

## 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.”

### 02 EDITORIAL | 2019 Update:

This edition comes at a time when Rwandans and friends to Rwanda all over the world are commemorating the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi for the 25<sup>th</sup> time.

### 04 FEATURE | QUOTES ON MEMORY

I never believed that the genocide occurred. I thought everyone was lying to me because I could not understand how one could kill their neighbor. But when I visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial, I realized that the genocide really happened.

### 06 FEATURE | The Healing journey

25 years after the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, some of its effects still linger in Rwandan society



## Commemoration Edition

“ You, the youth are the country’s future. For you to ensure that ‘Never Again’ becomes a reality and for you to fight against the present forces of genocide denial and its revisionism, you must enhance your historical clarity... ”

Commemoration of the 1994 genocide  
Kwibuka 25 Engaging Youth in memory and healing  
April 2019 | 8c

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### Disclaimer:

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



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genocide deniers  
or ideologists  
unless you  
disqualify their  
false words with  
the truth.**

# Memory and Healing Engaging Youth to build a better future

Young people need a platform to voice their concerns on policy and practice of commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. It is on this note that Never Again Rwanda held the 8th National Youth Conference on the Policy, Practice and Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi on April 18th 2019. Youth

from diverse backgrounds and various stakeholders convened to discuss memory, healing and reconciliation. The conference's theme was "Kwibuka 25: Engaging youth in memory and healing: Building a better future." The theme was inspired by our experiences from our healing spaces and citizen forums.



In his opening remarks, NAR's Executive Director Dr. Joseph Nkurunziza Ryarasa called on youth to use every moment with the older generation to learn about the country's history and write about it for the sake of future generations.

"You, the youth are the country's future. For you to ensure that 'Never Again' becomes a reality and for you to fight against the present forces of genocide denial and its revisionism, you must enhance your historical clarity. You cannot silence genocide deniers or ideologists unless you disqualify their false words with the truth, which you can only know through interacting with the older generation, the survivors and rescuers and also reading available literature on the Genocide and the country's history."

Hans Bretschneider, Civil Peace Service Coordinator at GIZ lauded the Government

of Rwanda's efforts of setting up the framework for the commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi as it helps in dealing with the past and learning from its consequences.

Two panels shared experiences on the role of memory in commemorating the Genocide against the Tutsi. Each of the panelists discussed the importance of engaging youth in preserving memory. It was emphasized that intergenerational dialogue needs to be reinforced in order to sustain memory preservation. Panelists also highlighted the role of parents in memory among youth as vital pillar in the preservation and protection of our past. Parents were therefore urged to open up to their children about what they went through during the genocide and to do it cautiously so as not to sow seeds of hatred, revenge and violence.



The Guest of Honor, Fidele Ndayisaba, the Executive Secretary of NURC reminded youth of the privilege they have to live in a post-genocide country that emphasizes learning about Rwanda's history in order to prevent future atrocities. This was also reiterated by Ariane Inkeshwa from Interpeace who advised youth to fight stereotypes, hate, and genocide ideology if they want to aid the reconciliation and healing process and create a conducive environment for healing to occur.



# QUOTES ON MEMORY AND HEALING FROM CONFERENCE



**Iradukunda Providence**  
Cyanika Youth Estimation club



I never believed that the genocide occurred. I thought everyone was lying to me because I could not understand how one could kill their neighbor. But when I visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial, I realized that the genocide really happened. So, commemoration to me means acknowledging and believing that the genocide really happened."



**Clementine Kanzayire**  
University of Rwanda



It is vital for parents to build resilience and help their children to know how to deal with devastating tragedies and also offer safe spaces for youth to hold open discussion with older people about their past."



**Kato David Adam**  
LDK club



Preserving the memory offers young people the ability to connect to the past and also gives them the capacity for ethical and civic growth, with issues and choices in their own lives and the world today."



**Silas Ntamufayishyari**  
Rescuer



In my family, we were told that Tutsis were bad people but I had interacted with a few and thought they were good. So, during the Genocide, I refused to be manipulated by what I was told and instead chose to rescue many. Youth, I urge you to be characterized by values of patriotism, integrity, humanity, culture and standing up for good."



**Ariane Inkesha**  
Interpeace



Youth ought to tackle some of the stereotypes, hate, genocide ideology as well as negative messages in their communities. This is vital for expediting the process of healing and reconciliation."

