

meaningful world



Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention Meaningfulworld.com

Winter/Spring Newsletter 2014

Dear One,

Meaningfulworld at the United Nations

The 52nd Session of the Commission for Social Development

ATOP Meaningfulworld works in alliance with the Commission for Social Development for poverty eradication through social integration, full employment and decent work for all.

[Click here to read more](#)

ATOP Meaningful World Presents: Healing the Trauma of Domestic Violence Around the Globe



ATOP Meaningfulworld UN CSW 2013

Parallel Event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Thursday 20 March, 2014

12:30 PM- 2 PM

777 UN Plaza, Floor, CCUN 44th St. at 1st Ave NYC

RSVP to Blerina Marku by 3 March [Details Attached](#)

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Meaningfulworld Quick Highlights

[Malta Asylum seekers face squalid conditions in Malta](#)

6 Jan 2014
'THV11' reports about the difficult conditions

Nations Acknowledging their Dark History: Transforming Denial



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A
SYMPOSIUM TOWARD
PREVENTING GENOCIDE
Thursday, 17 April 2014, at 12 noon**

Preventing Genocide 2013

United Nations, DH Auditorium

First Avenue between 45 & 46 streets,
Visitor's entrance New York City, NY

[Details attached](#)

asylum-seekers face in Malta after arrival. The article mentions the long-criticised problems like over-crowdedness, the detention of women and children, filthy condition... [Read More](#)

**International
[IPJJ Newsletter
December 2013](#)**

2 Jan 2014
The current edition of the Newsletter of the Inter-Agency Panel on Juvenile Justice provides a summary of the major highlights of the year 2013. [Read More](#)

World Interfaith Harmony Week: Vital for Peace and Development



"It is imperative that the moderate majority is empowered to stand firm against the forces of extremism. But, this can only be achieved through strong leadership."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
Message for World Interfaith Harmony Week

Rev Sharon Hamilton "World Interfaith Harmony Week was proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/65/5 adopted on 20 October 2010. In the resolution, the General Assembly, points out that mutual understanding and inter-religious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace and establishes World Interfaith Harmony Week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith". [Click here for more](#)



Second Youth-led briefing for NGO-designated Youth Representatives

Katrina Martinez

ATOP Meaningfulworld United Nations Youth Representative

Youth Representatives focus on the current state of education worldwide and offer solutions to its shortcomings in the areas of technology and public-private partnerships.

Katrina Martinez, ATOP Meaningfulworld UN Intern

At UN Headquarters began to fill with college students, NGO Representatives, UN personnel, Ambassadors, entrepreneurs, teachers, and more, the energy in the room was building. One could certainly feel the momentum and anticipation surrounding this youth organized event. By 10:15 AM the room was packed, buzzing with inter-generational, interdisciplinary conversation.

[Please read the rest of the article here.](#)

[This Youth-Led Briefing can also be viewed here.](#)

European Union
[Missing Children in the European Union](#)

The study on missing children was conducted by Ecorys on behalf of DG Justice from July 2012 to June 2013 and had two main objectives: To collect and analyse data and to develop the basis to improve the mechanisms ... [Read More](#)

ATOP Meaningfulworld Calendar of events

For a complete schedule of ATOP'S events, visit our home page meaningfulworld.com



World Wide Network for Gender Empowerment

Anna DiStefano, EdD, Faculty, Educational Leadership for Change

WNGE has hired an Associate Director. Kirsten McGregor started working with WNGE part-time earlier this month. She brings an amazing array of skills to us. As she says in her resume: " 25 years of experience in strategic planning, team leadership and organizational development. Career signature for marrying organizational strategy to revenue generation - delivering results quickly. Skilled in defining resonant value propositions and maximizing green and sustainable solutions. Adept at 'cutting to the quick' of organizational issues via sound research and in-depth knowledge of market dynamics, and developing strategic plans grounded in relevant, intriguing "UVPs" that build strong, resilient

enterprises. For more information go to: www.fielding.edu

ATOP Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Healing and Peace Building Missions

Meaningfulworld Humanitarian Mission to Armenia

**Transforming generational trauma, horizontal violence, and
trauma of the war in Syria**

Katherine Kaze and Dr. Ani Kalayjian

It was a warm sunny day in October when I first landed in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, to begin our Meaningfulworld outreach work. Our work in Armenia began in 1989 immediately after the disastrous earthquake. As our car sped away from the airport, my eyes were greeted by buildings constructed of smooth pink stone placed alongside a number of new construction sites and modern creations.

