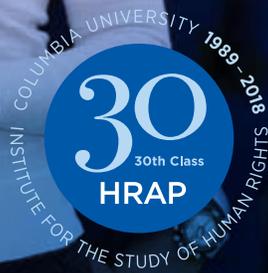


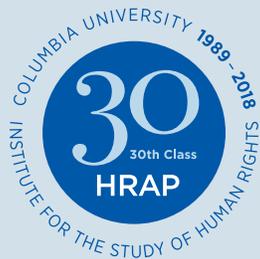
HRAP

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES PROGRAM

2018



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Videos are available on our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/humanrightsadvocates>

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2018 ADVOCATES: The 2018 Advocates were in the 30th Class of HRAP.

1 INTRODUCTION

“As advocates, we need information, knowledge, and synergies to achieve [our] goals, and this is exactly what we have here. HRAP gave us a different perspective and [new] lenses so we can be better at framing the legal and social landscape for a just world and equality for all.”

2018 ADVOCATE MARIJANA SAVIĆ

The 30th Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) at Columbia University continued the commitment by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) to strengthen the skills, knowledge, and networks of grassroots human rights advocates like Marijana Savić of Serbia who founded ATINA to work with victims of trafficking. In the 2018 HRAP, she was joined by eight other advocates from countries including Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Sierra Leone, and Uganda.

The HRAP curriculum comprises of academic coursework, skill-building workshops, mentoring, and networking with the human rights, academic, and donor communities primarily in New York City and Washington, D.C.

HRAP is grateful to the Columbia faculty who mentor the advocates including Pratima Kale, Daniel Naujoks, and Minky Worden from the School of International and Public Affairs; Robert Fullilove, Terry McGovern, and Theodorus Sandfort of the Mailman School of Public Health; Francis Ssekandi of Columbia Law School; and Sheila Dauer of ISHR.

This year at Columbia, HRAP partnered with Columbia Law School, the Mailman School of Public Health, Teachers College, the Harriman Institute, the Institute for African Studies, and the School of International and Public Affairs to organize a number of speaking engagements delivered by the 2018 advocates.

2 THE ADVOCATES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Marijana Savić

Founder and Director

ATINA—Citizens Association for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and All Forms of Gender-Based Violence
BELGRADE, SERBIA

The fight for dignity and equality is the story of my life. I was 18 when my country disappeared. The loss of Yugoslavia is something that, even today, makes me question who I am. People reacted in different ways to the dissolution of Yugoslavia. My way was to engage in the fight for the serious issues that emerged. I became active in the women's rights movement in Serbia. In 2003, so many women were being trafficked in the aftermath of the war and because of difficult economic circumstances in Eastern Europe. So, our organization, NGO Atina, started a safe house and support programs to address the needs of trafficked women.

As the founder and director of NGO Atina, I am dedicated to direct support and long-term assistance to victims of trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence. Dignified livelihood, equal opportunities for education, and life without violence and discrimination are among many things the majority of us take for granted, but for many women and girls, especially survivors of trafficking and violence, these are unreachable heights. Although we are in 2018, there are among us a number of women who are outcasts. Society blames them for the violence they are experiencing—saying they are not



strong enough to leave the perpetrators as if it is their duty, saying they provoked that violence and earned it—as though there is a justification for such a thing at all. Those kinds of thoughts and actions are persistently pushing women back to the violence they attempted to escape. And these women are those in whom all the weaknesses of our society are reflected. I always emphasize how important it is for women and girls to take the initiative—to take full advantage of their rights

“*And these women are those in whom all the weaknesses of our society are reflected.*”



Marijana was one of five female entrepreneurs to win the first WE Empower UN SDGs Challenge.

and to become activists who will encourage the change. But in order to achieve that, society needs to provide equal opportunities for all. We must ensure that those who are

most vulnerable among us are primarily safe, have room for personal freedom and individual development, and can participate in social flows.

In order to support our mission and end violence against women, we organize trainings and education for professionals in various fields to strengthen the capacities of institutions and organizations to identify and provide adequate support to survivors. Within the so-called “refugee crisis” in Europe, we at NGO Atina insist on gender perspectives and gender approaches to address the challenges women and girl refugees are facing every day. This is why this Human Rights Advocates Program matters. As advocates, we need information, knowledge, and synergies to achieve these goals, and this is exactly what we have here. HRAP gave us a different perspective and lenses so we can be better in framing the legal and social landscape for a just world and equality for all.



Daniel Naujoks (speaking) became involved in HRAP as the faculty mentor to Marijana (to his right).

FACULTY MENTOR

DANIEL NAUJOKS

Lecturer-in-Law, Columbia Law School

Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

CLASSES

Gender Justice

Migration and Human Development

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Amnesty International USA

ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking)

Foundation Center

Human Rights Watch

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center NYC

Rights CoLab

Safe Horizon

Save the Children

WITNESS

PRESENTATIONS

Experiences of Activists Working with Marginalized Groups with Mambu S. Feika, Marijana Savić, and Pepe Julian Onziema

Presentation for Professor Helen Verdeli's Global Mental Health Lab at Teachers College

Vulnerability to Exploitation and Human Trafficking: The Case of Serbia

Presentation for Professor Lara Nettlefield's course Refugees, Forced Migration and Displacement

Vulnerability to Exploitation and Human Trafficking: The Case of Serbia

Sponsored by the Harriman Institute and ISHR



Advocates learned about the arts and advocacy at Photoville.

Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Program Assistant

Disability and Human Rights Program
National Union of Disabled Persons
of Uganda-NUDIPU

KAMPALA, UGANDA

I come from a family of four children. We are two boys and two girls, myself being the third born. Due to sickle cell anemia, my younger sister lives with excruciating pain every day. My elder sister has a visual impairment. My visually impaired sister lost her sight in secondary school. It was a turning point not only for her but for all of us a family. We had to adjust to learn how to handle her in her new world of disability. It was an area we had never thought of or interacted with but only rendered it for health practitioners or for religious organizations who ran charity. With the trauma it brings, we as children were forced to adapt to everything afresh—meaning it was a total overhaul of our lives.

She graduated with her first bachelor's degree in education with a lot of support from us as a family and from her fellow students at her secondary school who appreciated her disability having studied at an inclusive school. When the time came for her to attend school practice, she was seemingly left with only two options: self-help or resigning from the program which she had so passionately pursued. I supported her during her school practice because the school that had accepted her with her impairment demanded that she fit into their system since they were not ready to adjust “just for one



“ I believed I had a role to play in not only enabling my sister to succeed in life but also in creating an environment in which she could live comfortably by defying stereotypes about her and persons with disabilities in general.”



Solomon participates in the discussion at Human Rights Watch.

individual.” Challenging as it was. I offered to help her go through this including during the grading of student exams which meant I had to read every script to her in order for her to award marks.

This helped us to sensitize the public on the potential of persons with disabilities because as long as the school practice went on, many students and teachers would gather around her class to witness a visually impaired teacher teaching a mainstream class or school. This period ushered me into the world of advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities. I believed I had a role to play in not only enabling my sister to succeed in life but also in creating an environment in which she could live comfortably by defying stereotypes about her and persons with disabilities in general.

