

# Human Rights Advocates Program

## 2010 Program Report

Institute for the Study of Human Rights  
Columbia University



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# 1 Introduction

“ *Before I came to HRAP, I knew that people were suffering in Bosnia and that people were dying in Sudan. But when I came to HRAP, I met advocates from Bosnia, Sudan and other countries—people who are living and making a difference in their countries.* ”

Colette Lespinasse, 2010 Advocate

Photo below and on the cover—The Advocates visited the Statue of Liberty at the end of orientation week.



The 22nd year of the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) at Columbia University continued the Institute for the Study of Human Rights' commitment to strengthening the skills, knowledge and networks of proven grassroots human rights leaders who are "making a difference in their countries," as observed by the 2010 Advocate from Haiti, Colette Lespinasse.

Academic coursework, skills-building workshops and networking opportunities with the human rights, academic and donor communities, primarily in New York City and Washington, D.C., comprise the HRAP curriculum. Through a very competitive selection process, 10 human rights leaders were selected from 170 applicants. The 2010 Advocates came from Belarus, Bosnia/USA, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Mauritania/USA, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda (2) to share

and deepen their expertise on a number of issues including HIV/AIDS, gender justice, disability rights, LGBT rights, genocide, war crimes, trade unions, the rule of law, migration, sexual and reproductive rights and immigrants' rights.

The 2010 HRAP welcomed the involvement of HRAP alumni. Several HRAP alumni agreed to interview applicants to the 2010 Program. In addition to interviewing a number of strong applicants, 2009 Advocate Elsadig Elsheikh returned to Columbia University to lead a very well-received workshop on Negotiation and Communication. 1996 Advocate Twesigye Jackson Kaguri shared with the Advocates and members of the Columbia University community his experience building schools for AIDS orphans in his home country, Uganda.

Susan and Agnes discussed the accuracy of the Ghanaian costume on a doll at the Ellis Island Museum.



## 2 The Advocates In Their Own Words

This year, we asked the Advocates to share with us what inspired them to work in human rights. Following each interview are details on each Advocate's participation in the 2010 HRAP.

take a stand against human rights violations, discrimination, injustice and inequality—to help my people have a better future and to live with dignity to honor my profession.” Najlaa has faced every situation of injustice with the mindset, “What can I do? I am morally and legally obliged to provide those vulnerable with what I can.”

### NAJLAA AHMED

Human Rights Monitoring Officer  
ACJPS

Sudan

For Najlaa Ahmed, the calling to human rights came as a result of the world that surrounded her in her home country of Sudan. Growing up, Najlaa witnessed firsthand the fear of her people not to talk or walk freely under the Sudanese restrictive laws. “I heard stories of people who disappeared or were tortured. Some survived with their physical and mental pain, but others died. Seeing the impact of war on my people's faces, I felt it was my duty to my people and to my profession as a lawyer to



Najlaa's involvement in human rights work thus began including performing charity work collecting clothes and food to give to people in need. During this time, she says, "I gained enormous knowledge and recognized the other side of life—the life of street children, women in IDP camps, women in prisons, and the challenges of women tea and food sellers who each has her own story of struggle."

Through pursuing advocacy of human rights, Najlaa explains that she discovered how there are no limits to her involvement and what she is able to achieve. "This is a continuing battle without rest," she says of her work in human rights. "My only instrument is my profession [as an advocate], which I'm relying on to achieve justice for all." In the face of the struggle and battle she faces to help improve the human rights of her people, Najlaa looks to the achievements of great leaders who have come before her. She reflects, "Like Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, others I have met, and others I dream to meet, who dedicated their lives to the cause of a better future for their people and set principles and values to follow, I continually find motivation to work for human rights. Above all, the prolonged suffering of my people motivates me not to surrender."

## Faculty Mentor

### Mahmood Mamdani

Herbert Lehman Professor of Government and Professor of Anthropology  
Department of Anthropology

## Classes

Transitional Justice, Columbia Law School  
Major Debates in African Studies, Department of Anthropology

## Networking

### New York City

Arcus Foundation  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Columbia University, New Media Taskforce  
Crisis Action  
Development Group for Alternative Policies  
Friends of Africa International, Democracy and Human Rights Project Sudan  
Hollaback!  
Human Rights Watch, Africa Division  
International Center for Transitional Justice  
International Refugee Rights Initiative  
Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program  
United Nations Development Fund for Women  
Wellspring Advisors, LLC

## Washington, D.C.

Fund for Global Human Rights  
Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group  
Institute for Policy Studies  
International Center for Research on Women  
National Endowment for Democracy  
Refugees International  
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights  
United States Institute for Peace  
Vital Voices Global Partnership

## Greater Boston Area

Harvard University, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative  
My Sister's Keeper



Najlaa with Ky-Mani Marley at the "Get Up, Stand Up, Speak Up—Stop Discrimination" UN event in honor of Human Rights Day. Photo courtesy of Najlaa Ahmed.

## Speaking Engagements

*Building Peace: Exploring the Intersections of Militarism and Violence Against Women, Interactive Workshop Presentation.* Sponsored by the United Methodist Women, the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University and the World Council of Churches UN Office.

*International Human Rights Day Celebration: Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Working Group, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work.* Sponsored by Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program.

*Roundtable Discussion on Development featuring Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James Rwampigi Aniyamuzaala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda, Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for Policy Studies.

*Najlaa has faced every situation of injustice with the mindset,*

“ *What can I do? I am morally and legally obliged to provide those vulnerable with what I can.* ”

## JAMES RWAMPIGI ANIYAMUZAALA

Human Rights Program Coordinator

Youth with Physical Disability  
Development Forum

Uganda

When James Aniyamuzaala became hard of hearing after an accident at the age of eight, it was not his first encounter facing the situation of persons with disabilities. His mother, Mary Aniyamuzaala, was a polio survivor and one of the founders of the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda.

As an orphan at the age of 12, he recognized that education was the only way for him to survive. However, James became frustrated with the stereotypes placed on him as a person with a disability. James made it his mission to prevent other persons with disabilities, particularly children and youth, from having the same challenges he had encountered. He says, “I seek to remove the institutional barriers that limit participation of persons with disabilities in development and community programs. I believe that the quality of life of a society can also be measured by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens.” James also credits his mother as a strong source of inspiration to him: “I felt my mother had left behind a

mission to help women and children with disabilities through her organization and that I was responsible to realize her dream of a good and improved standard of living for persons with disabilities.”

Through student groups in high school, James began his work as an advocate for the disabled. He continues his work today through the numerous commitments he has made: Human Rights Coordinator with Youth with Physical Disability Development Forum, President of the Uganda Federation of Hard of Hearing, board member of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People, and member of Global Partnership for Disability and Development.

“ *I felt my mother had left behind a mission to help women and children with disabilities through her organization and that I was responsible to realize her dream of a good and improved standard of living for persons with disabilities.* ”

He says, “Positive and progressive action both locally and globally motivates me to keep advocating for human rights for persons with disabilities.”

### Faculty Mentor

#### Michelle Sondra Ballan

Assistant Professor of Social Work

School of Social Work

### Classes

Issues in Rural Development, School of International and Public Affairs

Law, Policy, Rights: Exploring Rights-Based Approaches to Health, Mailman School of Public Health

Major Debates in African Studies, Department of Anthropology

### Networking

#### New York City

Arcus Foundation

Barnard College

Columbia Law School, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

Columbia University, Institute of African Studies

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health

Columbia University, New Media Taskforce

Columbia University, School for International and Public Affairs

Columbia University, School of Social Work



Development Group for Alternative Policies  
Disability Action  
Global Information Network  
Hearing Loss Association of America  
Human Rights Watch, Africa Division  
Human Rights Watch, Disability Rights Division  
Interactive Drama for Education and Awareness in Schools (Youth Program)  
International Disability Alliance  
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program  
Riverside Church of New York City  
StoryCorps  
United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
United Nations Programme on Youth  
Wellspring Advisors, LLC

### Washington, D.C.

Advocates for Youth  
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
American Association of Persons with Disabilities  
Burton Blatt Institute/Global Partnership for Disability Development  
Fund for Global Human Rights  
Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group  
Institute for Policy Studies  
National Endowment for Democracy

Open Society Foundations, Disability Rights Initiative  
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights  
U.S. Department of State Bureau of African Affairs  
United States Institute for Peace  
United States International Council on Disability  
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor  
World Bank Group, Disability Division

### Speaking Engagements

*AIDS and Disability: An Emerging Concern.*  
Sponsored by The Joint United Nations



Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations.

