The Student Task Force (STF) fall campaign featured a traveling Children’s Rights Camp and celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Utilizing the camp, each STF Chapter hosted an all-school event to educate their classmates and teachers about: the urgent need for U.S. Ratification of the CRC; the ongoing End Military Use of Schools (EMUS) Campaign; California juvenile justice; abuse of child migrants on U.S. borders; and U.S. child tobacco farmworkers.

Campaign Highlights:
- STF organized traveling Children’s Rights Camp events at 13 STF high schools and three Santa Clarita Valley city libraries for approximately 5,000 students, teachers and community members.
- Participants had the option to take action on the U.S. ratification of the CRC, EMUS, child migrants, child tobacco farmworkers and juvenile justice issues.
- Made hundreds of calls to the White House comment line urging President Obama to send the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Senate for review.
- Met with Australian, Argentinian, Canadian, Finnish, Mexican, New Zealand and Filipino Los Angeles-based consul generals to advocate for the End Military Use of Schools Campaign, and posted over 1,700 photos on the STF-created EMUS site: emuscampaign.org
- Gathered nearly 1,000 letters to Governor Jerry Brown on behalf of youth offender, Edel Gonzalez.
- Collected more than 2,000 electronic signatures and 850 hard-copy petitions for HRW’s child tobacco farmworkers campaign, and sent 350 messages of solidarity to farmworkers in North Carolina.

STF High School Chapters:
- Academy of the Canyons, Santa Clarita
- Canyon HS, Santa Clarita
- Carson HS, Carson
- Crossroads School, Santa Monica
- Golden Valley HS, Santa Clarita
- Hart HS, Santa Clarita
- New Roads School, Santa Monica
- Oakwood School, North Hollywood
- Palisades Charter HS, Pacific Palisades
- Santa Monica HS, Santa Monica
- Sierra Canyon School, Chatsworth
- Valencia HS, Santa Clarita
- Wildwood School, Los Angeles
Outreach and Genocide Awareness Projects

- STF joined the HRW California Committee South to thank and celebrate Sid Sheinberg, HRW and STF longtime supporter, at the annual Voices for Justice Dinner on November 11, 2014. STF hosted a preview of the Traveling Children’s Rights Camp and met with Shin Dong-Hyuk and Dr. M.R. Rajagopal, recipients of the 2014 Alison Des Forges Award for Extraordinary Activism.

- STF was active observing Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in April. New Roads School staged a “die-in.” In a symbolic gesture to generate interest in children’s rights issues and genocide studies, STF members “died” from a variety of causes linked to human rights abuses faced by children whose rights are not protected.

- During April, Academy of the Canyons, Carson, Golden Valley, Oakwood, Palisades Charter, Santa Monica, Sierra Canyon and Wildwood Chapters screened “Sweet Dreams,” a documentary about rebuilding lives and creating a future in devastated Rwanda after the 1994 100-day genocide. STF students were introduced to the inspiring documentary at the fall HRW Film Club screening.

- Alepho Deng, veteran STF guest speaker, spoke at Valencia High School about his experiences as a Lost Boy of Sudan on April 20, 2015. He joined STF leaders in Santa Clarita Valley for dinner before speaking at the Valencia City Library to community members. The audience expressed gratitude to STF for raising human rights awareness.

- On April 22, 2015, 250 students and teachers gathered at Carson High School to learn about STF alumna Jasmina Repak Zuljevic’s experience as a teenager during the Bosnian Civil War. She also discussed the aftermath of the genocide in Srebrenica. Students then viewed “Sweet Dreams” and participated in a Q&A with Jasmina.

- At an after-school event hosted by STF at Santa Monica HS on April 23, 2015, more than 100 students gathered to view “Sweet Dreams” and discuss the Rwanda Genocide with Amy Marczewski Carnes, STF alumna and Associate Director of Education at the USC Shoah Foundation. Amy talked about her travels to Rwanda, meeting the women drummers of Ingoma Nshya and tasting ice cream at the “Sweet Dreams” shop.

Photo credits: (page 1) Bart Bartholomew; (page 2) Patricia Williams; (page 3) Patricia Williams

The Human Rights Watch Student Task Force, launched in 1999, is a youth leadership-training program that brings together high school students and educators and empowers them to advocate for human rights issues, especially the rights of children.

HRW Student Task Force Staff:
Pam Bruns, Volunteer Executive Director
Kristin Ghazarians, Project Liaison
Nancy Nazarian Medina, Volunteer Program Advisor

Human Rights Watch Student Task Force
11500 W. Olympic Blvd, Ste. 540, Los Angeles, CA 90064
www.hrwstf.org | Phone: (310) 477-5540
Human Rights Education Trainings

STF Leadership Workshops

Fall Leadership Workshop
September 6, 2014: Over 60 representatives from 13 high schools constructed and launched the Traveling Children’s Rights Camp during the annual STF Fall Leadership Workshop. Bede Sheppard, Deputy Director of the HRW Children’s Rights Division, discussed the growing international attention for EMUS via Skype video from Jerusalem. Students brainstormed ways to transform the Camp’s tents into advocacy platforms for children’s rights issues.