The Human Rights Advocates Program at Columbia University accepted me on my third try. I applied so many times because HRAP is an opportunity to improve my skills in advocating for human rights from a wider perspective, not only for people with disabilities. I believed that HRAP would connect me with the best practitioners, mentors, and colleagues in the field from whom I would learn a lot of things given their proven track record. I knew HRAP would connect me to wider human rights networks that would in return broaden my advocacy space in case I needed support on a wider spectrum to have issues of persons with disabilities included. This new networking space accorded to me by HRAP will facilitate my advocacy efforts.

FACULTY MENTOR

FRANCIS M. SSEKANDI

Lecturer-in-Law, Columbia Law School

CLASSES

Human Rights in Africa

Issues in Rural Development

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Amnesty International USA

Consulate General of Japan in New York

Human Rights Watch

International Disability Alliance

Open Society Foundations

Osborne Foundation

Save the Children

UNICEF

WITNESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

American Bar Association

The Enough Project

Ford Foundation

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

U.S. Department of State

World Bank Group

PRESENTATIONS

*The Current State of Human Rights in Uganda:
Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and
Solomon Collins Nkulinga*

Sponsored by GlobalMed and ISHR

*The Current State of Human Rights in Uganda:
Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and
Solomon Collins Nkulinga*

Sponsored by the Institute for African Studies
and ISHR

Disability Rights in Uganda

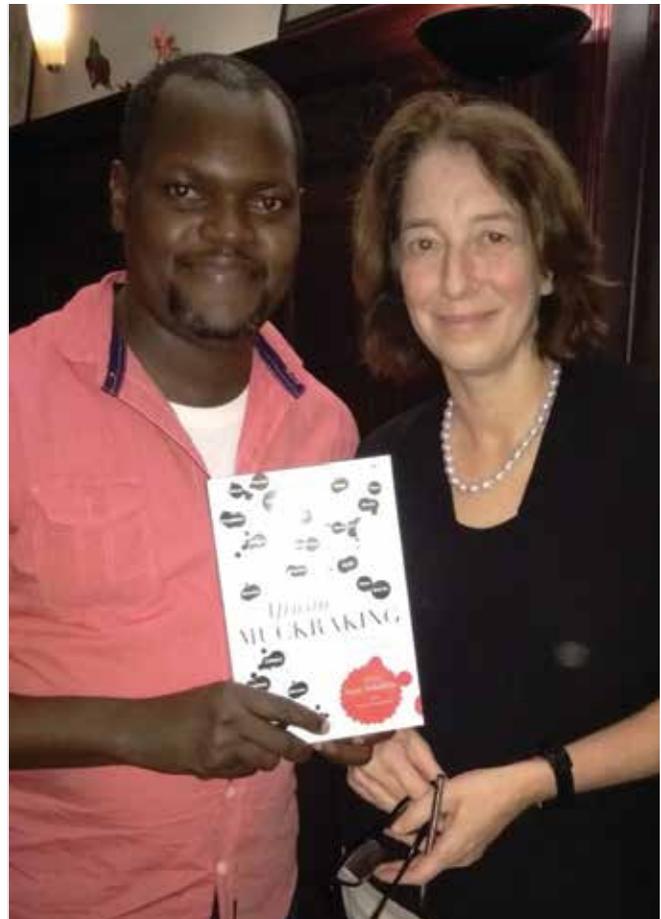
Sponsored by the Columbia School of Social
Work Disability Awareness Caucus, Columbia
School of Social Work Policy Caucus, and ISHR

*Human Rights Advocacy Panel with Lina
Castellanos, Oriana López Uribe, Mambu S.
Feika, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and
Solomon Collins Nkulinga*

Sponsored by the Georgetown University
McCourt School of Public Policy LGBTIQ+
Policy Initiative, Georgetown University Pride,
Georgetown University Queer People of
Color, and the United Nations Association of
Georgetown

*HRAP Panel with Julie Lungwe Matumaini, Pepe
Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon
Collins Nkulinga*

Presentation for Professor Andrew Nathan's
course "Introduction to Human Rights"



Prof. Anya Schiffrin invited the advocates to her home.

Lina Castellanos

Independent Researcher

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Growing up in Colombia, a country with a long history of violence, diverse armed groups, great inequality, and continuous human rights abuses, made me understand from an early age that I wanted to be a human rights advocate. Throughout my life, I have had the opportunity of listening to the stories of Colombians who have suffered the consequences of conflict and also witnessed the indifference of some who think the conflict is a problem of others. The “otherness” of those who have suffered the consequences of war is sadly too common, but it has made me determined to defend human rights in Colombia.

When I worked on the security and protection of threatened populations in my country, I heard hundreds of stories of terror: life threats, attacks, human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, and disappearances—

“*Women experience conflict in different ways and the roles they play within conflict prevention, resolution of conflict, and peacebuilding need to be acknowledged and supported.*”



all situations hard to imagine. Those stories have stayed with me in all I have done as an advocate. The victims I interviewed allowed me to discover many aspects of our history and the dynamics of the armed conflict. Land claimants, Afro Colombians, indigenous groups, internally displaced people, human rights defenders, civil society representatives, and others sat down and told their stories hoping that someone or something could help with protecting their families and their own lives. Even though it was not easy to make decisions on the protection and security to be granted to each individual, I treated each case in my hands with the same relevance, diligence, and empathy because it was clear to me that all of those lives were equally important.

Many times, I wondered who was I to decide and what would happen if I made a mistake when deciding a case? I suppose all human rights advocates at some point—or constantly—question themselves, especially their position to decide and advocate for other’s rights.

For the last two years, I have focused my interest on advocating for women’s rights in the context of conflicts. Women experience conflict in different ways and the roles they play within conflict prevention, resolution of conflict, and peacebuilding need to be acknowledged and supported. The gender dimensions of conflict have to be made visible. If women in Colombia are not given significant participation in the discussions, planning, and implementation of programs and activities that

will support their work towards peacebuilding, the gains of the peace accord with FARC, and the possible future negotiations with other armed groups will be irrelevant. The killing of social leaders in my country has significantly increased. If Colombians, as well as the international community, do not understand that the signing of the accord with one of the many armed groups in the country was only a first step in a long list of to do’s, our hopes to have a more peaceful country will take longer. Colombian women are and will continue to be central if we want to achieve it. I will keep working to become a better human rights advocate in order to continue contributing to the advocacy of human rights.



The advocates met with Charlotte Vuyiswa McClain-Nhlapo, a Global Disability Advisor with the World Bank Group.

FACULTY MENTOR

SHEILA DAUER

Adjunct Assistant Professor, ISHR

CLASSES

Gender Justice

The Human Rights of Women

NGOs and the Human Rights Movement

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Amnesty International USA

Foundation Center

Guttmacher Institute

Human Rights Watch

Open Society Foundations

OutRight Action International

Rights CoLab

Save the Children

WITNESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Center for Health and Gender Equity

Latin America Working Group

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition

World Bank Group

Washington Office on Latin America

PRESENTATIONS

Human Rights Advocacy Panel with Lina Castellanos, Oriana López Uribe, Mambu S. Feika, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulunga

Sponsored by the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy LGBTIQ+ Policy Initiative, Georgetown University Pride, Georgetown University Queer People of Color, and the United Nations Association of Georgetown

Security and Protection in Colombia's Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Presentation for Professor Sheila Dauer's course "The Human Rights of Women"



The advocates met with Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights during the DC trip.

