majority of citizens, it is necessary that they have a platform to exchange ideas, life experiences, and challenges and aspirations, all for positive change. It is in this regard that Never Again Rwanda created the Youth Voices website and magazine as platforms to champion for youth opinions.

Ever since NAR was founded, it has been directly working with both schooling and non-schooling youths with the aim of empowering them with peace values, critical thinking skills, tolerance of diversity, entrepreneurial skills, social justice, respect of human rights, and democratic values. The content published on these platforms is thus in step with NAR's mission of empowering youth to become responsible citizens.

This is why the content shared via these platforms is written by youth and for youth, exuding youthfulness and relevance as it covers a range of youth affiliated topics, such as; teen pregnancies, sex education, life after school, campus experiences, human security issues, faith, art, and entertainment, among others.

As the youthful stage of life involves so many questions, doubts, and fears of dealing with life's realities and challenges, sharing experiences as youth can be a great source of motivation. Moreover, writing these experiences helps youth develop and improve their writing skills and on the other hand enhances a reading culture in young people, starting from youth friendly material.

Overall, having platforms for youth and by youth sparks interaction and connection that results in information and motivation towards positive change. Therefore, such platforms are of great need because they call upon youth to take an active role in their communities and being the positive change they want to see.



By: **Mary UMUTONI,**
Youth Voices Editor

Chris

NAR co-organizes women's congress in the Southern Province

Women constitute the majority of Rwandan Population but they face a number of barriers that range from lack of a voice in the decision-making processes, limited leadership opportunities, cultural exclusion, and interfamilial conflicts. Despite this, the Government of Rwanda continues to express a greater commitment to providing women with opportunities and empowerment across different sectors, but also to recognize their rights and values, which greatly contributes to the realization of gender equality.

It is against this backdrop that on June 28th, 2019, Never Again Rwanda, in partnership with the southern province and other partners co-organized the 'Annual Congress of the Members of the National Women's Council (CNF)'. Around 190 women from all

districts of the southern province gathered. The annual women congress aimed to shed light on crosscutting issues centered on the role of women in the fight against interfamily conflicts.

On behalf of all the partners, the Deputy Executive Director at Never Again Rwanda, Eric Mahoro pointed out that, "Civil society partners and the Rwandan Government need to build a strong collaboration with shared responsibilities and commitment towards good governance which is responsive to citizen's needs".

In his opening address, the governor of southern province, Emmanuel Gasana, urged women to take charge and fulfill their responsibilities in Rwanda's social transformation by participating

in finding solutions to interfamily conflicts and by raising their voices in the political decision-making processes.

He emphasized that, "When you want to be a responsible leader, you need to be dedicated and work hard to find solutions. In Rwanda's rapid social transformation, we all need to ramp up our efforts in tackling issues affecting families and the country at large".

The dialogue also featured a panel of various experts discussing the role of women in tackling issues facing families. Experts from Never Again Rwanda also delivered presentations on the role of citizens in the political decision-making process, the impact of trauma especially on women, and female participation in the fight against family conflicts.



Be the light
that helps others see

Building peace through

Art

By: **Latim Wathum and Benjamin Cyusa**
NAR's Graphic Designers

Arts have the ability to bring people together, promote positive behavioral change and foster conflict transformation through safe and creative means. One of Never Again Rwanda's main goals, as largely expressed by its Societal Healing and Participatory Governance for Peace Program, is to promote involvement in governance, the solving of conflict through dialogue, and discussions of past trauma amongst youth. Art can act as a non-verbal language for this because through various art forms, messages can be visually

communicated and thus made easy to understand and accessible to all.

