

Critical Thinking for P.E.A.C.E



Peace Education And Community Engagement



2019 Annual Report

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

April 2019 marked 25 years after the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. What was once doomed to be a failed state, Rwanda has made serious strides towards their economic and developmental growth. Critical Thinking for P.E.A.C.E (CTP) is proud to be a part of this significant and rapid progress. Today, on the same land that saw one of the worst massacres in human history, we empower Rwandan youth to take ownership over their decisions, actions, and growth of their country, through a cultivation of skills in critical thinking, empathy, and conflict management. With over half of Rwanda's population under the age of 20 years old, we recognize that youth play a crucial role in their country's development; they simply need to be given the platform to do so.

We thank you, our dedicated friends and supporters, for joining us on our mission to promote and foster peace education. You have truly enabled us to create a global community of peace-builders and we look forward to working with you to take our impact even farther and make sure history never repeats itself in The Land of a Thousand Hills.

Sincerely,



Julia Lisi
Co-Founder and Executive Director

CTP is a **game-changer** initiative in such a way that it offers a **learning opportunity** for the young people [...] to perfectly connect and relate to the **past, the present and the future** through critical conversations tailored for building sustainable, **peaceful communities**.

– Janvier Kabogo, Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village
Public Health Officer

Our Mission: To cultivate and empower a movement of the next generation of proactive citizens and peace-builders. We aim to teach these future leaders how to employ critical thinking and compassion to solve some of the most pressing challenges in both their personal lives and communities.



Our Vision: To empower our alumni to take up the mantle of peace-building, establishing these standards and practices in their communities, as CTP furthers this training throughout the world.

Our Values

Critical
Thinking

Service

Dialogue

Community

Youth Peace Camp

Summary

Each year, CTP hosts a Youth Peace Camp for high school students across Rwanda. Students from all four provinces and Kigali City come together to learn about Rwanda's history, the role youth can play in building and sustaining peace in their communities, and the importance of using critical thinking when processing information from peers, authority figures, and elders.



2019 Youth Peace Camp

Our fourth annual Youth Peace Camp took place in July 2019. We had the pleasure of receiving nearly 200 applications from across the country and accepting 100 of Rwanda's most passionate and proactive youth. Among our many esteemed guest speakers were: Honorable Francis Gatare, CEO of the Rwanda Development Board

and of Rwanda Mines, Petroleum & Gas Board, and previous Principle Private Secretary for the President of Rwanda; Bamporiki Edouard, Chairman of the National Itorero Commission, award winning film maker, poet, and actor, and former Member of Parliament; Inosenti Nizeyimana, historian from Aegis Trust; and Esther Kunda, the Program and Operations Coordinator for Next Einstein Forum, member of Girls in ICT-Rwanda, and previous Education Support Manager at Intel. CTP is honored to welcome many of Rwanda's greatest minds to work with and inspire our students to take up the mantle of peacebuilding in their communities.

History

Critical Thinking for P.E.A.C.E was formed in 2017, by co-founders (pictured right) Julia Lisi, Board Relations & Development Assistant at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village; Ian Manzi, Enrichment Year Program Coordinator at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village; and Derrick Murekezi, current Geophysics PHD student at Georgia Institute of Technology. The three young self-starters identified the need in Rwanda, particularly among high school students, for conflict resolution and peace education training and formed CTP as a way to directly address that need. The three believe that the youth hold the key to sustainable development across the world, and have dedicated both their professional and personal lives to empowering young people globally in this way.



OUR MODEL

Team building

Because CTP Youth Peace Camp participants come from all corners of Rwanda, CTP facilitates many team building activities for students to get to know each other.

Guest Speakers

CTP invites notable guests across many different fields to speak to students and facilitate a dialogue on various themes related to peace-building, sustainability, conflict resolution, history, and development.



Esther Kunda speaks during the Female Empowerment Session.



Executive Director of the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, Jean-Claude Nkulikiyimfura, speaks during the camp's official opening.



Honorable Francis Gatare speaks to students about Rwanda's history, including the Liberation Struggle.



Bamporiki Edouard discusses the relevance of critical thinking in helping youth combat various challenges such as drug abuse.

Partner Organizations



Peacebuilding Program Field Officer at Never Again Rwanda, Theoneste Ndungutse, discusses the key role of critical thinking in community building.