*Disability and HIV/AIDS.* Sponsored by U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Washington, D.C.

*From Objects of Charity to Rights Holders: A Case Study of Uganda.* Sponsored by Institute for African Studies, Columbia University.

*International Human Rights Day Celebration: Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and

the Human Rights Working Group, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Panel Presentation on Work in Human Rights featuring Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Glenda Muzenda, Andrea Nuila and Bakary Tandia.* Sponsored by the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work.* Sponsored by Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work featuring Colette Lespinasse, Glenda Muzenda, Susan Aryeetey, Andrea Nuila and James Aniyamuzaala.* Sponsored by the Undergraduate Human Rights Program, Columbia University.

*Roundtable Discussion on Development featuring Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda, Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for Policy Studies.

*State of Disability Rights in Uganda.* Sponsored by Columbia University Seminars.

*Story Hour with Human Rights Advocates James Aniyamuzaala and Andrea Nuila.* Sponsored by Grassroots Policy Network and the Human Rights Working Group, the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*The New Generation of Activists from the Continent, Their Vision and The Challenges They Face.* Sponsored by Global Information Network and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network.

2008 Advocate Dr. Roger Luhiriri (DRC) welcomed James to NYC.

## SIARHEI ANTUSEVICH

Secretary-Treasurer

Belarusian Independent Trade Union

Belarus

Siarhei Antusevich began his fight to promote human rights in Belarus by distributing leaflets to educate people about their rights at public demonstrations. He explains, “I do human rights work because I want to change the lives of Belarusian citizens—so they can have better working conditions.”

Siarhei has helped workers with issues including vacation time, work hours and plant conditions. Thanks to the successes he was able to achieve, Siarhei eventually joined the Belarus Independent Trade Union. He said, “I saw that I could solve the problems of workers. The independent union had grassroots activities, provided labor and legal aid, and organized meetings to create local enterprise unions.” Siarhei has since taken advantage of all of these mechanisms to improve labor rights in Belarus. Even though the Belarusian government has continued to suppress trade unions, Siarhei remains compelled to continue his work. “There are many violations in different human rights spheres in Belarus,” he states, “so I think it’s very important for me to change this situation. When my union members

say to me, ‘Thank you,’ I am motivated to keep advocating for human rights.” Siarhei concludes, “Humans are born free, but some people have advantages over others. I want to make our world just.”

### Faculty Mentors

#### Alexander A. Cooley

Associate Professor

International Relations and Foreign Policy, School of International and Public Affairs

Political Science Department, Barnard College

#### Jack Lewis Snyder

Director of The Harriman Institute, School of International and Public Affairs

Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Relations, Political Science Department

### Class

Social Movements and Social Change, School of International and Public Affairs

“ *Humans are born free, but some people have advantages over others.*

*I want to make our world just.* ”

## Networking

### New York City

Arcus Foundation

American Jewish Committee

Association for Union Democracy

Belarusian-American Association

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Columbia Law School, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

Columbia University, New Media Taskforce

Columbia University, Harriman Institute

Development Group for Alternative Policies

East-West Management Institute, Inc.

Open Society Foundations, Russia/CEE Division

Wellspring Advisors, LLC

### Washington, D.C.

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations/Solidarity Center

Fund for Global Human Rights

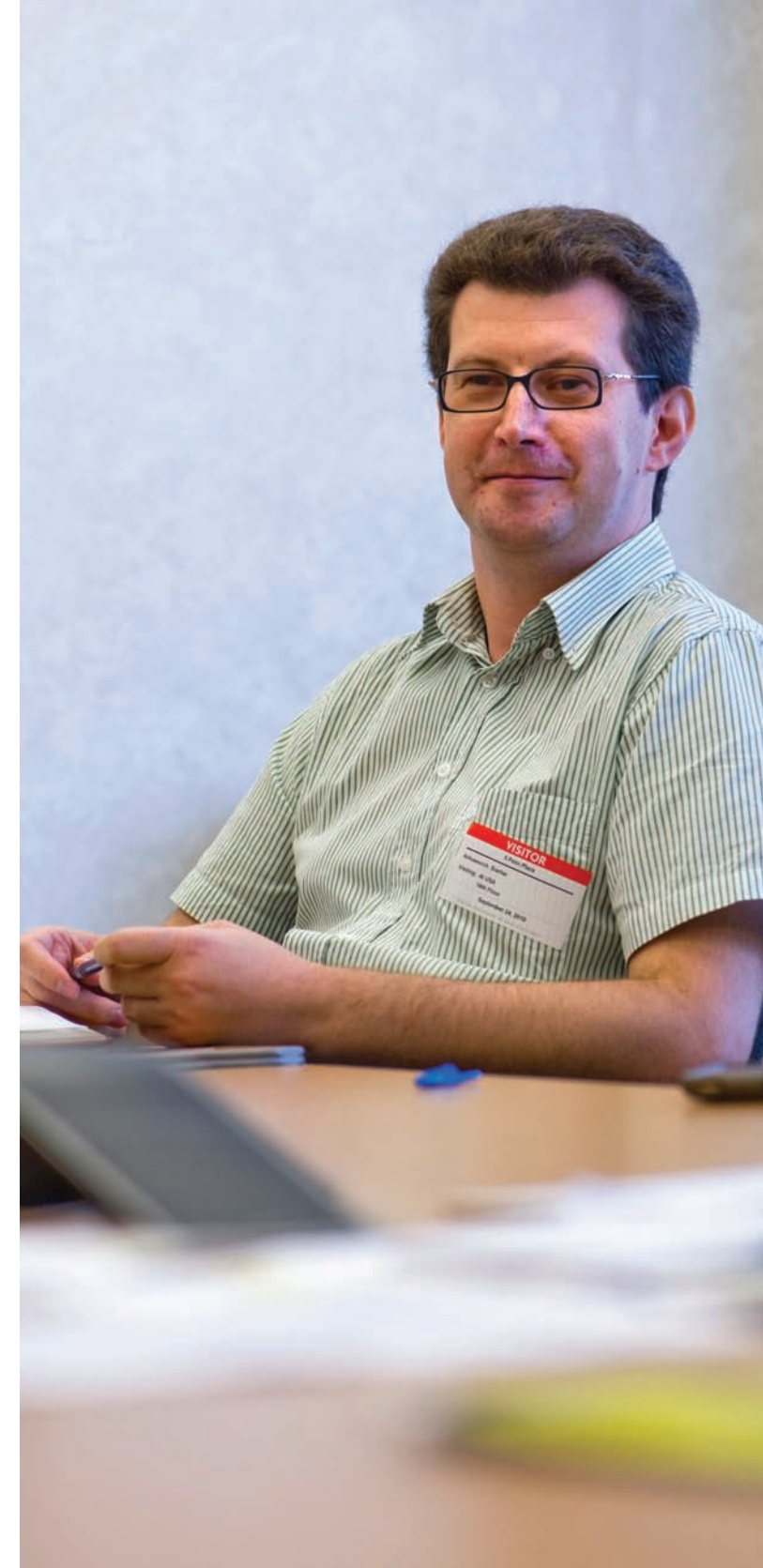
Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group

Institute for Policy Studies

International Labor Rights Forum

National Democratic Institute

National Endowment for Democracy



Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Society for International Development

United States Institute for Peace

Worker Rights Consortium

## Speaking Engagements

*Current Political and Economic Situation in Belarus.*  
Sponsored by American Jewish Committee.

*International Human Rights Day Celebration:*  
*Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Working Group, School

for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Work of Belarusian Independent Trade Union.* Sponsored by the Belarusian-American Association.

*The Intersection of Human Rights and Development: Voices from the Field, Panel Presentation featuring Bakary Tandia, Glenda Muzenda, Azra Smailkadic-Brkic and Siarhei Antusevich.* Sponsored by Society for International Development—Washington, D.C.

