



INSTITUTE HOLDS PIONEERING CONFERENCE ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

On April 1, students at Garissa University College in Kenya entered their dorms likely preoccupied with many of the same concerns as University of San Diego students: exams, perhaps the opportunity to see their families over the upcoming Easter weekend. Instead, a few hours later, Al-Shabab militants entered the campus, allegedly separating students by religious faith and massacring 148 of them. The students' families, fellow Kenyans and the world again reeled in anguish and anger at why such violence is perpetrated, and how it can be prevented.

“Extremist violence has hidden under and associated itself with every major religious tradition throughout history, tarnishing each with movements which have espoused violence and hatred rather than tolerance and peace.”

— JENNIFER FREEMAN

The crisis is global. Similar acts of violent extremism have affected communities in Peshawar, where the Pakistani Taliban attacked a school, killing more than 130, mostly children; in Burma and Sri Lanka, where the radical Buddhist nationalist groups 969 and Bodu Bala Sena are promoting hate speech and violence against Muslim minorities; or northern Nigeria, where families continue to pray for the safe return of their daughters abducted by Boko Haram for daring to go to school.

Aware of these trends and in response to a call from Women PeaceMakers who are directly affected, the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) and co-convening



organizations launched a series of dialogues on the topic of “Defying Extremism: Gendered Responses to Religious Violence.”

As Jennifer Freeman, IPJ senior program officer for women, peace and security, stated, “Extremist violence has hidden under and associated itself with every major religious tradition throughout history, tarnishing each with movements which have espoused violence and hatred rather than tolerance and peace.”

The first initiative was an international working conference from November 19 to 21, 2014, at the institute. “Defying Extremism” was an intensive, three-day working conference that convened 125 international policymakers, religious leaders and peacebuilders from 30 countries.

They shared their perspectives to better understand the phenomenon and learn from gendered strategies being used to confront it and defend human rights.

Opening with testimonies from women and men affected by or who have participated in violent religious extremism, the conference

included panel discussions, working sessions in small groups, and keynote lectures.

Several pioneering strategies to prevent and challenge violent extremists were shared by partner organizations and delegates. They included Mothers Schools, an innovative project of Women Without Borders that uses unique mother-led trainings to prevent radicalization of youth in several countries around the world.



The protection of the rights of the LGBT community in places like Uganda and Jamaica was a working session topic led by Rev. Canon Albert Ogle, Maxensia Nakibuuka Takirambule and Angeline Jackson

Another strategy to address some of the root causes of extremism is the “three-pillar” approach to legal and social reform in the post-conflict, Muslim-majority societies of Egypt, Afghanistan and Libya. As Susan Hayward of the U.S. Institute of Peace, which is facilitating the project, remarked at the conference, “... [I]n order to be able to advance systemic, structural changes and attitudinal changes ... you need to have legal advocates, political activists and religious scholars and leaders working together and collaboratively.”

A key objective of the conference was to do just that: bring together a multitude of stakeholders with different approaches to the issue, and a recommendation from the conference was to continue organizing but at regional levels. The following page describes the first regional dialogue held in Asia in February.

NEW INITIATIVES

REGIONAL DIALOGUE IN THE PHILIPPINES EXPLORES WAYS OF TEMPERING EXTREMISM IN ASIA

In February the IPJ — along with its local partners in the Philippines, the Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC) and Bawgbug, a human rights organization — hosted the first regional dialogue on “Defying Extremism: Civil Society Dialogue; Voices and Action for Peace,” following the institute’s successful conference last November.

The purpose of the Asia Regional Dialogue was to bring together individuals from diverse sectors to learn about their perspectives on violent extremism: its roots and motivations, how to temper its appeal to young men and women, and how to deal with its impact on some of the most affected communities.

The first in a series of regional dialogues, the Asia meeting included 19 international delegates from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Burma, Kenya, the U.S. and Canada, and 31 delegates from the Philippines — religious leaders, policy-makers, civil society representatives and peacebuilders, including the IPJ’s Filipina peacemakers Mary Ann Arnado, Merlie “Milet” Mendoza, and Bae Liza Llesis Saway.



Sister Maria Arnold Noel shakes hands with Ghadzali Jaafar, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front



Woman PeaceMaker Mary Ann Arnado addresses the dialogue



*Delegates listen to internally displaced people in the city of Zamboanga in Mindanao
(Photo credit: Nelson Dino)*

Participants gathered first in Manila to discuss violent extremism in the region and broader cycles of “extreme” violence between both state and non-state actors — a conversation conspicuously absent from most contemporary discourse on countering violent extremism or counter-terrorism policy.

The delegation was then divided into two groups for field visits to the cities of Cotabato and Zamboanga on the conflict-affected island of Mindanao. In the varied geographical and political contexts, the groups met with, among others, political and religious leaders, internally displaced persons (IDP), youth, and members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (the main rebel group that recently signed a peace agreement with the government) and a Christian extremist group known as the Ilaga.

