



## ART OF PEACE CURATES CREATIVE APPROACHES IN CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION



The multimedia projection  
“Sanctuary & Sustenance” is  
projected on the IPJ building



Mayda Del Valle of Street Poets Inc. delivers one of her poems to the audience

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“Art made me human again,” remarked Taylor Code of Street Poets Inc., capturing the power of art to change lives — a force on display throughout *The Art of Peace: Creative Approaches in Conflict Transformation*, a four-day symposium in November at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ).

The IPJ partnered with numerous organizations locally and internationally to create a space for actors and dancers, writers and poets, visual artists and activists, filmmakers and musicians to come together to share their art, stories and their processes of creation and expression — demonstrating how the arts can be used to break the cycle of conflict.

Peace writers from the IPJ’s Women Peace-Makers program (see page 5) opened the symposium with the panel “Write to Truth”

and discussed their process of documenting women’s stories into history, including what goes on in the interviewing and listening space with their peacemakers, and the question of different types of truth. Each writer also read a creative nonfiction piece they were working on about their Woman PeaceMaker.

A workshop by Black Lives Matters, “Poetry and Performance for Peaceful Protest,” explored how art can bring attention to injustices in an effort to resolve conflicts non-violently. As facilitator Renée Watson said, “We are going to look at how artists can build a container to put our anger into.”

A similar container was used by visiting artist Zon Sapal Phyu in her performance piece “Losing Parts,” a response to the rape and

murder of two ethnically Kachin teachers by Myanmar soldiers — and a call to attention about the ways rape and sexual violence are used as weapons of war.

The transformative power of the arts also lies in their ability to heal the wounds of conflict and trauma, between people and within themselves. During a workshop on “The Therapeutic Arts and Peacebuilding,” four art therapists put the process of art creation at the core of compassion, connection and change.

Poet and spoken word artist Paul Flores explored this theme in a workshop on the role documentary theater plays in promoting understanding and dialogue between people in conflict. He also shared excerpts of his performance piece *On the Hill*, with an audience that included many high school students from the IPJ’s WorldLink program.



Steve Guevara and Kimber Riddle perform *Kidnap Road*, a play about Colombian Presidential Candidate Ingrid Betancourt

*The Art of Peace* gave further space and voice to a diverse array of youth from San Diego, Los Angeles and Yangon. The art exhibition “Justice Under Construction,” curated specifically for the symposium by Myanmar’s DIVERZE Youth Art Platform, showcased how artists are using their talents to document and support their country’s transition to democracy.

Students from San Diego-based transcen-DANCE presented some of their stories during “An Evening of Transformative Arts,” which also featured the spoken word poetry of Street Poets Inc., based in Los Angeles. Founder Chris Henrikson made clear why working with

youth is so important: “We see our wounds as being very close to our gifts. In young people, the doorway to the wounds is closer which means the gifts are also closer.”

Through the multimedia projection of photography, film, music and words of “Sanctuary & Sustenance” — projected on the exterior of the IPJ building — art personalized what might otherwise seem distant: in this case, the experiences of refugees and asylum seekers in San Diego. Corresponding photos on display inside the building, produced by local partner Survivors of Torture, led one local student to utter, “I had no idea what was happening here.”

Other evening events included a unique and moving concert by Saffron Caravan, a group of culturally diverse musicians with a message of “arts diplomacy,” and a performance of *Kidnap Road*, a play by Catherine Filloux about the kidnapping of Colombian presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt by the rebel group the FARC. Following the play, Jessica López — executive assistant for the Kroc School of Peace Studies and a panelist from Colombia whose family has a personal story of abduction — said that the play allowed her to see Betancourt as a mother, daughter, wife, and not simply a controversial politician.

“We see our wounds as being very close to our gifts. In young people, the doorway to the wounds is closer which means the gifts are also closer.”

— CHRIS HENRIKSON

As exemplified at the symposium, in capturing beauty, pain and triumph over adversity, art can transform. It compels the viewer to use what John Paul Lederach calls the “moral imagination” to transcend hatred and violence and envision a more peaceful world. One participant stated, “I’ve learned that the beauty of art lies in the process. The result is powerful, but the process is transformative.”



Hend Nafea, Egyptian human rights activist and protagonist from *The Trials of Spring*, addresses Youth Peacemakers from the International Rescue Committee



IPJ Intern Rebecca Ottinger, artist Zumzang Dau Dai of Myanmar and Kroc School master’s student Nancy Cordova perform an original piece of music written by Dau Dai

# PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

by Director Dee Aker

## IPJ MISSION

A gift from Mrs. Kroc enabled the University of San Diego to build and endow the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ). Since 2000, the IPJ — part of the Kroc School of Peace Studies — has worked to build peace with justice by strengthening women peacemakers, youth leaders and human rights defenders, and developing innovative approaches to peacebuilding.

