



## ACTIVITY REPORT for Projects Abroad Human Rights Office

APRIL 2013

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NAME OF PROJECT: Projects Abroad Human Rights Office

TYPE OF PROJECT: Human Rights

NUMBER OF INTERN'S THIS MONTH: 14

### SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

Name: Bonnytown

Description:

Bonnytown is a place of safety and secure care centre for male juvenile offenders.

Schedule:

Bonnytown is visited every Thursday from 13:30 to 15:00.

Age of Youth

Between 13 -18

Number of Boys

The number of Boys is +-90, depending upon whether Bonnytown is full or not.

**04 April 2013** - We decided to have a fun day at Bonnytown with activities such as playing football, dancing and a relay competition. The boys really enjoyed being outdoors, socialising with the interns. The interns and the boys had fun participating in the activities.

**11 April 2013** - We decided to set up a questionnaire for the boys in order to see if they have learned anything life changing whilst we have been doing our workshops with them and whilst they have been at Bonnytown.

**18 April 2013** - We focused on the programs and jobs that the boys can get when they come out of Bonnytown/Prison, because we know they have dreams and goal. We also did some research on which kind of jobs they will be able to get with a criminal record and presented this to them, however we also believe that even with a record you can get any job you want as long as you work hard, stay focused and never doubt yourself.

**25 April 2013** - Our last workshop at Bonnytown was "Project Runway", we have done this before and the boys really seem to like this as they get to be creative and use their imagination. The boys and interns were divided in teams of 2 and were given a stack of newspapers, a pair of scissors, tape and

20 minutes to create a wearable newspaper outfit. The most creative and funniest costumes were designed and the boys that created the most liked outfit were given a prize.

Name: **Ottery youth care and education centre**

Description:

Ottery Youth Care and Education Centre is a rehabilitation centre male juvenile offenders who have committed petty crimes.

Schedule:

Ottery is visited every Tuesday from 15:00 to 16:30.

Age of Youth

Between 10 -17

Number of Boys

The number of Boys we work with is 60.

**02 April 2013** - Our first workshop started off with us playing ice-breakers as most times the boys just want to have fun, but they are unable to do so as they are in a strict facility. The boys regularly request for us to play games or do ice-breakers before we start our workshops.

**09 April 2013** - In this workshop we had a PowerPoint Presentation displaying horrifying graphics of self-made tattoos which were infected because it wasn't done by a professional. We explained the various risks of these tattoos, the different meanings of gangster tattoos and the importance of making sure that a specific tattoo is 100% what you want as it is costly to have a tattoo removed.

**16 April 2013** - We had a Sports Day, where we divided the boys in groups and then had them compete against each other for an individual and group trophy. So much energy was displayed by the boys as some of them have never been able to take part in a Sports Day Competition or win a trophy. We were requested to do this again in the future.

**23 April 2013** - We played the Marooned Game, "Marooning "is the intentional leaving of someone in a remote area, such as an uninhabited island. The kids each received a page with 25 items which could be necessary for survival on a deserted island. The 25 items: Food, water, cellphone, blanket, pencils, knife, book, oil/gasoline, sweater, condoms, life-raft, flare – emergency pistol, sun block, watch,radio,mirror,matches,cigarettes,TV,flashlight,bug-repellant,pain-killers,beer,plastic sheet to give cover from wind and rain or a pot. Of these 25 items the boys could only choose 5 items which they thought would be a necessity to survive. In the end the 5 most important things were :

- Mirror (Of all the items, the mirror is absolutely critical. It is the most powerful tool you have for communicating your presence. In sunlight, a simple mirror can generate five to seven million candlepower of light. The reflected sunbeam can even be seen beyond the horizon.)
- Oil/gasoline (The second most critical item for signaling. The mixture will float on water and can be ignited using the matches.)
- water (you will die after 2 days)

- food ( you will starve without food)
- Shelter (Can be used to collect rain water and shelter from the wind and waves. )

Most of the boys had 3 of the 5 items correct. In this game the boys learned the things you least expect can make a difference in your life and that anything can be used in order to better yourself in a situation.

Name: **Vredelus**

Description:

**Vredelus House is a secure care centre for young female offenders located in Elsie's River.**

Schedule:

**Vredelus is visited every Wednesday from 15:00 to 16:30.**

Age of Youth

**Between 10 -18**

Number of Females

**The number of females we work with often vary from 50 – 70.**

**03 April 2013** - We also started off the workshop at Vredelus by playing Ice-Breaker games with the females as they also like having fun and being able to run and socialize freely. We then spent the rest of the afternoon chatting to the girls about the things they would like us to teach them, the things they want to do when they are back home with their families and so forth.