The meetings, debriefing sessions held each evening, and reflections in small groups led to a number of insights. Participants from across the region pointed to the necessity of reforming legal systems and having political outlets to voice their grievances through

non-violent means, as well as the imperative of addressing root causes of violence and radicalization.

For example, in the Philippines, delegates were concerned that if the IDP situation in Zamboanga — where 32,000 people are still without homes a year and half after a violent incident there — is not resolved, and if the peace agreement in Mindanao, signed in November 2013, is not implemented, youth in particular might be susceptible to radicalization.

In addition to providing critical analysis of the regional situation, participants highlighted local initiatives, many of them led by women, to counter division and hatred in their communities and build peace. From community radio programs to support mothers in slums of India; to interreligious dialogue in Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka; to religious educational models that promote international humanitarian law to children and orphans of fighters — delegates shared inclusive, gender-sensitive approaches to countering violent extremism.

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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PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

by *Director Dee Aker*



Namaste, dear friends and colleagues,

With broken hearts but soul-deep commitment to the many Nepalis and their communities who have touched our lives over the last 15 years, we want to reassure our supporters around the world of our continued dedication to Nepal. Our personal and professional bonds are not shaken by the ferocious earthquakes and devastation. Even as treasured and seemingly timeless worship sites, relics, works of art and simple homes bury the past lives of the living and dead, we are touched by the spirit of the people of Nepal who are picking up the pieces and giving so much of themselves to their country. This spirit is what has always called the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) back over these years, again and again.

Representatives of our local partner organizations, many whose own homes are gone, are working 15, 20, 25 days straight. They build funeral pyres, run relief coordination centers, gather food and medical supplies, organize trucks and trekkers to reach the hardest-hit areas so there is some medication or food, or tarpaulins to sleep under as the monsoons approach. The new generation of leaders — women and men, youth, former combatants and security personnel as well as the survivors of exclusion, whether ethnic or political — are taking steps to bring hope and a better future for a united Nepal.

In coming months on our website you will find stories from our partners and other local activists. Whether you choose to connect and give through well-established humanitarian relief groups or to our partners active on the ground, we trust you will be part of the Nepali regenerative spirit.

This newsletter will allow you to catch up with our IPJ team and our peacebuilding activities here at the Kroc School and around the world. You will also meet two new staff members and see what past associates are up to.

I close with a word from Kanchan Jha, the head of our local partner organization Sano Paila (“A Little Step”):

“... the people are rising up strongly and with smiles on their faces. There has been a natural unity between the people, and the youth have proved it to the world that we are capable of taking care of our citizens. Sano Paila has already extended its operations in over eight districts affected by the earthquake and have been providing relief and helping reconstruction of homes. Volunteers from our rehab centres have been the backbone of our operations and we are so proud of them.”

HONORS AND TRANSITIONS FOR IPJ STAFF MEMBERS

The IPJ team congratulates its staff members for significant achievements in the past semester. Chris Groth, program officer for the Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, will begin his Foreign Service career with the U.S. State Department in its Embassy in Nepal later this year. Groth first came to the institute as a graduate intern, and has worked for several years on strengthening the capacity of local partner organizations and multiplying the areas on which the institute works in the post-conflict country.



Groth is now with the U.S. State Department and Ismail received a master of education before returning to her native Canada

Zahra Ismail, program officer for field projects, received her MEd in curriculum and instruction from the university's School of Leadership and Education Sciences in December 2014. Ismail returned to her native Canada this spring but will continue to assist on the IPJ's Kenya project.

Debbie Martinez was recognized with the Fall 2014 Employee Recognition Award from the university's Community of Human Resources. The award is given to individuals who exemplify USD's core values of academic excellence, knowledge, community, ethical conduct and compassionate service. Martinez is now the IPJ's senior program officer for youth and peacebuilding.

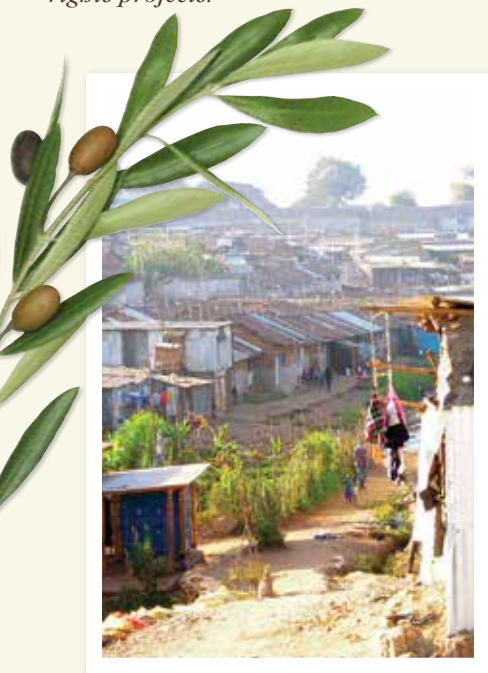
To meet the institute's new program officers for strategic peacebuilding, please see page 10.