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMPASS

An online version of this newsletter can be found at <http://peace.sandiego.edu> together with additional information about IPJ programs and activities. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the University of San Diego.

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*Design*  
Buchanan Design, San Diego



Earthquakes, geological and social, shook Nepal this year. On April 15, a quake registering 8.1 on the Richter scale took nearly 9,000 lives as it obliterated villages and brought down homes and historic treasures in city centers. It was followed by severe aftershocks and another 7.3 quake on May 12.

As we witnessed the devastating scenes on television and were touched by reports and pictures from our Nepali colleagues, we also saw the resilience of the Nepali people. Youth often led the humanitarian responses, demonstrating compassion and strength as they cleared rubble, carried people to medical care, and got food and shelter in place often before any of the official recovery teams.

In late August as Program Officer Kara Wong and I drove into Kathmandu, I was aware of the strange gaps in lines of buildings along the still-congested streets. I was saddened by missing pieces of Buddhist stupas and Hindu icons who always greeted travelers and listened to locals offering a puja. We had come back to Nepal to see how our local partners were — how they were rebalancing their lives, recovering, and reintegrating their peacebuilding work into this shaken world. But, just days before we arrived, another tremor sent fear and shock across the country.

This was a human-induced quake of violence, shattering efforts to build an infrastructure capable of an inclusive, peaceful, democratic society. Suddenly, the final stages of creating a new constitution — intended to address long-standing grievances of marginalization — were destabilizing the small nation still unsteady from a 10-year civil war that officially ended in 2006. Political unrest in the Terai-Madhes region (along the border with India) led to a new humanitarian crisis: nearly 45 people were killed violently within a month.

As we carry on our discussions with local partner organizations and respond with them (see page 9), it is clear how fragile the implementation of peace plans can be. The importance of listening to all voices in efforts of reconciliation and transformation cannot be minimized. The articles in this newsletter suggest there is always much to discover before taking action, and many ways to discover what support would be best. The role of the arts, the enlightenment that comes with student engagement in our field programs, and the range of approaches explored by our Women PeaceMakers in residence confirm there is not one sure peacebuilding method or checklist that fits every situation.

In Mrs. Kroc's charge to the IPJ to "make peace," I am pleased to say we continue to find a world of partners. I want to thank all of them and the IPJ team for their hard and extensive work in building bridges for justice and peace.

## IPJ WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Over the summer the IPJ welcomed three new staff members: Stephanie Chiu, Robin Deichler and Iveta Niederle. Deichler, who holds a master's degree in international relations from San Francisco State University, supports the staff as executive assistant. Niederle joins the team after serving as coordinator for the institute's international conference and regional dialogues on "Defying Extremism." She now serves as lecture series manager, handling major talks and gatherings such as the Distinguished Lecture Series. Read more about Chiu, program officer for Women PeaceMakers, on page 5.

## DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED BY LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

On October 24, IPJ Director Dee Aker received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award by the San Diego chapter of the United Nations Association. Aker was nominated for her "tireless efforts in advancing the cause of human rights" through the IPJ's programs and her personal endeavors. Her work was recognized as "a great example of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's vision and compassion."

# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

## EUROPE REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON “DEFYING EXTREMISM” HELD IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



Religious leaders Friar Ivo Markovic, Sabiha Husic and Imam Damir Pestalic pray at the Srebrenica Genocide Memorial

Following the IPJ’s successful international conference and Asia Regional Dialogue on “Defying Extremism: Gendered Responses to Religious Violence,” the institute and its partners convened the Europe Regional Dialogue, in May in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The dialogue was hosted and co-organized by Woman PeaceMaker Sabiha Husic and her well-respected organization Medica Zenica, together with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and the Gem Foundation.

Each regional dialogue on the topic of extremism focuses on separate issues depending on the history, context and contemporary events of the region. The Europe iteration concentrated on unresolved justice issues following the wars in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, the role of interfaith dialogue in reconciliation, the phenomenon of foreign fighters both during the wars and now in the context of recruitment by the Islamic State

militant group, and how to prevent radicalization of youth living in poverty-stricken and/or unjust societies.

The core delegation for the dialogue included around 20 international participants (including six IPJ Women PeaceMakers) and 40 regional and local participants. After opening panels and discussions in the capital of Sarajevo, the group traveled together to Tuzla and Srebrenica. Twenty years after the genocide in Srebrenica, the delegation learned about the complicated

practical and juridical processes of identifying missing persons from the war and memorializing the victims of genocide, which continue to undermine efforts to consolidate peace in the region.