One of Siarhei's mentors was Prof. Alex Cooley of SIPA and Barnard.



## SUSAN ARYEETEEY

Resource Mobilization and Communications Officer

International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Ghana)

### Ghana

For Susan Aryeetey, a career in human rights developed almost by default. “I was the first woman made a radio news editor in Ghana, as well as the host of a program focusing on the family, single mothers, children, and women’s issues,” she explains. “Women’s issues took center stage in my life when I joined the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Ghana).” Travelling across her West African nation and seeing firsthand the challenges, difficulties and disadvantaged position of women and girls motivated her.

Susan started working for FIDA-Ghana in the communications department. She is now also working on resource mobilization. Through her work with the organization,

Susan was directly exposed to the intensity of male dominance in society such as learning that by 2006, only 10 percent of the participation in the district assemblies of Ghana was female. She also met with abused women and helped them to receive legal reparation. After successfully acquiring childcare for a woman, Susan says, “I knew this was a good cause, and I was motivated to follow human rights.” Since then, Susan has shaped her career around human rights. She explains, “I’ve learned never to accept no as an answer, never to see a closed door

“ I’ve learned never to accept no as an answer, never to see a closed door as a lost opportunity. I look only at the possibilities.”

as a lost opportunity. I look only at the possibilities. I now apply the lessons from my work to my personal life.”

Working in human rights has also taught her that men are a necessary part of the empowerment of women. “The organization I work for

started implementing a program to improve women’s access to justice in the northern region, where it established a Sister Watch group, a type of community watch program to assist domestic violence victims. At first, the organization assumed that it will involve only women, but it was realized that without engaging men and bringing human rights to them as well, the established customary laws



can't change. The involvement of men may lead them to change their own mindset and to help their wives and the community.”

Susan now looks ahead to expand her work with some of the tools she learned about in HRAP. “I have a passion to see new media technology being used to have an impact on women professionally. The internet and digital technology are here with us. Mobile phone technology helped Ghana and Africa at large not only cross the barrier but leapfrog technological challenges to join the rest of the world. Embracing digital technology will be a great way to provide opportunities for both young women and men.” Susan wants to provide opportunities for young boys and girls to learn about new media and technology and utilize the opportunities of new media to find solutions to human rights issues in her country. She adds, “This will also serve as a way empower the youth and cultivate their interest in human rights issues.”

## Faculty Mentor

### Katherine M. Franke

Professor of Law

Director, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

Columbia Law School

## Classes

Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, Barnard College

New Media, School of International and Public Affairs

## Networking

### New York City

Arcus Foundation

Barnard College

Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs

Center for Reproductive Rights

Columbia Law School, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

Columbia University, Institute of African Studies

Columbia University, New Media Taskforce

Connect to Learn

Development Group for Alternative Policies

Equality Now

Foundation Center

Global Fund for Women

Global Information Network

Global Justice Center

Hollaback!

Human Rights Watch, Africa Division

Legal Momentum

Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program

StoryCorps

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Wellspring Advisors, LLC

## Washington, D.C.

Center for Health and Gender Equity

Earth Rights International

Fund for Global Human Rights

Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group

Institute for Policy Studies

International Center for Journalists

International Center for Research on Women

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

United States Institute for Peace

Vital Voices Global Partnership

Women Thrive Worldwide

## Speaking Engagements

*Ethics in Business: Interview with Susan Aryeetey on Women in Ghana.* Sponsored by Global Ethics Forum, Carnegie Ethics Studio, and Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.

*Interview on The African Show, WKCR-FM (89.9 FM), Columbia University.*



*International Human Rights Day Celebration: Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Working Group, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Panel Presentation on Work in Human Rights featuring Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Glenda Muzenda, Susan Aryeetey, Andrea Nuila and Bakary Tandia.* Sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work.* Sponsored by Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work featuring Colette Lespinasse, Glenda Muzenda, Susan Aryeetey, Andrea Nuila and James Aniyamuzaala.* Sponsored by the Undergraduate Human Rights Program, Columbia University.

*Roundtable Discussion on African Development featuring Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda, Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for Policy Studies.

*The New Generation of Activists from the Continent, Their Vision and The Challenges They Face. Panel Discussion.* Sponsored by Global Information Network and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network.

Susan introduced herself to the attendees at the welcome reception as Andrea, Colette and Prof. Andy Nathan looked on.



## AGNES ATIM

### Executive Director

### National Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS

### Uganda

Human rights, particularly women's rights, have been a long-sought achievement for Agnes Atim not merely in her career but also in her life. "At age five," she says, "I'd see my mom crying after being beaten by my father. Growing up in a family of eight girls, my sisters and I were all seen as useless in the community because we were girls. By the time I turned 18, both my mother and father had died. My relatives and neighbors came to take over our land because we were girls and had no inheritance rights. The only secure place to live was with my grandmother whose only option for protection was a proposal to marry me off to an older man (who already had four wives) so that he could help take care of my siblings."

Anger and frustration filled Agnes from the injustice and powerlessness she experienced. With the help of a nun who offered to pay the costs of her education, Agnes found her life's mission. She says, "I will do anything to protect a girl child and a woman to attain their rights in the society in which they live."

Her work in human rights has included positions in well-known international organizations such as the International Rescue Committee, War Child Holland, and Childfund. According to her, "I knew that to make the most difference—to really work to protect girls' rights—I had to work with the most vulnerable." She cites this as the reason for becoming Executive Director of the National Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Uganda (NACWOLA). At NACWOLA, Agnes empowers women living with HIV/AIDS to live a dignified and productive life without prejudice.

Agnes also explains that working in human rights has greatly changed her own understanding of human rights. "Before, I thought human rights were just for victims, but I've realized human rights are also

“ My work made me realize that human rights do not exist in isolation.

Human rights are a cross-cutting issue— they are a part of everything. ”

for non-victims. Boys and girls must be treated the same, and human rights creates the balance. Having been a victim, I don't point fingers anymore. As my mother said, "When you point your finger, all the others are pointing back at you." Agnes affirms the universality of human rights she has learned from her work and continues to live by them. "My work made me realize that human rights do not exist in isolation. Human rights are a cross-cutting issue—they are a part of everything." She remains unsettled, however, by the disconnect between victims of human rights abuses and the mechanisms available to them to access justice. She says, "The world is now aware of human rights and violations, but what do mechanisms like CEDAW mean if not translated into action and able to reach ordinary women whose rights are being violated, women who don't even know about their rights? That's why I'm in HRAP—to get better skills on how to engage and hold all those accountable for the implementation of UN conventions and international human rights treaties. I want to ensure that these mechanisms have meaning in the lives of people and ensure accessible justice for all."

## Faculty Mentor

### Dr. David Hoos

Director of Mailman School of Public Health  
– International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs

Assistant Professor of Clinical Epidemiology  
Mailman School of Public Health

## Class

Law, Policy, Rights: Exploring Rights-Based Approaches to Health, Mailman School of Public Health

## Networking

### New York City

Barnard College  
Center for Reproductive Health  
Columbia Law School, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law  
Columbia University, Institute of African Studies  
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health  
Columbia University, New Media Taskforce  
Development Group for Alternative Policies  
Global Information Network  
Hollaback!  
Huairou Commission Grassroots Women International Academy  
Human Rights Watch, Africa Division  
New York City AIDS Housing Network  
Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program  
Open Society Foundations, Public Health  
United Nations, Baha'I International Community Office  
United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Development Fund for Women

United Nations Development Program  
Wellspring Advisors, LLC

### Washington, D.C.

Centre for Development and Population Activities  
Center for Health and Gender Equity

Fund for Global Human Rights  
Global AIDS Alliance  
Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group  
Institute for Policy Studies  
International Center for Research on Women  
National Endowment for Democracy



Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights  
 U.S. Department of State Bureau of African Affairs  
 United States Institute for Peace  
 Vital Voices Global Partnership

**Greater Boston Area**

Harvard University, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative  
 John Snow, Inc.  
 Management Sciences for Health  
 My Sister's Keeper

**Speaking Engagements**

*Disability and HIV/AIDS.* Sponsored by U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Washington D.C.

*Human Rights and Health: Complexity and Diversity: HIV is Not a Crime but a Human Right Issue: the Experience of Women Living with HIV in Uganda. A Panel Discussion with African Human Rights Activists featuring Agnes Atim.* Sponsored by the Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University.

