

# PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS



## IPJ BRINGS VOICES OF PEACEMAKERS TO HALLS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In March in New York, it may be cold, it may be wet, it may be snowing. But inside the United Nations and surrounding buildings, rooms are cozy as thousands of women and men gather to discuss gender, human rights, peace and development.

Every year a delegation from the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) joins these thousands for the annual U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, the principal global policymaking body dedicated to gender equality.

Institute staff members Dee Aker, Jennifer Freeman and Emiko Noma were joined this year in New York by members of the Women PeaceMakers Advisory Committee (see page 7). The delegation attended an array of sessions on this year's theme: the progress being made toward the Millennium Development Goals and the necessary recommendations for how U.N. agencies, member states, funders and civil society must work together to identify significant and necessary entry points to shape the development agenda after the year 2015.

*“... the systematic exclusion of women is why peace agreements fail.”*

— DONALD STEINBERG

For the eighth year in a row, the institute presented a panel as part of the sessions that are held parallel to the official proceedings of the commission. Drawing on the institute's work documenting the experiences of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders from 35 countries, this year's panel focused on the gendered dimensions of security and peace to sustainable development.



*Flags of member nations flying at United Nations Headquarters (UN Photo by Joao Araujo Pinto)*

The IPJ's presentation included three esteemed panelists with extensive expertise in development, gender, peace and security: Madeleine Rees, secretary general of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); Rehana Hashmi, a 2013 IPJ Woman PeaceMaker; and Donald Steinberg, president and CEO of World Learning.

Drawing on her experience as a woman human rights defender in Pakistan, Hashmi highlighted the specific insecurities that she faces in her peacebuilding efforts. Rees then emphasized the crucial work being done on the ground by women such as Hashmi, and the organizations like WILPF and the IPJ that support them. She said it was time for advocates to stop looking to the United Nations to set the agenda, but rather for the global institution to follow the lead of organizations that are out in front in advancing gender-sensitive peacebuilding and sustainable development.

Finally, Steinberg reflected on his own journey from a young development professional to a peace negotiator and ambassador in sub-Saharan Africa, learning, “forgetting” and relearning the centrality of women's involvement in development design and peace processes. Drawing on his experiences in Angola and the Central African Republic, he asserted that “the systematic exclusion of women is why peace agreements fail.”

Freeman concluded the panel, “In order to meaningfully address the gaps to development in the future, we will need to pay as much attention to conflict, its prevention and sustainable resolution — which necessarily involves women's active involvement in peace agreements and post-conflict reconstruction.”

# DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

## NOTRE DAME PROFESSOR KICKS OFF RELIGION AND PEACEBUILDING SYMPOSIUM



Distinguished Lecturer Scott Appleby

On February 27 Scott Appleby, professor of history and the John M. Regan Jr. director of the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, gave a talk on the importance of specialization in the expanding field of religion and peacebuilding. Part of the Joan B. Kroc Distinguished Lecture Series, Appleby's talk served as the keynote of the Symposium on Religion and Peacebuilding, convened by Professor William Headley and the Kroc School of Peace Studies.

Calling religion and peacebuilding an "established field of study" with its own literature, Appleby said that the complexity and sophistication of it means that it is time for the next phase of the field: specialization. He suggested that scholars and practitioners could deepen some of the basic concepts already established, such as internal pluralism within religions, the complicated interplay of religious and secular society, interfaith dialogue, and the nexus of gender, religion and power.

Appleby pointed to "secular myopia" for the exclusion of religion from U.S. policymaking regarding foreign affairs, saying that religion does not simply complicate matters but can offer avenues for conflict prevention and resolution. "Religion has its own force and dynamics in the world," he emphasized.

Panelists after the talk also expressed concern about the dynamics of religion and secularism, with Linell Cady, founding director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at Arizona State University, challenging the notion heard in public discourse that religion is the problem. "I believe that the oppositional notion of religion and the secular is one of our great challenges now. ... We have to be careful that we don't separate religion out as a separate something, as though it was easily demarcated and bounded."