Mambu Samadu Feika

Director

Prison Watch Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

The defining moment for me came on August 18, 1997, when I participated in a nationwide student demonstration in opposition to the military regime that had overthrown the elected government of former UN diplomat Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. The combined forces of the rebels and the military responded by killing some of the demonstrators. I was among the many students who were arrested, detained, and tortured.



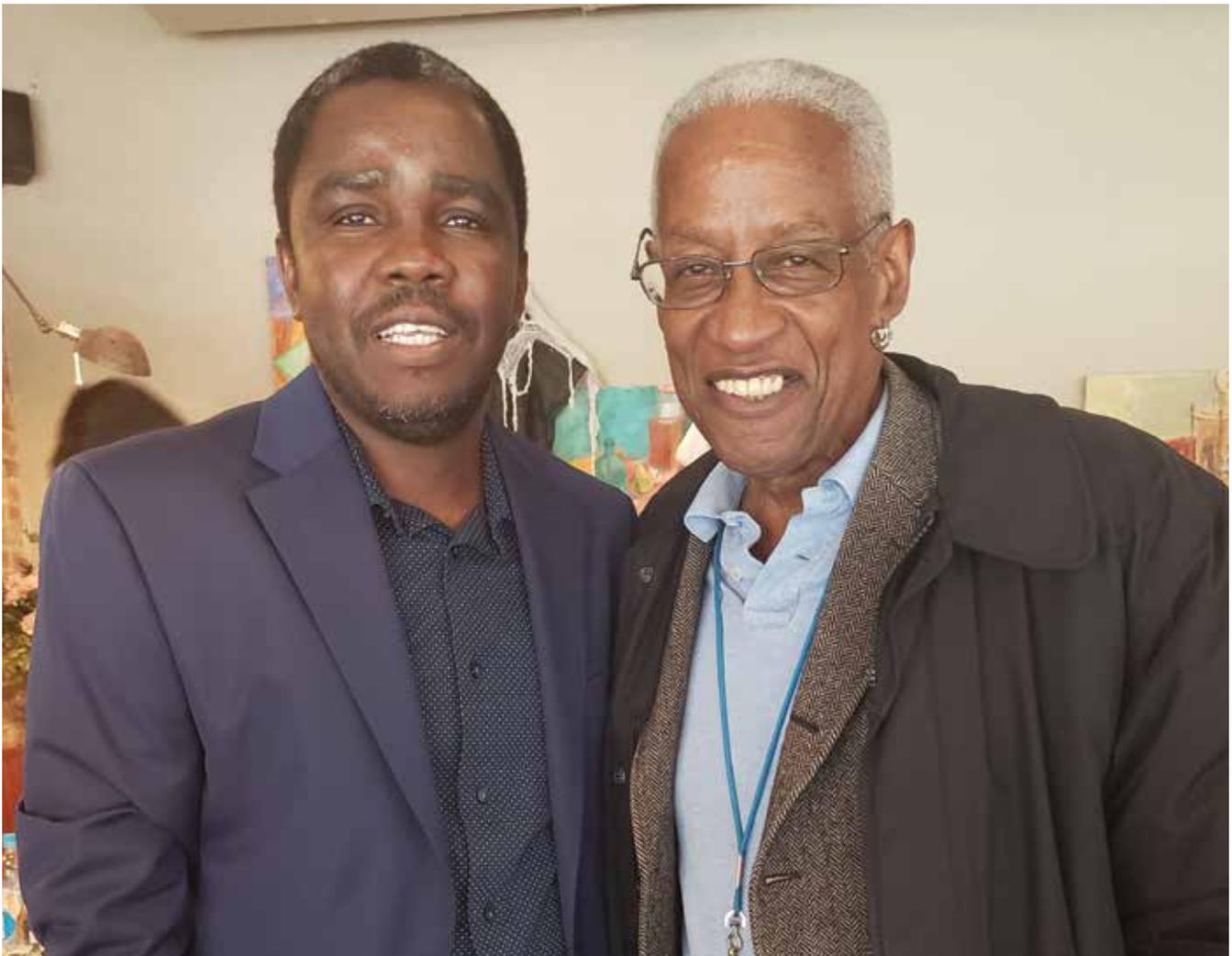
During HRAP, the advocates participate in exchanges with human rights experts such as Justin Mazzola of Amnesty International-USA.

My detention in prison coupled with the death of my fellow students led me to my work as a prisoners' rights advocate. In prison, I lived the injustice and saw the need for social change—a change that can only be led by those who have been impacted by injustice. While in prison, I experienced the deplorable conditions and realized that the occupants were overwhelmingly poor. Children were detained with adults, women with men, and babies with their mothers. With this firsthand experience, I decided to advocate for change.

Since 2007, I have been the Director of Prison Watch Sierra Leone. Monitoring and advocacy are the cornerstone of PWSL's prison activities.

“ In prison, I lived the injustice and saw the need for social change—a change that can only be led by those who have been impacted by injustice.”

Monitoring is a vehicle for informed advocacy. PWSL currently has more than 35 human rights advocates whose role is to monitor prisons and other detention facilities and to lead grassroots advocacy efforts.



Mambu reported that working with his faculty mentor, Dr. Robert Fullilove, was one of the greatest benefits of HRAP.

FACULTY MENTOR

ROBERT FULLILOVE

Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs
Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences
Co-director of the Cities Research Group
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

CLASSES

Human Rights and Human Wrongs
Human Rights and Development Policy
Restorative Justice

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Amnesty International USA
Children of Promise
Fortune Society
Foundation Center
Human Rights Watch
International Women's Health Coalition
NYC Books Through Bars
Open Society Foundations
Osborne Association
OutRight Action International
Prospect Hill Foundation
Rights CoLab
Save the Children
UNICEF
WITNESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Catholic Charities USA
Friends of the Congo
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition
U.S. Department of Justice

PRESENTATIONS

Experiences of Activists Working with Marginalized Groups with Mambu S. Feika, Marijana Savić, and Pepe Julian Onziema

Presentation for Professor Helen Verdeli's Global Mental Health Lab at Teachers College

Human Rights Advocacy Panel with Lina Castellanos, Oriana López Uribe, Mambu S. Feika, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Sponsored by the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy LGBTIQ+ Policy Initiative, Georgetown University Pride, Georgetown University Queer People of Color, and the United Nations Association of Georgetown

HRAP Panel with Julie Lungwe Matumaini, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Presentation for Professor Andrew Nathan's course "Introduction to Human Rights"

Prison Watch Sierra Leone's Emphasis on Young People and Schools

Sponsored by Columbia Law School and ISHR

Robert Kirenga

Executive Director

National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders
Uganda

KAMPALA, UGANDA

My involvement with the subject of human rights is one that can be considered “accidental” because I interacted with the subject for the first time after my undergraduate studies in political science and public administration at Makerere University in 1995. The country then was facing a high level of unemployment due to the fact that the public sector had instituted a ban on the recruitment of workers for two years as part of the structural adjustment program being implemented by government. The private sector was not any different, being small, and it was not an area I was keen on joining although I found myself there in the first two years of my career.