*International Human Rights Day Celebration: Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Working Group, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Interview with students from School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.*

*Panel Presentation on Work in Human Rights featuring Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala,*

*Glenda Muzenda, Andrea Nuila and Bakary Tandia.* Sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work.* Sponsored by Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program.

*Presentation on NACWOLA for John Snow and Bantwana Initiative.* Sponsored by John Snow, Inc., Boston, MA.

*Presentation on NACWOLA.* Sponsored by the Institute for Africa Studies, Columbia University.

*Roundtable Discussion on Development featuring Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda, Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for Policy Studies.

*The New Generation of Activists from the Continent, Their Vision and The Challenges They Face, Panel Discussion.* Sponsored by Global Information Network and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network.

Prof. T.R. Lansner met Agnes at the welcome reception.



**COLETTE LESPINASSE**

Executive Director

Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés et aux Réfugiés

Haiti

During the 1980s, Colette Lespinasse became an advocate as she learned about the plight of peasants and the urban poor in Haiti. She started attending meetings and activities to improve Haitian society.



She quickly found an opportunity at the Catholic radio station, Radio Soleil. "I was inspired by the role of Radio Soleil to make changes. The information and education awareness programs it broadcast nationally made it the only radio [station in Haiti] to do this." She later began to focus on migrant rights after discovering the discrimination against Haitians in the Dominican Republic. She says, "When the Dominican Republic expelled over 80,000 Haitians during the Aristide administration, I created my organization GARR because I wanted to improve relations and offer humanitarian assistance." She has since opened up constructive dialogue between Haitians and Dominicans in the Dominican Republic. She said, "I discovered I need to keep working not just with Haitians but with Dominicans

“ Human rights has given me a passion. ”

as well, to advocate not only within Haiti but within the Dominican Republic too.”

She concludes, “Human rights has given me a passion. Now, I can’t work somewhere without passion.”

## Faculty Mentor

### Peter Rosenblum

Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein Clinical  
Professor in Human Rights

Columbia Law School

## Classes

International Migration, Department of Sociology

Oral History, Oral History MA Program

## Networking

### New York City

Arcus Foundation

Barnard College

Carnegie Council for Ethics and International  
Affairs

Columbia Law School, Center for Gender and  
Sexuality Law

Columbia University, Institute of African Studies

Columbia University, New Media Taskforce

Columbia University, WKCR-FM

Development Group for Alternative Policies

Foundation Center

Hollaback!

Human Rights Watch, Americas Division

Legal Momentum

New School, Latin America Forum

New York University, School of Law, Center for  
Human Rights and Global Justice

Open Society Foundations, International Women’s  
Program

Saint Mary’s Church

StoryCorps

Wellspring Advisors, LLC

### Washington, D.C.

American Federation of Labor and Congress of  
Industrial Organizations/Solidarity Center

Center for Justice and International Law

Fund for Global Human Rights

Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group

Institute for Policy Studies

International Center for Journalists

International Center for Research on Women

National Endowment for Democracy

Refugees International

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human  
Rights

Solidarity Center/AFL-CIO

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United States Committee for Refugees and  
Immigrants

United States Institute for Peace

Vital Voices Global Partnership

Voice of America

### Greater Boston Area

Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

International Network of Crisis Mappers

## Speaking Engagements

*Haiti: Lessons Learned and Lingering Issues of a Post  
Disaster Response.* Sponsored by Latin American  
Forum, The New School.

*Haiti: News from the Front Line. Presentation on  
Groupe d’Appui aux Rapatriés et aux Réfugiés  
(GARR).* Sponsored by the Human Rights  
Studies Program, Barnard College.

*International Human Rights Day Celebration:  
Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal  
Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of  
Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the  
Institute for the Study of Human Rights and  
the Human Rights Working Group, School  
for International and Public Affairs, Columbia  
University.

*Interview with the Global Ethics Forum, Carnegie  
Ethics Studio, Carnegie Council for Ethics in  
International Affairs.*

*Interview with Public Affairs Student Group at  
Princeton University traveling to Haiti on a  
contract with the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.*

*Interview with students from the Oral History Master  
of Arts Program at Columbia University.*

*Interview with Voice of America.*

*Interview with WKCR-FM (89.9 FM), Columbia  
University.*

*How the Intersections of Geography and Immigration  
Affect Issues of Identity and Diversity of Four  
Border Regions: Bangladesh-India, Bangladesh-  
Burma, Haiti-Dominican Republic and USA-  
Mexico.* Sponsored by Club Bangla, SOL,  
Club Zamana and HAS Columbia University,

Co-Cosponsored by the Office of the University  
Chaplain and The Kraft Family Fund for  
Intercultural and Interfaith Awareness.

*Presentation on Groupe d’Appui aux Rapatriés et  
aux Réfugiés (GARR).* Sponsored by Mailman  
School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work featuring  
Colette Lespinasse, Glenda Muzenda, Susan  
Aryeetey, Andrea Nuila and James Aniyamuzaala.*  
Sponsored by the Undergraduate Human Rights  
Program, Columbia University.

*Roundtable Discussion on Development featuring  
Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James  
Aniyamuzaala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda,  
Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra  
Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for  
Policy Studies.

Colette and the other Advocates learned about  
campaigns at AIUSA.



## GLENDA MUZENDA

### South Africa

“To work in human rights, you need to be passionate. One person can make a difference,” says Glenda Muzenda. Her advocacy career stems from a more personal turn in life, the suicide of a friend who had HIV/AIDS. Glenda said, “I felt the communities and families didn’t understand what Sally had gone through, as many women who have had to go through this unnecessary pain of being stigmatized and isolated because of a disease that has unfortunately yet to be embraced in our society still today. My friend seemed so alone, and I thought no one should ever be alone. Sally committed suicide in 2001 not because she was too ill. She was tired of being the laughing stock.”

Emboldened by her experiences, Glenda volunteered for British Columbia People with AIDS in Vancouver, Canada. She quickly decided to return to South Africa where she thought her skills were needed.

Her goal is to change social attitudes concerning stigmas by raising awareness of the rights available to people living with HIV/AIDS. She said, “We need a rights-based approach to all efforts to holistically care for our people.” The need for human rights, she affirms, is so strong because even after having the right information, resources

to implement changes are still lacking. That need is what continues to lead her work today. “I want to wake up and not worry about care giving, yet there is still a need for trained people to take care of people, and also women in communities are still being neglected and not looking inwards to get help, too. This is a gender and economical justice issue that is turning into another crisis of health for women in this sector.”

### Faculty Mentor

#### Theodorus Sandfort

Research Scientist, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies

Associate Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences

Mailman School of Public Health

### Classes

Law, Policy, Rights: Exploring Rights-Based Approaches to Health, Mailman School of Public Health

Sexuality, Gender and Human Rights, Mailman School of Public Health

### Networking

#### New York City

Arcus Foundation

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

Barnard College

Center for Gay, Lesbian, and Trans People

Columbia Law School, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

Columbia University, Institute of African Studies

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health

Columbia University, New Media Taskforce

Columbia University, Queer Health Task Force

Columbia University, WKCR-FM

Development Group for Alternative Policies

Global Information Network

Health Global Access Project

Hollaback!

Huairou Commission Grassroots Women International Academy

Human Rights Watch, Africa Division

Human Rights Watch Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Program

M·A·C AIDS Fund

New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti Violence Project

Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program

Open Society Foundations, Public Health

Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders

“ To work in human rights, you need to be passionate. One person can make a difference. ”



StoryCorps  
 United Nations Development Fund for Women  
 Wellspring Advisors, LLC

### Washington, D.C.

Fund for Global Human Rights  
 Global AIDS Alliance  
 Human Rights Campaign  
 Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group  
 Institute for Policy Studies  
 International Center for Research on Women  
 International Women's Media Foundation  
 National Endowment for Democracy  
 Open Society Foundations, LGBTI Rights Initiative  
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights  
 Society for International Development  
 United States Institute for Peace  
 Vital Voices Global Partnership

### Speaking Engagements

*International Human Rights Day Celebration:*  
*Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Working Group, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Interview on The African Show, WKCR-FM (89.9 FM), Columbia University.*

*LGBTQ Rights and International Public Health: The Intersections of International Sexual Rights Health Promotion and Development Practices.*

*Panel Presentation featuring Glenda Muzenda.* Sponsored by the Queer Health Taskforce, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Panel Presentation on Work in Human Rights featuring Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Glenda Muzenda, Susan Aryeetey, Andrea Nuila and Bakary Tandia.* Sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work.* Sponsored by Open Society Foundations, Africa Regional Program.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work featuring Colette Lespinasse, Glenda Muzenda, Susan Aryeetey, Andrea Nuila and James Aniyamuzaala.* Sponsored by the Undergraduate Human Rights Program.

