

## Interim Report, July 2019

### McLane Harrington

#### Peace Fellow, Women Advocacy Project

My 10-week fellowship in Harare, Zimbabwe began on June 14<sup>th</sup> and I have been working with my hosts, Constance Mugari and Dickson Mnyaci, to assist with their organization Women Advocacy Project (WAP). Unfortunately, we have been faced with quite a few challenges since I have been here, most notably widespread and pervasive power outages (referred to as “load shedding”) and fuel shortages. Despite these challenges, we have been able to push forward with my fellowship and make some progress. Since the moment I arrived I have been preparing for my departure in a way, because I want to leave them with tools and resources that they can utilize independently to continue their work, secure more funding and grow their organization. I have found it wonderful to work with Constance and Dickson, as their determination in the face of such challenging circumstances is quite admirable and inspiring. I have also met some incredible young women and heard some powerful stories about personal experiences with child marriage and how WAP has been able to have an impact on young girls in Zimbabwe. This type of collaborative, community-based capacity building work is precisely why I wanted to take on this Fellowship and I am very grateful to be here.

- Administrative support, training and capacity building
  - o Website – I have successfully revamped [WAP’s website](#) and trained them on how to use WordPress to update pages, add blog posts and upload photos.
  - o Excel training – WAP staff learned how to use formulas in Excel for budgeting and data management
  - o Budgeting – I evaluated WAP’s budgeting system, and helped them create a plan to move their paper receipt-keeping system into a digital system to make bookkeeping simpler.
  - o After creating a Facebook page for WAP, I taught them about creating a social media strategy to keep up interest in their page and gather more likes/views for their posts.
- Monitoring and evaluation of current program
  - o The WAP team has taken me to three of the five communities surrounding Harare where they work with young girls through the Ambassadors Against Child Marriage program. An Ambassador (a young woman trained by WAP) leads club meetings each week to educate girls about child marriage, human rights, and reproductive/sexual health. I designed a survey and we have interviewed about 50 girls and 20 mothers to get feedback on how the program has been going so far and what type of effects it is having on participants.
- Fundraising and grant-writing
  - o I have launched a [Global Giving fundraising campaign](#) for WAP’s pilot liquid soap-making project. I aim to raise \$5,000 for the organization by the end of the summer.
  - o Together with the Advocacy Project team in DC, we have been putting together several applications and proposals for funding. WAP and I completed an application for a *With and For Girls* grant this week.
  - o I put together an omnibus proposal (including a budget) for WAP and AP to use when writing grant applications. Creating the proposal involved discussing WAP’s current

programming, their vision for the future, and they types of projects they would like to initiate to work towards their mission.

- Blog writing and photography
  - I have written four [blog posts](#) to explain WAP's work and share information about child marriage, WAP's Ambassadors program, and reproductive/sexual health
  - I have also been taking [photographs](#) of my Fellowship which can be utilized by WAP and AP in their social media, campaign pages, and fundraising