As I searched for a job, I took a decision to enroll in an evening course for two years leading to a Diploma in Law. One of the elective subjects was human rights. I signed up for the subject among others and passed it well. When an opportunity to join the national human rights institution opened, I took it up and worked there for nine years rising to the position of director. I gained quite an amount of skills, knowledge, and experience on the subject. This was a great achievement for me because I got exposed to and involved with human rights both in theory and practice.



“*The greatest satisfaction I get from advocating for human rights is when I contribute to making a positive difference in other people’s lives with respect to their fundamental rights or freedoms.*”

My first assignment as a research assistant took me to places where human rights were under siege such as prisons and other related detention places, refugee camps, and IDP



The advocates attended networking meetings in NYC and DC.

camps. I started enjoying human rights work especially when I assisted persons whose rights were under threat or attack and created awareness about vulnerable groups. Since then, I have developed a passion for human rights and have never worked looked back. My graduate studies in Oslo, Norway, as well as my travels to interact with other human rights specialists and practitioners have shaped my ideas and understanding of the subject. This has increased my liking and passion for the same. Working in the human rights sector exposed me to new skills and knowledge of applying human rights in our day-to-day life. The greatest memory I have is when I became

exposed to a theory known as the rights-based approach to development planning. I started becoming a practical advocate for human rights because I hold a strong belief that it is the best way in addressing developmental challenges and the right thing to apply.

The greatest satisfaction I get from advocating for human rights is when I contribute to making a positive difference in other people's lives with respect to their fundamental rights or freedoms. Therefore, I am a human rights advocate because it is the right thing to be and to do.

FACULTY MENTOR

FRANCIS M. SSEKANDI

Lecturer-in-Law, Columbia Law School

CLASSES

Human Rights and Development Policy

Program Evaluation and Design

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Consulate General of Japan in New York

Foundation Center

Human Rights Watch

Open Society Foundations

OutRight Action International

Rights CoLab

Save the Children

WITNESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

American Bar Association

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

World Bank Group

PRESENTATIONS

The Current State of Human Rights in Uganda: Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Sponsored by GlobalMed and ISHR

The Current State of Human Rights in Uganda: Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Sponsored by the Institute for African Studies and ISHR

Human Rights Advocacy Panel with Lina Castellanos, Oriana López Uribe, Mambu S. Feika, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Sponsored by the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy LGBTIQ+ Policy Initiative, Georgetown University Pride, Georgetown University Queer People of Color, and the United Nations Association of Georgetown

HRAP Panel with Julie Lungwe Matumaini, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Presentation for Professor Andrew Nathan's course "Introduction to Human Rights"



Solomon, Robert, and Pepe spoke at Teachers College.

Pepe Julian Onziema

Programs Director

Sexual Minorities Uganda

KAMPALA, UGANDA

When I was in high school, a local newspaper outed a group of students suspected of being gay. I was only 15. What could I do? I loved to write so I wrote an article articulating what I felt was unfair treatment of young people. To my surprise—and to many readers’ shock—my article was published in a weekly teen newspaper pullout called *Straight Talk*. It was in the 90s, and it was my birth into activism. I formed a writers’ club at my school and became a mobilizer and organizer. I had fellow students coming out to me and sharing their stories, which I wrote about.

A couple of years later, a false story was published about me in a magazine called *Secrets* under the headline “Ugandan Lesbian With No Apologies.” Although they tried to disguise my photo and parts of the story, it was easy for people to tell that it was me.

“*I consciously made it my goal to work toward changing this narrative.*”

I remember my family and friends sending faxed copies of the magazine to my relatives abroad. I was summoned to a family meeting, where my family members shared their fears



for my safety after hearing reactions on radio and other social spaces. I was safe in the fact that I had support of most of my family.

The reality of homophobia began to descend on me after this. I met tomboys, lesbians, and effeminate gay men who talked about being raped in their homes, their parents refusing to pay school fees, being kicked out of school, and ending up homeless. We began to spend most of our time together in bars, slowly forming a queer family, which was a safe space. Around 2001, I began to deliberately search the Internet for information about being sexually and gender different, running an organization, and fundraising. I wanted to support rape victims and survivors and those that were different like me. At that time, I also realized that we needed to find lawyers,



Dr. Theodorus Sandfort mentored Pepe Onziema.

doctors and other professionals that we could work with. Unsurprisingly, no professionals were willing to work with us. I consciously made it my goal to work toward changing this narrative. A colleague and I began to mobilize and organize individuals that eventually became the vibrant queer community in Uganda today.

We started organizing into organizations. There was Freedom and Roam Uganda, Spectrum Initiatives, and about eight others that came together to create a central network called Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG). Through this network, we organized strategy meetings and designed awareness-raising projects to create visibility. This came at

a high cost. Tabloids began outing people suspected to be 'homosexual,' stirring fear in society about what had now become an LGBTI community, leading to several evictions, family rejection, loss of employment, and even death threats. I personally have had my share of the risks, but I remain optimistic as I currently work with SMUG as the Programs Director. Working with SMUG and with the movement at large has presented immense opportunities to raise the profile of the movement in Uganda/Africa. Lastly being here at Columbia University for the Human Rights Advocates Program has been a profound experience for me. I have learned, strengthened my networks, and shared information about my work and my country.

FACULTY MENTOR

DR. THEODORUS SANDFORT

Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences (in Psychiatry), Division of Gender Health and Sexuality, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University

Research Scientist, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, New York State Psychiatric Institute

CLASSES

Gender Justice

Gender and Sexuality in African History

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Alliance of Families for Social Justice

Arcus Foundation

Bed Stuy Pride | The Audre Lorde Project

Consulate General of Japan in New York

Foundation Center

Guttmacher Institute

Human Rights Watch

International House LGBTQ+ Alliance

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center NYC

Out in Tech

OutRight Action International

Rights CoLab

SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders)

Save the Children

War Resisters League

WITNESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Amnesty International USA

Dignity for All

Heartland Alliance International

Humanity United

Human Rights Campaign

Human Rights Watch

National Endowment for Democracy

National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Global

Open Society Foundation

PFLAG DC (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

PRESENTATIONS

The Current State of Human Rights in Uganda: Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Sponsored by GlobalMed and ISHR

The Current State of Human Rights in Uganda: Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Sponsored by the Institute for African Studies and ISHR

Experiences of Activists Working with Marginalized Groups with Mambu S. Feika, Marijana Savić, and Pepe Julian Onziema

Presentation for Professor Helen Verdeli's Global Mental Health Lab at Teachers College

For Us by Us: The Future of Movement Lawyering

Sponsored by Movement Law Lab

Human Rights Advocacy Panel with Lina Castellanos, Oriana López Uribe, Mambu S. Feika, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Sponsored by the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy LGBTIQ+ Policy Initiative, Georgetown University Pride, Georgetown University Queer People of Color, and the United Nations Association of Georgetown

HRAP Panel with Julie Lungwe Matumaini, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Presentation for Professor Andrew Nathan's course "Introduction to Human Rights"

Intersection of International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law in Action in form of Crimes Against Humanity: SMUG vs Lively Litigation

Sponsored by the City University of New York Law School

LGBTIQ in the Gender and Sexuality History of Uganda

Presentation for Professor Rhiannon Stephens's course "Gender and Sexuality in African History"

LGBTQ+ Rights in Global Context

Sponsored by Columbia Law School and ISHR

Living Proudly: LGBT Restrictions, Resistance, and Resilience in Uganda and the USA

Sponsored by Cornell Law School

Same-Sex Sexuality and Culture: Experiences from Working with Gay Men and Lesbian Women in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sponsored by the New York State Psychiatric Institute

Anonymous

Growing up in a family that lost its father, I saw how a patriarchal society treats its single mothers and widows. I saw how our laws made problems for women. From an early age, I refused to accept these “norms” in spite of all the problems and difficulties.