# The Role of Youth in Preserving Memory and Healing



Across Rwanda, the shift of focus to programs catered to youth's unique experiences in a post-genocide context has been strategic and well-orchestrated. Youth play a critical role in societal healing because it is by their hands that Rwanda can propel itself into a space which preserves the memory of generations before and after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, yet still looks forward to how young people can rebuild their own future for the good of the nation.

25 years after the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, ex-perpetrators are being released from prison and now have to reintegrate into a

society that is completely new and has been transformed. As a result, spaces for peacebuilding have to adjust their objectives to bridge the gaps and mend the social fabric of Rwanda in a new way. In many cases, young people carry a level of transgenerational trauma, which has been passed down from their parents. Everyone's trauma is unique to their experience, and each family has their own wounds and difficult memories.

Complex questions are emerging at a rate that is difficult to keep up with. Parents and survivors cannot face their wounds alone, which is why young people need to be equipped with sufficient knowledge and understanding to spark meaningful, healing conversation. NAR knows that youth have to be a part of the conversation about how to remember because the youth of today are becoming parents and are reaching the professional world. By participating in spaces for healing and memory preservation young people better prepare themselves for the workforce. In Rwanda, approximately 60% of the population is under the age of 30; from this context, Rwandan NGOs and Civil Society Organizations have supported and pursued opportunities in which their young adult counterparts can thrive.

NAR has contributed to engaging youth in preserving memory and healing by creating various spaces for peacebuilding and dialogue on healing and reconciliation including the Regional and International Peace-Building Institute, International Day of Peace, National Commemoration Conference, International Youth Day Conference, Youth Arts Competition as well as many other spaces for dialogue and community engagement programs. Through telling stories, young people have relieved themselves of some of the complicated feelings and deciphered dense

emotions tied to their own or their parent's traumatic experiences thus, beginning their healing journey.

Story telling is among the most vulnerable presentations of past trauma or heavy memories. By writing these stories, publishing novels and biographies, not just locally but internationally, Rwandan youth can correct false narratives and write a truthful history of the country thus preserving the memory for generations to come. In this sense, youth have found their place in the preservation of healing and memory through bold literary expression.

Although some youth face challenges with self-expression, understanding a dense history of trauma and how to help their relatives who survived traumatic experiences they are steadily contributing to memory preservation by writing stories and changing the narratives around what is known and still left to be discovered about the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The efforts to develop safe spaces for memory and healing are immense and clear. As young people continue their remembrance practices and find their place within memory preservation it is through youth leadership that more youth will feel comfortable and free to explore their own heritage.

**Story telling is among the most vulnerable presentations of past trauma or heavy memories.**



**Hannah Wood**

Assistant Peacebuilding Coordinator



# Supporting Rwandans in the Healing journey

25 years after the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi, some of its effects still linger in Rwandan society including trauma, excessive emotional pain or sorrow, and many more which are not seen physically but are challenging the Rwandan society. Research conducted by the Ministry of Health showed that around 12% of people are depressed, while among survivors of the genocide who have participated in this research; those with deep and extreme sorrow are around 35%.

Based on these figures and national statistics, one can say that more than one million live with depression. Apart from depression, research has also proved that trauma among survivors of the genocide is as high as 28%. The Government of Rwanda and different stakeholders have put in place programs aimed at fighting genocidal effects and building towards sustainable development. This includes putting effort into preventing the transmission of transgenerational wounds among young people.

Regarding mental health, various special programs and institutions have been established to deal with of special programs and different institutions to deal with mental health issues. Apart from counseling, the psychosocial group approach has been used to help members discuss and share their wounds, and release their heavy burdens

and/or feelings. These approaches aid in building resilience and helping people overcome depression thus rebuilding unity among Rwandans hence propelling development.

Though it has been discovered that the psychosocial group approach can help the Rwandan society overcome trauma, research has demonstrated that this approach is still at a lower level, and is being used by few. This can be attributed to the fact that there are few qualified facilitators to guide these groups. Different researches, including NAR's, have demonstrated different strategies and complemented existing strategies used in supporting those with emotional wounds and trauma. These include discussions to support the facilitators who are working daily in trauma treatment in district hospitals, and other stakeholders mentioned above, so as to support each other, share knowledge and enhance strategies used and enable Rwandans to firmly face mental health issues.

In order to successfully support Rwandans in the journey of healing wounds, depression and trauma and to prevent the transmitting these issues to youth, there is need for strong collaboration between different organizations including the Ministry of Health, the National Commission of Unity

and Reconciliation (NURC), researchers and experts in mental health, faith based organizations and non-governmental organizations working in peacebuilding and healing. This partnership and collaboration will ease the adoption of strategies, special programs and building the capacity of consistently evaluating and assessing the state of mental health in Rwanda.