[Click here for more](#)

ATOP Meaningfulworld team in Armenia

Establishing Forgiveness and Peace Gardens Around the Globe: Dr. Ani Kalayjian

Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Angel in our
Gratitude Garden

Although an abundance of peace organizations, non-governmental, as well as related university affiliations exist; conflict continues to flourish around the world. The roots of these conflicts and violence may be political, religious, territorial, tribal, generational, as well as those motivated by greed, rigidity, ego centrism, and shortsightedness.

[Click here for more](#)



Congratulations to our Collaborators in Rwanda

On January 2nd, 2014, we have

Global Campaign Against Youth Unemployment

launched the Friends of Youth Network, throughout this network everyone who cares about youth, who feels to be passionate and compassionate about unemployed youth, will a chance to join forces with youth and the rest of world to end unemployment. This friends of youth network officially launched on January 19th, 2014 at Kigali-Serena Hotel during the event entitled: Friends of Youth New Year Gala Night that will be launched by H.E First Lady. During this event, those who will have joined will be announced. Meanwhile I would like to let you know that now we have different companies coming on board and all of these companies, organizations and individuals will be announced during this event of January 19th, 2014. To join the network, one click on this link is enough: www.unemployedyouthvoice.org



Initiatives for Peace and Human Rights

Rwanda 20 Years after: ATOP Meaningfulworld working in Rwanda for healing, forgiveness, & research

On March 28 & 29, 2014 at Weber State University, Ogden,

Utah Dr. Kalayjian will give a featured presentation focusing on the Rwanda 20 Years After: Memory, Justice, and Recovery in the Shadow of Genocide. This conference is designed to be a small gathering of individuals who specialize in Rwandan research and/or have experiences in the field. The conference topics will range from the healing process with NGOs and a UN speaker, to papers on artistic expression, literary analysis, case law, political scientists, philosophers, and more.

UNITING 4 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

On this Sunday, January 19, 2014 at the Serena Hotel in Kigali, the World Alliance against Youth Unemployment WAYU, in partnership with the Rwanda Young Generation Forum, under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth and ICT (MYICT), National Youth Council (NYC), Rwanda Broadcasting Agency (RBA), and African

Mission Alliance (AMA), have officially inaugurated a decade of commitment to Youth Action to eradicate youth unemployment, that is the, the campaign has been officially launched by the Minister of Youth and ICT: Honorable Jean Philbert NSENGIMANA accompanied by the Minister of Trade and Commerce: Honorable Francois KANIMBA
[To read more click here](#)

Meaningfulworld in Academia



Meaningfulworld to Present at 6th Annual Health Disparities Conference Teachers College, Columbia

Teachers College Columbia, NYC 8 March, 2014 Saturday 10:55-11:55 am

Healing the trauma of HIV/AIDS, Poverty, Malnutrition, Violence, Genocide Three Case Studies of Outreach to Communities in Africa and the Middle East. You are all invited.

For more information: [Click here](#)



Nira at EPA Conference 2013

Refugee Youth: Shedding Light on Resilience

Nira Shah, EdM
RSC Africa | US Refugee Admissions Program Nairobi, Kenya
ATOP MW Africa Coordinator

Reflections and research on resilience and strength in refugee populations, particularly the youth, are often overlooked. Young refugees have endured such horrific conditions and witnessed such acts of terror beyond belief, that mental health professionals would likely think that the psychological impact would be devastating; however, research has shown that many refugees show few signs of PTSD and trauma, and exhibit high levels of resilience. Where are they finding strength in unimaginable circumstances?

[To read more in IPB winter vol 18 No.1 Winter 2014 pp.62-64](#)

A Different Kind of Conference
Human Dignity and Humiliation Prevention
Blanka Angyal & Dr. Ani Kalayjian

Dr. Ani Kalayjian and Blanka Angyal participated in the 22nd annual workshop of the Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies Conference, held at Teachers College of Columbia University in New York City. Click here to read more [Click here to read more](#)

**Migration, the United Nations and International NGO:
Challenges and Lessons Learned**

Alexa Kauffman, Ani Kalayjian, EdD, & Miriam Mukasa
MSW, PhD Candidate

In recent years there has been a positive climate shift in the way political leaders as well as common society view migration. Although still abundant, closed minded and xenophobic behavior is being substituted with new ideas of how to promote migration as well as create helpful and protective migration reform legislation. [To read more in IPB winter vol 18 No.1 Winter 2014 pp.59- 62](#)

AASSSG News



Krieger Essay Contest Winners 2013 at
the United Nations

**AASSSG
LAUNCHES THE
NINETEENTH
ANNUAL
KRIEGER
ESSAY
CONTEST FOR HIGH
SCHOOL AND COLLEGE**

STUDENTS

The Armenian American Society for Studies on Stress & Genocide (AASSSG) was founded in 1988 by Dr. Ani Kalayjian to advance national and international understanding of the generational and intergenerational effects of traumatic experiences, such as genocide, earthquake, and war. In 1995, 80 years after the Ottoman Turkish Genocide of the Armenians (1915-1923), AASSSG established an annual essay contest as part of its commemorative activities.

