Peace nsight

Never Again Rwanda Newsletter

About Never Again

A peace building and social justice organization that arose in response to the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Guided by a vision of a nation where citizens are agents of positive change and work together towards sustainable peace.

Summer PBI 2018: Participants from Rwanda, USA. DRC. Benin. and France, come together to learn about peacebuilding.

PBI Blog Posts: Read from some of our participants on their journeys through the PBI.

O Spaces for Peace:

NAR begins phasing-out process for Spaces for Peace in different districts.



NAR hosts 18th

Peace-Building Institute





Kigali Gisozi Memorial: Participants took time to honour the memory of lives lost during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi at Kigali Genocide Memorial.

Studying the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi back home in the US, we have learned about the worst that humankind has to offer, but coming to Rwanda and learning about reconciliation and forgiveness, has also showed me the best.

PEACEBUILDING:

- Taylor Covey, Genocide Student, USA

Summer PBI attracts 18 International Peace-Builders

n June 18th 2018 the Peacebuilding Team launched the 18th bi-annual Peace-Building Institute. This year's Institute received over fifty applications from 17 different countries spanning across four different continents. Ultimately, 18 highly qualified university students and young professionals from Rwanda, DRC, Benin, the United States, and France were chosen to participate in the 2018 International PBI.

During each Peace-Building Institute, participants engage in experiential learning through visiting various different museums and genocide memorials in Rwanda, hearing from experts in the field of genocide prevention, and engaging in a variety of group projects. The aim of the International PBI is slightly different than that of the Regional PBI which takes place in February each year, in that it focuses more on providing students with a theoretical background and handson learning experience related to the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi than practical skills in creating peacebuilding initiatives in their home communities. Although both Institutes



during the 2 week programme.



This years International edition received applicants from

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Appreciation:

Never Again Rwanda would like to recognise our partners GIZ, USAID, Swedish Embassy, NED, NURC, Interpeace, European Union, and Ikiraro cy'iterambere in supporting our work.

Disclaimer:

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PARTICIPANTS' VOICE: What is your takeaway from this years Summer PBI?



Rowan Harrity, 21 United States of America

Studying the topic of genocide in a country only 24 years removed from the event is a surreal experience. As a foreigner often I feel like I'm treading where I should not. My mind has at times been lost in dark thoughts about the nature of humanity and the value of human life. Similarly, I have found myself astounded while hearing the testimonies of survivors and speaking to those who have reconciled and forgiven. In Rwanda I think I had seen one of the most beautiful parts of humanity - forgiveness. Having been in Rwanda for nearly 6 months, I see that there is something so undeniably human about genocide. What I've learned is that humanity is born neither good nor evil, but with tendencies towards both.



Orgene Rugwiro, 29 Rwanda

The PBI is a place where you become reenergized and at same time challenged, through brainstorming with some of the brave souls. one gets to learn a lot on great topics like the phases of Genocide, conflict analysis, conflict management, critical thinking and much more... All this makes you realize that change starts with you. What stands out though is the visitation of genocide memorials which leaves one with so many questions but at the same time makes one see the power of human beings, which is the ability to choose. It is same memorials that made me think of the fall and the rise of Rwanda on the account of a Rwandan politician verses a Rwandan leader. This made me take a historical journey so that I appreciate the factors that led Rwandans to seek to regain our sovereignty from the ferocious wolves or the dooms masters. The 1994 genocide is one that is very unique, and you can only understand that if you know the history of Rwanda and the Rwandan people.

cater to the same groups of youth, our summer sessions place a higher emphasis on theoretical frameworks related to genocide and mass atrocities prevention.

For instance, during this year's International PBI, participants were engaged in a multistage conflict management project where they were assigned a specific conflict and tasked to conduct a complete conflict analysis and create a context-specific conflict management plan. Over the course of two weeks, participants worked in small groups to analyze the conflicts occurring in Syria, Somalia, Myanmar, and South Sudan while developing a series of recommendations for Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR), transitional justice, and reconciliation practices based on the culture and context within each unique case. On the final day of the Institute each group was given time to present their project and lead a brief Q+A with the audience. The PBI Team was truly impressed by the presentations, the depth of research that each group had engaged in, and the passion that participants showed while discussing and defending their recommendations. We hope that the alumni from this group will be equally as successful and influential in their future endeavors as our graduates from the Regional PBI earlier this vear.