**10 April 2013** - Most times when we play games, it's not just a game, but there is a lesson to be learned in all workshops that we do. On the next workshop we played a game called "4 Corners", we would ask the girls a question and each corner would have an answer for them to choose, once they chose an answer they had to stand in the corner and discuss why they chose the specific answer. The questions started off simple, but then we started asking serious questions which lead the girls to think about the things in their lives which they would not have considered without this game. After these games some of the girls thanked us for opening their minds up to the important things they have not thought about and some of the girls even chatted to the interns about the problems they are facing and the possible solutions thereof.

**17 April 2013** - We had the same workshop as the workshop done at Bonnytoun on the 18 of April 2013.

**24 April 2013** - We decided to have the girls make a "Dreams Collage", so that they could cut out images of things they wanted for themselves one day and have the collage as a reminder of what they have to work hard for. The dream collages made will one day be materialize by the girls as they all have the power and potential to be great despite their current circumstances.

Name: **St. Anne's**

Description:

St Anne's is a non-governmental organisation in Woodstock. St. Anne's offers services to destitute, abused, rejected and disadvantaged women and their children from throughout South Africa.

Schedule:

St. Anne's is visited every Monday from 11:00 – 13:00.

**8<sup>th</sup> April** – Today there were 8 women at the shelter, and the workshop was run by Benedikte Krogsgaard, Lucy Murtagh, Lan Lieu and Manuela Glasneck. They decided to discuss employment, including holding a mock interview. The women who are currently at St Anne's were not there when this was last done, and so it was a new experience for them all. There were some mixed results with this workshop, as some of the ladies were quite shy and withdrawn, while others embraced it and said that it was fun. Some have never had an interview before, and so found the skills very useful, while those who have had the experience said that it helped them to pinpoint what they must improve. Afterwards, the women decided that they wanted to paint their nails – some pampering is always appreciated!

**15<sup>th</sup> April** – Benedikte Krogsgaard, Lucy Murtagh, Lan Lieu and Olivia Button attended St Anne's, where there were 5 women. We had discussed and prepared a workshop on Protection Orders, which is an umbrella topic for many aspects relating to abuse; because of this, it was advised that the topic span two weeks. On this occasion, it consisted of what constitutes domestic violence (physical, emotional, economic), how to fill out the relevant paperwork, how the application process works, and generally how to ensure that the police will open a file in relation to your report of abuse, as so many crimes are reported and no case number is assigned. The women shared their own personal stories and asked many questions, the answers to which will be researched in time for next week's workshop. They were particularly interested in finding out about what can be done if the police are reluctant to help – there is one woman whose husband is in a gang and involved in drug dealing, and she is concerned because he and the police work together in Belhar. Following this rather sensitive topic, the interns engaged the women in a game of 'Blind Ignorance', wherein one individual is assigned the name of a celebrity and has to ask questions, the answers of which can only be 'yes' or 'no', in order to try to discover who they are. It went down very well; all of the women and had fun.

**22<sup>nd</sup> April** – Lucy Murtagh, Lan Lieu, Olivia Buttand and Laura Rizzi attended St Anne's, where there were 5 women, to continue their workshop on protection orders. Unfortunately, 2 of the women didn't really participate, making it quite a frustrating exercise at times. The other 3, however, engaged and asked questions. In anticipation of upcoming sessions, the women expressed an interest in maintenance issues (although this was done recently) as well as problems related to custody disputes. Following the presentation and discussion on protection orders and what to do when the police do not take your matter seriously, everyone got involved in a painting exercise whereby they painted portraits of one another, and they seemed to enjoy this.

**29<sup>th</sup> April** – Lan Lieu, Olivia Button, Laura Rizzi and Cecilie Lindstrøm attended St Anne's. They had prepared a workshop on custody issues, and there were 6 women in attendance. They had also prepared some debate topics; this was aimed at trying to get the women to open up and engage, as this presented a bit of a struggle during the workshop of the previous week. Finally, in order to keep the conversation going but on a lighter topic, the girls introduced the Treasure Island game, which

was played on another Social Justice project – they just updated the list of items in order to be more suitable and, in some cases, entertaining for the women of St Anne's

Name: [Sisters Incorporated](#)

Description:

[Sisters Incorporated](#) is a private welfare organisation in Kenilworth, founded in 1959. [Sisters Incorporated](#) aim to help every women, teenager and child who comes to us in crisis to heal physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Schedule:

[Sisters Incorporated](#) is visited every Thursday from 10:00 – 12:00.