For the Rwandan society to be able to build strong foundations to deal with wounds and other psychosomatic issues, there is need for intensive research and consistent discussions about trauma, wounds, and strategies to deal with such problems, so as to prevent possible future transmission. Rebuilding the inner person who faced emotional wounds and trauma from the genocide and other human rights violations [that are prevalent throughout Rwanda's history] requires particular attention over a long-term period.

Nevertheless, a lot has been achieved through consolidated efforts. These efforts and achievements have been commended by the international community who admire the politics of building and strengthening unity and reconciliation among Rwandans, the rapid development of the economy and investment, the program of decentralization, the policy of gender balance, and also putting youth at the core of achieving the Rwanda we want.

# Great Lakes Program Commemoration



On April 30th 2019, the Cross-Border Dialogue Group (a group comprised of community members from the City of Goma in DRC and Rubavu District, formed under the Great Lakes Peacebuilding Program, in partnership with Interpeace) joined the population of Rubavu in the 25th commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda.

This commemoration event was an opportunity for Congolese members of the Cross-Border Dialogue Group to express their solidarity and compassion with Rwandans, learn lessons from the Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda and take action in their respective communities to prevent Genocide from happening elsewhere in the region.

Cross-Border Dialogue group members had the opportunity to learn and discuss facts about the Genocide against the Tutsi, while clarifying some of the assumptions they might have had. This was important because most Congolese members of the group had limited and biased information about the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

To culminate the commemoration event, Cross-Border Dialogue Group members and youth from NAR affiliated clubs in the region shared personal impressions from their experience from participating in the commemoration event, how the activity is related to their work as Cross-Border dialogue group and NAR affiliated clubs members and how they will adopt what they learnt into their future peacebuilding initiatives.



# INZIRA NZIZA TRAININGS YOUTH AND LOCAL LEADERS

For the last two years of its implementation, the USAID funded Inzira Nziza activity has been conducting intensive trainings for youth, church members, representatives of persons living with disabilities, teachers and local leaders on Human Rights and Social Justice, Youth Civic Engagement and Building Inclusive Society as well as Prevention of Violent Extremism and Radicalism. These trainings have been attracting a big number of participants from varied districts namely; Nyamagabe, Gisagara, and Huye from Southern province, Nyabihu, and Ngororero from the Western Province

From March to April, the same trainings were conducted for three consecutive days, and participatory approaches were applied to ensure all participants had the opportunity to share their opinions. For each district, the training was attended by 120 participants. The training reached over 600 participants in five districts. The training aimed to enhance awareness and knowledge of youth and decision-makers by equipping them with the knowledge and skills on human rights, governance processes, accountable and responsive leadership and the working of multi-party democracy. It served as a safe space for youth, local leaders, teachers, and people with disability as well

**“Young people must be empowered and prepared to become future leaders.”**

as church leaders to share experiences, testimonies and identify new ways for a collective voice on youth issues. The participants commended the platform and being given the opportunity to participate in the trainings;

Tuyisenge Nehem - National Commission for people living with Disabilities - “I was much honored to participate in this training where I have gained skills such as human rights and social inclusion useful in advocating for rights of people with disabilities”.

Jeannette Abizerimana, - Ngororero District - “people living with disabilities face sexual violence, there are many cases whereby they have been impregnated by unknown men, the fact that children will never know his or her father it is sexual abuse”.

In each district, security officers were invited to shed light on the trend of youth radicalization and violent extremism in Rwanda’s Context. The officers stressed that Rwanda is located in a volatile

neighborhood, which is prone to potential cross-border security threats. “Recently, there have been some terrorist groups who openly declared to be against our country. Don’t let anyone for any reason attract you to join such groups”. - SP Gaspard Rwegeranya, DPC Nyamagabe

In Ngororero District the training was graced by Madam Leslie Marbury,



the Head of Mission for USAID Rwanda. In her keynote address, she reiterated the need for young people to acquire the right skills to help them communicate their views. “Young people must be empowered and prepared to become future leaders. Developing their communication skills and abilities to reach out to their peers will help them achieve that goal.”



# Book Recommendations

## VOX POPS

We asked our followers to share with us, what can youth do to prevent genocide?

