

Gisele Bolton
The Advocacy Project
Peace Fellow 2014
Kathmandu, Nepal
December, 2014 – Personal Statement

My six month fellowship - which was originally planned to be twelve weeks in India turned five months in Nepal - was truly one of the most transformative, challenging and enriching experiences of my life. Through this incredibly hands-on experience I was given the opportunity to immerse myself in Nepali culture while exploring multiple areas of working with a small organization dedicated to human rights and social justice. From visiting and meeting various embassies – to fundraising and development – to the one-on-one interaction with the people we are helping by conducting interviews and capturing personal moments by taking photos and video. From this experience I gained a clearer vision of the type of community service I'd like to do in the future. I have found that I am passionate about communications, fundraising, and development and am currently seeking opportunities in these areas with a human rights advocacy organization.

I am so grateful to the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation for supporting my endeavors to learn more about community service, international development and social justice. I am also grateful for your kind understanding through changing countries and projects to extending my fellowship multiple times. It was truly an experience of a lifetime in which I was challenged and grew immensely both professionally and personally. The journey, the lessons learned, and the wonderful people I met along the way will serve me for many years to come – Thank you!