Inosenti Nizeyimana, historian from Aegis Trust, speaks about Rwanda's history.

Breakout Sessions

Each year, students have the opportunity to select a concentration for the camp, called breakout sessions, which allows them to learn and collaborate in a small group setting. Centered around this year's camp theme of *Positive Disruption for Continuous Development*, the four breakout sessions offered were: Disruptive Solutions in Business, Disruptive Techniques in Writing, Disruptive Speaking Techniques, and Disruption in Leadership. These sessions were taught by our camp mentors, who are previous participants of the Youth Peace Camp and who spend time preparing curriculum and lesson plans for the students.



Community Service

During our Youth Peace Camp, we challenge our students to take what they have learned back to their home communities and work to address identified problems. Our annual community service day is the component of our camp which gives our students hands-on experience in community building. Students spend the day out in the local community of Rubona District carrying out various community service projects that directly address an identified need with a sustainable solution for the root of the problem. Students are encouraged to listen to members of the community, and work with them to ensure that their voices are heard and that they feel empowered by the work.



“To me **peace** means **giving back** to
your community to make it a better place. Peace is
when you interact and **work together** [...] to build a **new generation**.”

OUR THEME

Positive Disruption for Continuous Development

Each year, CTP chooses a relevant theme for the Youth Peace Camp. This year, our theme was *Positive Disruption for Continuous Development*. We emphasized the importance of interrupting the status quo in favor of living a life of dignity and purpose. This theme has many facets which we discussed in the following sessions.

Gender Equity

2019 marked CTP's inaugural Female Empowerment Session, led by Co-Founder and Executive Director, Julia Lisi, and Mentor and Alumn, Christelle Mazimpaka. The session's introduction was led by Esther Kunda, Program and Operations Coordinator for Next Einstein Forum and member of Girls in ICT-Rwanda, and featured three panelists: Doctor Tuyisenge Theodonata, Gashora Girls Academy of Sciences and Technology Head Girl, Shimwa Augusta, and ASYV student, Bosco Nshimiyumukiza. The session included both girls and boys in order to communicate the importance of everyone's participation in the fight for gender equity.

Health

In a session led by Janvier Kabogo, the Public Health Officer at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, CTP students learned about the importance of general and sexual reproductive health in the nation's sustainable development. Through his session, Janvier empowered CTP students to positively disrupt social norms and taboos to improve their health and the health of their nation.

History

In order to develop sustainable solutions for the future, the past must first be honored and understood. This is an important lesson for our students, who get to hear about Rwanda's complex past from historians. Guest speakers, such as Aegis Trust Historian Inosenti Nizeyimana, focus on the lack of critical thinking skills as a major cause of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Our students learn that they have the right and responsibility to question the information they receive, even when relayed by authority figures.

Leadership

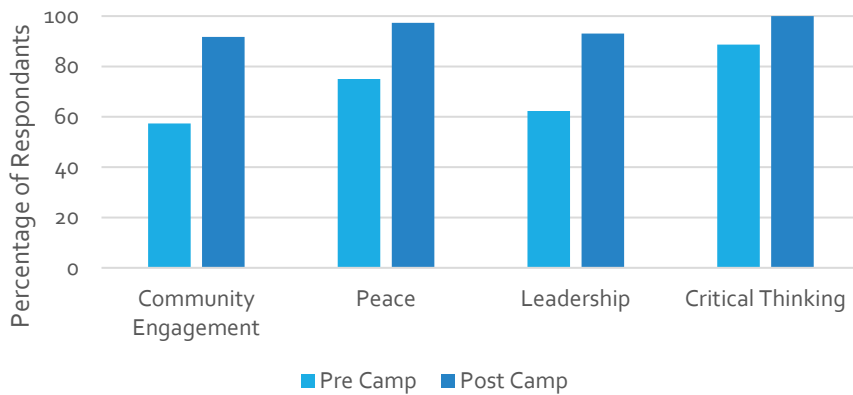
The only way to positively disrupt harmful societal norms and hateful rhetoric is through leadership, a theme emphasized during all of the camp's sessions.

