



Empowering Youth to Advance Human Rights in a Conflict-Prone World

Spring 2015 Interns

Jonatan Grinde

Jonatan is currently a student at the Bachelor Program in Peace and Development Studies at Uppsala University in Sweden. After receiving his degree, Jonatan intends to pursue a career within international development, specifically by focusing on issues regarding community resilience and social justice in urban contexts. During most of his studies he has focused on the role of human rights in conflict resolution and peace-building processes. Having been given the chance to do an internship at Global Youth Connect, Jonatan will further his practical knowledge regarding these issues. Jonatan considers GYC's approach to not only capture the integration between conflict and development, but also to highlight the universal and emancipating functions of human rights. Focusing on cross-cultural dialogue clearly emphasize how exchanging experience and knowledge together fosters competences and skills that can be applied in all contexts where social equality and justice are being threatened. In such processes, youths are both the victims and perpetrators of human rights abuse, a role which is often overseen. Concentrating on this aspect is essential if we are to understand the recurrences of violations, but perhaps most importantly is how the capabilities and experiences of young people is needed to further their positions as the future bearers of human rights advocacy.

Axel Västermark

Axel Västermark will receive his Bachelor Degree in Peace and Development studies from Uppsala University in June, with a major in Peace and Conflict Studies. Axel wishes to continue within the field of human rights and conflict prevention, and is applying to various Master Programs within the field. In the internship at Global Youth Connect Axel hopes to learn more about the practical aspects of working with human rights and how it is to work at a small non-profit NGO on a day-to-day basis. Previously, Axel has volunteered for Uppsala's Council of Foreign Affairs (UF), the Red Cross. At UF Axel together with Jonatan (another intern with GYC) put together a job fair were students in Uppsala within the field of human rights could meet future employees. At Red Cross Axel worked as a Swedish teacher for newly arrived immigrants. Both volunteering projects were fun and developing working experience. Within the field of international relations Axel is interested in issues such as disarmament, equality and conflict prevention. Working with GYC is bringing him one step closer to his dream.