IN THE FIELD

LOCAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS KEY TO IPJ FIELD METHODOLOGY

While in Kenya in March, IPJ Program Officer Zabra Ismail interviewed Oluoch Dola of local partner organization Chemchemi Ya Ukweli (CYU). Dola is the head of CYU's training programs and oversees the violence prevention project that has been jointly run with the IPJ since 2011.

In its field work in conflict and post-conflict countries, the institute collaborates with local organizations like CYU to implement peacebuilding and human rights projects.



The IPJ and CYU's project focuses on the communities of Kibera, Korogocho and Matara outside of Nairobi

Q: WHAT IS THE OVERALL SITUATION IN KENYA IN RELATION TO YOUTH?

A: The biggest challenge is youth unemployment. The youth are not involved in the peace processes, governance or any decision-making in the country, even at the community level. People complain that young people are idle, are criminals — yet, are we creating opportunities for them to engage in the structures mentioned and make meaningful contributions?

My broader view is that the rebellion of youth comes because they don't feel like they are part of the state, society and



Dola oversees the Kenya violence prevention project, conducted jointly by CYU and the IPJ

community. They don't feel included in these processes. The truth is, these youth are really interested in making a contribution to our society but there is not a forum for them to do that. The constitution guarantees everyone's participation, and the youth are the majority. They make up over 60 percent of the population so we must make greater efforts to include them.

It is about being able to make a meaningful contribution, whether it is in governance processes or even in our religious institutions or political parties. If this happens our perceptions can change. This view that they are idle can change.

Q: HOW DO YOU VIEW CYU'S JOINT WORK WITH THE IPJ?

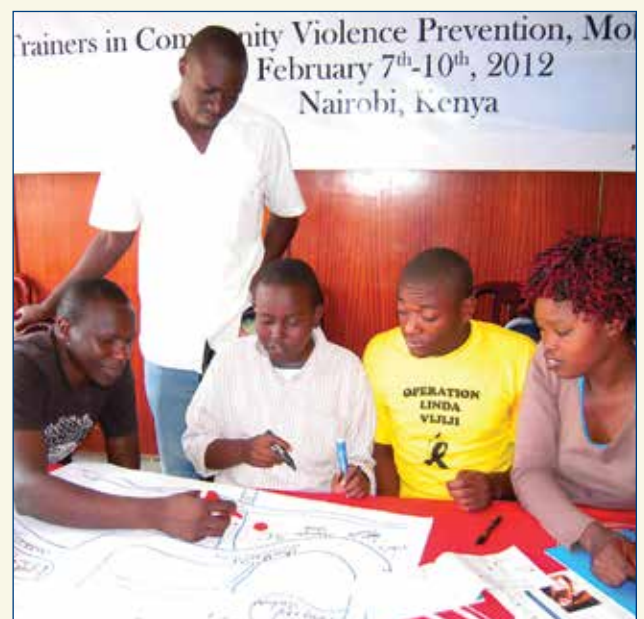
A: Part of CYU's success over these many years has come through its collaboration with others. Sometimes working with others can be tough, but working with the IPJ has been really good. We have a really close relationship with flexibility and creativity that has allowed for us to make decisions together, support one another and really respond to the needs we are seeing.

Q: HOW HAS THE JOINT PROJECT WITH THE IPJ ADDRESSED THE CHALLENGES YOU MENTIONED?

A: People are beginning to demand accountability from police, and that's where it starts. It shows that the few engagements that we have had have made an impact. The dialogues and discussions we started have become ongoing, and it is these that will bring the changes we are looking for.

One example is the police-youth dialogue. The youth asked for resources to continue the proposed activities that came out of this meeting. We tried to link them to support and help them create write-ups and proposals for receiving it. This showed a real interest coming from these youth. We cannot take that for granted.

Youth-police relations are a very important focus because we are having elections again in 2017. If nothing is done we are likely to find ourselves in the same situation we had in the past. We need to start early and capture the youth interest before it goes away and they engage in other activities. Changing perceptions takes time. We need to think about creating and fostering these links and bridges starting now.



At one of the first workshops in 2012, participants mapped the violence-prone areas in their neighborhoods

NEPAL PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVE HEADS WEST TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY EFFORTS



IPJ Program Officer Zahra Ismail facilitated discussions on program planning for the team from Sano Paila

Editor's Note: The activities described below occurred prior to the April earthquake in Nepal. The IPJ continues to work with local partner organizations to assess the situation and determine next steps in the peacebuilding and recovery process after the humanitarian disaster.