*Roundtable Discussion on Development featuring Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda, Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for Policy Studies.

*South African Women and Media: Importance vs. Impotence?* Sponsored by the Institute for African Studies, Columbia University.

*The Intersection of Human Rights and Development: Voices from the Field, Panel Presentation featuring Bakary Tandia, Glenda Muzenda, Azra Smailkadic-Brkic and Siarhei Antusevich.* Sponsored by Society for International Development (SID-Washington).

*The New Generation of Activists from the Continent, Their Vision and The Challenges They Face. Panel Discussion.* Sponsored by Global Information Network and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network.

## ANDREA NUILA

Program Assistant, Sexual and Reproductive Rights Center for Women's Rights Honduras



Andrea Nuila grew up with a perspective of the reality of Honduras that her peers did not share. “I was sitting in my car one day,” she recalls, “and suddenly there was a gun pointed at my head because they wanted my cell phone. While this was not unusual for Honduras, I knew it shouldn’t be this way.”

Andrea’s parents are political activists and have been instrumental in teaching her that human rights are a way to measure society. “My mother taught me about feminism. Both of my parents were exiled

“ Human rights is not a profession. Human rights is a way of being. ”

from Honduras to Mexico, so they raised me to believe in social justice,” she explains. As a teenager, Andrea spent her summer vacations helping with different tasks at women’s organizations where she had firsthand contact with gender and women’s issues in Honduras. Having since volunteered at a sexual reproductive rights program, worked with women’s organizations with which her mother and aunts have

been affiliated, and studied human rights law, Andrea states, “Human rights is not a profession. Human rights is a way of being.” She is frustrated by the ignorance and apathy of others. “For me,” she says, “the 2009 coup in Honduras was a real eye-opener. Some of my friends seemed to be living in a bubble—partying, shopping, and going out while the country was in chaos. I can’t accept that. You need to try to do something in those situations, and human rights is an instrument for policy changing.”

Since the coup in Honduras, Andrea has been providing legal assistance to victims of political persecution, documenting the aftermath of civil protests, and assessing the legality of police activities such as tear-bombing raids and arrests—all activities that she performs on top of her regular work with women’s organizations. “I see that Honduras needs people who are educated in human rights,” she says. “I dream that someday the world will be better, but I can’t criticize if I don’t participate.”

## Faculty Mentor

### Carol Vance

Associate Clinical Professor of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health

## Classes

History & Reconciliation, School of International and Public Affairs

Social Movements and Social Change, School of International and Public Affairs

## Networking

### New York City

Arcus Foundation

Barnard College

Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs

Center for Reproductive Rights

Columbia University, Columbia Law School, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

Columbia University, Institute of African Studies

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health

Columbia University, New Media Taskforce

Columbia University, Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center

Development Group for Alternative Policies

Facing History and Ourselves

Hollaback!

International Women’s Health Coalition

Open Society Foundations, International Women’s Program

StoryCorps

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Wellspring Advisors, LLC

### Washington, D.C.

Center for Health and Gender Equity

Center for Justice and International Law

Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA)

Fund for Global Human Rights

Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group

Just Associates

Latin America Working Group

National Endowment for Democracy

Open Society Foundations, Latin America Program

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

United States Institute for Peace

Washington Office on Latin America

## Greater Boston Area

International Network of Crisis Mappers

## Speaking Engagements

*International Human Rights Day Celebration:*

*Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Working Group, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Panel Presentation on Work in Human Rights featuring Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Glenda Muzenda, Andrea Nuila*

*and Bakary Tandia.* Sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Presentation on the Center for Women’s Rights.* Sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Human Rights Work featuring Colette Lespinasse, Glenda Muzenda, Susan Aryeetey, Andrea Nuila and James Aniyamuzaala.* Sponsored by the Undergraduate Human Rights Program, Columbia University.

*Roundtable Discussion on Development featuring Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda, Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for Policy Studies.

*Story Hour with Human Rights Advocates James Aniyamuzaala and Andrea Nuila.* Sponsored by Grassroots Policy Network, Human Rights Working Group.

Lisa Vives of the Global Information Network speaks with Advocates.





## AZRA SMAILKADIC-BRKIC

Carl Wilkens Fellows

Genocide Intervention Network

Washington, D.C.

“I cannot bring the victims of war back to life, but I can at least work towards ‘Never Again,’” says Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.

As a graduate student in the master’s program Democracy and Human Rights at the University of Sarajevo in cooperation with the University of Bologna, she decided to commit herself to raising awareness about genocide. “One day, I went with my fellow students on a field trip to visit a mass grave near the town of Kljuc in Bosnia. I clearly remember that day—even though it was more than five years ago. A genocide survivor was there. He was an old man—probably more than 80 years old. He shared his story with us. He had lost almost all his family members in the genocide. When he finished talking, we walked through the mass grave field to pay our respects. In front of the site there was a bus and a bus driver waiting for us. All of us boarded the bus. I looked through the window and I saw

the old man standing there with his cane at this mass grave site—completely alone with his pain. My heart was broken at this point and that was exactly the moment when I understood what my life’s mission must be.”

In the USA for nearly three years, Azra was named a Carl Wilkens Fellow with the D.C.-based Genocide Intervention Network in 2010. She has been raising awareness of genocide through book groups,



speaking engagements and meetings with U.S. policymakers. Azra was a Whitney M. Young, Jr. Advocate in the 2010 Human Rights Advocates Program at Columbia University.

### Faculty Mentor

#### Sue Lob

Adjunct Lecturer  
School of Social Work

### Classes

Globalization of Motherhood,  
Mailman School of Public  
Health

History & Reconciliation, School  
of International and Public  
Affairs

Transitional Justice, Columbia  
Law School

### Networking

#### New York

Arcus Foundation

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and  
Reconciliation

Barnard College

Cardozo School of Law Program  
in Holocaust and Human  
Rights Studies

Carnegie Council for Ethics and  
International Affairs

Columbia Law School, Center for Gender and  
Sexuality Law

Columbia University, Harriman Institute

Columbia University, Institute of African Studies

Columbia University, New Media Taskforce

Development Group for Alternative Policies

Facing History and Ourselves

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

Lehman College Library

Reconciliation and Culture Cooperative Network

Safe Horizon

StoryCorps

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Wellspring Advisors, LLC

#### Washington, D.C.

American Association of University Women

Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

Enough Project

Fund for Global Human Rights

“ *I cannot bring the victims of war back to life, but I can at least work towards ‘Never Again’.* ”

Gender Action  
 Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group  
 Institute for Policy Studies  
 International Center for Research on Women  
 International Forum of Solidarity  
 National Endowment for Democracy  
 Open Society Foundations, Eastern Europe/Former  
 Soviet Union Project  
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human  
 Rights  
 Society for International Development—  
 Washington, D.C.  
 United States Institute for Peace  
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

## Speaking Engagements

**Back to Bosnia.** *Film Screening and Discussion with Director Sabina Vajraca, featuring Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by the Balkan Social Club, Columbia University.

*Building Peace: Exploring the Intersections of Militarism and Violence Against Women, Interactive Workshop Presentation.* Sponsored by the United Methodist Women, the Center for Women's Global Leadership and their 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign and the World Council of Churches UN Office.

*Family Narratives on War.* Sponsored by Iliff School of Theology and the Ford Foundation.

*Interactive Workshop: Building Peace: Exploring the Intersections of Militarism and Violence against Women.* Sponsored by the United Methodist Women and Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University.