**10<sup>th</sup> April** – Sisters was cancelled today as they had all been offered an opportunity to work.

**18<sup>th</sup> April** – Benedikte Krosgaard, Lucy Murtagh, Lan Lieu, Olivia Button and Laura Rizzi went to Sisters today, where 6 women attended. Some of the women were quite withdrawn at first, although it is thought that this was because of the sensitive subject re: protection orders and abuse. However, the interns also said that the women, while emotional, were optimistic and very grateful for the workshops, and told them that the representatives from PAHRO are doing a great job. Most did open up eventually, and two in particular were very willing to engage. They also had a brief chat about job interviews, during which all of the women participated, and really enjoyed the same Blind Ignorance game as abovementioned (St Anne's 15<sup>th</sup> April).

**25<sup>th</sup> April** – Lucy Murtagh, Lan Lieu, Olivia Button and Laura Rizzi attended a workshop with 6 women at Sisters. The topic was the continuation of Protection Orders, which the women found interesting and the interns answered their questions from the previous week. They had planned to play an educational game, but they ended up having general discussions, which was great as it gave them all a chance to get to know each other, and this helps the women gain trust in our interns.

## LEGAL SERVICES

- Maria attended to a trial on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013, assisted by Olivia Button. This was a criminal trial where our client was charged with assault. We made an application in terms of S174 of the Criminal Procedure Act – stating that the Prosecution had not put forward a case on which the accused (our client) could be tried.

The matter was postponed for judgment to be heard on the 05<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

- Maria also attended the refugee Reception office with intern Maria Mandara to assist a client whose refugee status was being withdrawn. She represented the client before the RSDO making a case that the RSDO had failed to follow proper procedure as per S27 of the Refugee Act.

The client's refugee permit was renewed.

## Child justice

- Sherwin attended the Wynberg Regional Magistrates' Court on 3 April 2013, accompanied by Cecilie Lindstrom in order for plea of the accused, charged with aggravated house breaking and assault with the intent of causing grievous bodily harm. Upon appearing before the Regional

Magistrate, it was discovered that the guardian and attorney of co-accused number 2 was not present at court. The matter could therefore not proceed and a warrant of arrest was issued for the guardian of accused number 2. The matter was then remanded to 18 April 2013 for the arrest of the guardian.

- Sherwin then returned to Wynberg regional court on 18 April 2013, accompanied by intern Sam Tawa, where all the relevant parties were present at court. The matter was then postponed for plea of the accused to 14 May 2013.
- Sherwin attended the Athlone Magistrates' court on 4 April 2013, accompanied by intern Cecilie Lindstrom, to receive information of the police docket in respect of the police investigations being carried pertaining to our murder case. Upon appearing before the Magistrate, we were informed that the investigations of the police are still incomplete, and that the chain statements of state witnesses and the post mortem report are outstanding. We then objected to a further remand of the case, as on the previous court appearance (ie 5 March 2013), the matter had been postponed for the same reason. The objection was over ruled and the matter was postponed to 29 April 2013 for the further investigation.
- Sherwin attended the Wynberg Magistrates Court on 5 April 2013, accompanied by Benedickte Krogsgaard and Isabelle Strotzel, for the first appearance of an accused charged with 5 counts of Rape. Upon arriving at court, we discovered that the Magistrate was ill, and therefore not present. The attorney who was initially on record for the accused was also not present. We therefore, could not make the changes to place ourselves on record. The matter was then remanded to 19 April 2013 for Legal Aid and Magistrate. We then held a consultation with the accused at Bonnytoun on 11 April 2013 and obtained his version of events in respect of what happened on the day in question. The accused instructed us that he would plead guilty. Instead of representing him, we would opt to assist Legal Aid by drafting legal opinions and defenses.
- Sherwin attended Athlone Magistrates' court on 8 April 2013, accompanied by interns Olivia Button and Dean Forrester, to represent a client in bail application on a charge of armed robbery. Bail was subsequently granted without any amount being set, allowing our client to be released in the care of his guardian, free of charge. The police docket was not at court, and the matter was consequently remanded for this purpose to 17 April 2013.
- Sherwin attended Athlone court on 17 April 2013, accompanied by intern Chine Freger, to represent the accused mentioned above. Upon appearing in court, the accused did not show at court, and a warrant of arrest was issued for him. We then withdrew as his attorney of record and will not be representing him any further.

The PAHRO Wall of Fame is currently up and running and we have added the following interns and staff members onto the wall for the excellent work that they have done: Theodore Kamwimbi (Previous Program Manager), David Reuther, Sanjay Hora (Previous Legal Services Coordinator and Intern), Ciara O'Loughlin, Savita (Kitty) Kukreja, Lyndon Metembo (Previous Social Justice Coordinator), Andrea Ludwick, Pippa Mulvey, Gary Taylor and Loredana Carta.

We have 472 open cases. Due to low Intern numbers we are not opening new cases.