What is the role of human rights in building and sustaining peace after violent conflict?

What are grassroots organizations doing to protect citizens and make change?

What role are young people playing?

Main Program Activities:

- An intercultural human rights workshop with young Cambodian leaders
- Meetings with policy makers and stakeholders at both the local and international levels
- Site visits and events related to human rights and transitional justice in post-genocide-Cambodia
- Volunteering and research with grassroots human rights organizations

Specific issues to be addressed:

We will focus on some of the most crucial human rights challenges facing Cambodia (and the world):

Poverty and unemployment, land issues, transitional justice and “facing the past”, access to justice, freedom of assembly and expression, the role of the media, women’s and LGBT issues, human trafficking, children’s issues, workers rights, political rights

Over the last two years, peaceful youth protests and opposition party gains in the Cambodian parliament indicate that the people of Cambodia and civil society are not taking current human rights violations lying down, and that there are openings for significant advances ahead. Global Youth Connect aims to focus on the current economic, social and political opportunities facing the country in the context of traditional justice related to the Khmer Rouge as well. What is the relationship between impunity for current members of the government (who were involved in the crimes of the Khmer Rouge) and the challenges facing workers, farmers, and fishermen/women in Cambodia today?
General Information

Thank you for your interest in applying to participate in a Global Youth Connect delegation! Please read very carefully through the following information before submitting an application. This packet contains important information about the program, how to apply, and an application form. We also recommend that you take the following steps before submitting an application:

✓ Find out more about Global Youth Connect and why our work matters. Find us on Facebook.
✓ Read through the goals and activities of the program
✓ Brush-up on your knowledge of Cambodia, its history and current events
✓ Review the answers to frequently asked questions
✓ Consider how you can find the money needed to participate by using proven crowd-funding techniques
✓ Discuss the program with your family, friends, teachers and other important people in your life
✓ Reflect on why this program is a good fit for you, including what you hope to learn and contribute
✓ Read a previous GYC Cambodia Program Report and a local Cambodian GYC update at gycvillage.org

My time in Cambodia was a life-path transformation. Global Youth Connect has definitely given me the insights and exposure to many NGOs and the opportunity to see for myself the effects of the genocide as well as the people affected by the event. Overall, I would recommend GYC to others seeking for an experience beyond their current understanding of human rights.

(U.S. Participant, Cambodia Program 2006)
About Global Youth Connect

Global Youth Connect’s mission is to build and support a community of youth who are actively promoting and protecting human rights, and to educate and inspire the next generation to work for peaceful change. We believe educated, compassionate and empowered youth are the key to achieving tolerance, peace, and justice. Our programs encourage young people to work together to stand up to abuses of human rights. GYC practices a holistic approach to youth education and action, which is grounded in a commitment to the principles of human rights, community building, reconciliation and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Young people and leaders in the fields of human rights and genocide prevention who were intent on finding new ways to prevent the crimes against humanity then ravaging Bosnia, Rwanda, and other zones of conflict around the world founded GYC in 1997. As a result, a group of international young leaders bonded together to build an organization whose goal would be to prevent such atrocities from occurring at all.

The answer is clear: one key to preventing massive violations of human rights and protecting basic freedoms lies in organizing the world’s youth to take action. Today, our programs and activities are challenging youth to work to transform the world around them. Our programs support and inspire the passions and lives of young people and help create change on a wide variety of human rights and social justice issues around the world.

Kem Sokha met with a previous GYC program in Cambodia, and shared his hopes for a new “Human Rights Party”

GYC Country Delegations

GYC currently organizes delegations for high school students, college and graduate students, and young professionals to Bosnia and Rwanda. The topics and themes vary from program to program and have included: conflict transformation and peace building, reconciliation and ethnic conflict; transitional justice mechanisms; the role of the civil society in building peace; children’s rights, indigenous rights, human rights/social justice and refugee issues.