**A**s youth we need to work hard and aim to improve ourselves and target the sustainable development we need. This will help us resist being manipulated (by money and other factors). Working together and educating ourselves to resist manipulation will lead to us building the future we need”

**Ndumunyarwanda Intoriganza Vallenge**  
[Facebook]

**I**t’s painful to hear about genocide but we should talk about it to ensure that we never allow genocide to happen again; not only in our homeland but worldwide”

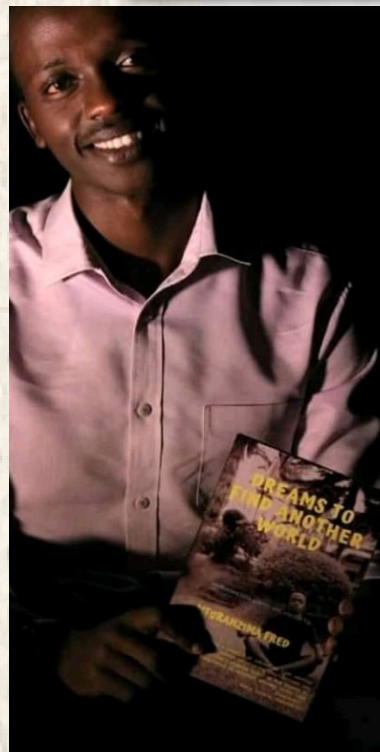
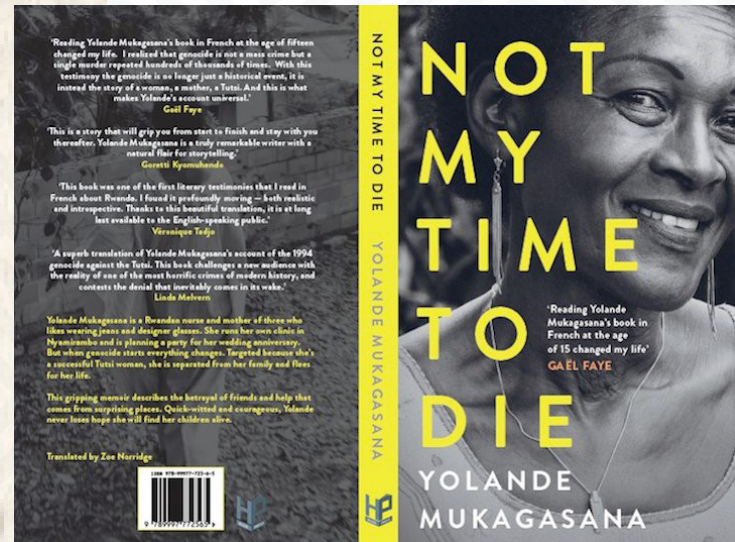
**Laura Mercy Eleanie**  
[Facebook]

**A**s youth we need to know our history as a way of keeping peace. Let us strive for self-reliance and consolidate efforts to build and develop Rwanda”

**Tuyishimire Antoine**  
[Facebook]

Yolande Mukagasana is a Rwandan nurse and mother of three who runs her own clinic in Nyamirambo and is planning a party for her wedding anniversary. But when the genocide starts everything changes. Targeted because she’s a successful Tutsi woman, she is separated from her family and flees for her life.

This gripping memoir describes the betrayal of friends and help that comes from surprising places. Quick-witted and courageous, Yolande never loses hope she will find her children alive.



## *Dreams to Find Another World*

Is a poetic book based on the history and lifestyle of Rwandans. It combines different testimonies of the Genocide against Tutsi that are written in form of poems because poetry contributes to creative diversity in dialogue, and the free flow of ideas that end up with hope, unity and reconciliation stories. We so that it reads as “Mfuranzima Fred wanted to remind Africans that “we are strong enough when we leverage the critical thinking of the people who might read this, and to keep alive the memories of the people who were killed in the Genocide against Tutsi.”

In our next  
**edition**

  
kwibuka25  
remember-unite-renew

April 2019

# Peace Insight

Never Again Rwanda Newsletter

## 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."

**02** EDITORIAL | Kwibuka 25: National Trauma Symposium  
"Embracing Trauma Management from Grassroots Initiatives to Institutional Interventions"

**04** FEATURE | 2019 Local Public Speaking and Exchange  
"Our Diversity, Our Opportunity"

**06** Research | National Validation  
"Understanding Human trafficking In Rwanda: Causes, Effects and Impacts"

  
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## National trauma symposium

  
kwibuka25  
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www.kwibuka.rw

**NATIONAL TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM**  
"Embracing trauma management from grassroots initiatives to institutional interventions."

8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 | Kigali Marriott Hotel



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to find all editions of our monthly newsletter.