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*"The field itself will be more mature as a result of people going deeper into particular areas and contributing back to the understanding of the larger question of religion and its role in conflict and peacebuilding."*

— SCOTT APPLEBY

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Joseph Montville, a retired diplomat and Middle East specialist, emphasized the role of religion in identity formation during and after conflict, and especially how it can help in reconciliation. "I happen to believe very strongly that healing history is the critical element in peacebuilding."

To watch a video of the talk and panel, go to [www.sandiego.edu/video/dls-scott-appleby.html](http://www.sandiego.edu/video/dls-scott-appleby.html).

The symposium continued the following day with a roundtable discussion among those gathered: academics from across the country, local religious leaders and faculty and staff of the Kroc School and university. They discussed how to educate students about religion and peacebuilding, what research is needed in the field, opportunities in the local community for facilitated interfaith dialogue, and networking strategies to maximize collaboration and minimize duplication of efforts.

The Kroc School will be producing a report summarizing key points from the symposium and will explore further integration of religion into research, teaching and peacebuilding projects.

*The symposium was made possible by the generosity of the Tawfiq Khoury family and the Kaul Foundation.*



Panelists Montville, Cady and Headley listen as Appleby responds to a question from the audience

# PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

by Interim 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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Reflecting on our 2014 winter and spring activities, I am struck by the different pathways that our peacebuilding takes and how inclusive it continues to be. A variety of partner organizations and individuals, whom you will meet in these pages, continue to link their dedication to peace and justice with ours. Grateful and inspired, we feel Mrs. Kroc would find her mission for the institute enduring and expanding.

The hurdles that prevent the elites and advantaged, and the marginalized and abused, from successfully engaging with one another in peacebuilding — these obstacles can begin to collapse when individuals are able to be face to face with one another in safe and supportive environments, where understanding of our human connections can manifest in new and unexpected ways.

In January, Program Officer Zahra Ismail and I were in D.C. for a roundtable with colleagues focused on security sector and civil society interactions (page 5). Most of us gathered there work in complex international settings, with aspirations to assist local communities in making life better, safer.

But as international peacekeeping missions have become more multidimensional, civilians often share the same space as security forces and yet have few avenues to engage with one another. Both civilians and security personnel may miss opportunities to coordinate to advance human security, and certainly sustainable peace is not possible if the local community is not viewed as integral to the process. The consultation in D.C. was part of a larger project to get all voices heard.

Face-to-face interactions are also the basis of experiential education. The IPJ is pleased to be a multifaceted resource and facilitator for students of the Kroc School of Peace Studies, both on campus and in its global connections. Student internships with Women PeaceMakers (page 10) and opportunities for engagement with leading thinkers in our Distinguished Lecture Series (page 2) or WorldLink Youth Town Meeting (page 8) open “students’ eyes and minds and emotions to worlds outside their own,” as USD Professor Emerita Eren Branch described in a recent letter to us.

In late May, NAFSA’s Ron Moffatt Seminar on Peace and the Global Civil Society will be held here in Mrs. Kroc’s building. Educators and practitioners, including our staff at the IPJ, will examine ways of infusing peace and justice learning into international education. As Jim Skelly, a co-founder of the seminar, pointed out, students facing resource disparities or conflict firsthand need opportunities to contribute to a global civil society that is more pacific and just.

This range of engagement from practice to classroom is why, when people ask what we do here at the IPJ, I sometimes simply say that we create environments for people to discover themselves and others in transformative ways, so that we can understand, reconcile and work on building sustainable and just peace together.

## INTERIM DIRECTOR INDUCTED TO WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME

Dee Aker, the IPJ’s long-standing deputy director and current interim director, was inducted to the San Diego County Women’s Hall of Fame on March 28. She was named a “Trailblazer” for creating the institute’s Women PeaceMakers and WorldLink programs and the Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative. Aker joins just 65 other women, including the IPJ’s founding benefactor, Joan B. Kroc, who have been inducted to the hall.

Mary E. Lyons, president of the University of San Diego, expressed pride in Aker’s recognition. “Dee’s service to others and her capacity for compassion is unparalleled. She is one of USD’s true treasures that we are proud to share with the world. She could not be more deserving of this prestigious award.”