I became an activist because I wanted to say “No!”—no to all the discrimination that we face as women in my country. Every day when I wake up, I feel I am going to a boxing ring to prepare myself for this fight. The life of an activist is very difficult—there is no calm and there is always the risk of arrest. Nonetheless, I know this was the right path because after 13 years of activities I can see the change in the mentality of people. My hope remains that one day women in my country will have the same rights as men.

When I was 22 years old, a group of women and I demonstrated in front of [a place we were not allowed to enter]. The security guards beat us and ripped our cardboard signs. We then wrote our slogans on our scarves—we knew they would not touch our scarves. Based on this action, I was then invited to join an important feminist group. We worked on women’s rights. I learned so much about how to be an activist in my country which is sometimes a bit different from other places because of the pressures from the state. We continued in this manner until a later

crackdown during which all my friends were arrested. When they were released on bail, they left the country.

For years, I remained alone in my country. I continued to identify myself as an activist and women’s rights advocate, but I couldn’t do anything—it was like I had entered a dark tunnel. From that period, I learned how to resist, how to say no to depression, and how to find a way to improve my abilities.

Eventually, I realized I alone needed to resurrect the campaign. I have realized that while I have still not achieved my goal, I am in

“Every day when I wake up, I feel I am going to a boxing ring to prepare myself for this fight.”

the process of changing people’s minds which will lead to the realization of my goal.

All of these ups and downs have created a fruitful life for me. I am happy that even though I have challenges due to my work, I still can say “No!” and resist.

FACULTY MENTOR

MINKY WORDEN

Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

Director of Global Initiatives, Human Rights Watch

CLASSES

Gender Justice

Media, Campaigning and Social Change

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Foundation Center

Human Rights Watch

Rights CoLab

Safe Horizon

Save the Children

WITNESS

Safe Horizon

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Advocates for Youth

Center for Health and Gender Equity

National Endowment for Democracy

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

PRESENTATION

Human Rights Advocacy Panel with Lina Castellanos, Oriana López Uribe, Mambu S. Feika, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, Anonymous, and Solomon Collins Nkulinga

Sponsored by the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy LGBTIQ+ Policy Initiative, Georgetown University Pride, Georgetown University Queer People of Color, and the United Nations Association of Georgetown



The advocates met with Jessica Stern of OutRight Action International.

Oriana López Uribe

Executive Director

Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Writing about the reason why I am a human rights advocate is not that easy. I have been asked this question at different workshops, events, and moments of my 19 years doing it. I still do not have a clear answer for it, other than that I love my job.

Nothing particular happened in my life that made me become a human rights advocate—other than everything. I was born into a family where we would discuss politics at the dinner table. Social justice, capitalism and the systems of oppression were the usual topics brought up by my parents.

Due to my father's passion for his job, we would visit community clinics and health promoters in remote villages in Mexico during the holidays. I saw the needs and the lack of infrastructure to provide education, health, and other basic necessities to women and children.

I could see the huge need for services that would improve women's conditions—they were pregnant, they had babies, they could not handle more. They needed contraception and quality care, but also they need to have the possibility to dream and to be happy being themselves. They had no time for that.

I grew up in Mexico City, and from there I learned how inequalities interact—deepening



the gap between people from the same city and the same country. As part of my own privilege, I attended private schools for the first 12 years of my education. I made friends with people whose families would have a car for each member, people that never

“It is only natural that I became a feminist as a way to resist my context.”

had to ride the subway or any sort of public transportation due to classism disguised as fear. However, even in that privileged context,

teachers would talk about social justice, inequalities, and the need to work for a better world.

When I was in elementary school, my very first homework on a computer was about the Zapatista movement. It was 12 pages with the narration of everything I could find about it on the first days of the uprising. It was impossible to have a blind eye to the racist country we live in. I could see that el Sub-Comandante Marcos, the speaker of Zapatistas was not indigenous—he was a privileged ally.

I also grew up watching sex education videos, learning about many forms of contraception by first touching, chewing, and playing with them and finding out what they were afterwards. When I was approaching puberty my father, instead of the sex talk, gave me a brochure on menstruation and asked me for feedback. At 15, I did my first volunteer work. I developed publications and strategies to reach out to adolescents on sexual and reproductive

health. I have been working on the issue since then, and I have grown a lot by doing it.

I live in a country where women are sexually harassed, raped, and murdered on a daily basis, where women are blamed for it, and where toxic masculinities are rewarded and embraced. It is only natural that I became a feminist as a way to resist my context. I am a feminist that works on sexual and reproductive justice because I believe sexuality should be about pleasure and become a source of wellbeing and that people should have access to education and health to be able to dream bigger and achieve those dreams.

What I want to say is that I do this work because it is the natural thing for me to do. I'm a problem-solver. I'm dedicated to making sexual and reproductive rights accessible to women and adolescents now. For me it is obvious that this is not the world that we deserve, that we need to work together to change it, that women cannot wait any longer.



The advocates attended an interactive workshop on stress management.

FACULTY MENTOR

TERRY MCGOVERN

Harriet and Robert H. Heilbrunn Professor
Chair of Population and Family Health
Columbia University Medical Center

CLASSES

Gender Justice

Human Rights and Oral History: Testimony, Memory,
and Trauma

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Amnesty International USA
Foundation Center
Global Philanthropy Project
Guttmacher Institute
Human Rights Watch
International Women's Health Coalition
OutRight Action International
Reproductive Health Access Project
Save the Children

WITNESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Advocates for Youth
Center for Health and Gender Equity
Latin America Working Group
National Endowment for Democracy
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Washington Office on Latin America

PRESENTATIONS

***Abortion Access Strategies: Sharing the Experience
of the MARIA Abortion Fund in Mexico***

Sponsored by the Columbia University Mailman School
of Public Health and the Heilbrunn Department of
Population and Family Health

***Human Rights Advocacy Panel with Lina Castellanos,
Oriana López Uribe, Mambu S. Feika, Pepe Julian
Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins
Nkulinga***