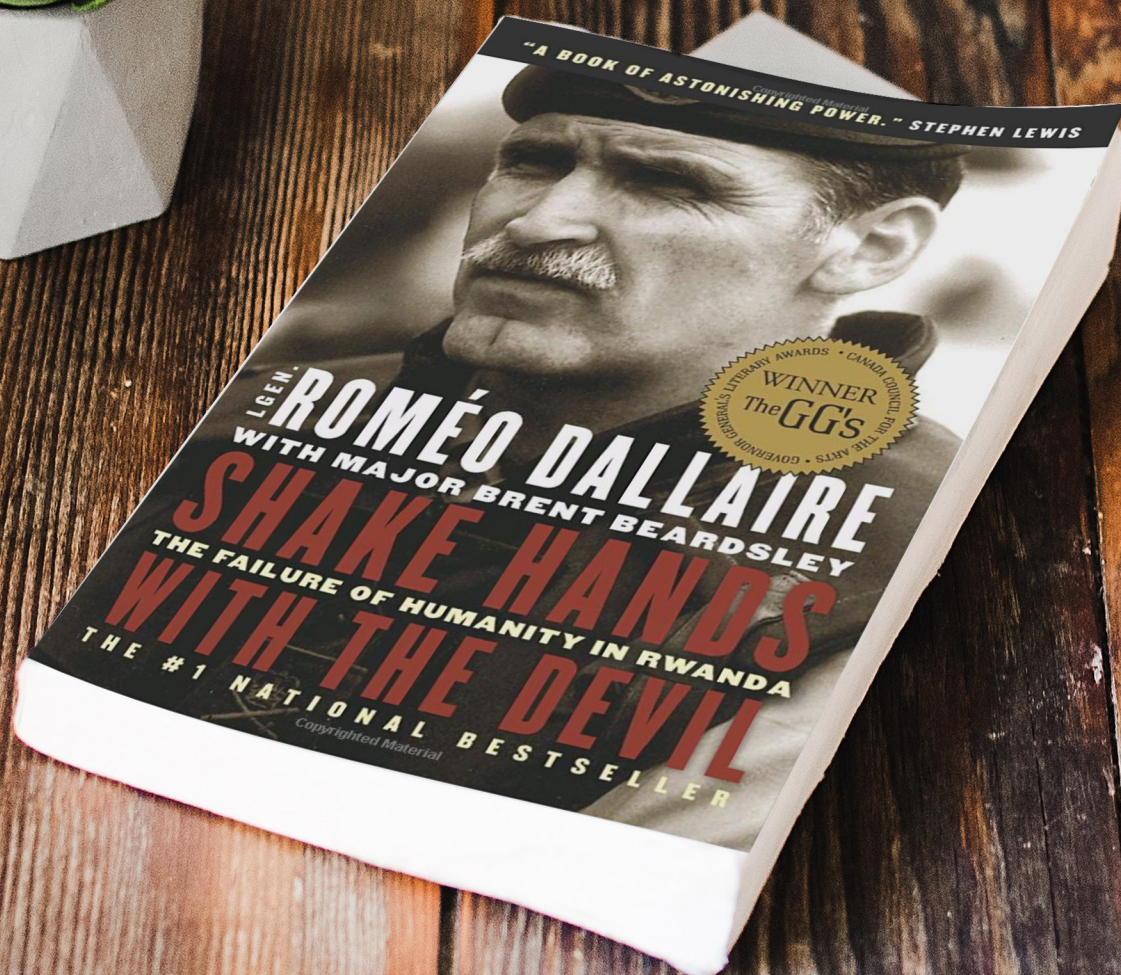
As graphic designers, our role is to take messages of peace, and simplify them by incorporating them into colours, patterns, and different elements that easily transmit the intended message. Graphic design is computer-aided art, and so can be difficult to do. This is why as a graphic designer, one has to make sure they understand the concept in order to avoid misunderstanding the message and then producing a design that sends the wrong message. Designs that send the

wrong message can be extremely detrimental to the intended audience and the society because they have the power to begin or escalate conflict.

Young and aspiring graphic designers should always make sure that their art is sending positive messages of peace because it is one of the most powerful tools of communication – meaning that it has just as much power to destroy, thus requiring the artist to be very responsible.

SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL: Roméo Dallaire

In *Shake Hands with the Devil*, Lt-Gen Roméo Dallaire vividly recreates the events the international community turned its back on. When he was called to serve as force commander of the UN Intervention in Rwanda in 1993, he thought he was headed on a straightforward peacekeeping mission. This book is an unsparing eyewitness account of the failure of the account of the failure by humanity to stop the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, despite timely warnings. Woven through the story of this disastrous mission is his personal account and journey from confident Cold Warrior to devastated UN Commander to retired general engaged in a painful struggle to find a measure of peace, hope, and reconciliation.



In our next
edition

May, 2019

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Transforming Education 2019



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