Aker (far right) with fellow 2014 inductees

# IN THE FIELD

## THE CARTER CENTER SELECTS IPJ STAFF TO OBSERVE NEPAL ELECTIONS

Interim Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Chris Groth traveled to Nepal in November 2013 to serve as short-term observers with The Carter Center's International Election Observation Mission. The elections were for the country's Constituent Assembly (CA), which is tasked with drafting the country's constitution, the second such elections since the overthrow of the monarch in 2006. Aker and Groth were part of a team of 66 observers from 31 countries.



*A woman from the village of Chanai in Kapilvastu District proudly displays her voter ID card*

After two days of training in Kathmandu, Aker and Groth were both deployed to the Terai region of southern Nepal. Aker was partnered with Ed Horgan of Northern Ireland and assigned to Bardiya District, while Groth joined Teodora Todorova of Bulgaria to observe in Kapilvastu District.

The team pairings were based on levels of experience in Nepal and with elections, as well as gender balance and diversity of country origin. The locations where they were sent were classified as "sensitive" and "highly sensitive," respectively, by the government of Nepal.

In Bardiya, Aker and Horgan arrived at their hotel next to an active Maoist headquarters, and quickly moved to a quieter site. The district, home to a large forest and animal preserve, had been a Maoist stronghold during the civil war.

The pair visited with district election officials and Nepal Army, Armed Police Force and police officials in charge of election security. Although there were a few last minute challenges, it was clear that the advance work of getting people registered, informed and feeling secure had gone better than expected. The voting outcomes in the four constituencies of Bardiya were mixed, with the three major political parties all winning at least one seat.

In Kapilvastu, the observation team witnessed quieter than normal streets in the days preceding the election. This was partly due to a *bandh*, or strike, called by the hardline faction of the Maoists that boycotted the election. On Election Day, Groth and Todorova encountered several improvised explosive devices planted near polling locations by the hardline Maoists in an attempt to scare people into not voting. Teams from the security forces defused the devices, at times with little more than bamboo sticks. Turnout was high, although the pair reported suppressed numbers at a polling location in a stronghold area of the hardline Maoists.

In total, Carter Center observers visited 336 polling centers and 31 counting centers across the country. Voter turnout was 78.8 percent of registered voters. In the days following the election, the Carter Center concluded that Nepal's election was "credible" and "largely conducted according to procedures."



*Former President Jimmy Carter with IPJ Program Officer Chris Groth*

In a major shift from the first CA elections in 2008, the center-right Nepali Congress party and the centrist Unified Marxist-Leninist party performed significantly better than before, while the Maoists and Madhesi parties (based in southern Nepal) fared worse. Parties that were formerly tied to Nepal's monarchy also gained seats.

The drafting of a permanent constitution has been ongoing since 2008, and it is currently unclear how the electoral shift will impact this process. The IPJ is monitoring the situation and will continue to work with local partners to support efforts at post-conflict peacebuilding in Nepal.



*Voters line up in the village of Jayanagar in Kapilvastu District*



## NEW LEADERS, RENEWED HOPES IN NEPAL



*Ismail, Aker and Shrestha discuss leadership and development with a community in Janakpur*

A few months after elections in Nepal in November 2013, Interim Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Zahra Ismail headed to Nepal to support the work of local partner organization Women for Peace and Democracy – Nepal (WPD-Nepal).

Founded by Kroc School alumna Shobha Shrestha (see page 10), the organization has been working with and providing opportunities for marginalized women to learn about their rights and amplify their voices in order to secure economic security and visibility within their communities.

In February, the IPJ team facilitated workshops on leadership, negotiation and conflict resolution for women in the districts of Janakpur and Chitwan in the Terai region in the south of the country. In Janakpur, the participants were predominantly illiterate villagers and had only ventured into the community sessions with WPD-Nepal in the last year. For many, signing the workshop roster was the first time they had written their names publically — signifying their transition from individuals bound to their homes to a new status as active community organizers.

In Kathmandu, again in partnership with WPD-Nepal, Aker and Ismail held a community security training workshop that convened women Maoist ex-combatants and civil society leaders. Together, they explored their roles in creating safe and inclusive communities that attend to the specific needs of women as well as families and the larger community.



*Participants collaborate at a workshop in Chitwan*

The IPJ team talked with U.S. Ambassador Peter W. Bodde about the current climate in Nepal and future needs. Along with Santosh Shah, president of the institute's local partner organization Today's Youth Asia, Aker and Ismail also met with Khil Raj Regmi, former chief justice and chair of Nepal's Council of Ministers.

