



Kristina Rosinsky
2008 Advocacy Project Peace Fellow with the
Undugu Society of Kenya
Project Description

The Advocacy Project (AP) is an NGO that partners with nonprofit organizations all over the world to help them become better advocates for the human rights or social justice issue they work for. Each summer, AP sends young people to volunteer with these organizations and this summer I will be working with the Undugu Society of Kenya (USK).

USK's mission is to "contribute to the socio-economic empowerment of street children, vulnerable youth and marginalized poor urban and rural communities through lobbying, advocacy, capacity building, access to education and training, and creation of linkages aimed at reducing poverty for the attainment of decent livelihoods." This summer, I will be undertaking a project with USK to help further this mission.

I will be working with USK to implement a project to teach street children how to blog and take photographs and post them online. This project will enhance awareness about the lives of street children as well as teach them practical vocational skills. Further, it will be a creative, emotional and intellectual outlet as well as a form of empowerment. For instance, it will form a part of psycho-social support that USK will be carrying out as a response to trauma caused by the post election violence experienced between December 2007 and March 2008. Ultimately, this project will serve to counter the stereotypes of street children and show they are not merely criminals or drug addicts but rather people who can positively contribute to the development of their society if given the chance.

The primary target audience will be the Kenyan public who more often than not look down upon these children. The information the children produce will also be used by USK to influence decision makers to make serious policy and legal reforms towards full realization of the children's rights. Additionally, the productions will be online, with the children's consent, for the world to see. It is envisaged that increased worldwide attention will result in more international pressure on Kenya to do more for these children.

In addition to this specific project, I will be helping USK in other ways according to The Advocacy Project workplan. I will be doing tasks such as training USK staff on how to exploit other ICT tools for use in their advocacy work, help them strengthen networking with other like minded organizations, as well as engage communities around the world in outreach efforts. The ultimate goal of all my work this summer will be to help USK become better advocates for Kenya's street children.

- For more information, including a video about my proposed work, visit www.advocacynet.org/page/rosinsky
- Follow my blog this summer at <http://advocacynet.org/blogs/index.php?blog=110>