

IPJ BLENDS SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICE IN PEACEBUILDING



The historic city of Istanbul was the setting for a mediation training co-led by Program Officer Zahra Ismail in September

Kenya, Nepal, Cambodia, Mexico, New York, Turkey, Czech Republic — it has been a full year for the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ). Since the institute opened its doors in 2001, its staff has heeded Mrs. Kroc's charge to not only "talk about peace, but make peace," balancing and blending scholarship and practice in classrooms at home and communities in the field.

This year — in addition to an array of fieldwork, WorldLink presentations in Mexico, and involvement in the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York — institute staff members participated in unique international forums and showcased practice-informed scholarship and academically informed fieldwork.

"I recognize the participants as not only learners but also facilitators and trainers themselves."

— ZAHRA ISMAIL

In May, Program Officer Jennifer Freeman and Editor Emiko Noma presented scholarly works at the 4th Global Conference on Storytelling, held in Prague, Czech Republic. Conference delegates explored the roles and uses of storytelling in a range of disciplines in the social sciences, humanities, even medicine.

For several years, Freeman and Noma have been developing and refining the methodology used in the Women PeaceMakers Program: the process of documenting women's stories of living in conflict and how and why they choose to build peace. "As practitioners, we usually just focus on the outcomes and impact of our program," said Freeman, who holds a master's degree in peace and conflict studies. "Presenting at an academic conference allowed us to explore and share the interdisciplinary theory which informs our work."

In September, Program Officer Zahra Ismail traveled to Istanbul, Turkey to join a team of international trainers as part of the Mediators Beyond Borders International Training Institute. The two-day gathering focused on skills building for women peace practitioners and included IPJ Women PeaceMakers Vaiba Kebeh Flomo of Liberia, Radha Paudel of Nepal and Rashad Zaydan of Iraq.



In Prague, Program Officer Jennifer Freeman presented the methodology of the Women PeaceMakers Program that she has developed with Editor Emiko Noma

For Ismail, it was an opportunity to apply what her master's program in peace and conflict resolution instilled in her — "a deep conviction that communities, particularly those caught in situations of conflict, have critical knowledge to share, and we need to listen." She uses those lessons in her workshops and trainings, like the one in Istanbul which included several women from countries in the midst of unrest, such as Syria and Egypt. "I recognize the participants as not only learners but also facilitators and trainers themselves," she said.

These initiatives demonstrate the vision of Mrs. Kroc's gift: a practice-oriented institute, not stand-alone but within a university campus. In blending theory and practice, institute staff and university faculty and students are able to leverage the strengths of each — enhancing research and strategies for sustainable peace with justice.

The IPJ's work in Turkey and the Czech Republic was made possible through International Opportunity Grants from the University of San Diego's International Center.

IN THE FIELD

CONFRONTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEPAL



IPJ staff members learned about the Thulo Paila project in southern Nepal

The U.S. Department of State, in its latest Trafficking in Persons Report, identified Nepal as a “source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children who are subject to forced labor and sex trafficking,” and states that the government “does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.”

The country has been recognized by the Asia Foundation as having good legislation to combat the issue — most notably the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act of 2007 — but enforcement and implementation remain weak, due in part to the country’s constant political instability.

“Sano Paila’s efforts have received national and international attention, including feature stories in Al Jazeera, Agence France-Press and CNN’s Freedom Project.”

In early 2013, the IPJ’s local partner in southern Nepal, Sano Paila (translated “A Little Step”), launched its Thulo Paila (“A Big Step”) project to rescue and rehabilitate Nepali youth who have been trafficked domestically and internationally for forced labor purposes. In partnership with the U.K.-based organization Freedom Matters and the Nepal Police, Sano Paila has participated in four rescue operations, in both India and Nepal, and several more investigations are in progress across multiple districts.

The organization also established rehabilitation programs for rescued children and young adults, including a visual arts program and Circus Kathmandu — a professional, homegrown circus company designed to provide employment opportunities for the youth and raise awareness of child trafficking. Sano Paila’s efforts have received national and international media attention, including feature stories in Al Jazeera, Agence France-Press and CNN’s Freedom Project.

A former IPJ program participant, Menuka Thapa, has also been combatting trafficking. Thapa established Raksha Nepal (“Protection Nepal”), an organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and reintegrating women and girl victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, in 2004. Raksha Nepal’s activities include rescue operations, media mobilization to raise awareness, legal support for victims and lobbying for increased enforcement of existing laws. It also runs a shelter housing 35 young women, girls and children of the women who have been rescued.

In addition to providing counsel and skills trainings, the IPJ has covered the issue of human trafficking in its work in Nepal, most recently during a workshop held in Dolakha with local partner Today’s Youth Asia. The region, which borders China, experiences a great deal of domestic and international human trafficking, and local leaders were keen to discuss options for the community to work together against it.