The IPJ traveled to Nepal in late March 2015 to assist in strategic planning with its burgeoning local partner organization Sano Paila (translated “A Little Step”) and to work in Bardiya District in Mid-Western Nepal.



Community and government leaders brainstorm collaboration opportunities during a roundtable meeting

In Bardiya, communities are struggling with issues of geographical isolation, human trafficking, caste discrimination, unemployment, and the reintegration of ex-combatants following the civil war. Sanjaya Gautam, a member of the Constituent Assembly drafting a new constitution in the post-conflict country, invited the IPJ to facilitate roundtable discussions to identify underlying causes of these issues and entry points for creating change and working together to solve them. Participants were from the government, civil society and security forces.

Sano Paila, meanwhile, has experienced rapid growth in staff members and projects in recent years. With the organization’s leaders, IPJ Program Officer Zahra Ismail facilitated discussions on program planning for the future.

Another local partner organization of the IPJ, Today’s Youth Asia, invited Director Dee Aker as keynote speaker for its US-ASIA Futuristic Talk Series. She described the institute’s recent work on countering violent extremism from a gendered perspective.

TRANSFORMING MINDSETS: A STORY OF WOMEN IN CAMBODIAN POLITICS

by Marta Cicalkova (MA ‘14), IPJ Spring 2015 Intern

The April 2015 celebrations of the Khmer New Year in Cambodia were marked by a royal pardon for 10 women imprisoned since November 2014. These women, some of Cambodia’s most prominent and unrelenting defendants of land rights, had protested the forced eviction of close to 4,000 families from the Boeung Kak lake area. They were arrested and charged with “obstructing the traffic,” and their release was anxiously anticipated by their communities and rights groups who had fought for their freedom for months.

Encouraged by the Paris Peace Agreement of 1991 and subsequent democratic elections in Cambodia, women’s activism became the bedrock of community-based advocacy and non-violent resistance to the government’s suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms. Women, having played pivotal roles in the post-conflict reconstruction of the country, paved the way for national campaigns against domestic violence and forceful evictions from their land.



Women gathered in Siem Reap shout “Yes I can!” while participating in an interactive workshop to build leadership and communication skills

Yet, as illustrated by the imprisonment of the land activists, women face significant obstacles while defending their communities. Women’s participation in public life is discouraged, even ridiculed, in Cambodian culture and mainstream politics. Women are often denied training and development opportunities, and the cultural and political imbalance between genders imposes huge socioeconomic demands that chain women to household duties. If they are able to reach the political level, women face scorn and intimidation.

The IPJ has worked in Cambodia since 2011, in partnership with



The IPJ has been working for several years with women in or seeking to engage in the political sphere in Cambodia

the organization Khmer Ahimsa — headed by Woman PeaceMaker Thavory Huot — to support women in the political sphere. In April, IPJ staff members Dee Aker and Zahra Ismail facilitated a workshop in Siem Reap for 25 women on key skills in effective leadership, negotiation, communication and

advocacy. The project encourages women to support one another, recognize their full potential and become transforming elements in Cambodian society.



Students Christian Iniguez Figueroa and Nicole-Ann Lobo welcome delegates to the 18th Annual Youth Town Meeting (Photo credit: Herman Saldano Toledano)

On January 21, WorldLink welcomed more than 700 high school students from San Diego and Baja Mexico to the University of San Diego for the 18th Annual Youth Town Meeting, on the student-selected theme “Healing the Wounds of Violence.”

More than 30 experts in the field of trauma healing and violence prevention led thought-provoking discussions on five subtopics:

- Identifying Violence
- Healing through Medical and Alternative Therapies
- Transitional Justice
- Restorative Justice
- Violence Prevention

Throughout the day, young delegates examined violence in its many manifestations — from domestic violence to genocide — and explored ways of collaboration for a more peaceful and just future.

“Speakers and students hailed from Rwanda, Nepal, El Salvador, Lithuania, Mexico and throughout the U.S.,” explained WorldLink Intern Lark Wang. “These global citizens represented a vast breadth of cultures, languages and fields of work. Yet, they all understood and engaged in the immediate necessity to prevent and recover from wounds of violence.”

Rory Fallmer, a student from The Grauer School, attended a session featuring Charisma De Los Reyes, a local San Diego expert on the issue of domestic human trafficking. Learning that \$96.6 million a year can be made from sex trafficking in San Diego alone, Fallmer remarked, “I had no idea so many girls my age are involved in sex trafficking. It made me want to do something about it.”

“We are going to make a difference because we know that our individual participation matters, because apathy is not in our vocabulary, and because we understand that nothing is impossible if we dedicate ourselves to it.”

— IAN HARKNESS AND SONYA JACOBS

Other Youth Town Meeting speakers included Mark Wexler, co-founder of the global anti-slavery organization Not For Sale; youth representatives from Crawford Academy of Law and current consultants to the San Diego Unified School District on expanding the use of restorative justice within the district; and Dydine Umunyana, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide and founder of a nonprofit providing education to Rwandan women on filmmaking and storytelling.