Sponsored by the Georgetown University McCourt
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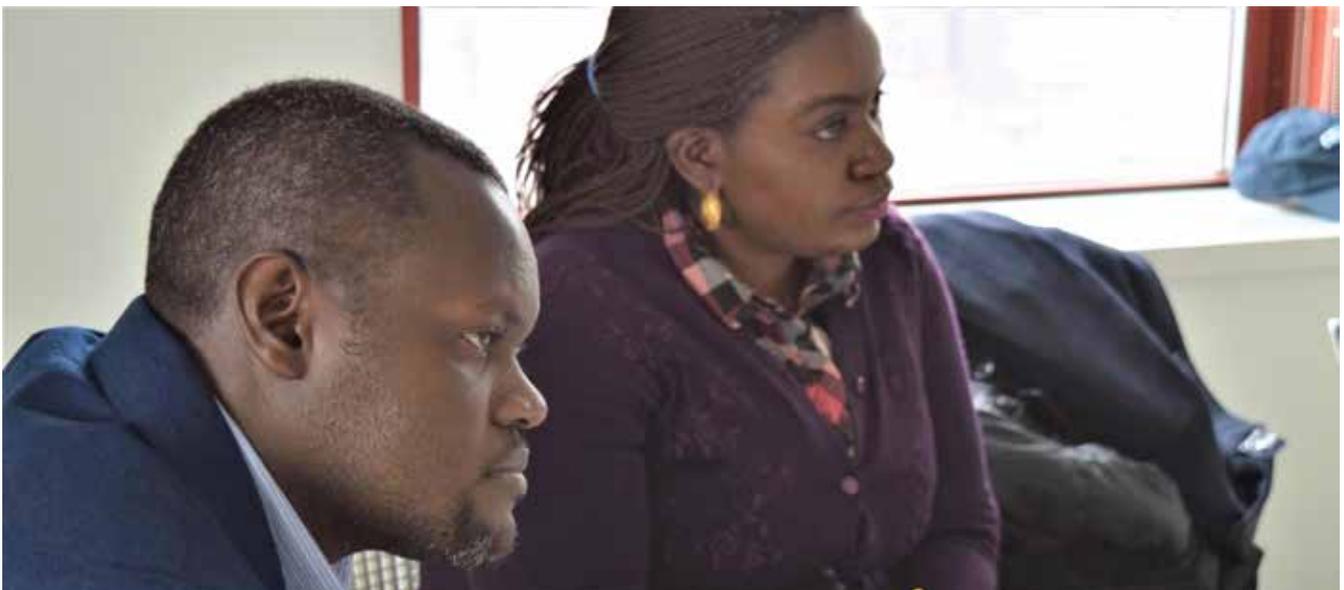


Oriana and the advocates spoke to students at Georgetown.

Julie Lungwe Matumaini

Program Coordinator, Youth and Development
Centre d' Education et Formation Intégrée
UVIRA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

I grew up in Uvira on the coast of Lake Tanganyika. I was born during the dictatorship rule of Mobutu. In 1996, the war broke out in Uvira, Eastern DRC. The whole population left the city fearing the clashes between Mobutu forces and the rebels led by Kabila. I saw how my family and many people were impacted by the war. Children were killed, girls were raped, and properties were looted as children were being recruited as soldiers. These were horrible things. As I grew up in this climate, it was a call for me to do something to help. This is how I came to work at a charity to contribute to the wellbeing of my community, especially for the girls.



Solomon and Julie participating in the workshop at Human Rights Watch.

FACULTY MENTOR

PRATIMA KALE

Adjunct Professor, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

CLASSES

Human Rights of Women

Issues in Rural Development

NETWORKING

NEW YORK CITY

Amnesty International USA

Foundation Center

Human Rights Watch

International Women's Health Coalition

Open Society Foundations

Save the Children

WITNESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Center for Health and Gender Equity

The Enough Project

Friends of the Congo

National Endowment for Democracy

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

PRESENTATION

HRAP Panel with Julie Lungwe Matumaini, Pepe Julian Onziema, Robert Kirenga, and Solomon Collins Nkulunga

Presentation for Professor Andrew Nathan's course "Introduction to Human Rights"

“As I grew up in this climate, it was a call for me to do something to help”



Julie and the advocates visited Amnesty International-USA.

3 WORKSHOPS, CONVERSATIONS AND LECTURES



Jane Buchanan of Human Rights Watch co-led a six-part workshop on Research, Writing and Documentation.

Research, Documentation, and Writing

Jane Buchanan

Deputy Director of the Disability Rights Division

Human Rights Watch

Param-Preet Singh

Associate Director of the International Justice Program

Human Rights Watch

Jane Buchanan and Param-Preet Singh led a six-part workshop that covered the conceptualization of a research project, interviewing victims and witnesses, interviewing perpetrators and accomplices, and writing.

Forced Migration, Gender and Livelihoods

Dale Buscher

Senior Director of Programs, Women's Refugee Commission

Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

Dale Buscher led the advocates in a conversation about the effects of conflict on livelihoods, how livelihoods can be re-vitalized during population displacement, how promoting economic self-reliance underpins all other humanitarian work, the impact on the protection of women and men, and how these programs are prerequisite for and can be linked with post-conflict recovery and development.



Param-Preet Singh and Jane Buchanan of Human Rights Watch offered the advocates a six-session workshop on Research, Writing, and Documentation.

An Introduction to StoryCorps

Nicolas Cadena

National Facilitator, StoryCorps

Nicolas Cadena led a comprehensive workshop covering StoryCorps' mission, signature conversation style, operational procedures, tiers of service, style, community outreach efforts, and tool for communities while sharing some of the organization's work.

Fundraising

Erik Detiger

Founder and Managing Director, Philantropia, Inc.

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

Leadership

William B. Eimicke

Professor of Professional Practice and Founding Director of the Picker Center for Executive Education

Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

Professor Eimicke led an interactive workshop on leadership. He spoke with the advocates about the reasons for studying leadership, various theories of leadership, what leaders do, how leadership differs from management, and how the advocates can improve their leadership skills.

Storytelling and Social Change

Stephen Friedman

Advisor, Societal Impact, SYPartners

Adjunct Professor, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

Storytelling, across mediums and social platforms, has the power to change behavior and shift the cultural narrative. Stephen Friedman shared his experience creating effective stories across a wide variety of issues that engage audiences and often prompt action.

Human Rights Documentation

Pamela Graham

*Director, Humanities & Global Studies
and Director, Center for Human Rights
Documentation*

Columbia University

The Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research at Columbia University holds an extensive collection of archives of human rights NGOs. Director Pamela Graham discussed the collecting program and the process of working with NGOs to preserve their records. She noted the value and importance of preserving the record of human rights advocacy. The CHRDR is also developing the Human Rights Web Archive, an online resource that captures and preserves the websites of

human rights organizations and blogs. Graham demonstrated the HRWA and discussed the issues associated with preserving this information, and encouraged advocates to consider contributing their websites to this collecting effort.

Engaging Media for Advocacy

Thomas R. Lansner

*Founding Director, Social Accountability Media
Initiative*

Thomas R. Lansner provided basic skills and tips for preparing and presenting positive and proactive media and public appearances that promote the advocates' messages.



Erik Detiger of Philanthropia worked with the advocates on resource mobilization.

Human Rights Skills and Advocacy

Dragica Mikavica

Senior Advocacy Adviser, Save the Children

Dragica Mikavica spoke about the design and implementation of Save the Children's advocacy strategies in New York to advance its priorities with the UN Security Council, permanent missions, agencies, and other relevant bodies.

Social Media and Human Rights

Ted Perlmutter

Technology Consultant and Information Systems Architect

Ted Perlmutter led the advocates in a discussion on how Internet technology can promote knowledge networks among political and social activists.