Regmi gave up his judicial post in March of last year to head an interim government with a mandate to conduct the Constituent Assembly elections. He is heralded for his personal sacrifice and the fair, inclusive and just election process that has the potential to move the country forward. He spoke with the team about the successful elections and his hope for the completion of a new constitution within the next year.

### D.C. ROUNDTABLE LOOKS TO INSTITUTE'S WORK WITH SECURITY SECTOR

On January 6 and 7, Interim Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Zahra Ismail presented on the institute's work in Nepal and Kenya at a consultation roundtable on "Peacebuilding Approaches to Training and Dialogue with Security Forces." The meeting took place at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace in Washington, D.C.

Aimed at producing a curriculum on security sector and civil society engagement for human security, the project is a partnership between the Alliance for Peacebuilding, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame, and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

# WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

## A CONVERSATION WITH PHILISTER BAYA LAWIRI OF SOUTH SUDAN

*Lawiri was a Woman PeaceMaker in 2013. The conversation below is from "The Land of My Memories" by Peace Writer Sally Kantar, and refers to the decades-long civil war in Sudan. After gaining independence from its northern neighbor in 2011, South Sudan broke into its own civil war in December of last year — less than two months after Lawiri returned home from the IPJ. Women continue to advocate for participation in official peace talks.*

### Q: LOOKING BACK, HOW WERE SOUTHERN WOMEN IN PARTICULAR BOTH INVOLVED IN AND IMPACTED BY THE CONFLICT?

A: Women of South Sudan are very strong now. We have shifted roles during the war. We have even proved our capabilities to the men during the war. So we have become different because of these things we have gone through. You know, when you go through these situations it empowers you.

But when I say that the war empowered the women, I mean that it made the southern Sudanese women, especially, prove their capabilities. Because when the war intensified and men lost sources of livelihood, it was women who took the role of caring for the families.

They would go to do some small income-generating activities, like food vending or selling tea, or doing what I was doing, tailoring. You become the sole breadwinner. You get some money, you are able to afford food in the house. You are able to send children to school.

Women were also combatants. Some of them perished with the men in the warfront. We were the ones caring for the wounded, even making food — a lot of things we did. We even organized rallies as activists. We used to go to international conferences, making presentations, raising awareness about the horrors of the war.

What is there we didn't do? We all played crucial roles. If we didn't do that, who would have done it? So we really proved our potential to men. And this is why we are really claiming our right to be included also. If it is mental work, and if a man can do it, I can see no reason why I should not be part of it. This is why we are claiming for space in everything!



*Philister Baya Lawiri*



*Lawiri was one of nine members of the Electoral Commission of Sudan*

### Q: HOW DID WOMEN HELP SOUTH SUDAN TO EARN ITS INDEPENDENCE?

A: We keep on telling the men, without the active participation of women in the referendum — women voted 52 percent — we wouldn't have created this country of South Sudan.

### Q: IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHEN WOMEN ARE REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT? HOW DOES IT IMPACT POLICY AND THE WAY THE STATE ITSELF FUNCTIONS?

A: It impacts policies in so many ways. I feel that for the women to access political decision-making in the halls of power, it makes a lot of difference. First of all, women's political participation is a matter of human rights and social justice, because I know in any country women constitute either 50 percent of the population or they are more than men — and they deserve to be represented.

Secondly, women have very different experiences — they look at issues differently. For me, I feel that when women are in central positions of power they tend to make decisions with a human face, because they are the mothers of the country. And in most cases they exhibit a compassionate style of leadership.



## NEW WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PUBLICATIONS

"The Land of My Memories" — about Philister Baya Lawiri of South Sudan, by Sally Kantar

"The Right to Speak" — about Nancy Sánchez of Colombia, by Sara Koenders

"Standing with Our Sisters" — about Rehana Hashmi of Pakistan, by Sue Diaz

*These publications and more can be found at <http://peace.sandiego.edu/wpm>.*

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELPS PROGRAM REACH NEW HEIGHTS

In August of 2012, ahead of the program's 10-year anniversary, a small group convened to form the inaugural Women PeaceMakers Advisory Committee. Its members bring together legal, artistic, academic and other professional expertise.