Speakers Steve Luttbeg and Phuong Pham shared reflections about restorative justice practices at the Crawford High School Academy of Law (Photo credit: Marla Ramirez Servin)



This year's student-selected theme was “Healing the Wounds of Violence” (Photo credit: Sadie T aylor)

Understanding and combating cycles of violence are great challenges, but, according to conference attendees, is not impossible. WorldLink Interns Ian Harkness and Sonya Jacobs stated, “We are going to make a difference because we know that our individual participation matters, because apathy is not in our vocabulary, and because we understand that nothing is impossible if we dedicate ourselves to it.”

WorldLink's 18th Annual Youth Town Meeting was made possible by the generous support of our donors: Kimberly Godwin Charitable Gift Fund, Serenity Grace Foundation, Verizon Foundation, Leslie and Marilyn Williamson, Stephen Stratton, Justine Darling, Kathbryn D. Nichols and Dr. Robert Hitchcock.

WORLDLINK SPRING INITIATIVE APPLIES NEW KNOWLEDGE OF HEALING THROUGH THE ARTS

by Daniel Shevchuk and Gleb Shevchuk, WorldLink Spring 2015 Interns

Following the 18th Annual Youth Town Meeting, WorldLink welcomed a select number of students to the workshop “Conversations Into Action.” This four-hour workshop provided students from San Diego and Baja Mexico the space to take a critical look at issues of violence and trauma and propose their own solutions to these pressing global concerns.

These student-produced proposals became the framework for WorldLink’s 2015 Spring Initiative: a group of youth leaders that would create and implement activities focused on this year’s WorldLink theme, “Healing the Wounds of Violence.” Through this, students would have the opportunity to apply the knowledge they learned at the Youth Town Meeting and create a network of young changemakers dedicated to making a meaningful and lasting difference.

As WorldLink research interns, we served as primary organizers for the Spring Initiative. However, when we began the planning process, we weren’t sure about the type of responses we would get. Would organizations want to partner with us? Would young people want to take time out of their busy schedules to help others? Fortunately, the answer to these questions was a big yes!

This semester, we had the great privilege of partnering with A Reason To Survive, also known as ARTS — a nationally recognized organization that provides, supports and advocates for arts programs that heal, inspire and empower youth facing adversity. In direct connection with this year’s Youth Town Meeting theme, the Spring Initiative team chose to focus on community-based activities that supported trauma healing through the arts.



WorldLink Intern Lark Wang was part of the Spring Initiative at ARTS



The Spring Initiative team included Lark Wang, Gleb Shevchuk, Daniel Shevchuk, Luis Vera and Yoko Tsutsui

ARTS takes a unique approach to this, providing opportunities for youth to use art as self-therapy through internships and sequential programs. It is through these experiences — from painting murals to building statues — that youth really benefit in personal healing and development.

On March 28, the Spring Initiative team had the opportunity to spend an afternoon helping ARTS in this goal. We painted hundreds of tiles, got our clothes dirty, and had a blast doing it. Along with dozens of young people, we contributed to the 300-foot long mosaic wall that will premiere in National City this spring. This opportunity to make a difference was amazing, and having the responsibility to lead a group of students and give them the tools to make a difference in their own communities was incredible.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERN PREMIERES NEW FILM ON VOICES OF YOUTH

by Nathan Huffine, WorldLink Intern and Film Producer



Voices of Youth includes interviews with this young Nepali leader and two others

Voices of Youth explores the impact young adults can have on a nation, in this case Nepal. To become valuable participants of society, youth need education so they can find a platform to voice their opinions. Through a collaboration between the IPJ’s WorldLink program and Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative, and local partner organization Sano Paila, this short film documents the perspectives of three young Nepali leaders on issues of gender equity, the power of social media and the impact youth have on local communities.

Natural disaster has left the nation of Nepal in many ways destroyed. With the loss of loved ones and the fall of historic symbols, citizens endure heartache beyond measure. However, there is no doubt in our minds that the people of Nepal will prevail and society will grow stronger as a result. The voices of three young adults have proven this countless times over in *Voices of Youth*, as their unwavering commitment to bettering the world shows through each word that they speak.



To watch *Voices of Youth*, visit:

www.youtube.com/user/worldlinkintern

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

BRIDGING SILOS AT THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

On the topic of extremism and the severity of its effects on communities around the world, strategies that do not inform, and that are not informed by, other strategies from disparate fields prove to be ineffectual.

In keeping with a goal of the “Defying Extremism” conference and regional dialogues (see cover story and page 2), the IPJ organized an event on the topic at the 59th U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) that brought together an array of experts from what are typically seen as differing fields — diplomacy, counter-terrorism, civil society, religion, law and women’s rights — to find points of intersection.