Education

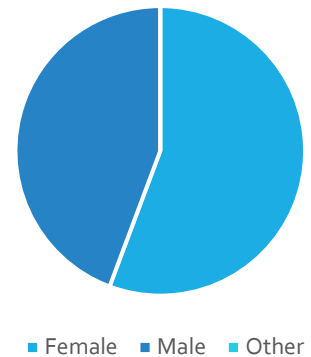
Education is one of the most powerful tools for disruption. If undervalued, it can also hinder national development and sustainable growth. iDebate Rwanda Founder and Executive Director, Jean Michel Habineza, discussed the importance of an advanced education system that employs critical thinking-based curriculum to teach youth to question everything and take control of their own learning.

Statistics

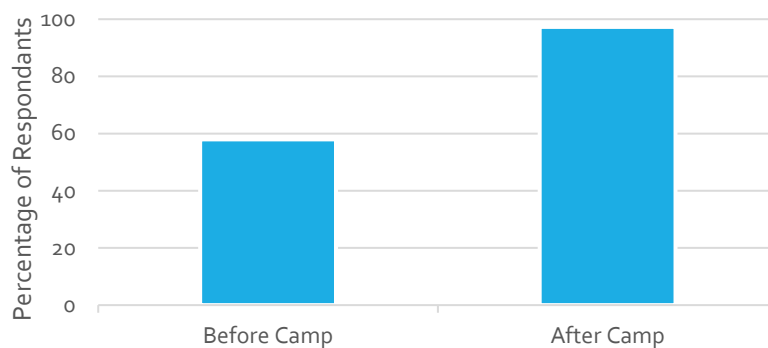
Students' Understanding Pre and Post Camp



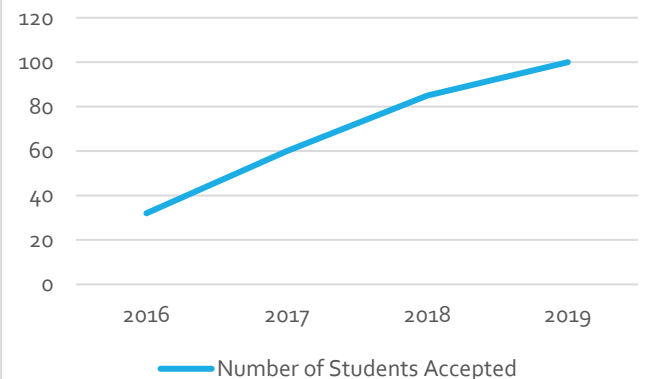
Gender of Participants



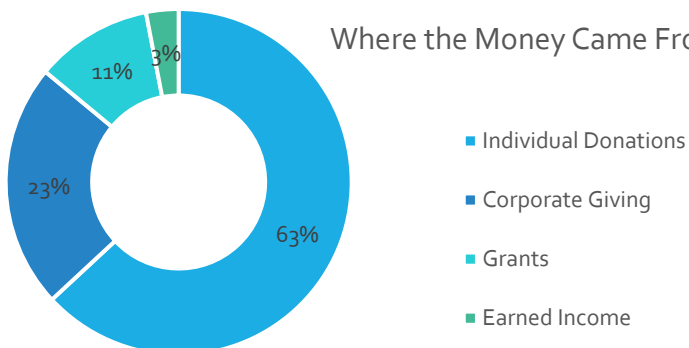
Students' Understanding of Their Role in Peace-Building



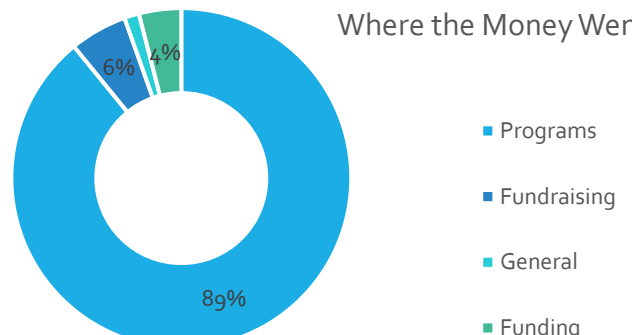
Number of Students Accepted



Where the Money Came From



Where the Money Went



*Bar graphs are based on data collected from surveys handed out before and after our program. Data points are based on those who selected that they "understand" or "completely understand" the given topic.

Our Impact

CTP strategically recruits high school students from across Rwanda, in order to grow our impact exponentially. We encourage and empower our students to take what they have learned in the Youth Peace Camp back to their school *and* home communities. Our impact reaches all corners of the country.



High school locations represented in the 2019 CTP Youth Peace Camp.