What unites its members are a passion and commitment to the Women PeaceMakers (WPM) program. They were the wind behind its 10th Anniversary Dinner with the PeaceMakers and other fundraising events that supported 50 percent of the residency costs in 2013, and they are currently working on a media campaign to publicize the program to new audiences.



Advisory Committee member Michelle Ciccarelli Lerach (pictured here with Woman PeaceMaker Vaiba Kebeh Flomo in Liberia) is an international legal consultant, businesswoman and philanthropist

In March, five members of the Advisory Committee joined the IPJ's delegation to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. The significance of the trip was recounted by committee member Jill Sommer in a letter to friends:

*... the 2014 Commission on the Status of Women ... was a life-changing experience. I attended sessions on maternal mortality, achieving equal access for women through technology and employment, security-peace-development recommendations from the WPMs, and anti-trafficking and prostitution.*

*As you can tell from the subject matter, the week was very intense. The sessions I was able to attend were incredible, led by the most humble, hardworking women (and a few men) doing work to help women survive.*

*I will leave you with this story as told by one of the Women PeaceMakers from 2013, Rebana Hasbmi, during her talk at CSW last week:*

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*“ ... spreading the word about peacebuilding and supporting women is where my heart is.”*

— JILL SOMMER

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*“There was a sparrow and a crow watching a fire engulf their forest, causing much damage and death. The sparrow began searching for water, and when she found it she began carrying one beak full at a time to drop on the raging fire. The crow admonished the sparrow, ‘You can’t extinguish the fire like that.’*

*“The sparrow replied, ‘Maybe not. But when I stand at the end of my life, I can say I was with those who tried versus those who did nothing and watched it burn.’”*

*I am determined to be a woman of action, and spreading the word about peacebuilding and supporting women is where my heart is.*

As the program grows and expands in its second decade, the committee will continue to play an integral role in supporting those developments. To learn about the committee members, see [www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/institutes/ipj/about/advisory-committee.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/peacestudies/institutes/ipj/about/advisory-committee.php).

## FRED FORUM CONNECTIONS BENEFIT THE WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM

The IPJ is pleased to announce a \$100,000 gift from Cigna to support the Women PeaceMakers program. “Introduced to the program at the 2013 FRED Forum, Cigna wanted to offer more women leaders the opportunity to learn from one another and document their stories of building peace and defending human rights,” said Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman. “In 2014, four more leaders will get this opportunity due to Cigna.”



Rehana Hashmi presents to employees of the company Novelis

The FRED Forum, which strives to develop better leadership in institutions and organizations, was held in San Diego last year and featured the Women PeaceMakers. Representatives from Cigna and the aluminum company Novelis have since invited peacemakers to give presentations on leadership to their employees. The first, at Novelis Headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., took place in early March and featured Rehana Hashmi of Pakistan. She will fly to Bloomfield, Conn., in May for the talk at Cigna.



# WORLD LINK

## YOUTH CONFRONT GLOBAL CONFLICTS

“Conflict has always been a problem in the history of humanity and will continue to come up in different forms. ... The only preventative measure we can take is to foster the growth of knowledge in this topic of global conflict,” wrote WorldLink Intern Aileen Seo in the 2014 WorldLink Reader (available at <http://peace.sandiego.edu/worldlink>).

In order to better understand this year’s student-selected theme “Global Conflicts,” Seo and her fellow interns took a critical look at the complexities of armed conflict through the research and analysis of five topics: poverty and hunger, global health, environment and land, human protection, and peace processes. This research served as the foundation of WorldLink’s 17th Annual Youth Town Meeting (YTM) on January 22.

The conference hosted more than 700 middle and high school youth from San Diego, Tijuana and abroad from 35 public, private, charter and alternative schools. Delegates engaged in meaningful, solution-oriented discussions and activities with more than 20 leading experts from nongovernmental organizations, corporations and research institutions.

This year’s speakers included Annie Kim from UNICEF, which works to improve children’s

lives around the world by providing healthcare, nutrition and emergency relief; Wesley Farrow of the Speak Truth to Power program at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights; and Christie Edwards, director of the international humanitarian law team at the American Red Cross.