Writing for the Journal of Human Rights Practice

Brian Phillips

Reviews Editor and Co-founder, Journal of Human Rights Practice

Brian Phillips spoke with the advocates about publishing opportunities.

Stress Management

Jack Saul, PhD

Psychologist and Director

International Trauma Studies Program

Sonali Sharma, MD, MSc

Psychiatry and International Mental Health

Dr. Saul and Dr. Sharma led the advocates in a discussion about the stressors in their professional lives and explored avenues to combat them.



Thomas Lansner led a workshop on engaging media for advocacy.



The advocates had a session on advocacy at the UN with Dragica Mikavica of Save the Children.

Introduction to the Foundation Center

Susan Shiroma

*Senior Social Sector Librarian,
Foundation Center*

Susan Shiroma offered the advocates a comprehensive look at the resources available through the Foundation Center’s online resources and libraries in New York City and around the globe.

Maximizing Your Time in HRAP

Bakary Tandia

*Case Manager and Policy Advocate,
African Services Committee*

Co-founder, The Abolition Institute

2010 Advocate Bakary Tandia helped the advocates to maximize their time in HRAP. He described the U.S. government system through the lens of advocacy and presented resources available to advocates in the USA. Tandia is a case worker and policy advocate at African Services Committee in New York City and a co-founder of The Abolition Institute which is working to end slavery in Mauritania.

Video Advocacy

Jackie Zammuto

Program Manager, USA

WITNESS

Isabel Pinheiro

Program Assistant

WITNESS

Jackie Zammuto and Isabel Pinheiro led a workshop on the effective use of video advocacy as a complement to traditional approaches to human rights advocacy. The advocates learned the ways in which stories, visual evidence and personal testimony can be used as part of a human rights advocacy strategy to inform policy.

4 SUPPORT

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights is grateful to the following for their financial support of the Advocates in the 2018 program:

Amnesty International

Anonymous

Arcus Foundation

Harriman Institute,
Columbia University

The Oak Foundation

The Sperry Fund



The 2019 HRAP cohort on the Morningside campus.

5 TESTIMONIALS



Jean Freeburg of the Human Rights Campaign hosted a talk by Pepe Onziema during the DC trip.

HRC was pleased to have the opportunity to host a roundtable with long-time human rights and LGBTQ advocate, Pepe Julian Onziema of Uganda. He shared invaluable information about the current status and the future of the LGBTQ movement in Uganda. It is vital that American civil society organizations understand the nuances of human rights movements abroad and what better way than to hear directly from activists themselves. Thank you to HRAP for always bringing in outstanding advocates from diverse backgrounds. We look forward to continued interaction with HRAP participants!

Jean Freeburg

Deputy Director, HRC Global
Human Rights Campaign

The George C. Bond Center for African Education was pleased to host a panel of human rights advocates from Sierra Leone and Uganda on November 8th. The panelists included Robert Kirenga, Mambu Feika, Solomon Collins Nkulinga, and Pepe Julian Onziema. Forty students from Teachers College participated in some stimulating conversation with the advocates. This annual event is a great opportunity for students to engage directly with practitioners in the field of human rights advocacy. Our thanks to the Human Rights Advocates Program for this continued collaboration. We look forward to hosting more advocates next year.

Susan Garnett Russell

Assistant Professor
International and Comparative Education
Program
Teachers College, Columbia University

Opportunities for sharing thoughts, contesting ideas, and exchanging knowledge are a privilege of life at a university. I am grateful for the conversations I had with human rights advocate Marijana Savić during this year's HRAP. Throughout the fall, we had opportunities to enrich each other's understandings of public policies and local interventions with regard to human trafficking, violence against women, transit migration, and refugees. As director of a key NGO in Serbia that works on these issues, Maja is an outspoken expert and our discussions furthered my grasp of human rights protection in the Balkans and beyond. I am delighted that she took the opportunity to participate in the weekly sessions of my course on 'Migration and Human Development.' She was able to share her extensive knowledge with the entire class and my students benefitted from Maja's practical insights during student-led research projects. I am certain that her time at Columbia was only the beginning of our dialogue and I'm curious to see how the insights she gained during her time here will influence her future activities.

Daniel Naujoks

Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs

Mambu Feika is a prison rights activist whose enthusiasm for his work is infectious. I work in New York State prisons as an educator and was fascinated to compare notes about the overall challenges of incarceration anywhere in the world with him. At a time when so many of my colleagues are both worried and depressed about the barriers we face in supporting the rights of prisoners, I cannot begin to express how important it was to be in the presence of an advocate and activist who is committed to this work, despite the discouraging times we are all living through. He sought out experts in the field of mass incarceration and community reentry from prison here in New York and was an avid learner soaking up as much knowledge and expertise from my colleagues here as he could manage. More importantly, perhaps, was the fact that he gave as much as he received. His ability to see and describe differences in the incarceration experience in Sierra Leone when compared with what exists here in the US was a critical part of his growth and development in the Human Rights Advocates Program here. It was an honor to meet him and to learn from him. I fully expect that he will continue to have a significant and powerful impact on prison reform back home, and I look forward to the day when his efforts will achieve the success they so richly deserve.

Robert Fullilove

Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs
Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences
Co-director of the Cities Research Group
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health



For the lecture on advocacy of my “Introduction to Global Mental Health” course at Teachers College this semester I hosted three fellows from the Human Rights Advocates Program: Pepe Julian Onziema, Marijana Savić, and Mambu Feika. Dignitaries in the advocacy world, the three speakers unfolded for us the many layers of knowledge, passion, strategic thinking, suffering, and community-building that have been defining their human rights work: Pepe with LGBTQ people in Uganda, Maja with trafficking victims in Serbia, and Mambu with prisoners in Sierra Leone. Without glorifying their experiences, the speakers ignited important discussions on how oppression and resistance against it defined their self identity and relationships with their multiple communities. A number of students approached me after the speakers departure to express their gratitude for understanding the psychological, legal, philosophical and policy dimensions of human rights advocacy. They also spoke of their desire to continue the conversation and contribute to the work of the advocates. These HRAP fellows, and the program that enabled their visit, have my gratitude as well.

Helen Verdell

Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology
Founder & Director, Global Mental Health Lab
Director of Clinical Training
Department of Counseling & Clinical Psychology
Teachers College

Here at the National Endowment for Democracy, we host a fellowships program for democracy activists, journalists, civil society leaders, and scholars from around the world. This year, we were delighted to introduce our fellows to counterparts from Columbia University’s Human Rights Advocates Program. Our fellows benefited from the opportunity to connect with Columbia’s human rights advocates and compare notes on issues of common concern. We are grateful to the human rights advocates for sharing their stories and fostering an insightful and collaborative dialogue. The HRAP participants, much like our own fellows, provide invaluable insights into the global struggle for human rights and remind us of the vital importance of working together to build a more democratic world. We wish this HRAP class all the best and look forward to meeting with future ones.

Zerxes Spencer

Program Manager, International Forum for Democratic Studies
National Endowment for Democracy

For three years now, I’ve had the pleasure of hearing HRAP fellows speak when they come to Washington, D.C. From Armenia or Zimbabwe, these front line human rights defenders share a deep dedication to creating change in some of the most challenging of environments. Their firsthand knowledge and perspectives are invaluable for anyone working in foreign policy or international development.

