



Striving for social justice

ASSOCIATION DE LA JEUNESSE POUR LA PROMOTION
DE DROIT DE L'HOMME ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT

AJPRODHO HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

REPORT OF THE SECOND INTAKE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER OF AJPRODHO (APRIL-AUGUST)

Association de la Jeunesse pour la promotion de Droit de l'Homme et de Development (AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA) is a non-profit human Rights organization working to improve the situation of youth and children in Rwanda through human rights promotion, protection research, advocacy, economic empowerment and civil society strengthening.

The AJPRODHO's Human Rights Center provides skills and tools for students to better understand how to respect and protect human rights and respond to human rights violations in their respective communities.

The Human Rights Center is dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights, and the rule of law as enshrined in the mission agenda of AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA.

The Human Rights Center believes that everyone is entitled to exercise her/his civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights freely and without any discrimination as guaranteed by national and international laws. We recognize that the protection and promotion of these rights and respect for rule of law are key preconditions for building sustainable peace and democracy in Rwanda and elsewhere in the world.

The center aims to increase respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and facilitate accountability process in Rwanda. To achieve this goal, it is essential to ensure that authorities respect the rule of law and principles of transparency and separation of power, to eliminate discrimination at all levels, and increase awareness and respect for human rights among the people of Rwanda by training competent community human rights defenders and advocates.

The Center was created in 2016 to well understand human rights principles and analyze its applicability in their day to day life. We promote events, student engagement, and public understanding of international human rights and global justice.

Rwanda's horrific past, her recovery process and cross-cultural exchange is the main focus of the Human Rights Center. During the 1994 genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis youth were manipulated into committing crimes against humanity and other violations of human rights by taking part in the extermination of innocent lives and other related offences. Today youth are considered as the largest population across the globe and are key contributors of social change.

The Human Rights Center was established by AJPRODHO-JIJUKIRWA in 2016 as a bi-annual platform that brings together Rwandan university students and young professionals to study Human Rights principles and integrate in their daily life but also analyze how these principles are respected or violated and what are the possible remedies. The Scope of this center stretches to analyze human rights principles, their applicability, history and legacy and the realities that characterize today's world to avoid future human rights violations, nurture behavior change as well as promote sustainable human rights respect as well as democratic governance that attest and respect human rights in general.

During the program participants are engaged in a number of activities that promote critical thinking, self-reflection, and cross-cultural dialogue. For instance, lectures/presentations from experts experienced in the fields of human rights,

governance; site visits to various institutions, and group discussions. Each of these activities presents a wide range of learning and sharing experiences.

Human Rights Center's Summer School (Second in take)

The second intake of the Human Rights Center's summer school started fromApril and ends onSeptember 2017.

About Students

During this period, with the great support from GIZ, the school trained 30 students from the beginning and those who managed to conclude the trainings are 25, these students were of different backgrounds and age levels: some of them were University graduates, others High school graduates, some studied law at University, others economics and other courses but what all of them had in common was the passion to serve their local communities especially by doing Human Rights advocacy on different human rights issues.

About Trainers

Throughout this period, students got a chance to interact with different people who came as trainers on different topics as planned, and the most amazing thing was that everyone who spoke to them was a person who masters that field with a tangible experience.

To select someone as a trainer, the coordinator of the center had to agree with other relevant and concerned authorities at AJPRODHO about the experience of that person and the flexibility to deliver the skills to the students just because what we wanted was the best for our students during and after the training.

Most of the trainers were from the existing Human Rights non-governmental organizations that work with AJPRODHO on a daily basis, we did not manage to get

trainers from the government but this is one of the recommendations for the next intake just to keep the balance of human rights perspective in both private and public sectors.

The Topics covered

In as far as human rights is concerned, teaching about human rights takes to start from the introduction which includes even the definition of human rights just because many people who are not concerned cannot even define what human rights is, this is not the story of Rwanda but it's the same case everywhere: for more information please visit : <http://www.humanrights.com/what-are-human-rights/brief-history/>

Other topics covered during the training are annexed to this report.