*International Human Rights Day Celebration: Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Working Group, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Interview with Radio Glas Bosne i Hercegovine (Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina).*

*Interview with the MA Program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.*

*Interview with students from the Human Rights Clinic, Columbia Law School.*

*Interview with students from the Oral History Master of Arts Program, Columbia University.*

*Motherhood in Bosnia and Herzegovina.* Sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Roundtable Discussion on Development featuring Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuzaala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda, Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for Policy Studies.

**Statement 710399.** *Film Screening and Discussion featuring Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by the Undergraduate Human Rights Program and the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Program on Race Relations at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University.

*The Intersection of Human Rights and Development: Voices from the Field, Panel Presentation featuring Bakary Tandia, Glenda Muzenda, Azra Smailkadic-Brkic and Siarbei Antusevich.* Sponsored by Society for International Development—Washington, D.C.

## BAKARY TANDIA

### Case Manager and Policy Advocate

### African Services Committee

### USA

“In my opinion, it is a moral imperative to be involved in human rights work, a cornerstone of peace and justice in the world,” says Bakary Tandia. He adds, “Promoting human rights is the precondition to assure a viable environment for the human race to thrive in harmony. It is a collective endeavor requiring the participation of each and every person.”

Tandia's path to becoming a human rights advocate stemmed first from a piqued curiosity in the impact of criminal justice systems on people's rights and social justice. His education since high school has paralleled this interest and evolved from criminology to international crime and justice. “I first came in contact with human rights,” he explains, “in 1989 when the crackdown on Black Mauritians by the dictatorial regime resulted in mass killings and mass deportations of black people.” Appalled by the inhumane treatment he witnessed, Tandia began working to document and report human rights violations, educate the public about human rights, and raise awareness of the violations he witnessed with the clandestine movement, Rally

for Equality and Justice, which helped to pressure the dictatorship into a multi-party system. “I grew with the idea,” Tandia states, “that you truly own what you share, and you are what you do for your community and the world. I deeply believe that every human being deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Standing for what is right, against what is wrong, is one of my key guiding principles.”

Tandia's human rights career has thus seen many achievements, particularly in advocating for health and human rights issues of African immigrants to the United States as well as members and communities of the African Diaspora. He currently works as both Case Manager and Policy Advocate at African Services Committee, an NGO dedicated to improving the health and self-sufficiency of the African community in New York City and beyond. In this role, he has been participating in advocacy and lobbying trips at the city, state and federal levels. He has been recognized for his significant contributions to human rights by the New York Daily News, the New York Amsterdam News, and The AfrFRican: Our Voices, Our Vision, Our Culture. Yet, while Tandia has won numerous awards and widespread recognition for his contributions to human rights, he affirms, “What really keeps me energized is that I don't look at human rights advocacy as a job. Rather, I see it as a mission that enables me to support justice, equality, and freedom—the fundamental values to



ensure human dignity for all.” Tandia was a Whitney M. Young, Jr. Advocate in the 2010 Human Rights Advocates Program at Columbia University.

## Faculty Mentor

### Jack M. Saul

Assistant Professor of Clinical  
Population and Family  
Health

Mailman School of Public  
Health, Columbia University

## Classes

Public Health and  
Humanitarian Action,  
Mailman School of Public  
Health

Human Rights and International  
Organizations, School of  
International and Public  
Affairs

## Networking

### New York City

Arcus Foundation

African Refuge

Barnard College

Center for Reproductive Rights

Columbia Law School, Center  
for Gender and Sexuality Law

Columbia University, Department of Political  
Science

Columbia University, Heilbrunn Department of  
Population and Family

Columbia University, Institute of African Studies

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public  
Health

Columbia University, New Media Taskforce

Detention Watch Network

Global Information Network

Global Justice Center

Human Rights First, Refugee Protection Program

International Rescue Committee

Radio France Internationale

The Development Group for Alternative Policies

Wellspring Advisors, LLC

### Washington, D.C.

DC Language Access Coalition

Fund for Global Human Rights

Inspection Panel, The World Bank Group

Institute for Policy Studies

National Endowment for Democracy

National Immigration Forum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human  
Rights

Society for International Development

United States Committee for Refugees and  
Immigrants

United States Institute for Peace

Voice of America

## Speaking Engagements

*Challenges of Migration.* Sponsored by the  
Department of Political Science, Columbia  
University.

*What Links do the African Diaspora Living in the  
United States Maintain with the Continent?*  
Sponsored by The African Debate, Radio France  
International.

*Faces of Change: Film Screening and Q & A with  
Film Maker Michele Stephenson, featuring  
Bakary Tandia.* Sponsored by the Whitney M.  
Young Jr. Program on Race Relations at the  
Institute for the Study of Human Rights and  
the Undergraduate Human Rights Program,  
Columbia University.

*Human Rights and Health: Complexity and Diversity:  
Immigrants' Access to Health Care as a Basic  
Human Right. A Panel Discussion with African  
Human Rights Activists featuring Bakary Tandia.*  
Sponsored by The Heilbrunn Department of  
Population and Family Health and the Institute  
for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia  
University.

“ What really keeps me energized is that I don't look at human rights advocacy as a job. Rather, I see it as a mission that enables me to support justice, equality, and freedom—the fundamental values to ensure human dignity for all. ”

*International Human Rights Day Celebration: Presentation on the Relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Work of Human Rights Advocates.* Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Human Rights Working Group, School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

*Interview on The African Show.* Sponsored by WKCR-FM (89.9 FM), Columbia University.

**Modern Day Slavery in Mauritania: Mohamed's Story.** *Film Screening and Discussion with Human Rights Activist Bakary Tandia.* Sponsored by the Institute for African Studies, Columbia University.

*Panel Presentation on Work in Human Rights featuring Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuz.aala, Glenda Muzenda, Andrea Nuila and Bakary Tandia.* Sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

*Presentation on Work of African Services Committee.* Sponsored by Barnard College.

*Relief, Reform, Respect: Civic Leaders Stand for Immigrant Families.* Sponsored by The New York Immigration Coalition.

*Roundtable Discussion on Development featuring Bakary Tandia, Susan Aryeetey, Agnes Atim, James Aniyamuz.aala, Najlaa Ahmed, Glenda Muzenda, Colette Lespinasse, Andrea Nuila and Azra Smailkadic-Brkic.* Sponsored by Institute for Policy Studies.

*The Dream Act, Interview on The French Program.* Sponsored by Voice of America.

*The Intersection of Human Rights and Development: Voices from the Field, Panel Presentation featuring Bakary Tandia, Glenda Muzenda, Azra Smailkadic-Brkic and Siarbei Antusevich.* Sponsored by Society for International Development –Washington, D.C.

*The New Generation of Activists from the Continent, Their Vision and The Challenges They Face. Panel Discussion.* Sponsored by Global Information Network and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network.

*Visions of Independence: Joint Presentation featuring Bakary Tandia and J. Paul Martin.* Sponsored by the Human Rights Studies Program, Barnard College.

Bakary (right) and his faculty mentor, Dr. Jack Saul, met at the welcome reception for Advocates in September.

## 3 Workshops

HRAP organizes a number of skills-building workshops to help the Advocates succeed in their advocacy efforts. The Program deeply appreciates the time that

the workshop instructors devote to the Advocates, which always extends beyond class time.

Ana Polanco, the Director of Organizing at AIUSA, worked with the Advocates on campaign advocacy.



### Building Strategic Campaigns, Winning Human Rights Victories

Through this interactive workshop, Ana M. Polanco, the Director of Organizing at Amnesty International USA, worked with Advocates to experiment and explore how to build a successful campaign. The Advocates

explored how to develop strategic goals and interconnect them to message development and strategy, audience analysis, decision makers identification and campaign planning. Ana encouraged the Advocates to see themselves as teachers and learners working together in a collaborative space to advance the idea of organizing, building





leadership and ultimately using campaigns as an effective tool for winning human rights victories.

### Communication Skills

2009 Advocate Elsadig Elsheikh, Senior Research Associate at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University, presented an interactive workshop on negotiation and communication skills geared toward human rights work. The Advocates worked on critical aspects of effective communication skills that will help them to acquire better tools to engage their advocacy within and beyond their communities. Through mapping conflict theories, role plays and discussion, the Advocates used real-life scenarios drawn from their own experiences.