Here are some of the quotes from participants on their PBI experiences:

"Studying the genocide in the USA, we have learned about the worst that humankind has to offer, but coming to Rwanda and learning about reconciliation and forgiveness, has also showed me the best." – Taylor Covey, USA

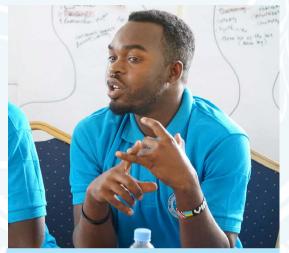
"While the individual impact we make might be small, as a collective we can make a huge difference. As a former peace corps volunteer, I feel like the PBI has strengthened my knowledge even further." - Hannah Wood, USA

"I have learned that It should be everybody's responsibility to build peace. Being a bystander can also lead to atrocities so we all have to be active." – Herve Nyirimihigo, Rwanda PI

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Summer PBI Participants Blog Posts

This years network of cohort of peace ambassadors penned blog posts throughout their journey as a way to reflect on some of the lessons learned and commitments towards the future. These blog posts offer a look into what students of the institute experienced over the two weeks.



I have learnt about critical-thinking and proper decision-making. This knowledge has helped me to understand how youth can make more of a positive impact on sustainable peace building in Rwanda and all over the world. **Viator Dusabimana. Rwanda**



Let's join our hands together to restore peace in our community and leave a legacy to the future generations. We should learn to co-exist and to accept each other regardless their background and differences. the real problem is not our differences but our inability to accept them on the contrary.

Herve Nyirimihigo, Rwanda

So far PBI has given me some ideas on handling some of the conflicts in the Great Lakes Region. We have seen the ways in which countries can build peace by promoting peaceful co-existence and ignoring tribal differences.

Arséne Wakilongo, DRC

Even though I have toured other countries and visited many genocide memorials, I am always deeply saddened to be reminded of how terrible human beings can be towards each other. The visits to Kigali Genocide Memorial and the Murambi Genocide Memorial were no different - we saw the worst of humanity and its impact on individuals, communities, and nations. Lisa Wiater, USA



OPINION:

Larissa Whego Great Lakes Program Intern - NAR

Participatory family education: 'A necessity for democracy and good governance in Africa'

itizen participation, in addition to being an important pillar of governance, is a civil and political right enshrined in the international architecture of human rights. Indeed, it offers citizens a framework for learning democratic principles and public debate in order to satisfy the general interest.

However, I think that the practice of the right to participation poses a number of challenges in Africa. Despite the efforts already invested in terms of democracy and good governance around the continent, the low level of inclusion of young people and women in decisionmaking processes at the local, national and international levels is a challenge that remains vital and needs urgent address. Youth are the leaders, the teachers and the parents of tomorrow, but also they ought to start today. To be good leaders, good parents or teachers, they require a minimum array of knowledge, skills and positive attitudes towards peace and development. Therefore, as the core agent of primary socialization, how can the family be a center for the acquisition of democratic and good governance values in Africa?

Through dialogue and inclusion, the family can become the place of promoting tolerance, respect for institutions, accountability, and freedom of speech, with full respect for human rights and civic responsibility. In such a context, parents have their roles derived from divine and cultural sources, but also recognized by law. However, children should not be taken as passive actors in their own education processes, if we want to produce citizens who understand their role in the society as well as their duty to participate in its management. In fact, children are not empty casks to be filled. They have skills that must be detected, and a personality that must be analyzed and sometimes channeled.



Promotion of good governance and enhancing citizen participation goes beyond the government sector and includes all relevant actors from the private sector and society, not forgetting the smallest unit 'The family'.

The participatory family education is therefore, an inclusive educational model and a catalyst for democratic values within families that aims to empower children and

young African citizens in order to eliminate the

saying "I choose my school discipline, my job or my spouse because of my parents and not by personal conviction or passion".