At the event in March, IPJ Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman moderated a panel that included a former extremist, Mubin Shaikh, now a sought-after counter-terrorism expert; a lawyer and IPJ Women PeaceMaker, Mary Ann Arnado, from conflict-ridden Mindanao in the Philippines; and Edit Schlaffer, the founder of Women Without Borders, an organization working with mothers on how to prevent the radicalization of their children.



The Commission on the Status of Women is held each winter at U.N. Headquarters in New York

For the first time in the IPJ’s nine-year track record of presenting at CSW, the event featured members of the diplomatic community as speakers, including Ambassador Ufuk Gokcen, permanent representative of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to the United Nations and member of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (a co-convenor of the institute’s “Defying Extremism” initiative).

Each speaker, drawing on his or her expertise and orientation to the topic, discussed the need to address root causes of extremism. For Shaikh, it was the attractiveness of an ideology that offers youth belonging and purpose. For Arnado, it was the impact of marginalization and Islamophobia on communities in Mindanao that have been struggling for self-determination for decades. For Schlaffer, it was the absence of trusted institutions and support systems in impoverished or conflicted communities, so that youth are at risk of radicalization and their mothers have no one to turn to but one another.



Mubin Shaikh, pictured here at the IPJ’s conference in November, spoke about “Defying Extremism” at the event in New York



FIRST UNDERGRADUATE
COURSE FEATURING WOMEN
PEACEMAKERS TO BE
OFFERED IN FALL 2015

The Kroc School of Peace Studies will offer its first course in “War, Gender and Peacebuilding” this fall, exclusively for undergraduate students. The 10-week course — geared toward majors and minors in peace and justice studies; peacebuilding and social innovation; gender studies; political science and international affairs, among others — will include guest lectures and interactive class sessions with the 2015 Women PeaceMakers in residence (to be announced this summer).

For more information, please contact Jennifer Freeman, IPJ senior program officer for women, peace and security, at jenfreeman@sandiego.edu.

But innovative approaches to these complex issues were also discussed: engaging extremist recruiters and recruits through social media to counter false religious narratives; supporting mothers in learning about developmental psychology in children, parenting skills, and strength and community building through storytelling; and organizing regional dialogues along the model that the IPJ and its partners are piloting.

As Arnado described, “What is unique about the recent regional dialogue in Asia is that it was able to develop a network of religious leaders who are willing to work together in an interfaith and multicultural setting to be able to defy religious extremisms, in partnership with human rights defenders and women peacemakers, feminists and social activists.”

INDONESIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER ATTACKED

In September 2014, IPJ Woman PeaceMaker Latifah Anum Siregar of Indonesia was physically attacked in Wamena in Papua Province. A lawyer and human rights defender, Siregar was working on the case of a tribal leader who was arrested and charged with “separatism” for assisting a pair of French journalists filming a documentary on the situation in Papua.

Siregar was stabbed in the hand and her briefcase and laptop were stolen. Her injury required two surgeries and she is still undergoing physical therapy, but she wrote to the IPJ recently that she is grateful to be back at work in Jayapura and will continue to defend her clients in Wamena. Siregar was a Woman PeaceMaker at the IPJ in 2007, and her narrative *Fearless Pursuit of Justice* is available on the IPJ’s website.



Siregar, pictured here at the IPJ in 2007, is back at work in Jayapura

WOMEN IN THE WORLD SUMMIT FEATURES ISRAELI PEACEMAKER

Upon learning of the Women PeaceMakers program, Tina Brown, founder of the Daily Beast, was introduced to 2014 Woman PeaceMaker Robi Damelin from Israel. As a result, Damelin was featured at Brown’s Women in the World Summit in San Antonio, Tex., and interviewed live on stage to discuss her story of seeking reconciliation with the man who killed her son and trying to break the cycle of revenge in Israel and Palestine.

Other prominent speakers at the San Antonio gathering included Gloria Steinem, Jill Biden and Dolores Huerta. Damelin also spoke at Women in the World gatherings in Los Angeles and New York earlier this year.



Damelin (left), pictured here in San Antonio with feminist icon Gloria Steinem and IPJ Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman, was a featured speaker at several of the Women in the World Summits

PEACEMAKER ALUMNAE RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Women PeaceMakers from Sierra Leone and Bosnia-Herzegovina recently received prestigious honors for their work. Christiana Thorpe, a 2004 peacemaker, has served as the chief electoral commissioner of Sierra Leone since 2005 and oversaw two successful and peaceful elections in that post-conflict country. The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) recognized this success by granting its 2014 Joe C. Baxter Award to Thorpe for her “proven track record of exceptional dedication to improving the way in which people have a say in the way they are governed,” according to the IFES website.



In Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2014, Husic (far right) shares the work of Medica Zenica with a delegation that included former UK Foreign Minister William Hague and UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie (Photo credit: zenit.ba)

On Nov. 19, 2014, Sabiha Husic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, peacemaker from 2013, received the Woman of the World Award from the organization Women for Women International. Husic was chosen for her work as director of Medica Zenica, which provides psychosocial and medical support to women and children victims of war and post-war violence. At the awards gala in New York City, she was lauded by UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie for her work with survivors of sexual and domestic violence, torture and human trafficking.

IPJ RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT FOR THE WOMEN PEACEMAKERS PROGRAM

For the second year in a row, the IPJ is pleased to announce a \$100,000 gift from Cigna to support the Women PeaceMakers program and documenting the stories of women leaders from around the world. “Introduced to the program at the 2013 FRED Forum, Cigna has been a key partner in recognizing and supporting the innovative and courageous leadership that the Women PeaceMakers exemplify,” said IPJ Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman. “Thanks to Cigna the program is able to continue to identify and support these critical voices for peace and human rights.”

IPJ INSIDER

NEW PROGRAM OFFICERS FOR STRATEGIC PEACEBUILDING JOIN IPJ TEAM



Wong lived in Myanmar for seven years, working primarily with young leaders
(Photo credit: Mark Lumley 2015 © All Rights Reserved)

This spring, the institute welcomed Daniel Orth and Kara Wong as program officers for strategic peacebuilding. They will assist in the design, management and implementation of field projects, and are spearheading the IPJ's fall conference on the arts and peacebuilding in November 2015.

Orth previously worked at Conflict Dynamics International and has led trainings in Zanzibar in leadership, communication and conflict resolution with Search for Common Ground. He has served as a co-facilitator for a group of Israeli Arab and Israeli Jewish civil society members working to create a shared society in their country.

"If someone asked me what I wanted to be doing at this point in my career, I would have written a job description nearly identical to the one for the program officer for strategic peacebuilding position at the IPJ," he states. "I consider myself very fortunate to be a part of an organization committed to working over the long-term with local partners by listening and responding to their needs."

Orth holds a master of arts in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, where he specialized in human security and international negotiation and conflict resolution, and a bachelor of arts in political science and economics from Tulane University. While an undergraduate, he participated in American University's Washington Semester Peace and Conflict Resolution Program, concentrating on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. He spent eight years teaching history in New York and New Orleans and taught a certification course for first-year teachers.

Wong specializes in peace education and experiential learning, and has an MA in development studies from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands and an honors BA in international justice and human rights from the University of Western Ontario.

She said, "What excites me most about this position is the opportunity it affords me to learn, create and share all at once. Having a home at the IPJ gives me access to some of the most inspiring changemakers of our time, to learn from people who are actively seeking out and putting into action innovative solutions to global challenges."

"I consider myself very fortunate to be a part of an organization committed to working over the long-term with local partners by listening and responding to their needs."

— DANIEL ORTH

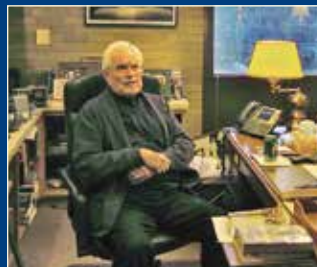
Wong has contributed to the design and implementation of community-based education projects on four continents. Prior to joining the institute she spent seven years in Myanmar, co-founding a community-based education center that empowers young leaders from marginalized areas of the country with the confidence, knowledge and skills to transform and resolve conflict within their own communities.

Read interviews with the IPJ's new program officers on the Peace and Justice Blog at sites.sandiego.edu/ipj.

IN MEMORIAM

The IPJ joins its sister institution, the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, in mourning the loss of Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president emeritus of Notre Dame and a member of the IPJ's International Council. Father Ted, as he was known, died in February at the age of 97. He was until his death an influential leader in the Catholic Church, higher education and the civil rights movement.

It was in San Diego in 1985 that Joan Kroc heard Father Ted speak on the need for nuclear disarmament and the role of universities in building moral leaders. The following year, the Kroc Institute at Notre Dame was founded after a \$6 million gift from Joan.



Father Ted Hesburgh at his office at the University of Notre Dame in 2012
(Photo credit: Know1one1, Wikimedia Commons)

Father Ted played an essential role in shaping the vision and mission of the IPJ when it was founded by Joan 15 years later, and later the Kroc School of Peace Studies at USD.

The Kroc School and Institute also offer condolences to the families of Lowell Blankfort, a longtime supporter of the IPJ's WorldLink program, and Willy Sammy Lokadio, a 2011 graduate of the master's program in peace and justice studies. Both passed away earlier this year and will be missed in the Kroc School network.

IPJ INSIDER – KROC SCHOOL SPHERE

FROM INTERN TO ASSOCIATE: ALUMNA EARNS POSITION WITH IPJ PARTNER ORGANIZATION

Janie Dumbleton, MA '14, is a conflict resolution associate at Tanenbaum, a secular, nonpartisan organization based in New York that combats religious prejudice. The organization is a co-convenor of the IPJ's work on "Defying Extremism" (see cover story and page 2). To fulfill her internship requirement for the MA program at the Kroc School, Dumbleton interned for Tanenbaum last summer. The IPJ asked about her time as a student, intern and now associate.

Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE KROC SCHOOL FOR YOUR GRADUATE STUDIES?

A: I chose the program because of the University of San Diego's overall social justice mission and because of the incredible faculty. When I visited and met with Associate Dean Lee Ann Otto and heard about the multiple practical and theoretical courses within the program, I knew that they would challenge me academically and help me grow as a practitioner.



Dumbleton graduated from the master's program in peace and justice studies in 2014.

William Headley's "Religion: Peacebuilding's Missing Dimension" class have fully informed so many of the concepts that Tanenbaum uses. It helps to be familiar with the leading scholars, practitioners and thinkers in the field of religious peacebuilding.

Q: DESCRIBE YOUR INTERNSHIP WITH TANENBAUM. WHAT WERE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST VALUABLE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE?

A: The most valuable was the importance of taking initiative. I had a set of tasks, but I would finish them quickly and find myself ready for new challenges, so I took it upon myself to look for constructive ways of helping Tanenbaum grow. Tanenbaum's conflict resolution department has a monitoring and evaluation process that I found fascinating, so that became the bulk of my internship. It was exciting because I got to start the project and finish it in the time I was there, while feeling like I contributed to the organization.

Q: WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE AS A DELEGATE TO "DEFYING EXTREMISM"? DID THE ISSUES DISCUSSED INFORM WHAT YOU ARE DOING NOW?

Q: HOW DID THE PROGRAM PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR JOB WITH TANENBAUM?

A: In my work now, I value knowing the theories that buttress conflict resolution and religious peacebuilding. Since I work in the conflict resolution department, texts that I studied in conflict analysis with Dr. Ami Carpenter have become figurative cornerstones. Additionally, the texts from Dr.



As a student at the Kroc School, Dumbleton made sure to seek out experts in her field of interest, including IPJ Distinguished Lecturer R. Scott Appleby (on left)

A: I was hired by Tanenbaum as a consultant for the conference to work closely with Tanenbaum's wonderful CEO, Joyce Dubensky. I took notes, attended relevant sessions, met awe-inspiring peacemakers and practitioners and scholars.

I loved seeing how my two "worlds" intersected via the partnership. The issues discussed absolutely informed the work I'm currently doing at Tanenbaum. The issues of extremism have to be addressed, and we are trying to take steps to do that and highlight individuals, organizations and movements that seek to do the same. Understanding the multiple approaches can help the synergy of combating violent extremism.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT FIT FOR THEIR INTERNSHIP?

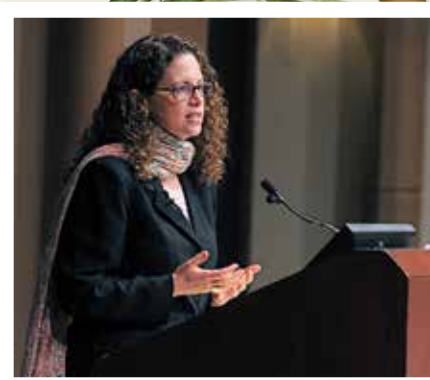
A: As an intern, it's challenging to find how you fit into an organization. My advice is to follow the progress and trajectory of your dream organization. Have a few organizations or businesses that you admire, and keep up with their work.

I've always admired Tanenbaum and kept up-to-date with its happenings because I was genuinely interested in its work, which helped propel my interest in peace and justice studies. If you're following organizations that you admire, then you are able to keep an eye on their internship openings and feel truly invested once you get there.

Editor's Note: As of print time, Dumbleton and Dubensky are recovering from the Amtrak train derailment in Philadelphia. Both were returning from the annual conference of the Alliance for Peacebuilding and were badly injured. The Kroc School and IPJ network continue to stay updated on their situations and wish them a thorough and speedy recovery.

Fostering Peace, Cultivating Justice, Creating a Safer World.

Karima Bennoune, professor of international law at the University of California, Davis, and author of *Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight Against Muslim Fundamentalism*, was the Distinguished Lecturer at the IPJ's conference in November 2014 on "Defying Extremism." Bennoune's book recently won the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and she is a sought-after commentator on the roots and rise of religious extremism in Muslim-majority countries. View her lecture on UCSD-TV at <http://www.ucsd.tv/search-details.aspx?showID=28819>.



The Keynote Speaker for the final day of the conference was James McElroy, board member of the Southern Poverty Law Center and a San Diego attorney in private practice. He discussed the history of religiously based intolerance and extremism in the United States and some of the forms it currently takes, including anti-Semitic, anti-gay, and/or racist movements, including so-called Christian Identity groups.

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