July/August 2016, the TURIKUMWE (We are Together) program brought together 9 young leaders from Rwanda, the United States and Congolese refugee camp for an intensive two-week program exploring human rights and peacebuilding in a national and international context.

Expanding different notions about human rights and peacebuilding through group discussions, workshops, site visits, homestays and volunteer placements.

“This program has really improved my understanding on the concept of human rights and peacebuilding. My understanding did not change but improved. Now I can advocate for human rights” – GYC Delegate
One minute of silence for victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

“This program has affected my understanding about human rights in a way of respecting the humanity and treating everyone equally without discrimination” - GYC Delegate

On the second day of orientation, local and international participants met for the first time. In this picture, they are working on their individual definitions of human rights, after reading the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/

Schedule of Meetings & Site Visits

This year’s Turikumwe delegation met with various governmental and non-governmental organizations working on the protection of human rights and promotion of peacebuilding. We would like to thank:

- National Paralympic Committee
- Health Development Initiative
- Rafa
- Aegis Trust
- Ministry of Health
- US Embassy
- Mind Leaps
- Ejo Youth Echo, Chabha
- Ineza Cooperative, Esperance
- MIDIMAR
- Gihembe Refugee Camp Youth Council.

Murakoze Cyane!

2016 Turikumwe Delegation
Jean Paul Buyacyera Volunteer Experience @ Esperance:

“My volunteerism at ESPERANCE with GYC was very great experience and amazing of working with Children but also playing with them, having fun, dancing, listening to music...Children and youth already know my name from the Radio station where I work so it was fun and they were interested to talk with me.”
Global Youth Connect, in partnership with INALAS Legal Aid Services, each year helps to develop the youth leaders’ personal interests and explore new angles on human rights, peacebuilding, mass atrocities prevention through group discussions, workshops, site visits, homestays and volunteer placements. Some of the topics that the participants discuss with local guests and lecturers were the rights of people with disabilities, LGBT rights, gender rights, the situation of the survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi and the status of refugees. We will keep moving forward! Turikumwe!

“Advocacy in Action: GYC Rwanda’s work moving forward”

GYC delegation participated in dancing class at MindLeaps, an NGO founded by GYC alumna from the USA. MindLeaps creates dance and educational programs for street children and out-of-school youth in post-conflict and developing countries

“This program affected my understanding of human rights and helped me to learn more about related topics. I also learned about culture because I was with many people coming from different countries and I realized what is important is to work together as a team even if we live in different societies.” – GYC Delegate

“I have learned that there is something I can do to make an impact in the society even though I do not have many resources” – GYC Delegate

“This delegation has made realize that small actions have a positive impact in the society!” – GYC Delegate

“I gained experience working with unfamiliar populations and language which was challenging and rewarding.” – GYC Delegate