The other field visit outside the capital was to Zenica, home of Husic’s award-winning organization that assists victims of sexual violence. The group heard from prominent women peacebuilders from the region about their roles during the conflicts: crossing lines of division despite ethnicity, gender or religion; ensuring marginalized voices, such as youth and the disabled, are heard; and speaking out as women journalists or politicians despite repressive and patriarchal societies.

Delegates were also treated to examples of intercultural peacebuilding and harmony. The dialogue opened in Sarajevo with a concert by Pontamina, a world-renowned and interfaith choir led by Friar Ivo Markovic, a peacemaker with the IPJ’s partner organization Tanenbaum.



A performance by the interethnic choir Pontamina opened the dialogue in Sarajevo

## FRED PARTNERSHIP WITH PEACEMAKERS CONTINUES FOR THIRD YEAR

This fall marked the third year of the partnership between the FRED Leadership Forum and the Women PeaceMakers program. FRED brings together top innovators and senior executives responsible for developing leaders from business, social and government sectors.

In late September, Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman was invited to return to FRED’s annual conference, held this year in Denver, Colo. Freeman was joined by Kroc School Dean Patricia Márquez and Woman PeaceMaker Robi Damelin of Israel.

The FRED connection has produced a multitude of opportunities for Women PeaceMakers. Cigna, which has made generous donations to the program for the past three years, has incorporated peacemaker alumnae into their Leading for the Future program — a professional development opportunity for Cigna executives. FRED co-founder Richard Kimball has facilitated workshops for peacemakers, and other connections have led to support provided by the Joseph Henry Edmonds Foundation and generous scholarships for peacemakers to participate in seminars on leadership offered by the Aspen Institute.

Freeman remarked, “We value this partnership as an opportunity to share the morally courageous, adaptive leadership strategies of our peacemakers, while also learning from the rich community of leadership development professionals.”

IPJ Senior Editor and Writer Emiko Noma reflected on cultural events while in Zenica: “It was moving to watch our peacemakers from Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo, along with their colleagues from across the former Yugoslavia, sing and dance together to the common songs from their childhoods under Tito.

“We spent the week discussing how politicians exploited differences between ethnic groups and how that helped lead to some of the atrocities during the wars,” she explained. “But then there they were, the true makers of peace embracing and crying while dancing and singing to the songs that proved the divisions were arbitrary.”

## MEET THE IPJ'S NEW PROGRAM OFFICER FOR WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

In August, the IPJ welcomed Stephanie Chiu as program officer for Women PeaceMakers, in which she previously served as the peace writer for Alice Nderitu of Kenya.

### Q: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR TRAJECTORY TO THIS WORK AND THE IPJ?

A: I've accumulated 13 years of experience working in programs that support women's agency and focus on peace, justice and conflict transformation. In these roles I've worked in Australia, Afghanistan, Fiji,



Chiu most recently lived in Sweden but has lived and worked all over the world

Pakistan and Samoa. Returning to the Women PeaceMakers program at the IPJ has been an ambition ever since I left three years ago. I'm naturally drawn to that which is inventive and provocative, and this program has all of that in spades. I love that it honors women's power and stories through creative and smart programming. I feel very fortunate to be involved in work that aligns so closely with my own goals, values and life path.

### Q: YOU WERE A PEACE WRITER IN 2012. CAN YOU SUMMARIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE PROGRAM IN A FEW WORDS?

A: Creative, expansive, joyful, challenging, humbling.

### Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT EXPERIENCE YOU'VE HAD WORKING IN THE FIELD?

A: There have been so many meaningful experiences. In Fiji I facilitated interethnic training and conflict transformation workshops for women; in Pakistan I worked with Afghan refugee women on education, health and livelihood programs; in Afghanistan I helped to establish a network of women-run, independent, community radio stations for women. In each of those experiences, among others, I was learning the value of how to work hard and stay humble. I count them as life lessons and I draw from them continually.

### Q: WHAT ASPECTS OF YOUR POSITION AS PROGRAM OFFICER ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO?

A: Working with the IPJ team. It's a great dynamic here — the people who work here have exceptional skills and experience, they're passionate about their work, supportive of their colleagues, and great company too. To say I'm thrilled to be working with the peace writers and Women PeaceMakers would be an understatement. What an amazing group of women! I'm looking forward to supporting each of them in their important work documenting stories of peace-building and human rights advocacy, which I know will inspire others.