Human Rights study Visits

after covering all the topics as annexed next to this report, students who attended the second intake of the AJPRODHO's Human Rights Center were taken to different institutions to learn about the role of those institutions in protecting and promoting Human Rights in Rwanda.

The institutions visited during the Human Rights study visits

The Kigali Genocide Memorial

The Kigali Genocide Memorial commemorates the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. The remains of over 250,000 people are interred there. There is a visitor center for students and those wishing to understand the events leading up to the events of 1994. The Centre is a permanent memorial to those who fell victim to the genocide and serves as a place in which the bereaved could bury their family and friends. The Centre is managed and run by the Aegis Trust and the Kigali City Council. Said Bonheur a guide at the Kigali Genocide memorial center

Visiting this memorial is a good choice for you and a pleasure for as because it brings to the awareness of these youth about the realities of the 1994 genocide against Tutsis, Bonheur added.

You can't talk about human rights and ignore visiting this memorial because it is the only place that shows you what happens when human rights are not protected and respected, it demonstrates the highest extent of human rights violations. JD Ndabirora, the Coordinator of the Human Rights Center at AJPRODHO told the youth.

As a human rights organization, we appreciated the idea of taking these youth to this memorial just to help them understand the tragedy of genocide as a period when human rights and other related principles were not respected, if you commit yourself to be human rights defenders you should also know the context of this country and the related history. Said Anthony Businge the executive secretary of AJPRODHO.

The feedbacks from the students show that they learnt a lot of things from the memorial and they understood the reason they should always fight for the human rights protection in their communities to avoid the future occurrence of the same events. This visit to the Kigali genocide memorial took place onAugust 2017.

Photo at the Memorial(TETA)

The study Visit to the National Commission of Human Rights.

The origins of the National Commission for Human Rights date back to the Arusha Peace Agreement of August 1993 between the Government of Rwanda of that time and the Rwanda Patriotic Front, in its Protocol on the Rule of Law. The creation of a National Human Rights Commission was a prerogative to the establishment of the Rule of Law due to the fact that Rwanda has in the past experienced prolonged periods of regimes that massively violated human rights and had a culture of impunity that culminated in the 1994 genocide.

The National Commission for Human Rights is provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 4th June 2003 as amended to date. Its Article 177 states: "The National Commission for Human Rights is an independent national Commission especially in charge of the promotion and protection of human rights... A Law shall

determine responsibilities, organization and functioning of this Commission”.

The National Human Rights Commission of Rwanda has been created by the Law n° 04/99 of 12th March 1999 modified and complemented by the Law n° 35/2002 of 31st December 2002. This Law was replaced by the Law n° 30/2007 of 6th July 2007 determining the organization and functioning of the National Commission for Human Rights based on the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 4th June 2003 as amended to date. Recently, so as to comply with the Paris Principles, the Law n° 30/2007 of 6th July 2007 has been replaced by Law n° 19/2013 of 25/03/2013 determining mission, organization and functioning of the National Commission for Human Rights.

The Human Rights Center of AJPRODHO visited the National Human Right Commission to help these students to understand the role that is played or should be played by this commission as the Mechanism mandated by the Constitution of the Republic which is the supreme law of the land to be in charge of human rights protection and promotion.

During this historical visit, the Commission was ready to receive the Human Rights Center and its students, this was strengthened by the fact that everyone concerned including the Chairperson of the commission and all other commissioners were there to receive this visit.

They explained the mandate of the commission and organized a tour to all offices while explaining the responsibilities and kind of work of every organ of the commission.

Before the closure of the visit, the commission committed for the continuous partnership with AJPRODHO and more specifically with the Human Rights Center, they also gave to the center the most relevant documents of human rights as a sign of how they appreciated the work of this center.

Photo at the commission(TETA)