Finally, recognizing the role of the family as the channel of social values transmission where individuals are called to learn and participation and democratic exercise principles is a condition for making democratic and good governance values a reality in the African context. For that reason, States, Civil Society Organizations and parents should emphasize more on promoting childrencentered education mechanisms in order to enhance the creation of critically minded young people who are aware of the need to engage themselves in both the politics and peacebuilding processes within their communities. PI

> Larissa Whego is a Cameroonian, currently on internship with the Great Lakes Program at Never Again Rwanda. For feedback, please reach her at: whegolarissa@yahoo.fr

PEACEBUILDING:

NAR phases out of:

Members of the Karongi Space for Peace perform a short sketch portraying some of the wounding experiences shared by the members of their space.

Spaces for Peace and Healing

ever Again Rwanda has been implementing a societal healing program where different categories of psychologically wounded individuals were accompanied in the journey of healing.

Just like a patient is hospitalized and as s/he is recovering, doctors prescribe a discharge and organize a follow-up plan to assess the progress in the patient's recovery; similarly a breastfeeding mother reduces the regularity of breastfeeding the baby as she prepares it for weaning. This is the exact reason for a therapeutic phaseout process and it provides opportunity for both beneficiaries and facilitators to assess effectively the impact and how best they can navigate through the existing challenges. In this year's phase-out ceremonies, it did not only allow those aspects of healing to unfold but also created an opportunity for members of different safe spaces to showcase their achievements including but not limited to social-economic transformation, community outreach activities to the leaders around who then incorporate those members of spaces in their agenda. Additionally, it applauds for the unconventional means used in dealing with complex challenges and how total psychological healing has been attained throughout this milestone and the uniqueness in nature of approach used in terms of Psychological healing.

Case at hand can be traced in their testimonies and success stories that individual members of spaces shared during this period of phase-out. One of the cases that pop out is for a member whose hatred for the genocide perpetrators had enveloped him and the only comforting thing was to exterminate the genocidaires. He shared how much he has evolved since joining the safe spaces and particularly how he engages himself in initiatives that target helping the poor irrespective of their barbaric actions during the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994.

On the other hand, the testimonies given by genocide perpetrators during the phase-out ceremonies reminds us of the psychological suffering they're undergoing for example when a member in one of the spaces expressed how his involvement in genocidal acts has left him with devastating guilt, shame, and social isolation including in his own family. Being in the safe space did not only provide him with a belonging, it also instilled him with a sense of value and regained self-esteem necessary for humanity. These cases and among others that include children born out of rape, children born from mixed families, those born from perpetrator families but also the testimonies from other marginalized and psychologically traumatized groups such as historically marginalized, those who lived over 30 years in exile under devastating refugee

Spaces for Peace

Spaces for Peace dialogues are 'safe spaces' created for youth and community members to discuss their sensitive traumatic past and ignite the process of healing which would eventually contribute to social healing. In these 'Safe spaces' individuals such as these feel comforted. quoted. valued and safe to open up share and personal and sensitive stories and are facilitated by a local peace-building organization called Never Again Rwanda (NAR), through psychosocial support.

experiences, those who joined militias at a very young age and the unwed mothers whose unwanted pregnancy brought unto them traumatizing experiences from their families and communities.

These cases among others can only teach us that re-integrating the psychologically wounded individuals into the society as part of the objectives of the phase-out process of capacitating the "healed" to engage in health community interactions. It also reminds us that healing is a long journey and sometimes just like scars is susceptible to injury, psychologically wounded individuals are also susceptible to relapse and distressing situations and the need for a follow up by facilitators is inevitable but also the community at large from which these individuals reside. This justifies the need for a presence of community and local leaders in the phase-out process.

Remarkably, these phase-out events enable community members who question whether healing was possible and could even be a realistic thing to revisit their assumptions and this strategize the psychological healing.

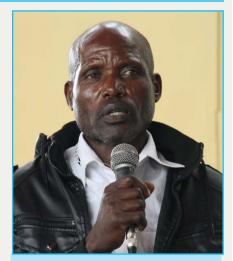


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Testimonies from Spaces



I used to fear talking in public and more often was very isolated from the society and historically marginalized а individual, I was very surprised to have been called up on to join the space and it's from this space that I gained value, a feeling as a human being, felt confidence and last month I was able to approach the children who used to demean my children and explained to them the impact of stereotyping and discriminating.