“There is no other opportunity in San Diego quite like this one where, along with 700 other students from San Diego and Baja Mexico, you can learn, experience and connect with experts on global conflicts, human impact and human solutions.”

— JONATHAN SHULMAN

“There is no other opportunity in San Diego quite like this one where, along with 700 other students from San Diego and Baja Mexico, you can learn, experience and connect with experts on global conflicts, human impact and human solutions,” expressed Jonathan Shulman, world history and U.S. government teacher at La Jolla Country Day School. This is the 10th year that his school has participated in the WorldLink program.



Student delegate Ignacio Fimbres listens during a briefing session (Photo by Ariana Gallegos, Outside the Lens)

Days after this year’s conference, 15 student delegates gathered at the WorldLink workshop “Annual YTM: Next Steps,” co-facilitated by the Alternatives to Violence Project and the San Diego chapter of Hands of Peace. Eager to reflect on the thoughtful and challenging discussions that took place at the YTM, students arrived dedicated to initiate an action plan that would further promote the alleviation of global concerns, specifically poverty and hunger.

Workshop attendees will work closely this spring with Red Bag, a nonprofit created by Michael McRoskey, a graduating senior who established the organization his first year in high school. Red Bag distributes low-cost bags with basic essentials and personalized messages to homeless individuals in San Diego.

Through practice-based, collaborative initiatives and innovative educational forums, WorldLink has enabled and will continue to inspire youth to create new realities on the most pressing global concerns.

*WorldLink’s 17th Annual Youth Town Meeting was made possible by the generous support of our donors: The Kimberly Heller Charitable Gift Fund, Serenity Grace Foundation, Verizon Foundation, Stephen Strachan, David Johnson and Elizabeth Johnson.*



WorldLink interns close the 17th Annual Youth Town Meeting (Photo by Jordan Bowman, Outside the Lens)



# IPJ INSIDER — PROGRAM INTERSECTIONS

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

This year's International Women's Day Breakfast bridged the past, present and future of the women's movement. Interim Director Dee Aker opened the event by telling the story of the founding of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the oldest women's peace organization in the world.

"One hundred years ago as war raged in Europe, women ... came together to show that while hatred filled their lands, women could remain united for peace," said Aker.

Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman then reported on the present status of women in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — the theme of this year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Despite significant progress that still needs to be made toward the achievement of the goals, Freeman emphasized the growing body of research about the importance of gender equality, "as the ripple effects of empowering women and girls positively impacts the entire development agenda."



Church views her generation as one "deeply rooted in empathy"

In keeping with CSW's focus on the future development agenda, this year's breakfast featured two young leaders: Sedrick Murhula and Nina Church. Both have been involved in the institute's WorldLink program and used their inspirational stories to highlight their generation's power to create gender-inclusive change and realize sustainable development.

## CURRICULUM ON WOMEN PEACEMAKERS DEVELOPED FOR YOUTH IN KENYA

Two local educators recently created and implemented a curriculum based on the stories of Women PeaceMakers from Kenya. Katie Zaroni, an IPJ Advisory Committee member and Kroc School alumna, together with Peggy Hetherington of USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES), created the curriculum for the Daraja Academy, a secondary school for girls in Kenya.

Taking the stories of peacemakers Wahu Kaara, Sarah Lochodo and Alice Nderitu, Hetherington and a group of SOLES students used the curriculum in January in Daraja's WISH program — Women of Integrity, Strength and Hope. The goal is to empower the young women to become agents of peace in their communities through the use of personal narratives of local Women PeaceMakers.

The Daraja Academy was founded by USD and WorldLink alumnus Jason Doherty and his wife Jenni.



Freeman, Murhula and Church spoke about the importance of youth in accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals

Murhula, a refugee activist from the Democratic Republic of Congo, described how the organization he started when he was 17 — Young African Refugees for Integral Development — attempts to accomplish the MDGs by focusing much of its work on improving the lives of refugee women and girls in Kampala, Uganda. This includes programs in literacy, vocational training, getting girls involved in soccer, and combatting HIV/AIDS.