Randal Mason

Independent Diversity and Inclusion Advisor



6 ISHR STAFF

Irene Atamian, *Business Manager*

Elazar Barkan, *Director*

Joanne Bauer, *Senior Researcher, Business and Human Rights*

Christine Caldera, *Program Coordinator, Peace-building and Rights and Human Rights*

Kristina Eberbach, *Director, Education*

Yasmine Ergas, *Senior Advisor*

Elyse Greenblatt, *Programs Coordinator*

Stephanie V. Grepo, *Director, Capacity Building*

Gergana Halpern, *Program Manager, Education*

J. Paul Martin, *Senior Scholar*

Lara Nettlefield, *Director of Graduate Studies*

Sandra Paunksniene, *Director, Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability*

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

Amal Qadeer, *Program Coordinator*

Elsa Stamatopoulou, *Director, Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program*

John Washburn, *Adjunct Research Scholar, American NGO Coalition for the ICC*

Inga Winkler, *Director of Undergraduate Studies*



The advocates were invited to the Inspection Panel's 25th anniversary reception.

7 HRAP ADMINISTRATION

STEPHANIE V. GREPO joined ISHR as the Director of Capacity Building in 2008. During her tenure, she has increased the number of female participants in HRAP, secured funding to create openings in HRAP for LGBT and disability rights advocates, and encouraged HRAP alumni—who can be found in 91 countries around the globe—to cooperate across class years and geographic boundaries. She has advised alumni on their work ranging from youth empowerment in South Sudan and Bosnia-Herzegovina to capacity building for Indigenous Peoples to advocacy around prisoners' rights in Nigeria and Zambia. In 2011, she created a summer program at ISHR through which Columbia University students have volunteered at organizations led by alumni of ISHR's fellowships programs around the globe. She has organized side events on advocacy tools and strategies during the Committee on the Status of Women and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

With the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe from 2000 to 2007, Stephanie developed multi-ethnic experiential education programs in Kosovo; created and led a \$2 million euros grants program to support confidence-building projects at the grassroots level in Macedonia; worked on return and integration issues and led a field office of 10 staff in one of the most politically sensitive regions of Croatia; and served as the youth and education advisor to the OSCE Head of Mission in Serbia. She has observed elections in Bosnia and Georgia. A lecturer at The New School since 2010, Stephanie has led graduate-level practicums with clients including the International Rescue Committee,

Transparency International, and the Libertas Center for Human Rights. She earned a master's degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Her volunteer experience with resettling refugees through Catholic Charities led her to work in human rights.



NICHOLAS PEREZ is a Master's Candidate at Columbia SIPA concentrating in Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy specializing in United Nations Studies and Europe. Nicholas completed

his undergraduate degree at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and is a Global Leadership Fellow from Waseda University in Tokyo. He has experience as a genocide forensic field analyst with Yahad in Unum, as an international relations instructor with the Oxbridge Academic Program at Harvard University, and as a coach for the nationally top-ranked Mira Costa High School Model United Nations program. As the 2018-19 Human Rights Program Assistant for Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Nicholas helped expand the networks of renowned human rights activists while aspiring for a future career in the United Nations system or another international organization.

8 ALUMNI NEWS

1996 Advocate **Aurora Parong**, former Director of Amnesty International Philippines, reported that she and her colleagues on the Human Rights Victims Claims Board completed the distribution of monetary reparations to victims of human rights violations during martial law.



2009 Advocate **Mary Akrami** of Afghanistan (center) was one of 70 activists, peacemakers, and religious and community leaders from 25 countries who attended the Carter Center’s annual Human Rights Defenders Forum to discuss “Restoring Faith in Freedom.”



2010 Advocate **Bakary Tandia** of The Abolition Institute (second from left) participated in a briefing entitled “Freedom from Tradition: The Struggle for the Eradication of Slavery in the Sahel” at the U.S. Congress in July. The briefing was organized by the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization in cooperation with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. The event brought together academics, human rights activists, and the leader of the anti-slavery movement in Mauritania, Biram Dah Abeid, to discuss the issue of modern-day slavery in the region.



Congratulations to 2011 Advocate **Lana Ackar** of Bosnia-Herzegovina who married Sami Bouhram.

Most Mira, founded and led by 2012 Advocate **Kemal Pervanic** (right), and the CUNY European Studies Center completed its fifth annual Project on Peacebuilding, a weeklong course examining the history, context, and changing politics of peacebuilding in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



2013 Advocate **Musola Cathrine Kaseketi** of Zambia (left) was one of 41 global change leaders who participated in the 2018 Diploma in Development Leadership at the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Canada.



Congratulations to 2014 Advocate **Aviaja E. Lyng** of Greenland on her marriage to Jenseraq Poulsen.

2016 Advocate **Aehshatou Manu** (below) of Cameroon was one of 700 Africans selected out of a pool of 37,000 applicants to join the 2018 cohort of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.



Congratulations to 2016 Advocate **Betty Lee Odur** of Uganda who was selected to attend the International Human Rights Training Program in Canada.

2016 Advocate **Jeffrey Wambaya** spoke on a panel as part of the 14th Global Conference on Ageing, which focused on LGBT ageing. Jeffrey, program manager with Ishtar MSM (Men who have Sex with Men) in Nairobi, spoke on a panel with Michael Adams, the CEO of SAGE, the oldest and largest organization in the USA dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults.

17 Advocate **Kenedy Abor Owiti** of Kenya participated on a panel on community engagement as part of conversation about engaging African MSM in HIV prevention research. The session was hosted by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and the U.S. Military HIV Research Program and was part of the HIV Research for Prevention, the only global scientific conference focused exclusively on the field of biomedical HIV prevention research.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report that 2013 Advocate **Angeline Pajibo Swen** of Liberia passed away in 2018 after a long struggle with cancer.

Angeline truly cared about the women and children she served first as a police officer and later as a community team leader with a non-profit organization. We who were part of the 2013 HRAP were blessed to know her. She loved her family dearly and spoke of them often while in HRAP. We leave you with an excerpt from the interview we conducted for the 2013 HRAP report. Rest in peace, dear Angeline.

Over time, Angeline began to feel that her ability to create change was limited due to the corruption within the police system. Angeline shares: *“I was limited when I investigated a case. Let’s say, for example, there was a case of a minister abusing his wife or sexually abusing a child, and it [was] brought to the police for investigation. Before any progress could be made, you would see ‘invisible hands’ enter the investigation—a police director or other top brass would call me and tell me to forget about that case. So I was completely limited, I couldn’t do anything and was told*



‘Duty before complaint.’ I had women coming to me looking for help, feeling empowered by seeing me behind the desk, my presence making them comfortable. Yet I knew that their cases would be not resolved. I couldn’t work in that type of environment. I needed to work somewhere I could make real change.” In 2006, Angeline left the police force to join the organization medica mondiale Liberia.

mobilize **confidence** *strategize* **CONNECT** **impact**
policymakers *advocate* *PARTNER* *cooperate* *exchange* *share*
RECORD *interview* *research* *lobby* *organize* *theoretical*
DEEPEN *linkages* *analyze* *broaden* *global* *learn* *writing* **unique** *media*
campaign *collaborate* **solidarity** *aware* *witness* *strengthen*

HRAP