I had guilt, shame, and always felt depressed for not having anyone to share my story with. I was approached by a member to join the support group and since then I have found a place to cry. laugh and share my troubles. I appreciate NAR for having thought of me as a perpetrator and establishing this platform but would recommend more perpetrators should be reached out to and told the importance of joining a space for peace.



GOVERNANCE:

Inzira Nziza

Update

During a roundtable discussion in Huye, youth raised a number of issues they have noticed in their respective communities hindering development and satisfaction of citizens.

Roundtable Discussions: Elevating the voices of young people

nder Inzira Nziza project in different occasions, Never Again Rwanda provides platforms for youth and decision-makers to discuss about critical matters and concerns that affect youth participation in decision-making processes.

With the support of USAID Rwanda, Never Again Rwanda implements Inzira Nziza project in five districts: Huye, Gisagara, Nyamagabe, Nyabihu and Ngororero. Inzira Nziza has the objective of supporting youth to express and debate their views on democratic values, take leadership roles in political participation as they effectively promote and protect human rights and celebrate their diversities.

In its one year of experience, Inzira Nziza reached out to more than 400 youth champions and more than 100 local leaders to empower them and encourage them to foster participatory decision-making as a move to amplify young voices from diverse communities in the public decision-making processes.

Some of the platforms used are roundtable discussions and confidence-building session which provide young people with special opportunity to creatively share their critical ideas, perspectives and hopes about democracy, human rights and policy issues affecting them.

In roundtable discussions and confidence building sessions held in Ngororero and Huye Districts in June 2018, youth shared issues that impede them from to participating at local and national decision-making frameworks and fronted good practices that can address many issues affecting their lives.

In various discussions, youth unemployment and human rights issues were cited as

the major concerns that create a sense of vulnerability and inadequacy, which can lead to idleness among young people and lack of confidence. To ensure views and priorities of young people are effectively heard and considered in all decision-making processes, young people stressed the urgent need to address issues such as lack of budget to support their initiatives, exclusion from political spaces and policy formulation processes by local leaders. Youth reiterated that they had no opportunities to decide on the policies affecting their lives as their performance contracts are often prepared by leaders and call the youth representatives to simply sign them.

In a roundtable discussion held in Huye on 14 June 2018, Huye district National Youth Council Coordinator, Freddy Muvandimwe, noted that planning for youth policies and performance contracts [imihigo] will be developed based on the needs of young people and give up on the perceived negative trend of only having youth only involved in signing and implementing their imihigo without their inputs.

Mr. Muvandimwe urged youth to always develop action plans with key activities that respond to their needs and priorities because government is looking to increase funds to specifically support youth initiatives: "Youth should have the action plan available to inform decision-makers about their needs and priorities because, from next year, Government will allocate the budget to support youth activities".

In Nyamagabe, the district National Youth Council Coordinator, Marie Louise Mujawayezu reiterated that the budget to support youth



initiatives has increased from 3 to 16 million Rwandans Francs in the 2018/2019 fiscal year budget. "We had a retreat to examine youth activities and a resolution was made to allot 16 million rwfs for young people, especially those with limited opportunities, in a move to build their capacities and change their socio-economic status".

Making meaningful and effective youth participation in governance a reality requires the combined effort of local and national level. Inzira Nziza's contribution is to train youth and leaders to collaboratively work together on issues that youth identified as a priority for them, not what leaders decide without consulting young people.



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"we need to lay emphasis on existing platforms such as, Umugoroba w'Ababyeyi, public works (Umuganda), community dialogues as safe spaces for victimized people in community to deal with the wounds".

The Executive secretary of National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, Fidele Ndayisaba, called upon all actors to combine their efforts to reflect together and complement each other without competition in the healing journey. He noted that

Healing actors call for joint efforts to cover gaps in healing approaches

People are different, they get affected differently and their intervals to heal also happen at different times, reason why multidisciplinary approaches are pivotal for a post-genocide society like Rwanda. This was evident at a strategic meeting for actors in healing that was hosted by Never Again Rwanda (NAR) in collaboration with the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission on Wednesday. The meeting acted as a followup of a similar meeting that was convened last year in November brought together different actors in healing, who unanimously agreed that joint efforts are the key to healing postgenocide Rwandan communities. .