## IPJ CELEBRATES 13 YEARS OF WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

The award-winning Women PeaceMakers Program, now in its 13th year, documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. Meet this year's peacemakers and peace writers who were on campus this fall:

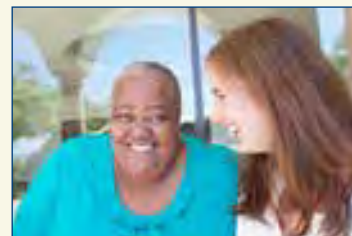
### Najla Ayoubi of Afghanistan

is a lawyer, human rights activist and former judge who has been instrumental in promoting women's empowerment, civic education and transparency. She has served as a legal advisor for the State Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and commissioner at the Independent Election Commission. Ayoubi worked with peace writer **Gabrielle Clifford**, a San Diego-based writer and corporate sustainability consultant.



### Pauline Dempers of Namibia

survived three years of imprisonment and torture in underground dungeons operated by South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the very liberation movement she had joined to fight for Namibian independence.



A human rights activist and co-founder of Breaking the Wall of Silence, Dempers advocates for the rights of ex-detainees and campaigns internationally against small arms and gun violence. She worked with **Jenna Barnett**, a freelance writer and editor who most recently was at *Sojourners* magazine in Washington, D.C.

**Galia Golan of Israel** is a professor emerita and grassroots activist with several decades of experience advancing women's roles in peace-building. She has founded several peace organizations including Israeli-Palestinian women's peace organizations, and mobilized the unprecedented demonstration of 400,000 Israelis during the war with Lebanon. Her writer, **Claire Doran**, is a mediator and writer, and recently completed an MA in peace studies in Tokyo, Japan, as a Rotary World Peace Fellow.



### Glenda Wildschut of South Africa

is a prominent human rights activist and authority on reconciliation who was appointed by Nelson Mandela to serve as a commissioner on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She established a pioneering trauma center for survivors of violence and torture and currently directs Transformation Services at the University of Cape Town. Wildschut worked with **Maggie Thach**, a San Diego-based writer, award-winning former sports journalist and teacher at Summa Education.



# YOUTH AND PEACEBUILDING

## WORLDLINK INTERN GAINS FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN HOSPITALS IN NEPAL

by Elle Necoechea, WorldLink Fall 2015 Intern

*This summer, Necoechea, a junior at La Jolla High School, traveled to Nepal as a participant in a three-week program hosted by Projects Abroad. In the IPJ's effort to continue to amplify the voices of young leaders, below is an excerpt of Necoechea's reflections on her travels.*



*Women in Nepal face numerous daily challenges, which Necoechea learned of first-hand in hospitals in Nepal*

It's been nearly three months since I returned from Nepal, but my experiences are still vivid in my mind. Interested in pursuing a career in the medical field, I had the opportunity to observe procedures including surgeries, live births, abortions and cancer treatments, in six different hospitals in the town of Chitwan. Despite being enchanted by the procedures happening in front of me, I observed some frustrating aspects — watching women, in particular, face great obstacles in accessing services and maintaining dignity and privacy in the medical sphere.

I spent one of the first mornings at a cancer hospital, primarily in a minor surgical room. The air was thick with humidity in the small room as I held two cots stained with fluids. There was no curtain between the two beds, limiting the patients' privacy. People were lined up at the door trying to observe the procedures of their loved ones.

An elderly woman hobbled in shortly after I arrived. She lifted her shirt for examination, revealing only one breast and a line of staples, where the other previously was, a surgical removal performed due to breast cancer. On the bedside across from her, an elderly man was partially naked getting a wound drained. The woman cringed and raised her shawl to her face as if trying to escape the space where privacy and cleanliness were nonexistent.

When I had the option to choose my placement, I always chose the gynecology ward and headed straight for the delivery room. Births in Nepal are generally conducted with a midwife at home, while births with complications take place in hospitals. The women were often subject to great pain, lacking the comfort of anesthesia and enduring a multitude of complications. I stood by their side, offering my hand for them to squeeze when their spouses were absent.

It astonished me to witness the level of strength carried by these Nepalese women. Before going to Nepal, I associated strong women to being very vocal and opinionated, but I now see that strength comes in different forms. Interacting with women of great character and perseverance, I also learned the potential for great transformation in countries recovering from conflict and humanitarian disasters. I'm anxious to return.



*Necoechea volunteered to work in Nepal over the summer*



*Photo credit  
Ana Maria Rubio*



*Photo credit  
Sera Stotelmyre*

## 19TH ANNUAL YOUTH TOWN MEETING

WorldLink will host the 19th Annual Youth Town Meeting on Jan. 20, 2016 at the University of San Diego. Youth participants will explore the student-selected theme "Youth's Influence on the World: For Better or Worse," taking a critical look at five areas of focus: *Social, Economic, Environmental, Policy* and *Technology*. If you would like to get involved as a student, sponsor or volunteer, email Senior Program Officer Debbie Martínez at [dmartinez@sandiego.edu](mailto:dmartinez@sandiego.edu).