ESSAY SUBJECT

"What the Legacy of Genocide Means to Me"

\$100.00 for High School student
winner **\$200.00** for College/University student

Deadline 26 February 2014

www.meaningfulworld.com

Info@Meaningfulworld.com

APA News

Graduate Students APA Convention Student Travel Award

The APA Science Directorate is pleased to sponsor its annual travel award competition for graduate students of psychology who will present research at the APA Convention.

DATE: August 7-10, 2014 , in Washington, DC

Deadline for applications to arrive at APA is April 1, 2014. For

more information about the APA Convention Student Travel

Awards, please visit [http://www.apa.org/about/awards/scidir-](http://www.apa.org/about/awards/scidir-stutrav.aspx)

[stutrav.aspx](http://www.apa.org/about/awards/scidir-stutrav.aspx) or email the Science Directorate at science@apa.org

Intern Spotlight

CELEBRATING OUR INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

***Victoria Alexander**, is studying in UK, working on a Masters Degree on Cross Cultural Psychology

* **Michael Reda**, is volunteering in India for a year

* **Nira Shah**, is working with another NGO in Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi, while coordinating our outreach in Africa

* **Leysa Cerswell**, is studying in Toronto in a Doctoral Program in

Clinical Psychology at the University of Toronto

***Miriam Mukasa** is studying at Walden University in Minnesota in a Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology

Congratulations to you all, you are in our hearts and minds, and we wish you success

ATOP Meaningfulworld in the Community



Dr. Ani Kalayjian and Leysa Cerswell

ATOP Meaningfulworld has organized a symposium at Teachers College, Columbia University, at The Sixth Annual Health Disparities Conference at Teachers College, Columbia University - March 7th - 8th, 2014, entitled "From Trauma to Healing: Case Studies from around the globe utilizing the 7-step Integrative Healing Model in Africa, the

Middle East, and Armenia."

www.tc.edu/HealthDisparitiesConference/

Dr. Kalayjian will present a lecture on Post Trauma Healing: Utilizing Integrative Healing Approaches, at the Society for Cross Cultural Research (SCCR), Charleston, South Carolina, 14 Feb, 2014
http://www.sccr.org/sccr2014/sccr_reg.htm



Holiday Party 2013

ATOP Meaningfulworld Pamper Yourself Holiday Festival and Party 2013

Isha Emley & Blerina Marku

The "Pamper Yourself" holiday party with ATOP/Meaningfulworld was a festive and uplifting night of celebration. As a soft blanket of snow settled over the city, a stream of vibrant people began to file in. Each decorated room was alive with spirited conversation and

the contagion of holiday cheer. [Read more here](#)

Meaningfulworld in the Media

Film: The time is now

Noted Psychology Professor Dr Ani Kalayjian Along with Director Vishal Hirashar hosted and insightful Q & A after the highly anticipated film premiere in New York City. "**THE TIME IS NOW.**"

[To watch a trailer click here.](#)

Radio: ICERM Radio

29 OCT 2013, Dr. Ani Kalayjian, Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress and President, Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention discussed this topic "Reconciliation and Forgiveness after Deadly Violence: Transforming Tragedy and Trauma into Healing"

30 December, 2013, Cultivating a Consciousness of Mindful Living

Cultivating a Consciousness of Mindful Living

For more information about the shows go to <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/icermradio>

Newspaper and Website: WebMD: Dr. Kalayjian was interviewed and quoted on WebMD on resilience, how to nurture it, identify it, and utilize it for post trauma growth

Past Events

Past Humanitarian Outreach Training Programs in New York 2013

28 Sept, Disaster Rehabilitation & Recovery

26 October, Peace building and conflict transformation, and forgiveness

23 November, Meaningfulworld View, Seeds of Forgiveness, and Sacred Activism

14 December, Pamper Yourself Integrative Healing and Holiday Party

UN Programs in 2013

24 October, Sustainable Peace and Happiness through Forgiveness 21 September International Day of Peace

International Day of Peace



UN International Day of Peace
2013

21 Sept 2014, United Nations International Day of Peace will be organized by ATOP Meaningfulworld in collaboration with the Bronx Museum of the Arts, will take place at the Bronx Museum of the Arts.