The Advocates attended a multi-part workshop at AIUSA on how to build a successful campaign.

### Crisis Mapping

Advocates attended a two-part workshop on crisis mapping led by Dean Zambrano, Sawako Sonoyama and Jaclyn Carlsen, graduate students and board members of the New Media Task Force at SIPA. The first crisis mapping session provided Advocates with a background on crowdsourcing and the use of technology to respond to humanitarian disasters. During the second session, Advocates engaged in a simulation exercise where they learned to “map” crisis events and compile information retrieved through media monitoring. In real time, participating Advocates contributed to the ongoing effort to map events for the recent flood relief effort in Pakistan.

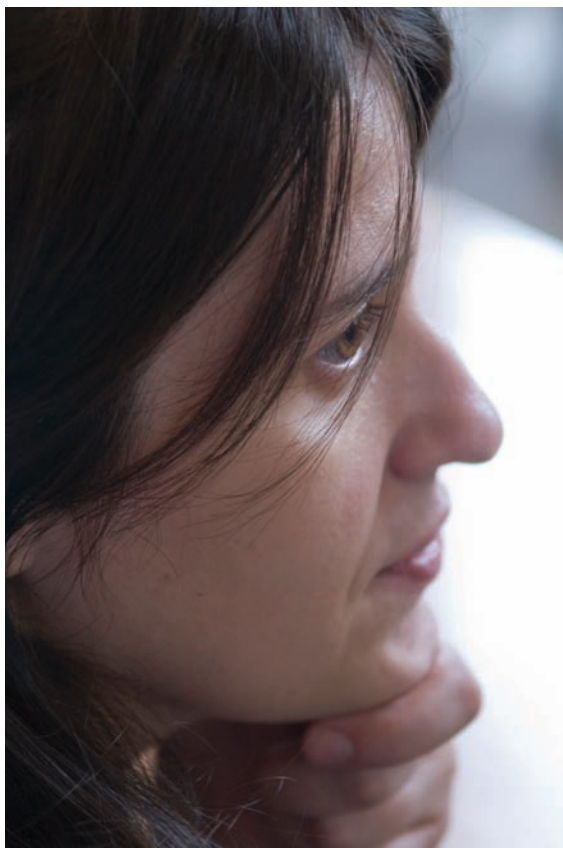
### Ethics and Compliance

Michael Silverman, Adjunct Associate Professor at School of International and Public Affairs, spoke with the Advocates on the broader issues of managing organizations to meet their respective compliance and ethical challenges. Michael has held various offices specializing in strategic planning, program management, compliance and

policy development in both the public and private sectors. He presented the Advocates with his book, *Compliance Management for Public, Private or Nonprofit Organizations* (2008), McGraw-Hill, New York, New York.

At HRW, Diederik Lohman and Fred Abrahams shared their expertise with the Advocates throughout a six-part workshop on Research, Writing and Documentation.





Azra will incorporate lessons learned from the workshops in her work to raise awareness about Bosnia.

## Leadership

William B. Eimicke, the Founding Director of the Picker Center for Executive Education at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, discussed the study of leadership with the Advocates. He looked at leadership as it affects individual and organizational performance and as a set of skills that can be learned. Bill offered the Advocates examples from his experiences as the Deputy Director of Strategic Planning for the Fire Department of New York, Director of Fiscal Studies for the New York State Senate, Assistant Budget Director of the City of New York, and Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

## Oral History

The Advocates received training in oral history research and methodology from the Columbia University Oral History Research Office.

## Research, Documentation and Writing

At Human Rights Watch, Diederik Lohman, Senior Researcher with the Health and Human Rights Division, and Fred Abrahams, Special Advisor with the Program Office, offered a six-part workshop on Research, Documentation and Writing. The workshop covered the conceptualization

of a research project, interviewing victims and witnesses, interviewing perpetrators and accomplices, and writing.

## StoryCorps

The Advocates learned about StoryCorps, a modern day oral history project founded in 2003 to create a platform for people to share and preserve their memories. Advocates were given the opportunity to record their own individual interviews to be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

## Stress Management for Human Rights Professionals

A psychiatric social worker and consultant on the support of emergency relief workers, Sheila Platt offered a two-day workshop on understanding stress, trauma and renewal from the perspective of human rights workers. Advocates reflected upon their own experiences and learned how to care for themselves while they care for others.

Since HRW began working with the Advocates years ago, their workshop has been consistently rated by the Advocates as one of the most enriching parts of HRAP.



## Fundraising

With more than a decade of experience working in the field of international philanthropy and fundraising, Erik Detiger provided the Advocates with an overview of concepts and strategies in international fundraising. The workshop focused on fundraising from institutional donors and individuals.

## Theatre of the Oppressed

Over a two-day period, Jeremiah Kyle Drake of the Education Ministry of The Riverside Church in The City of New York introduced the Advocates to Theatre of the Oppressed, a forum of participatory theatre. Advocates were introduced to the three main aspects of Theatre of the Oppressed: Forum Theatre, Image Theatre and Invisible Theatre in addition to a newly emerging branch, Aesthetics of the Oppressed.

Tandia and Andrea at HRW.

## Video Advocacy

The Advocates travelled to WITNESS in Brooklyn, where Rose Anderson offered a workshop on the effective use of video advocacy as a compliment to traditional approaches to human rights advocacy. Advocates learned the ways in which stories, visual evidence and personal testimony can be used as part of a human rights advocacy strategy to inform policy. Rose discussed the vital role that video can play in advocacy campaigns without great expense or the involvement of video professionals.



# 4 Support

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights is very grateful to the following for their financial support of the 2010 Program:

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights is very grateful to the following HRAP alumni who kindly interviewed candidates for the 2010 HRAP:

Arcus Foundation

Columbia University, The  
Harriman Institute

Open Society Foundations,  
International Women's  
Program

Sperry Fund

Stephen Lewis Foundation

Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial  
Foundation Endowment

Anonymous Donor

Evalyne Achan

2009 Advocate

Adrian Coman

2000 Advocate

Elsadigi Elsheikh

2009 Advocate

Nazibrola Janezashvili

2009 Advocate

Peter Mulbah

2008 Advocate

Akinyi Ocholla

2009 Advocate

Florencia Ruiz

2009 Advocate

# 5 HRAP Administration

## Stephanie V. Grepo

### Director, Capacity Building

Stephanie joined ISHR in August 2008. From 2000 to 2007, she was seconded by the U.S. Department of State to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

(OSCE), the world's largest regional security organization. Stephanie organized elections and developed multi-ethnic experiential education programs in Kosovo, implemented confidence-building projects in the former crisis region of Macedonia, worked on return and integration issues and led a field office of 10 staff in central Croatia, and served as the youth and education advisor in Serbia. As an international observer for the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, she observed the election in Bosnia in October 2010. Stephanie earned a master's degree in human rights from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in 2000. Previously, she worked as an editor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her volunteer experience with resettling Bosnian refugees in Boston in the early 1990s led her to work in human rights.

The Advocates, Stephanie, and Tiffany gathered on the steps of the Riverside Church on the first official day of the 2010 Program. Photo courtesy of Stephanie V. Grepo.



1996 Advocate Twesigye Jackson Kaguri read excerpts from his recently published book *The Price of Stones: Building a School for My Village* to an audience at Columbia University that included the 2010 Advocates.

*Students streamed out of the office waving their graduation gowns and cheering.... It was difficult to believe these were the shy, undernourished children who barely reached my knee in 2003. Now they were confident, taller than me, educated, and ready to move on with their lives.... "We are winners!" they shouted. I found myself grinning.... We are all winners, I thought. Seeing these children succeed was the biggest victory of my life.*

*Page 253, The Price of Stones: Building a School for My Village, by Twesigye Jackson Kaguri and Susan Urbanek Linville, Viking Adult, 2010.*



## Tiffany Wheatland

### Coordinator, Human Rights Advocates Program

Tiffany joined ISHR in 2009 as an intern. At that time, she was responsible for conducting due diligence on more than 30 finalists for the 2009 HRAP. Based upon her strong work ethic and collegiality, she was asked to return to ISHR on a part-time salaried basis as Program Assistant. In this role, Tiffany was responsible for organizing more than 100 individual and group meetings in NYC for the nine participants in the 2009 HRAP.