County delegations are a unique, first-hand opportunity to cross cultural boundaries and learn about the daily reality as experienced in a complex and increasingly globalized world. Each delegation brings together a committed group of young participants who are dedicated to working and learning together.

A delegation typically includes a mixture of the following types of activities:

- Educational training workshops connecting U.S. participants with their peers from the project country where they can share ideas analyze problems and create collaborative projects.
- Site visits and dialogue with local activists and different non-governmental organizations, representatives from the government and international organizations, media, and cultural figures.
- Volunteer service with local NGOs, highlighting the importance of civil society organizations in the fight for human rights, and the prevention of future violence and conflict.

“After the genocide in Cambodia, most Cambodian youth were told or educated not to be involved in politics, nor to demand for their rights to be recognized...But something interesting happened during the last election, July 2013...a huge number of youth participated freely in political campaigns and expressed their idea in the public without fear.” (Sambath Bun, GYC Alum and founding member of the Center for Critical Thinking and Development)
Specific Goals of the GYC Human Rights Program in Cambodia

- Sharpen the skills, knowledge and confidence of Cambodian and International emerging leaders to raise awareness, take action and work collaboratively to advance human rights and transitional justice both in Cambodia and globally.
- Build a foundation of human rights theory as a framework through which participants can engage real world issues
- Increase participants' understanding of both the context and practice of human rights and peacebuilding in Cambodia.
- Analyze particularly pertinent human rights issues facing Cambodian society today, and connecting them with broader post-violent-conflict challenges globally, including:
  - Post-genocide justice, memorialization, missing persons
  - LGBT rights
  - Women’s rights, particularly in the context of wartime sexual violence
  - Human trafficking
  - Child rights
  - Disability rights
  - Workers rights
  - Land issues
  - Freedom of the media
  - The role of youth activism
  - Aid effectiveness and human rights mainstreaming
- Facilitate cross-cultural dialogue, enable critical thinking and analysis of complex issues and encourage joint problem solving to address shared human rights concerns
- Foster personal and emotional growth by testing boundaries and limitations, reflecting critically on our own cultures, exploring how the choices we make affect the lives of others, building strong cross-cultural competencies finding positive outlets for service to promote human rights

Human Rights Framework

The primary purpose of this program is to provide participants with the knowledge, skills and experience to use a human rights framework to achieve individual and collective progress in a post-violent-conflict context. While Cambodia will serve as a case study, we will aim to provide participants with tools for analysis that can be applied elsewhere. The program will make participants familiar with the history of human rights, key international human rights mechanisms, and ways in which activists, civil society, and the media can strengthen those mechanisms. We will also ensure an understanding of the major concepts of human rights such as non-discrimination, inclusion of vulnerable populations, and human rights mainstreaming in development.

In addition to providing a strong foundation in general human rights, the program will spend significant time on the human rights subfield of transitional justice. Transitional justice – also known as “dealing with the past” or “facing the past” – is a set of mechanisms used by societies to come to terms with mass human rights violations in hopes of both healing traumas and preventing recurrence of crimes in the future.

The activities, including the workshop, site visits and volunteering, aim to provide a space for international and local participants to work collaboratively in better understanding challenges facing Cambodia.

"The program was an avenue to reflect and understand why you do what you do and what benefit being an activist has to your life and community."
Sample Schedule

July 15
U.S. Participants arrive in Phnom Penh
Orientation in Phnom Penh for Cambodian Participants

July 16
Meet and Greet with Cambodian Participants
Sightseeing in Phnom Penh

July 17 - 18
Human Rights Workshop: Building a Cross-cultural Human Rights Learning Community

July 19
Day Off

July 20
A History of Violent Conflict in Cambodia: The Legacy of the Khmer Rouge:
- Presentation/film at the Documentation Center of Cambodia
- Tour of Toul Sleng Museum
- Visit to Cheoung Ek Memorial
- Oral testimony from elder about Khmer Rouge, Vietnamese occupation and peace process