Winter Leadership Workshop
February 17, 2015: Student leaders and teacher advisors gathered to review the Children’s Rights Camps and the successful advocacy produced by the camps. Students also prepared for April’s Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. Students explored the Armenian, Holocaust, Cambodian, Bosnian, Rwandan and Darfur genocides, discussed the Genocide Convention and developed ideas to educate their school communities. Jasmina Repak Zuljevic related her experience as a teenager in Bosnia during the Civil War, the first time many students had learned of the Bosnian Genocide. Lisa Fruchtman, producer and director of “Sweet Dreams,” joined the workshop via Skype to share background on the making of her documentary.

Year-End Leadership Workshop
May 5, 2015: To conclude the April Genocide month, Dr. Henry Oster, Holocaust survivor, spoke to a rapt audience of STF leaders and teachers. Henry said, “A ‘seed,’ or ‘kernel’ is all it takes to see something blossom into widespread killing. The task that you have is to avoid apathy through building awareness...” Henry encouraged STFers to continue fighting for human rights. “The idea of living with intent to teach like you do, to teach avoidance (of human rights abuses) like you do, is a life task and I thank you for doing it!”

Beginning in 2008, STF has annually presented human rights education (HRE) training for educators and activists.

Teacher HRE Trainings

• August 2, 2014: Educators, students and community activists met at the Human Rights Watch Los Angeles office to establish a local HRE collaborative community. Participants shared human rights resources, curricula and methods of how to integrate HRE into all subject areas.

• February 3, 2015: New Roads School hosted HRE expert and longtime STF advisor, Nancy Flowers, to discuss incorporating more human rights into curriculum at a half-day workshop. STF student leaders opened the session with assembled faculty by speaking personally about the importance of HRE to their own education.

• Upcoming, July 27 -28, 2015: STF will co-host the first HRE Summer Institute at Palisades Charter High School for interested Palisades educators and special guests.

International HRE expert and co-founder of HRE USA, Nancy Flowers, facilitates HRE training sessions.
STF Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Mason Butts  
Intern ‘12  
M.Ed. UCLA ‘16

I am finishing my novice year in the UCLA Teacher Education Program. This fall, I will be at Augustus Hawkins teaching biology and completing my Master’s in Education, focusing on Urban Education. I am investing in community development and advocating for educational equity.

Jenna Shelton  
Valencia HS ‘13  
UC Berkeley ‘17

At UC Berkeley, I’m studying Conservation and Resource Studies. My area of interest is Food Justice and Mechanisms of Access with a minor in Public Policy. I am a member the board of directors for the Berkeley Student Food Collective. Additionally, I work in the student government on the Fresh Produce Security Council to help ensure that all students have access to fresh and healthy food. I graduate in 2017 and want to work on environmental public policy.

Abdiel Lopez  
Palisades Charter ‘14  
Grinnell College ‘18

I’m a Posse scholar at Grinnell College, double majoring in sociology and art history. This fall, I will be the Co-Editor-in-Chief of Grinnell College Press, the Graphic Editor of Scarlet & Black, Elected Sociology Major Representative, Research Tutor, and a Mentor for the Peer Connections Pre-Orientation Program. This summer, I am interning at the USC Dornsife Program for Regional and Environmental Equity, analyzing health culture in low-income communities of color, civic engagement and immigrant incorporation.

Allison Casey  
Intern ‘12-13  
UCLA ‘14

Recently, I volunteered with a local Cambodian NGO, helping produce reports about violence against women in the country. I focused on how technology could be used to educate women about their rights. Now, I am beginning a 13-month fellowship with UNICEF USA empowering high school students to become global citizens. I am forever grateful to STF because it was my first exposure to human rights. I have been inspired to pursue a career in human rights advocacy ever since!

Amy Calfas  
Marlborough HS ‘09  
STF Intern ‘09-‘11  
Tufts University ‘13

In my current capacity with the South Asia program at the US Institute of Peace (USIP), I work with human rights activists, civil society leaders and policy makers from the region in support of our work on democracy, gender, interfaith dialogues and countering violent extremism. Recently, I participated as a guest lecturer for the Foreign Service Institute on gender issues in South Asia as part of a training for State Department and Department of Defense officials deployed to Embassies in the field.

Katia Johnstone  
Wildwood ‘08  
UC Berkeley ‘12

As a Program Coordinator for iMentor, a high school program in Harlem, I work directly with mentees and mentors to help cultivate their relationships. We aim to foster student achievement by connecting young people to degree-holding mentors. I am following my mentees and mentors into the mentee’s second year of high school.

Maya Bouchet  
New Roads ‘14  
USC ‘18

Currently, at USC, I am studying sustainable planning (urban planning). My passions are design and architecture, and I hope to travel and see how urban planning and policy are implemented in other countries. I want to eventually work for the City of Los Angeles and help improve walkability and public transportation.

Carlo David  
Carson HS ‘13  
UC Berkeley ‘17

As a junior at UC Berkeley, I’m studying Sociology with minors in Public Policy and Political Economy. My concentration is on policy studies: economy, immigration, defense and foreign relations. Recently, I’ve been doing counterterrorism research with a professor and working as a political journalist with CalTV News. I’ve made mini documentaries on ISIS and the threats of Islamophobia.

For More STF Alumni Updates:  
www.hrwstf.org “Our Alumni”