An IPJ roundtable in Kathmandu in May 2013 provided an opportunity for Sano Paila, journalists from major media outlets, and members of the IPJ team to discuss approaches for educating communities and techniques used internationally to combat human trafficking.



Children at Raksha Nepal’s shelter greeted the IPJ’s Nepal team during fieldwork in 2011

PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

by *Interim Director Dee Aker*

IPJ MISSION

Since 2000, the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) — of the University of San Diego's Kroc School of Peace Studies — has worked to build peace with justice by strengthening women peacemakers, youth leaders and human rights defenders, and by 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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As I write this, I am preparing to participate again in short-term election observations in Nepal with The Carter Center — the second constituent assembly elections since the overthrow of the monarch in 2006. In the years since, Nepalis have wanted democracy but distrust the political parties; they want equality before the law but many face constant discrimination and the denial of their human rights.

In my 27 visits to the country in the last 11 years, negotiators, gender experts, security sector representatives, lawyers and many more have joined the IPJ and diverse, peace-seeking communities in this beautiful country in the midst of transition.

Reflecting on how we use our talents in Nepal, I realize it is not outsiders who pry open the doors of change. We may share experiences, teach some skills, convene groups to tackle problems left by conflict and distrust — but it is always the individual Nepali who takes the risk walking through the door and building peace.

My training as a psychologist and anthropologist prepared me for that essential lesson in conflict transformation: We cannot take the final step to change unless it is we who are changing. In this complex, waning democracy in Nepal, I look forward to watching our Nepali partners take the next step of writing the constitution and transforming the dysfunctional processes of the last few years.

In addition to our work in Nepal the IPJ has worked with other trailblazers and in multiple venues recently. Our staff has traveled abroad for practice-oriented and academic exchanges. From training women caught in conflict in Syria and elsewhere, to presenting the methods of reflective practice and storytelling embodied in the Women PeaceMakers Program, our small team has a voice and presence that you will find celebrated in this newsletter. Likewise, we have been privileged as part of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies to offer graduate students practical workshops and interactions with peacebuilding experts.

The transitions reflected in our current search for institute directors and a dean for the Kroc School are new doors open to us. We are looking forward to walking through and greeting new colleagues soon. We have found a world of support and interest for the school and the institutes it houses, and we continue to do our best to foster peace and cultivate justice in the spirit Joan Kroc modeled for us.

IPJ PROGRAM OFFICER NAMED AN EMERGING LEADER

Debbie Martinez, program officer for the WorldLink Program, was named one of 25 local emerging leaders in their 20s, awarded by the *San Diego Business Journal*. The honor was given to young, dynamic professionals who make significant career achievements and have demonstrated social responsibility.

STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

At the university's annual Fall Employee Service and Recognition Awards Luncheon, IPJ Interim Director Dee Aker and Senior Program Officer Diana Kutlow were recognized for 15 and 10 years, respectively, of dedicated service to the institute and university.



Martinez was named a San Diego emerging leader in September

WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM

INSTITUTE WELCOMES 11TH COHORT OF WOMEN PEACEMAKERS AND PEACE WRITERS

The Women PeaceMakers Program documents the stories and best practices of international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. They are paired with peace writers who interview them daily and write their stories. The IPJ welcomed the 11th program cohort in August.



Rehana Hashmi, a development professional and human rights defender, founded Sisters Trust Pakistan to help victims of domestic violence and women and girls breaking free of religious fundamentalism and forced marriages. Hashmi worked with peace writer Sue Diaz, a San Diego-based freelance journalist and author of *Minefields of the Heart: A Mother's Story of a Son at War*.

Sabiha Husić, a psychotherapist, Islamic theologian and interreligious peacebuilder, is the director of the nongovernmental organization Medica Zenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which provides psychosocial and medical support to women and children victims of war and post-war violence. Husić worked with peacebuilding consultant and former IPJ intern Maryam Rokhideh.



Philister Baya Lawiri is the chairperson of South Sudan's Civil Service Commission, as well as the South Sudan focal point for the bi-national Coalition of Women Leaders,

a group of more than 200 women working to advance women's engagement in the ongoing peace process between Sudan and its new southern neighbor. Lawiri was paired with teacher and freelance writer Sally Kantar.

Rutuparna Mohanty, a human rights lawyer in India, is the founder of Maa Ghara (Mothers Home), which provides a shelter for rehabilitating trafficked and sexually exploited women and girls. She worked with peace writer Tara Ruttenberg, assistant secretary to the Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace.



10TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT RELEASED



More than 30 peacemakers gathered at the IPJ in 2012 for the 10th Anniversary Summit

A report on the 10th anniversary and the Hansen Foundation Summit for the Women PeaceMakers Program was released over the summer. Authored by Jennifer Freeman, who directs the program, the publication covers the successes and impact of the first decade of the program, as well as the activities of last September's summit of alumnae.

PROGRAM RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATIONS

In late June the Women PeaceMakers Program received substantial gifts from local philanthropists William Lerach and Michelle Ciccarelli Lerach, including a fundraising breakfast held at their home in La Jolla, Calif. The funds received allowed the IPJ to host the 2013 Women PeaceMakers and peace writers.

PEACEMAKERS MODEL LEADERSHIP AT THE FRED FORUM

In governments and corporations, nonprofits and the military, how can the quality of leadership be elevated? At the invitation-only FRED Forum in San Diego in September, 75 executives and leadership development experts looked for answers to that question in the 2013 Women PeaceMakers.

From September 18 to 20, the Women PeaceMakers and Program Officer Jennifer Freeman were invited to present and participate in the forum, an intensive examination of how to create and support better leadership in institutions and communities. A melding of private and public sector expertise, the diverse group challenged the myths, norms and assumptions that dictate common thinking and the status quo.



The Women PeaceMakers Program was the “Leadership Spotlight” at the forum (Photo courtesy of Kirk Saber)

Exercised in contexts of conflict, oppression and injustice, and not motivated by salary or honed by elite educations, the peacemakers provide models of local, gender-sensitive, socially driven, successful leaders.

For the Women PeaceMakers it was an opportunity to reach a new audience, including corporate executives from GE, Sony, Intel, Walmart, Coca-Cola, among others, and management directors from business schools at Yale, MIT, University of British Columbia and Dartmouth. The ideas and inspiration the peacemakers’ presentations generated in intensive small group discussions reverberated throughout the forum.

One participant was moved by “how Sabiha [Husić] and her team lifted themselves beyond the hatred around them and ... always functioned at a humane and human level to resolve issues.” The peacemakers’ stories ignited the participants’ curiosity to learn more, and many are seeking ways to support the women’s work in their home countries.



Peacemaker Rehana Hashmi shares the struggles and successes she has had in Pakistan (Photo courtesy of Kirk Saber)

GUCCI’S CHIME FOR CHANGE CAMPAIGN FEATURES WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

The Chime for Change campaign, founded by Gucci to raise funds and awareness for girls’ and women’s empowerment, is highlighting the work of several of the IPJ’s Women PeaceMakers. The first two profiles — “Disarming the Violence,” about Sarah Akoru Lochodo of Kenya, and “Voices of an Island,” about Mary Ann Arnado of the Philippines — are online at www.chimeforchange.com/stories, and more will be featured in the coming months. The storytelling platform of the campaign is managed by renowned journalist Mariane Pearl.



Arnado with the civilian-led Bantay Ceasefire monitoring team, described in the Chime for Change profile

WORLDLINK

TIJUANA TEACHER MOTIVATES FUTURE LEADERS THROUGH WORLDLINK



Robles (second from right) first participated in WorldLink in 2006

As a junior in high school, Yolanda Robles attended her first WorldLink Youth Town Meeting with her classmates from CETYS Universidad Campus Tijuana. Arriving at the 2006 meeting on “Protecting the Rights of the Child,” Robles discovered she was one of 750 student delegates from the San Diego and Baja Mexico regions selected to address the forced labor of children, the involvement of children in armed conflict and the trafficking and exploitation of minors.

While participating in the student-run Youth Town Meeting, Robles met a human trafficking survivor. “Seeing a person who had been through that situation and seeing her have the courage to share her story, it opened my eyes,” Robles reflected. She began to realize the importance of programs like WorldLink. “Sometimes we hear about issues around the world,” she said, “but we never have the opportunity to meet people who have actually had these experiences.” Robles left her first Youth Town Meeting with a newfound appreciation for cross-border cultural exchanges and a commitment to engage in dialogue and social service.

2014 YOUTH TOWN MEETING TO COVER GLOBAL CONFLICTS

Each year over 700 middle and high school students participate in WorldLink’s Youth Town Meeting, where they meet with leaders from public and private organizations. The Youth Town Meeting is grounded in the belief that youth have much to offer and gain from discussion with experts and professionals regarding the complexities and challenges of international affairs.

The 17th Annual Youth Town Meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014. The student-selected theme is “Global Conflicts: Human Impact, Human Solutions.” For more information on how to be involved or support the Youth Town Meeting, contact Program Officer Debbie Martinez at dmartinez@sandiego.edu.