July 21
Transitional Justice, Reconciliation & Peacebuilding after the Khmer Rouge
A specific emphasis will be on exploring the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, among other efforts

July 22 - 23
Site Visits: Current-day Human Rights Challenges and Opportunities in Phnom Penh
- Garment Workers’ Associations
- LGBT Community Associations
- International Non-Governmental Organizations
- Media Houses
- U.S. Embassy / U.S. Department of State

July 24
Travel to Battambang
July 25 - 26

Sightseeing and Documenting Human Rights Issues in Battambang

- During this time period, participants may work in smaller groups (mixed Cambodian and U.S.)

Interviewing youth leaders in Battambang, 2006 GYC Cambodia Program

July 27

Travel to Phnom Penh

July 28, 29, 30

Fieldwork Projects in Phnom Penh with local grassroots non-governmental organizations

July 31

Meetings with Cambodian Government Officials

August 1 – 3  DAYS OFF

Participants can travel to Siem Reap and sightsee at Angkor Wat Temple Complex  ** (GYC covers a 2 night hotel stay, but otherwise participants cover costs.)

August 4 – 5

Wrap-up meetings and workshops in Phnom Penh

August 6

Participants Depart -- End of Program

GYC Alumni Village

After you return home, you will join a growing network of Global Youth Connect alumni from around the world. The in-country is only the beginning of what our collaborative energy can accomplish. In fact, we strongly encourage all participants to remain involved with GYC programs, stay connected with other participants, and find ways to provide on-going support to youth and organizations in the program country.

We hope all program participants will take part and contribute their ideas and energy to the global movements of young human rights activists working together for compassion, human rights and responsibility.

Sambath Bun (left) was one of GYC’s two scholarship winners to attend our Human Rights in the USA Program in NYC and in Washington, D.C. He worked with Adis from Bosnia. Here they are meeting with another GYC Alumna, Naz Durakoglu (U.S. Congress foreign affairs committee) and GYC board member and alumna Mac Hamilton (Executive Manager of STAND)
Program Tuition and Conditions

GYC is committed to providing a high quality experience to all participants. We believe that our educational program offers significantly greater benefits than independent travel. We have done everything possible to minimize the costs to participate in this program.

Program Tuition

The program tuition for this delegation is **$1,990**

Please note that the program tuition does NOT include the cost of international airfare, many meals, or personal expenses. Please read below for a list of what is and is not included in the program tuition and a breakdown of how this money is spent to realize the goals of the program.

Fundraising

We recognize that financial obstacles are often one of the biggest challenges for our participants. It is our experience that participants of all means and backgrounds have been able to successfully locate sources of funding to participate in our programs using crowd-funding sources such as Indigogo or GoFundMe. GYC has additional ideas and promotional letters for participants to use to encourage contributions for a particular delegate’s participation.

Scholarships:

GYC aims to offer the equivalent of one full scholarship to each program that it will be running this summer, potentially including airfare as well. All of this will depend on our end of year fundraising efforts, and program enrollment. By saying "the equivalent of 1 full scholarship" we mean that this could be divided between several participants if the scholarship committee finds it would be the best. Participants wishing to apply for this scholarship need to apply by the priority deadline for this program (February 15).

Payment Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Just after acceptance</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>$745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>$745</td>
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Please note that all tuition payments, once received, are non-refundable and non-transferable to another GYC program. Accepted applicants are not guaranteed a spot in the program until the initial tuition payment of $500 is received. Selected applicants who fail to pay the deposit by the deadline will forfeit their spot to a participant on the waiting list. If a participant fails to make payments on the program tuition by the deadlines stated above they will forfeit their spot in the program and any tuition payments made up to that point may not be refunded according to GYC’s refund and cancellation policies.