188 Applicants
100 Students Accepted
35 Schools Represented
4 Provinces of Rwanda and
Kenya



Home districts represented in the 2019 CTP Youth Peace Camp.



This year, CTP welcomed its first ever international student from Accra, Ghana.

Student and Alumni Spotlight

Project Competition

In order to empower our students to create sustainable solutions to problems in their communities, and reinforce the notion that youth are capable of creating change, we challenged them to design projects that use lessons from the Youth Peace Camp to advance and develop their home communities. Students had the option of teaming up in groups of two or three or working alone to submit a written proposal or present an oral presentation and compete for start-up funds in the amount of \$100 each, awarded by CTP for the top three project ideas. The top five projects presented their project idea to the entire camp and a panel of judges during the closing ceremony, after which the three top projects were selected for funding. The winners, pictured below, include: Uwamwezi Aisha and Niyonkuri Welly Innocente for their project titled "Umurage Youth Camp," a cultural immersion program for high school students designed to celebrate and preserve Rwandan cultural traditions and values; Uwase Ange Fravienne, for her project titled "Young Mathematicians Event," a camp designed to introduce primary school students to math and science and inspire their interest and curiosity; and Byiringiro Josue and Emile Izere for their project titled "Easy Access Group," an online platform designed to connect agriculturists to local markets, thereby enhancing and creating business opportunities for the largest industry in Rwanda.



**"By starting a
peacebuilding
project, peace
becomes a culture,
not a practice."**

-2019 CTP Youth Peace Camp
Participant



CTP Youth Representatives

One of CTP's strategic goals for 2019 was to grow the number of program alumni on the Youth Peace Camp planning team. We believe that those who have been through the program have the most insight into engineering the best program for future students. We formed a group of nine of the most dedicated and passionate program alumni in CTP's history. Each of these alumni, or *CTP Youth Representatives*, chose a specific role in the camp's development this year. For example, CTP alumn Yvan Samunani designed the 2019 camp theme of *Positive Disruption for Sustainable Development* as well as our programs outline, Mugabo Robert and Elyse Uwampaye were responsible for CTP's social media strategy during the program, and Patience Akaliza and Kato Adam David assisted in selecting the 2019 Youth Peace Camp participants. In addition, many of these Youth Representatives led the Breakout Sessions during the program, teaching and assisting students in their workshops. We believe that the future of CTP lies with our alumni, and this is why we empower them more each year to take over the operations of the program.



Mugabo Robert and Elyse Uwampaye working on CTP's social media content.



CTP Mentor and alum, Mvano Kirezi Tanita, receiving her mentor certificate at the closing ceremony.



The 2019 Mentors, Interns, and Youth Representatives.



Youth Representative, Christelle Mazimpaka, co-leading the Female Empowerment Session.

Our Supporters and Partners

GOLD SPONSORS:

\$5,000 – 15,000

The Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village

Rwanda, Africa

SILVER SPONSORS:

\$2,500 – 5,000

Anonymous

BRONZE SPONSORS:

\$1,000 – 2,500

The Pollination Project

Northwestern University

The University of Rochester

INDAHEMUKA SPONSORS

\$500 – 900

Anonymous

Montana Katz

\$250 – 499

Anonymous

Natalie Becker

Ingrid Roselyne Dukudane

B. Andrew Dutcher

Dan Katz

Pam & Florian Katz

Cheryl McGuirk

Mulligan Family Fund

PeaceFirst

Martha Sproule

\$25 - 249

Anonymous

Regina Barreca

Haley Bogdanoff

Jessica and Matthew Benjamin

Amy Burton

W. Thomas and Brenda Deeever

Patrice S. Flentge

Barbara Lynn Frederick

Amy Goldminz

Ali Hamdani

Jonathan L. Kempner

Andrew Lisi

Anna Becker and Michael Lisi

Maryann Lisi West

Peter and Kathie Lisi

Stephen and Kathy Lisi

Matthew Matola

Deborah McGrath

Niyonshima Patrick

Bernadette Reed

Shiri Sandler

Karyn Schad

Marlene Sloger

Elizabeth Staples

Juliet Sloger Sullivan

Margaret Turner

Ann Volz

CTP Ambassadors:

Montana Katz

Pam Katz

Cheryl McGuirk

Priscilla Nzabanita

Elizabeth Staples