

Project Description

McLane Harrington 2019

I will be working as a Peace Fellow this summer for The Advocacy Project (AP), a non-profit organization that promotes civil society as a force for social change. AP supports groups in its partner communities by telling their stories, strengthening their organizations, and supporting the launching of campaigns. I will be working for 10 weeks in Harare, Zimbabwe for Women Advocacy Project (WAP). WAP seeks to bring attention to issues affecting women and girls and uses advocacy campaigns and lobbying to promote and protect the rights of marginalized women and girls in Zimbabwe. The organization also utilizes socioeconomic empowerment projects to promote women's socioeconomic rights. WAP has social and economic benefits for its target group: women and girls in Zimbabwe. WAP's vision is a society "where women and girls realize, enhance and maximize their social, cultural, economic and political potential as citizens of Zimbabwe."

As a Peace Fellow, I will be providing hands on support to WAP's ongoing specific goals, assisting with and monitoring their Ambassadors Against Child Marriage program, and supporting their entrepreneurship programming to train girls to produce and sell soap. I will also be assisting with fundraising, website development, and building international partnerships. Storytelling is a large part of AP's mission, so I will also be collecting photographs and producing blog posts to share WAP's mission and work.

I am particularly interested in this work because of my desire to have hands-on experience in a community-based organization abroad. This type of field experience is also very valuable to me because of its collaborative nature and the lasting impact for the benefactors of the work. Additionally, women's empowerment and advocacy is an issue I am personally connected to and passionate about. Because I would like to work in the international development field after graduating, experience in a developing country is invaluable to me. One of the reasons I have accepted this Fellowship is to allow myself to have a better – and more genuine – connection to development work and the experiences of individuals living in developing countries.