Additional Estimated Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airfare</td>
<td>$1500-$1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>$125-$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Actual costs will vary depending on where you are traveling from, your personal financial circumstances, your spending habits and how soon you are able to purchase your plane ticket.

Program Tuition Breakdown

45% = Staff support and project management in U.S. and Cambodia, including U.S.-based and Cambodian staff

30% = Hotel and project travel expenses

15% = Direct costs of training and service projects. The participation costs of the Cambodian participants are covered from the GYC Scholarship fund.

10% = GYC administrative costs
**Included in the Program Tuition**

- Coordination and planning of workshops, meetings, site visits, fieldwork projects and other formal delegation activities
- Pre-trip departure information (including advice on fundraising and logistics), required reading packet, participant support and mentoring
- Costs associated with selecting and including youth participants from the project country in the training workshop and other activities
- Costs and expenses related to coordinating and planning fieldwork projects as organized by GYC. Please note that some transportation costs for fieldwork projects may not be covered for small group or individual projects.
- In-country orientation and community-building activities
- Logistics coordination
- Basic medical travel insurance
- Shared accommodations in culturally appropriate, low-budget hotels or guest houses
- Ground transportation for group activities, including airport transfer, with the exception of some transport costs for individual or small group fieldwork activities
- Experienced staff support, including a program director, program coordinator/assistant and local staff
- Post-program inclusion in a growing network of program alumni/ae working together to share ideas, resources, strategies and projects for human rights

**Application Information and Procedures**

**Application Instructions:**

To apply, please submit the following:

1) Completed application form at  www.globalyouthconnect.org/apply.html  
2) Current resume. Please send to:  contact@globalyouthconnect.org  

**Eligibility Requirements**

- **Age:** 18-30  
- **Nationality:** Anyone can apply to be a delegate in our program. This is Global Youth Connect! However, the difficulties associated with obtaining visas can play a role in whether a candidate is interviewed and accepted. Please note that under no circumstances will GYC be able to provide assistance for securing a visa to Cambodia until the initial deposit is paid. Payments to GYC from non-US citizens must be in the form of Credit Card Payments on-line and will incur a 3% surcharge.  
- **Demonstrated interest and experience in human rights, social justice, activism, community development, and/or international issues.** Practical experience in any of these areas will be looked upon highly favorably.  
- **Emotional and psychological maturity** and the ability to adapt to challenging circumstances  
- **Demonstrated interest in actively participating in all of the activities of the program,** a strong desire to learn and serve, and a commitment to share the experience with others upon return to the U.S. and to continue to work on collaborative projects building upon the delegation experience  
- **Ability to raise the necessary funds to cover the program tuition and travel costs associated with participation in the program (there are no refunds for deposits and payments to the program)**

We strongly encourage individuals of diverse backgrounds, in terms of gender, race, culture, sexuality, class, nationality, and other backgrounds to apply. We are committed to bringing a team together that possesses a diversity of voices, opinions, experiences and perspectives.
Selection Process

Participants will be selected for this program on a competitive basis. As we keep the program size small (average program size can range from 14-16 participants), we typically receive more applications than we have spaces available in each program. Submission of an application does not guarantee participation. Therefore, we strongly advise you to take the application process seriously and respond thoughtfully and thoroughly to all questions.

We will confirm receipt of all applications. Please contact us if you do not receive confirmation of receipt of your application. All applications will be reviewed by the program director. A short list of applicants will be contacted via e-mail to arrange a phone interview.

Applicants invited to participate in the program will be asked to make a decision within no more than one week of being notified by the program director of their acceptance into the program and will be required to make an initial non-refundable deposit of $500 to hold their space in the program by no later than one week after acceptance into the program. Participation in the program is not guaranteed until an applicant has made the initial deposit. All Early Admitted Delegates will be asked to pay their initial $500 deposit one week after their official selection.

“I am very grateful for this experience and to have been part of such a rich exchange. I feel even more empowered to continue my work as an activist, in contributing to the development of our world.”