Her relationship with WorldLink did not end there. Seven years later as a new teacher at CETYS Tijuana, Robles was eager to introduce this transformative meeting to the students in her International Baccalaureate class titled “Creativity, Action and Service” (CAS) — a project-based course that requires students to design and implement a community-focused initiative.

“I was excited to go back to the Youth Town Meeting as a teacher. It is evident that these conferences form leaders for the future.”

— YOLANDA ROBLES

“I was excited to go back to the Youth Town Meeting as a teacher,” Robles explained. “It is evident that these conferences form leaders for the future.” After attending the 2013 Youth Town Meeting, her own CAS students Alexander De Bueno and Maria Carmen Vasquez decided to organize and host a similar youth conference on their campus for their final project. They welcomed over 15 leading experts in the fields of bioscience, social entrepreneurship and more.

Robles said, “I was amazed at their leadership and organization. They would not have been able to plan this conference if it weren’t for their experiences with WorldLink.”

IPJ INSIDER

VALUING THE VOICES OF YOUTH AT THE IPJ



IPJ Fall Interns Morgan Kline, Madeline Dickson and Jenny Daniel

Each semester and over the summer months, the IPJ is host to several young people — both college and high school students — through the institute's Internship and WorldLink Programs. Part of our mission is to build peace with justice through strengthening women peacemakers, youth leaders and human rights defenders, so we value the voices of the young people in our offices.

As Program Officer Debbie Martinez notes, "There are several negative stereotypes associated with today's youth: they are materialistic, unappreciative, disconnected from the greater world, the list goes on and on. However, through the WorldLink Program I have the great privilege of working with ... young leaders who quickly dispute those prejudices. I am inspired each and every day by their intellect, compassion and dedication."

IPJ STAFF MEMBERS MAKE IMPACT AROUND TOWN

In addition to the numerous workshops and trainings in countries where the IPJ works, staff members regularly make presentations around San Diego County to discuss the institute's programs. Below is a list of summer and fall 2013 speaking engagements.

October 30 — San Diego Continuing Education Center: Zahra Ismail and Megan Theriault on IPJ programs and events

October 24 — San Diego World Affairs Council: Dee Aker and Zahra Ismail on Cambodia



Ismail and other staff members make numerous presentations around Southern California each year

Below are some more voices of our youth on conflict, peace and education:

"What I believe is needed [in conflict resolution] is what I've learned at the IPJ: You want to understand another's culture and respect it in order to facilitate discussion. They don't want to violate or disrupt. They talk to people on the ground, to the people who live the day-to-day reality of the conflict."

– Joshua Wheeler, IPJ Intern, Summer 2013



WorldLink Summer Interns Maya Lakshman, David Ilori and Josh Trissel respond to questions after their final presentations

"[Peace] is about human relationships Peace should be about human dignity. We need to make sure the human aspect is never missing in peace and justice."

– Alison Gonzalez, IPJ Intern, Summer 2013

"I realized that in our society education is something taken for granted. People dread going to school, and although it can be stressful at times, we don't appreciate just how lucky we are to have the opportunities we do. Education can take us anywhere we want to; it is the key that opens up the world to us."

– Nicole Lobo, WorldLink Intern, Fall 2013

To apply to be an intern at the IPJ, go to www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/institutes/ipj/involved/internships and www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/institutes/ipj/programs/world_link_youth/internships

September 25 — National Conflict Resolution Center: Jennifer Freeman on Women PeaceMakers and the United Nations

August 29 — Rotary Club 33: Jennifer Freeman on the Women PeaceMakers Program

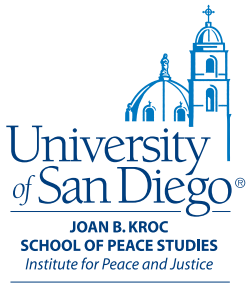
July 11 — Rotary Club of Rancho Bernardo: Zahra Ismail on Kenya

June 19 — San Diego Consular Corps: Jennifer Freeman on the Women PeaceMakers Program

June 19 — Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company: Dee Aker and Zahra Ismail on Cambodia

June 14 — Young Leaders Film Festival: Debbie Martinez on the WorldLink Program

To request an IPJ speaker at your event, please email ipj@sandiego.edu or contact individual staff members at the numbers listed on our website: <http://peace.sandiego.edu>.



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Fostering Peace, Cultivating Justice, Creating a Safer World.

Victor Garcia Campana, a WorldLink program participant and CETYS Tijuana student, received Best in Show — Honorable Mention for this photo contribution to the Trans-Border Institute's annual photography contest, "Re-Imagining Borders." The awards were presented by photodocumentarian Jon Lowenstein and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting's Dominic Bracco on April 11, 2013. The Trans-Border Institute, like the IPJ, is part of the University of San Diego's Kroc School of Peace Studies.



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