*"We still fight the problems listed in the Millennium Development Goals, and we still have a long way to go. But we can do it all far more connected than we ever did before."*

— NINA CHURCH

Nina Church co-founded Nika Water, which uses a social entrepreneurial model to help alleviate global poverty, when she was in high school. A former WorldLink intern and now a student at Stanford, she sees the addiction to connectivity among her peers as "the most fertile ground possible for us to rise as a generation deeply rooted in empathy."

Church believes this year marks "the beginning of a new battle for women's progress ... We still fight the problems listed in the Millennium Development Goals, and we still have a long way to go. But we can do it all far more connected than we ever did before."



Peacemaker Alice Nderitu inspires students at the Daraja Academy in Nanyuki, Kenya

# IPJ INSIDER — THE KROC SCHOOL SPHERE

## FOUNDER OF NEPAL ORGANIZATION EARNS UNIVERSITY AWARD

Shobha Shrestha has long been a familiar name at the IPJ. Institute staff came to know her first when she worked for South Asia Partnership - Nepal, an IPJ local partner for years. She then became a student at the Kroc School, graduating in 2008, and went on to establish her own organization, Women for Peace and Democracy - Nepal (WPD-Nepal).

After working with her in Nepal just this past February (see page 5), the institute and school welcomed Shrestha back to the university in late April as the recipient of one of the university's alumni honors — the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award.

According to Laura Taylor, former IPJ senior program officer and fellow alumna of the Kroc School, it is a well-earned honor. "Shobha works tirelessly, and always with grace." Taylor, who worked with the IPJ in Nepal from 2005 to 2008, recalled how Shobha always looked for the small ways to take care of the team: "When my suitcase got lost in Nepal, she loaned me a sari; when I mentioned I liked a local board game, she gave me one to take back to the U.S.; when we went shopping in San Diego, she bought juice just so she could offer it to me when we returned back to her apartment."

Now through WPD-Nepal, Shrestha works in an array of areas, including with 416 women in rural parts of southern Nepal, helping to facilitate their roles in the process of socioeconomic and political

change. The organization holds dialogues and training courses to build the capacity of community activists and groups as the country continues to rebuild from a decade-long civil war.

Dee Aker, founder of the IPJ's Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, remarked with pride, "Shobha is brave and tireless, and she is an inspiration whom we are thrilled to congratulate as a deserving recipient of this alumnae honor."



Shobha Shrestha with women from the district of Makwanpur

## MASTER'S STUDENT GAINS "INVALUABLE" EXPERIENCE IN MOLDOVA

*A reflection by Anna Taylor, MA '13*

As part of my MA in peace and justice studies, I was afforded the opportunity to complete my summer internship with 2012 Woman PeaceMaker Ludmila Popovici, the founder and executive director of the Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (RCTV) Memoria. The center is located in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, and provides medical, psychological and legal services to torture victims among former political prisoners, refugees and asylum seekers, and recent victims from Moldova, including the separatist region of Transnistria.

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*“As a student at the Kroc School, I am incredibly fortunate to have access to the opportunities provided by the school's unique relationship with the IPJ.”*

— JONATHAN SHULMAN

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I was immediately impressed by Ludmila's knowledge and dedication to advocacy not only for the rights of her clients, but also to the greater systemic issues related to torture. Because RCTV Memoria is Moldova's only rehabilitation center for victims of torture, Ludmila works constantly at both the local and national level to raise awareness and change policy. As Moldova's native expert on the topic, her expertise is frequently called upon by the media, national government and international organizations — which in turn gave me an invaluable practical experience as an intern.

Ludmila was very dedicated to ensuring that I had a productive and rewarding internship. I worked directly with Memoria's project coordinator on documents and projects, and with Ludmila editing her new book, *Broken Wings*, which chronicles the testimonies of 10 young people who were victims of torture during Moldova's April 2009 election protests.

Outside the office I had the opportunity to attend several events and meetings which brought to light the larger context of Memoria's work. I participated in meetings between Ludmila and a handful of United Nations experts in Moldova, and traveled with the OSCE into the separatist region of Transnistria, an area in eastern Moldova which has operated with de facto independence since the War of Transnistria ended in 1992.