The meeting served as a space for discussion on the multi-disciplinary approaches of healing, ranging from group dynamics, group therapy, psychosocial, holistic, community, ltorero (mass), clinical support, individual and history education and how the integrated approaches will apply to the policies of unity and reconciliation as well as the mental health.

The different stakeholders identified gaps that could impede the realization of healing in our communities and these factors include; limited evidence, limited research and documentation, limited awareness of trauma in healing, limited trusted and safe spaces for victimized people in community to deal with the wounds, ineffective use of existing resources and structures available in communities and lack of healing spaces in schools and prisons. These gaps can be resolved in a joint manner with different actors adopting solutions that they are in their thematic areas.

While addressing participants, the Executive Director of Never Again Rwanda, Dr Joseph



Nkurunziza noted that the meeting aims to come up with a more harmonized and integrated approach that applies to healing in the post-genocide Rwanda and to build synergy among the actors.

"Healing of genocidal wounds requires partnerships among actors with diversified approaches to reach out to all categories of wounded Rwandese" He added

In his presentation, Dr. Darius Gishoma, Expert in Mental Health, emphasized the importance of establishing trusted spaces for traumatized people to be free to expose their wounds and to put more emphasis in measuring the outcomes and impact of healing interventions. Relatedly, a female participant raised the need for actors to train sector officials, community volunteer and social officials on healing.

Bamukunde Marie Anne, the representative of Ministry of Health emphasized the challenge of ineffective use of existing resources and structures available in community noting that: "We need the diversity of actors to deal with the problem; I call upon different peace actors and stakeholders to combine their efforts in developing develop a common understanding of healing approaches than to compete because this journey requires togetherness"

He also recommended actors to set up a steering committee that would be led by Never Again Rwanda, which would help actors to reflect together and, to work with the commission to identify policy gaps, improve plans, and budget.

The meeting is in line with NAR's program implemented in collaboration with Interpeace, supported by the Swedish Embassy and aimed to promote societal healing for peace.



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A Never Again Rwanda Newsletter

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About Youth Insight

A platform aimed at championing for the voice of the young people. Youth Insight is by and for the youth. If you are a youth, we invite you to send a poem, article, or an opinion on any anything in your community.

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Appreciation Never Again Rwanda would like to appreciate all our partners and the youth in all the corners of the country working hard and relentiessly towards conflict prevention and building postive peace.

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The contributions of the Youth during the Commemoration period

wanda suffered a great tragedy duing 1994 Genocide against the Tulsi but someone comparing the posl-Genocide periods respectively. can testify to a big difference between the two. The former are blamed for uing their energy to destroy the country by taking part in the 1994 Genocidy against the Tulsi while the latter are praised for helping to re-construct the once form nation. Nowadays, the youth have been They are activities vulnerabl during th

once torn nation. Nowadays, the youth have been playing a role in helping survivors of genocide during the commemoration period. One such example is Never Again clubs, youths who engage in peace building throughout the country.

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people fought for this nation so as bring back paced but then what is our role as the post genocide generation what as the post genocide generation what will clearly elaborate this. It is critical thinking for peoch and justice, we must have the attilude disposed to consider in a thoughtful way the consider in a thoughtful way the one's experience to build or shape the nation. It is through critical thinking is when you lend a helping hand, io to the the notion but a few the someone who is experiencing need of help negligible, discrimination, not to help negligible that the someone who is experiencing need of help negligible to the shaped need to the disting the the shaped helping hand, io the addition to that the youth and the full we generation, we should not stand and watch the denies and do notining about it we can actually change the

society Through Our own mindset of promoting peace and fighting against achievable, we can fight this battle of conflict and divisionism. I believe in peace: we can move forward how about you? You the youth the future of Rwanda, you the parents, leaders and conclusively. It is through ortifical thinking for peace that we can fight this battle against conflict, my dear brothers and against conflict, my dear brothers and sisters. dear mother and fathers let us join hands to advocate and fight for peace to make our societies a bier place free from thread and danger. Two hands, one heart, I, think our hands can do more than just hold a hand towel.

Rwagasana Felicien, S6 PCB, lycee de Kigali.

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Look out for our Youth Insight!

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In our next edition

July - August, 2018

Peace Insight

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