The Ministry of Sports and Culture

presents

Stories For Hope

A collection in the National Archives in collaboration with the University of Michigan The National Archives' mission is to collect, preserve, and make public the history of Rwanda for the benefit of its citizens.

Murakaza

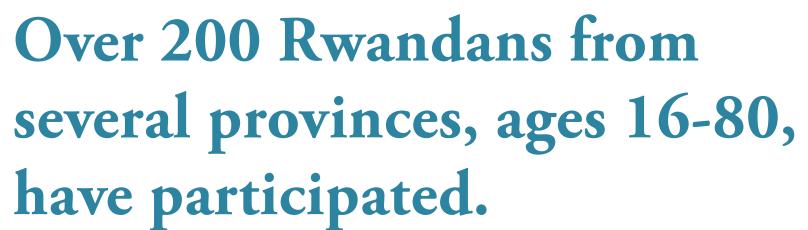
Please sit and listen to fellow Rwandans as they ask questions, share stories and build hope for the future.

> Those who have never talked with their parents will never know what was said by their grandparents. -- Rwandan proverb



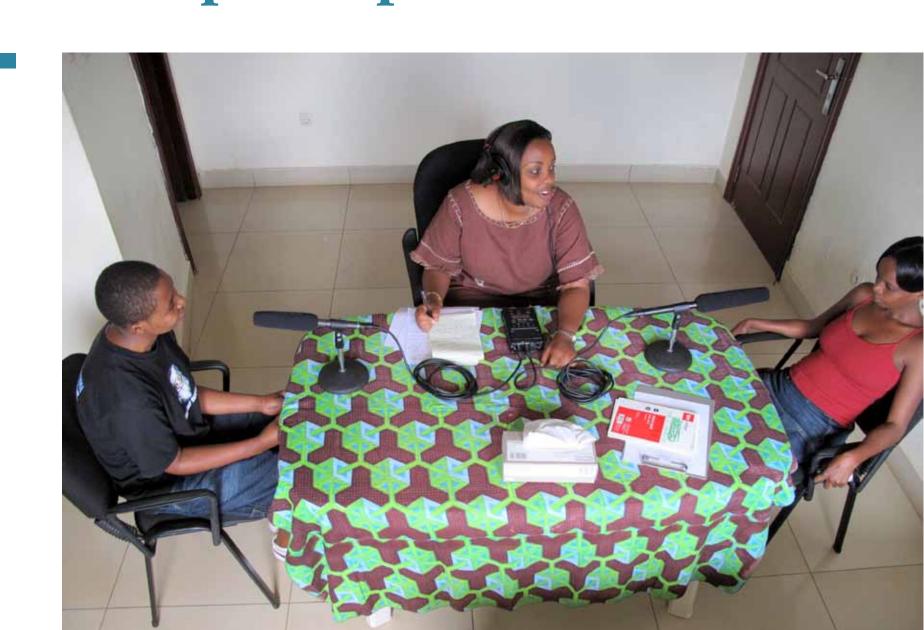
For young adults seeking stories from trusted elders about family and Rwandan culture.

Elders share personal stories about how they used their strengths and cultural values to survive past difficulties.



How stories are preserved and shared

- Youth prepare questions for a chosen elder relative, guardian, or mentor.
- A Rwandan facilitator bears witness to, encourages, and records the dialogue.
- Every participant leaves with a CD copy of the conversation and a photo.
- All are invited to share their stories publicly. Most do.
- Dialogues are available here at the National Archives and on the project internet site (www.storiesforhope.org).



What youth ask about

Adoption Alcohol Army life Colonialism Conflict management Courtship Divorce Drugs Education Ethnicity Exile Family history Forgiveness Friendship Gender Genocide Loss Genocide of the Tutsi causes Genocide prevention Genocide survival HIV/AIDS Hope Marriage Mixed marriages Orphans Poverty Reconciliation Refugee life Relationships Religion Rwandan culture Rwandan folk stories Rwandan history Widows

What elders share

Ubuhede was people helping one person to dig, or build. It showed love. If you have love, everything branches from it. --Samuel

Hope gives someone faith when they are afraid. In the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi, we lost five siblings and a parent. Whatever happened, will not happen again. problems. Talk to someone, and We need to stand up and resist all don't fear. Even the night can that. --Emmanuel

If you have problems of trauma, don't keep them with you. That makes other become morning. -- Victoire

Impact of the dialogues

Prior to it I could not come face-to-face to ask my dad questions about his life, but after I became free to ask about so many stories. -- Janet

I felt relieved, I felt open, I felt set-free. It was the first time I had revealed that story about my life to someone. --Edith

I now realize that I am a human being and have the human rights the same as everyone else. --Solange

Why participants share their stories

This story was like a guiding light for me. Other youth who have not had a chance to talk with their elders will benefit. --Ignace

It contains lessons teaching my daughter about how to live peacefully with other people. --Edith

I want the whole world to know about the hardships of the war, the genocide, so that people may prevent themselves from engaging in these things. --Emmanuel

Get Involved

- 1. Take a seat here and listen to the dialogues for yourself.
- 2. Contact us to record your own dialogue.

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