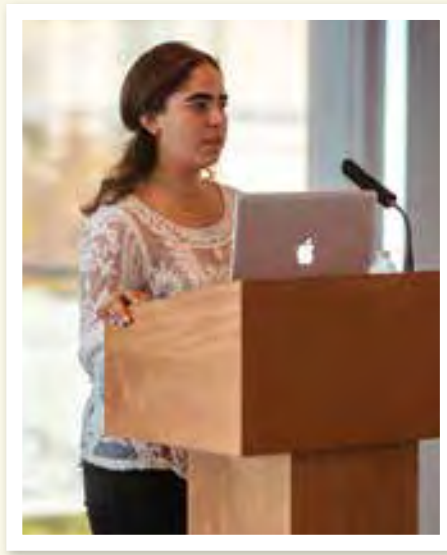
To read more about these topics, please access the student-produced 2016 WorldLink Reader available at [sites.sandiego.edu/wl\\_reader](http://sites.sandiego.edu/wl_reader).

## SAN DIEGO YOUTH COLLABORATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

by Lark Wang, WorldLink Spring 2015 Intern

On October 10, the IPJ's WorldLink program, Project Concern International, and UCSD's Center on Gender Equity and Health and the International House partnered to celebrate the United Nations International Day of the Girl Child. People of all ages gathered to reflect upon the challenges facing girls today, and their potential to drive progress.

IPJ Woman PeaceMaker Najla Ayoubi of Afghanistan was keynote speaker for the event, followed by WorldLink Intern Renata Del Riego from High Tech High Chula Vista. Del Riego captured the essence of the power of the adolescent girl and the necessity of education: "For a very long time, the story of girls has been that of injustice, inequality, violence and exploitation. But today, girls are actively playing a role in shaping our communities. ... With education comes



Former WorldLink Intern Renata Del Riego presents at the International Day of the Girl Child (photo credit: Keita Funakawa, UCSD)

empowerment, and with empowerment comes change."

Isha Raj-Silverman, representing La Jolla Girl Up, echoed the importance of equal access to education through her inspiring interview of Amina Yusef. Widely known as "the Malala of Nigeria," Yusef is a powerful voice for the 90 percent of girls who have not completed their secondary education in rural northwest Nigeria.

These local young speakers serve as role models of engaged and empowered girls striving to make an impact as youth advocates for change. As Ayoubi conveyed during her speech, girls in the U.S. must become educated and empowered, use their voices and pursue their dreams just as their counterparts around the world do.

## A PASSION FOR FILM TO SOLVE WORLD ISSUES

by Nathan Huffine, WorldLink Fall 2014 Intern

Huffine, a senior at Steele Canyon High School, produced the WorldLink film *Voices of Youth*, which documents the perspectives of three young leaders in Nepal on issues of gender equity and the impact youth have on local communities.

An icon appears on the computer documenting the editor's progress; it sits at 2 percent. I sit impatiently, waiting for the video to export. It has been nearly two hours of editing and I begin to feel a strange connection. The realization hits me. I was not alone in my room. I was in Nepal talking to a young girl about her schooling. Her name was Bhavya and at age 15 she was advocating for women's rights. For a moment, I shared in her efforts, and after two hours of video editing we became good friends. This is the power of video.

While I may never actually meet Bhavya in person, she opened my eyes to the struggles of young adults and women worldwide. Through video clips filmed by the staff of the IPJ's Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative and partners in Nepal, I not only discovered the tough learning conditions requiring school kids to study outside on dirt floors — I saw it. By piecing together clips for the film *Voices of Youth*,

I discovered the society of Nepal and met three young, determined teenagers. This project during my WorldLink internship stands as proof that film can act as a mechanism to alter minds and propagate change.

As my internship came to an end, I searched for new opportunities to harness the power of video. Through late-night online searching I stumbled upon the White House Film Festival. I knew I had to enter this contest. My film *Keeping Count* became the story of a girl's discovery of the deep love that is required for all small acts of kindness. The short film received



Nathan Huffine (second row, far right) meeting President Obama



an honorable mention in the festival, and to my excitement I met President Barack Obama.

The direct correlation between effective storytelling and solving world issues became clear after visiting the White House. On the long flight back to California, I reveled in the project's success and found my passion for filmmaking intensify. Much like with my internship at WorldLink, I was overcome by a desire to provide a voice for those unable to share their own story.