www.Meaningfulworld.com

Upcoming Events

22 February 2014 Conflict Transformation, Peace Building, Assertiveness, Anger Management and Mindfulness NYC

7-8 March 2014 6th Annual Health Disparities Conference, Teachers College, Columbia, Meaningfulworld to present March 8th

8-12 March 2014 23rd Annual Conference of our Human Dignity and Humiliation studies (HumanDHS) network, entitled 'Returning Dignity,' at Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai, Thailand

20 March 2014 Healing the Trauma of Domestic Violence around the Globe, United Nations

29 March 2014 Meaningfulworld View, Forgiveness, and Sacred Activism, NYC

17 April 2014 Preventing Genocide: Nations Acknowledging their Dark History, United Nations

26 April 2014 Disaster Relief, Mitigation, and Recovery, NYC

17 May 2014 Peace Building, Conflict Transformation, Anger Management, Assertiveness, Mindfulness and Forgiveness, NYC

5 June 2014 Mind-Body-Eco-Spirit Festival, and Meaningfulworld Ambassador Initiation, United Nations

21 Sept 2014 UN International Day of Peace

20-23 October 2014 UN Spirit of United Nations,

23 October 2014 Sustainable Health through Forgiveness

Call for Interns

All internships are conducted under the supervision of both Dr. Ani Kalayjian-Founder and Director of ATOP, Board of Directors of ATOP, & United Nations Representative for ATOP.

Available Positions:

1. **Grant Writer/Researcher:** Assisting the Grant Committee to research & write grants, apply for awards, disseminate the work through printed materials
2. **United Nations Internship:** Presence is essential on Thursdays to attend international meetings, & join DPI and CONGO Committees. One year minimum.
3. **Webmaster:** Seeking for a diligent, efficient, detailed oriented individual who has some knowledge of html and some editing qualities to add press releases and upload photographs from our Humanitarian Missions around the Globe. 5 hours of weekly involvement is essential.

For more info e-mail info@meaningfulworld.com

ATOP Meaningfulworld Team Publications of International Research

1. Ackie, M., & Kalayjian, A. (Spring, 2013). Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: Perspectives from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Vol. 17, No. 2, 59-62
 2. Doran, J., Kalayjian, A., & Toussaint L., (March 2014). Posttraumatic Stress and Meaning Making in Mexico City.
 3. Kalayjian, A., & Cerswell, L. (Spring, 2013). Transforming Trauma from Violence into Healing: A Nation Responds. Trauma Psychology Newsletter. pp 21-24
 4. Kauffman, A., Kalayjian, A., & Mukasa, M. (Winter 2014). Migration and the United Nations and International NGO: Challenges and Lessons Learned. Vol 18, No. 1 pp 59-62
 5. Kaze, K., Kalayjian, A., Toussaint, L., & Gonen, M. (Spring, 2013). PTSD Among Youth in Kenya: An overlooked phenomenon. Vol. 17, No. 2, 63-66
 6. Martinez, K., & Kalayjian, A. (Spring, 2013). United Nations Peacekeeping Projects in Africa and ATOP Meaningfulworld Healing and Empowerment Projects in Africa. Vol 17, No. 2, pp 66-70
 7. Shah, N. (Winter, 2014). Refugee Youth: Shedding Light On Resilience. Vol. 18, No. 1 pp62-64
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Meaningfulworld Committees

Vice President Jennifer De Mucci

UN Interns & Representatives: Dr. Ani Kalayjian, Katrina Martinez, Jane Kearns, Shana Campbell, Susanna Novick, Isha Emley, Margaret Ruiz, and Michele Campbell

Co-Chairs of Publications Committee: Jennifer Doran & Nira Shah

Research Committee: Evelyn Lopez (Coordinator), Miriam Mukasa, Victoria Garrick, & Betty Kola

Grant Committee: Evelyn Lopez (Coordinator), Margaret Ruiz, and Isha Emley

Education and Clinical Training Program: Blanka Angyal (Coordinator), Alanna Miyajima and Marianne Retif, Associate Coordinators

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Youth Empowerment Program Director: Crystal Barry

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Web Master: Yuki Shigemoto

Doctoral International Internship Coordinators: Shayla Tumbling & Richard Griff

Newsletter Editors: Miriam Mukasa, and Victoria Garrick

Editors: Isha Emley, Seta Papazian, Antonia Gentile, and Elizabeth Labine

If you feel our work is meaningful to you please visit our website to find out more. If you are interested in volunteering or interning please email us. If you are able to make a monetary contribution to our organization please mail a check to our address provided below or donate via our website. All Donations are tax deductible | [Online Donation Click Here](#)

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ATOP Meaningfulworld || info@meaningfulworld.com | NY 185 E 85 Street, Mez #4, New York, NY 10028