Popovici (left) and Taylor (far right) meet with European representatives, including the U.N. resident coordinator in Moldova, Nicola Harrington-Buhay (center)

As a student at the Kroc School, I am incredibly fortunate to have access to the opportunities provided by the school's unique relationship with the IPJ. Thanks to the Women PeaceMakers program, I was able to connect with Ludmila, a powerful advocate for human rights and a generous and dedicated host.

# IPJ INSIDER — COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

## INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH MOPA TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS

The IPJ — along with its sister institute in the Kroc School, the Trans-Border Institute — was a community partner for the Human Rights Watch Film Festival in late January at San Diego's Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA). The festival addressed a wide range of human rights issues including prejudice in Africa against people with albinism, deaths of migrants attempting to cross the Mexico-U.S. border, and the impact of war on Afghan civilians.

After the film "Rafea: Solar Mama," which told the story of a Bedouin woman in Jordan who travelled to India with a group of 30 other illiterate women to be trained as a solar engineer, IPJ Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman joined the film's director to discuss the cultural challenges women face in taking leadership roles in their communities.

Debbie Martinez, program officer for WorldLink, also participated in a question-and-answer session following a film on child marriage, "Tall as the Baobob Tree."

This is the third year the IPJ has partnered with Human Rights Watch and MOPA to bring outstanding films and dialogue to the San Diego community.

The institute also collaborated with MOPA and Film Forward to screen the film "Circles" in March. Interim Director Dee Aker led an audience discussion with filmmaker Srđan Golubovic about the meaning of heroism, forgiveness and reconciliation. The film is a moving portrayal of the ripples of a tragic heroic act during the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

"Circles" was part of the three-day peaceXpiece film series at the IPJ that featured a broad range of community partners. The series began with "Honor Diaries," which looked at the use of culture in allowing abuses of women such as genital cutting, "honor" killings, acid attacks and early marriage.

Panelists following the screening addressed difficult questions, such as whether Islam allows these abuses or whether they are representative of inequality for women across religions and cultures. The screening was co-sponsored by Nika Water and USD's Women's Center.

The third film in the series, "This is Media: Eyes Wide Open," took a look at today's media landscape. The film explored the balancing act between being connected, responsible and maintaining privacy. Presented by the IPJ's WorldLink program and Outside the Lens, and co-sponsored by the Global Journal Project and USD's Department of Communication Studies, the screening led to a lively discussion with panelists, including representatives from media outlets Voice of San Diego and the Fronteras Desk.



*Amady and Coumba from the film "Tall as the Baobob Tree"*



*The film "Circles" takes place during the war in Bosnia in the 1990s*

## IPJ IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Local Rotary clubs continue to take an interest in the IPJ's work locally and abroad. For two years in a row staff members were featured at Rotary's Annual Peace Forum and many have spoken at other club meetings, including **Chris Groth** explaining the institute's work in Nepal at the Encinitas Rotary Club, and **Debbie Martinez** on the WorldLink program at the La Mesa and Mission Bay Rotary Clubs.

Other recent speaking engagements by IPJ staff include:

**Zahra Ismail** discussing Kenya at the Monarch School, a local school serving youth impacted by homelessness, and at The Bishop's School, in preparation for community service trips to East Africa by students; and

**Jennifer Freeman** on the Women PeaceMakers program at Mount Mary College (Milwaukee, Wis.) and California State University, San Bernardino



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**IN MEMORIAM**

On March 18, 2014, the IPJ lost one of its Women PeaceMakers: Nora Chengeto Tapiwa, a Zimbabwean refugee in South Africa, passed away in her sleep. Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman wrote in tribute: “Nora endeared herself as a free spirited soul who found and shared inspiration and hope freely. ... She made it her mission to speak up for those who were without a home — asserting their humanity, their value as productive citizens in their country of asylum, and amplifying their voices to bring about a prosperous and democratic future for Zimbabwe.”

Nora’s fellow peacemaker from 2010, Milet Mendoza of the Philippines, also wrote, “Nora was a fighter, a survivor of many battles. She had a strong, positive spirit that overcame all hurdles. It was an honor to be a friend of such a kind and helpful Woman PeaceMaker. Oh Nora — you were one of a kind. May you find eternal peace ... you are remembered in our hearts.”



*Nora with her fellow peacemakers from 2010*



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