A long awaited beep sounds from my computer. In minutes I have the short film uploaded to WorldLink's YouTube channel. *Voices of Youth* is a video I will forever cherish, as it fed my hunger for connection. It wasn't the work schedule, tasks and meetings as a WorldLink intern that changed me for the better. Instead, I was internally altered by the moving force of young adults in a developing country and the video that forged a bridge between us.

# IN THE FIELD

## IPJ ASSISTS IN VOTER EDUCATION PRIOR TO MYANMAR'S HISTORIC ELECTION



*Voter education trainers light candles as a symbol of their commitment to share knowledge with others*

On November 8, the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, led by Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, claimed a staggering majority in Myanmar's first general election since 2011, when a nominally civilian military-backed government was elected, ending 50 years of authoritarian rule.

While 80 percent of the 30 million eligible voters cast a ballot, others in the country were stripped of the right to vote, including the nearly 1.3 million Rohingya, a persecuted Muslim minority that lacks citizenship, as well as residents in seven conflict-ridden areas.

In the lead-up to the election, IPJ Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Kara Wong traveled to Yangon to facilitate a workshop for 28 voter education trainers, focusing on minority rights as they relate to elections. The trainers represented diverse ethnic, religious and language groups from around the country. The IPJ team facilitated discussion on how trainers can motivate communities to vote while managing voter expectations. The pair also led a movement-based activity that provoked sharing around privilege and its relationship to elections and participation.

This was the IPJ's first official visit to Myanmar, prompted by invitations from colleagues of Wong, program officer for strategic peacebuilding, who spent seven years living and working in the country before joining the IPJ earlier in 2015. During the two-week field project, the IPJ team met with 18 civil society organizations working for peace and

justice, as well as key peacemakers including May Sabe Phyu, director of the Gender Equality Network and a recipient of the 2015 International Woman of Courage Award from the U.S. State Department.

During election season, Zon Sapal Phyu, a visiting artist for the IPJ's *Art of Peace* symposium (see cover story and page 2), served as campaign manager for Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe. Susanna founded the Karen Women's Action Group and served as a facilitator during peace talks between the Karen National Union and the Burmese government. She won the seat and will be serving Insein Township and Mingalardon Township as representative Constituency No. 10 in the Yangon Division, on behalf of the NLD party.

*The IPJ workshop in Myanmar was a part of the Support to Election Processes and Democracy project — a partnership between the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy, Democracy Reporting International, Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, and with the support of the European Union.*



*National League for Democracy electoral candidate Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe addresses her supporters*



## IPJ AND KENYA LOCAL PARTNERS MAP PEACEBUILDING WORK

Although the August 2017 General Elections are more than a year away, Kenyan politicians are reportedly mobilizing the country's youth for political violence to intimidate opponents and their supporters. While the year has been relatively peaceful in Nairobi, the IPJ's partners working in the capital's slum communities are anticipating an acceleration of violence as the elections approach. At the same time, the Kenyan government's militarized approach to countering terrorism has further strained the already fraught relationship between the state and its people, especially youth residing in Nairobi's sprawling informal settlements.



*Orth and staff from CYU mapped ideas for reducing violence in slum communities around Nairobi*

In August 2015, Program Officers Daniel Orth and Zahra Ismail traveled to Nairobi as part of the IPJ's ongoing Kenya Violence Prevention Project. The primary purpose of the trip was to assess the challenges confronting Nairobi's slum communities and to conduct a strategic planning session to determine the nature of the IPJ's future work with local partner organization *Cbemchemi Ya Ukweli* (CYU), or "Fountain of Truth".

Orth and Ismail conducted a series of interviews with key stakeholders, including political, security, youth and civil society actors. The analysis was also informed by the research findings of Jessica Ciccarelli, Kroc School of Peace Studies graduate student, who spent the summer interning with CYU conducting interviews in the slums of Kangemi, Kibera, Korogocho and Mathare outside the capital (see Ciccarelli's reflections on page 11).

These communities continue to suffer from high levels of insecurity and remain vulnerable to outbursts of violence, caused in part by a relationship between youth and police that is characterized by abuse, violence, mistrust, misunderstanding and a lack of communication and cooperation. At the same time, youth and police engage in a variety of illegal activities because of poverty and unemployment. Identity remains one of the key drivers of conflict — youth against police, tribe versus tribe.

Based on the organizations' shared capacity and previous experience, the IPJ and its local partner organizations identified a number of possible ways to improve security by building healthier relationships between youth and police, between youth and their communities, and between the communities and the police. Interventions range from citizen journalism training to improve timely access to accurate information and encourage accountability; advocacy strategies through social media to capture and share stories to humanize "the other"; support for improved community organizing; and capacity-building for youth organizations and their members.