In 2010, Tiffany rejoined HRAP on a part-time, salaried basis as HRAP Program Coordinator. In addition to organizing networking opportunities in NYC, Tiffany also organized the five-day networking trip to Washington, D.C., which included a total of five group meetings with organizations including the US Institute of Peace, the National Endowment for Democracy and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights and more than 50 individual meetings for the Advocates.

Tiffany thanks Dr. Zelma Henriques of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice for her long-time support of HRAP. Photo courtesy of Tiffany Wheatland.



Tiffany's contribution to HRAP has been noted by all involved with the Program, especially the 2009 and 2010 Advocates who express their deep appreciation to her for her professionalism, warmth and good will.

Prior to her work at ISHR, Tiffany was a graduate student consultant for UNFPA through a practicum offered by The New School. She and her fellow students developed a review of the outcomes of the UNFPA-led Joint Programming Initiative on Violence Against Women and issued guidelines on how to coordinate joint programming on violence against women.

Her interest in socio-economic development and issues pertaining to refugees and displaced people led her to

volunteer in West Africa at the Buduburam Liberian Refugee Camp in Gomoa District, Ghana. She taught English and math to refugee women and children. Tiffany earned a B.A. in International Affairs and Political Science from the University of Iowa. In 2009, she earned a master's degree in International Affairs from The New School. She is currently working for the Arcus Foundation.

## Andrew Richardson

### Assistant, Human Rights Advocates Program

Andrew first joined ISHR as an intern to assist with research projects, archival management, and database administration. Asked to come on board as part-time, salaried staff for HRAP in January 2010, he contributed to the Program's recent expansion by building the HRAP Alumni Network, publicizing HRAP around the globe, and preparing special projects for the upcoming 25th Anniversary of HRAP. He also contributed to the coordination of the 2010 HRAP including the Washington, D.C. networking trip. Many of the 2010 Advocates expressed their deep appreciation to Andrew for the thoughtful attention he gave to them throughout the course of the Program.

Andrew received his B.A. in French and International Studies from Manhattan College and is currently completing his M.A. in Diplomacy and International Relations



Tiffany and Andrew could always be counted on to help the Advocates. Photo courtesy of Stephanie V. Grepo.

from the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University. He speaks English, French, and Italian and understands a little bit of Russian.

## 6 Institute for the Study of Human Rights

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights was established in 1978 at Columbia University as the Center for the Study of Human Rights. In Spring 2010, Columbia University elevated CSHR to the level of an institute. ISHR is committed to its three core goals of providing excellent human rights education to Columbia students, fostering innovative interdisciplinary academic research, and offering its expertise in capacity building to human rights leaders, organizations, and universities around the world.

ISHR (then CSHR) was the first academic center in the world to be founded on an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights. This remains one of our most distinctive features. We recognize that human rights research must transcend traditional academic boundaries, departments, and disciplines, reaching out to practitioners so as to address the ever-increasing complexities of human rights in a globalized world. ISHR's emphases on interdisciplinarity, engagement, and globalism draw from and complement the strengths that have long characterized intellectual life at Columbia.

### ISHR Staff

**Irene Atamian**, Business Manager

**Elazar Barkan**, Executive Director

**Kristina Eberbach**, Director, Education

**Yasmine Ergas**, Associate Director

**Danielle Goldberg**, Coordinator, Peace-building and Rights

**Stephanie V. Grepo**, Director, Capacity Building

**Joe Kirchhoff**, Assistant Program Officer

**David L. Phillips**, Director, Peace-building and Rights

## 7 Comments from HRAP's Partners

*We had a rich and dynamic conversation with the Human Rights Advocates at StoryCorps, exploring how to put the human voice in human rights. Our discussion about the challenges and opportunities of recording stories to advance human rights brought out the incredible passion, expertise and experiences of the Advocates, whose commitment and integrity were so inspiring. The Advocates themselves are a testament to the power of the human voice, and we are excited to hear the stories that may come of their interest in recording, preserving and sharing the voices and experiences of people in their home communities.*

**Nicki Pombier Berger**,  
Coordinator  
StoryCorps' *Every Voice*

*Each year International House is a "home away from home" in New York for hundreds of graduate students, interns and scholars from around the world, including the participants in HRAP. The Advocates' participation in daily life, educational programs and cultural events at I-House enriches our global community and the I-House experience for all our members. We look*

*forward each year to the opportunity to engage this inspiring group to share their experiences and diverse perspectives and expand their own understanding of the world and the important work they do in their home countries.*

**Donald L. Cuneo**  
President  
International House New York

*It is important that the Advocates' work be done. They address human wrongs. I applaud their efforts.*

**Zelma Henriques**  
Professor of Law, Police Science, and  
Criminal Justice Administration  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice,  
The City University of New York

*HRAP is an opportunity to exchange ideas among human rights leaders, reflect on our collective organizing experiences and explore new methods and technologies that can broaden our ability to engage new audiences and improve our human rights impact. Together, Amnesty International staff and the Advocates explore these possibilities. Columbia's HRAP gives leaders an opportunity to step back, learn new techniques or receive training that will empower them to do the analysis with their members and leaders to find solutions in their own country context. It's an amazing learning opportunity for everyone involved.*

**Ana M. Polanco**  
Director of Organizing  
Amnesty International USA

*Each year, teaching the Advocates is a valuable learning experience for us. The Advocates always bring rich background, creative insights and lots of energy to our classes.*

**Diederik Lohman**  
Senior Researcher  
Health and Human Rights  
Division, Human Rights Watch

*I'm pleased to say that the visit by the Advocates has become a welcome annual event here at NED. Often, some Advocates are already NED partners, and others have become partners after becoming familiar with us. The intellectual quality of the Advocates is always high, their work impressive, and the discussions we have had about democracy, human rights, and civil society are consistently stimulating. I hope the Advocates enjoy the visit here as much as I do. We look forward to seeing them again next year.*

**Dave Peterson**  
Senior Director  
Africa Program, National  
Endowment for Democracy

In their final evaluations, Advocates always report that learning from one another is one of the greatest benefits of HRAP.

*The Advocates fully engaged with this year's workshop Exploring Stress, Trauma and Resilience in Human Rights Work. They discussed the ins and outs of stress: how to recognize it in themselves, their colleagues and partners, its many sources in their work, and what methods of stress management they might use to sustain themselves and their organizations for the rigorous work involved. At one point a group in their 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s, four generations of advocacy, held a sensitive conversation on the difficult topic of leadership transition. It was a privilege to hear the Advocates of HRAP 2010 express their compassion and support for each other as they worked on plans to manage this problematic issue.*

**Sheila Platt**  
MSW  
Director for External Relations,  
Community and Family Services  
International and Consultant on  
Humanitarian Staff Support

*Meeting Columbia's Advocates has been an invaluable experience. Their stories of courage, ingenuity and tenacity in the effort to win a more just society and a better world are compelling and unforgettable. It has been a privilege to know them.*

**Lisa Vives**  
Executive Director  
Global Information Network

*It has been an honor to mentor two amazing Advocates. I hope they have learned as much from me as I've learned from them. Their excitement at this opportunity is infectious. It is so important that women working to end violence against women have the opportunity to share insights, struggles and successes.*

**Susan Lob**  
Lecturer  
Columbia University School  
of Social Work

*It is a constant pleasure to meet with and discuss the issues of compliance and ethics with the Human Rights Advocates. They are an extraordinary group of individuals whose passion, intelligence, and dedication to their pursuits are a reminder that in a world all too often dedicated to material gain there are individuals seeking a better benefit.*

**Michael G. Silverman**  
Adjunct Associate Professor  
Columbia University School of  
International and Public Affairs





**Human Rights Advocates Program  
2011**

“ *HRAP is a great program. It provides grass-roots human rights activists with a unique opportunity to deepen their theoretical understanding of human rights and to expand their practical experience, while gaining visibility and exposure internationally. HRAP is also an inspiring space where activists empower one another by sharing their experiences and expertise and by building unbreakable bonds.* ”

*Bakary Tandia  
2010 Advocate*

Program report content prepared by Stephanie V. Grepo and Tiffany Wheatland.  
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