## IPJ RENEWS PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS AFTER QUAKES AND UNREST IN NEPAL

In late August, Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Kara Wong traveled to Nepal to meet with local partners still dealing with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in April and how it is affecting their peacebuilding efforts.

The focus, access and tone of their trip, however, changed upon arrival. Various Nepali colleagues were concentrating instead on alarming unrest in the Far West region, where new demarcations of federal provinces ignored regional expectations and requests. Mere days before the IPJ team's arrival, a deadly attack on security forces left several dead along with members of the local community, including a 2-year-old boy.



*Aker poses with presenters from Today's Youth Asia after recording a TV program on "Careers in Peace, Justice and Conflict Transformation"*

Protests and over-militarized security responses continued over the coming days. In Kathmandu, where leaders seem untouched by the impact of their decisions and consumed by their desire to finalize the constitution, the institute's local colleagues were still very engaged, trying to get a word into the seemingly closed environment.



*Wong and Aker met with children from the organization Raksha Nepal, which assists women victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Raksha's building that houses approximately 40 children was heavily damaged in the earthquake and must be rebuilt.*

Wong and Aker met with Constituent Assembly members from the conflict-affected Terai region (home to over half of Nepal's population), young women and men working in media, and NGOs intent on providing social support to local citizens. Sano Paila, a long-time IPJ community partner, is one of the few local community development organizations headquartered in the Terai. Their staff discussed with the IPJ possible ways of supporting their local documentation and peacebuilding work. Wong and Aker also participated in a televised conversation with young leaders, discussing the vital role youth play in building strong and resilient communities.

As of this newsletter's print time, much of the Terai remains at a standstill due to ongoing strikes, protests and curfews — and may be a tinderbox.

# IPJ INSIDER

## CRAFTING MEANINGFUL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: THE IPJ INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

“I’m so grateful for their energy, knowledge and skills,” remarked Debbie Martínez, senior program officer for youth and peacebuilding, acknowledging the valuable contributions that interns make each semester to the work of the IPJ.

The Internship Program has been an important part of the institute since its inception, and each term a new cohort arrives to help advance the institute’s mission. From developing new platforms for sharing the stories of Women PeaceMakers to making presentations at WorldLink schools, from producing videos of local partner organizations in the field to editing publications, interns contribute to every facet of the IPJ’s work. As Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman makes clear, “Interns advance the work of the institute, not only by supporting staff, but also by taking on new initiatives.”

“I have come to recognize the many intersections between each of the institute’s different programs, enabling me to both broaden my knowledge of peacebuilding efforts and propel my interest in peace and justice studies.”

— RACHEL LA DUE

The IPJ sees the Internship Program as a way to develop emerging peacebuilders and inspire new practitioners. “During my internship I have come to recognize the many intersections between each of the institute’s different programs, enabling me to both broaden my knowledge of peacebuilding efforts and propel my interest in peace and justice studies,” stated Rachel



La Due (right) working on a project with IPJ Summer Intern Aryana Derakhshan of Clemson University

La Due, a University of San Diego sophomore who joined the IPJ in July to work on programming and promotion for *The Art of Peace* (see cover story and page 2).

Internships provide an important opportunity to learn about peace and justice issues. After interning both at the IPJ and in Kenya (see page 11), Jessica Ciccarelli recognizes the challenges of peacebuilding. “It’s easy to talk about peace and what it means, but when it comes to actually *making* peace it gets complicated.” She notes, “I got the opportunity to spend months experiencing how an international/local partnership really works and how important it is to have an organization like the IPJ that genuinely cares about getting results for the communities in which it works.”

## IPJ STAFF MEMBERS ATTEND PEACEBUILDING GATHERINGS AROUND THE WORLD

Institute staff members participated in major events related to peacebuilding and justice issues throughout 2015. In April, the IPJ presented at a conference in The Hague, Netherlands, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, the oldest women’s peace organization in the world. Dee Aker, Jennifer Freeman and



Woman PeaceMaker Sabiha Husic (second from right) leads a roundtable discussion with participants at the event hosted by the IPJ and Women’s Regional Network

Emiko Noma organized a presentation along with Women PeaceMakers alumnae and the Women’s Regional Network, which works with women in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.

Daniel Orth, program officer for strategic peacebuilding, participated in the Alliance for Peacebuilding’s annual conference in Washington, D.C., in May, as part of a Kroc School delegation. Program Officer Kara Wong spent two days in June in northern California at a gathering of experiential educators from over 20 countries. The event was hosted by Where There Be Dragons, a global leader in cross-cultural education.

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, a partner organization of the IPJ’s work on “Defying Extremism,” invited Senior Program Officer Freeman to present to its Advisory Group meetings, held in late August in Vienna, Austria, and in November at Network headquarters in Helsinki, Finland. The meetings gathered high-level experts in diplomacy, politics, religion and peacebuilding, and focused on gender and preventing violent extremism.

*The IPJ’s work in The Hague was made possible partially through an International Opportunity Grant from the University of San Diego’s International Center.*

# IPJ INSIDER – KROC SCHOOL SPHERE

## LESSONS LEARNED – A KROC SCHOOL STUDENT IN KENYA

by Jessica Ciccarelli, MA '16

Nairobi's streets felt wild — an organized, yet chaotic masterpiece unique to this “City in the Sun.” The smells, sounds and sights all have their own distinct Nairobi twist, nothing like the U.S. and nothing like other places I have been in Africa: the smell of *nyama choma* (barbecued beef), *matatus* and *boda-bodas* (forms of public transportation), camels, goats, push carts, and seeing any combination of security officers from Nairobi's dozen different security agencies holding AK-47s. Simply, strangely, I miss this Nairobi chaos just months after I left.

This summer I worked with three organizations: *Chemchemi Ya Ukweli* (CYU), Catholic Relief Services and Caritas. With CYU I interviewed actors at many levels of Nairobi society, to better understand the relationship between youth and police. This led me to communities all over Nairobi — from the lavish, upmarket areas to the more impoverished communities struggling with unemployment. Straddling this line gave me a depth of understanding regarding identity that I could not have



A wall in Kibera, a slum community of Nairobi, reads “Youth Live in Peace” and “We Need to Work Better” (Photo credit: Flickr/Matthew and Heather)

“... there are many things I will carry with me as I transition from a student of peace to someone who helps build it — knowledge such as the value of local voices and supporting their real, local, grassroots initiation.”

— JESSICA CICCARELLI

I am a graduate student at the Kroc School of Peace Studies and was given the opportunity to traverse these wild streets and to call it a program requirement for my school. I interned this summer with organizations that live and work in communities which many people — local and international alike — fear entering. It was in those communities that I fell in love with that beautiful city and its residents. This internship with the IPJ gave me a unique and new love that showed me the beauty that can be found in struggle if you open your mind and heart to it.

received anywhere else. While working with Catholic Relief Services and Caritas, whose work is largely based in marginalized communities, I wandered around the settlements in Kariobangi and Mathare. I met countless youth who transformed the way I think about the definitions of community and employment.

I learned a great deal from this internship with the IPJ's local partners in Kenya, and there are many things I will carry with me as I transition from a student of peace



### KROC SCHOOL INSTITUTES COLLABORATE TO HOST MEXICAN ACTIVIST FOR NONVIOLENCE

The IPJ partnered with its sister institute at the Kroc School, the Trans-Border Institute, in hosting Pietro Ameglio, a social activist in the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity in Mexico. The May lecture, “A Space for Peace: The Audacity of Nonviolence in Mexico,” served as part of the IPJ's Distinguished Lecture Series and TBI's 19th Annual Sister Sally Furay Lecture, in honor of the founder of the institute. TBI promotes dialogue, understanding and collaboration to address transnational issues among the peoples of the United States, Mexico and beyond. Watch the lecture at <http://www.ucsd.tv/kroc/>.



Youth from Kariobangi lead goats to pasture

to someone who helps build it — knowledge such as the value of local voices and supporting their real, local, grassroots initiation.

See the IPJ blog for more posts from Ciccarelli on her experiences in Kenya. <http://sites.sandiego.edu/ipj>

*Fostering Peace, Cultivating Justice, Creating a Safer World.*

The IPJ's Regional Dialogues on "Defying Extremism: Gendered Responses to Religious Violence" will continue in 2016 and 2017 with gatherings in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East/North Africa. To support the institute's work on this critical contemporary issue, contact Jennifer Freeman at [jenfreeman@sandiego.edu](mailto:jenfreeman@sandiego.edu) or (619) 260-7569.

*Reverend Jack Manuputty of Indonesia, a peacemaker with the IPJ's partner organization Tanenbaum, interacts with children in Zamboanga, Philippines, at the Asia Regional Dialogue in February (Photo courtesy of Nelson Dino)*



*At the Europe Regional Dialogue in May, peacebuilders from across the former Yugoslavia danced to songs that surpass divisions (Photo courtesy of Bjorn Magnus Jacobsen Ihler)*

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