

# DISCOVER RWANDA

Seminar for Professionals  
4th-12th July 2009



*Thank you for your interest in Discover Rwanda 2009, professional seminar. Within this document you will find more information about the trip, a genocide survivor's testimony, information about Rwanda and Aegis as well as contact details. We sincerely hope that you will be joining us this summer!*

*A draft itinerary for the seminar in Rwanda is included in this document (subject to some changes) which details broadly the activities you will be participating in. After booking you will be sent more information regarding health advice – including what vaccinations you will need to have, information about Rwandan culture, food, drink, respect, information about what you need to bring and about safety.*

*In addition to this, once you have booked your place, a pack of informative materials including Aegis Newsletters, books and DVD's about Rwanda and the genocide will be sent to you nearer the time of the trip. A pre-trip orientation day is organised to take place at the Holocaust Centre (where Aegis is based in the UK) before the trip to Rwanda. In the mean time, please take time to read this information.*

*Thank you.*

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# DISCOVER RWANDA 2009

## DISCOVER RWANDA PROFESSIONALS SEMINAR 2009

This summer you will be taking part in what we hope will be a life-changing journey for you as you visit and experience Rwanda, the “Land of a Thousand Hills”.

- **Testimony:** Share with and hear the testimony of Rwandan genocide survivors who continue to struggle on, 15 years after the genocide.
- **Education:** Work with Aegis Trusts’ Genocide Education Team at Kigali Memorial Centre
- **Meet and engage with teachers, educators and students** at different institutions in Rwanda
- **Workshops:** Attend specially organised seminars and workshops related to genocide education, reconciliation and the future for Rwanda.
- **Memorials and Commemoration:** Visit genocide sites and memorials – hear the testimony of survivors and commemorate.
- **Build Global links:** Build links between your institution and those in Rwanda as well as a long term relationship with Aegis.
- **Explore:** Visit different parts of Rwanda and experience the beauty of the country

## PAST PARTICIPANTS SAID:

*“Visiting Rwanda was an extraordinary experience for me... ..Aegis has tailored this field seminar to give teachers a deeper insight into the impact of Rwanda's 1994 genocide.”*

*"For the people of Rwanda, the challenges – not least the educational challenges – remain immense. And for us back in the UK, it raises fundamental questions about what responsibilities we have as citizens in a global power."*

**Stephen Twigg, Former Minister for Schools**

*“I visited the Holocaust centre in Nottingham when I was a student at Leeds University. It gave me a sense of sadness. It was a horrific event, but genocide still happens today... ..It will be heart-wrenching, but I think it will help me to bring the lessons into the classroom,”*

**Amanda, Teacher and participant in Teachers Seminar 2006**

[More...](#)

## MEMORIALS

The **Kigali Memorial Centre** was opened on the 10th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, in April 2004. The Centre came about after the Government of Rwanda and survivors of the Rwandan genocide invited the Aegis Trust to work with them to build, not only a place for survivors to remember their loved ones with dignity, but also a place of learning and education for Rwanda and the world. Aegis continues to manage the centre in partnership with the Kigali City Council.

The Kigali Memorial Centre comprises a main historical exhibition about the Rwandan genocide, a Children’s Memorial exhibition and an exhibition on comparative genocide, called Wasted Lives. From the Kigali Memorial Centre, Aegis operates the National Genocide Documentation Centre, the National Genocide Education Programme, a Social Programme to support Survivors and Aegis Students Rwanda. The site has over ten acres of memorial gardens containing fourteen mass graves where around 250,000 victims of the genocide are laid to rest. The memorial centre is also a clear reminder of the cost of ignorance and inaction.



## **SURVIVORS**

### **After the killing stops, the consequences of genocide continue...**

Many survivors widowed or orphaned by the genocide have remained disadvantaged ever since. Many young survivors find themselves heads of households – responsible for sustaining their younger siblings but without the means of paying school fees or buying school materials. Many women widowed during the genocide are unable to make ends meet to pay for basic household expenses, such as water or electricity. Families are forced to live on the street, their livelihoods destroyed.

As part of the professionals' seminar, you will have the opportunity to meet with survivors (many widows and orphans) who are supported by Aegis' Fund4Rwanda, hear their testimony and see how they still have to deal with the consequences of the genocide fifteen years on. Fund4Rwanda is an initiative created by Aegis to help alleviate some of the suffering of survivors of the Rwandan genocide, still affected by its consequences 15 years after the genocide.

## **EDUCATION**

Aegis has been working with the Rwandan Government to develop and deliver the national genocide education programme in Rwanda which launched in June 2008. The programme will not only teach the youth of Rwanda, but will also reach out to the region and around the world. During the Discover Rwanda seminar you will participate in seminars and workshops about genocide education in Rwanda, meet with students and teachers from educational institutions in Rwanda and work together, sharing ideas and experiences. We hope you will have the opportunity to witness the education programme in action with a group of students visiting Kigali Memorial Centre.

You will also take part in informative workshops and discussions about delivering effective, relevant genocide education in your institution when you return home and advocacy against genocide.

## **GLOBAL LINKS AND FRIENDS**

During Discover Rwanda you will have the chance to build long lasting meaningful relationships with people in Rwanda. You will spend time with genocide survivors - those who have benefitted from Aegis' Social Programme, students who are part of Aegis Students Rwanda, teachers and academics. You will also have the opportunity to build institutional links.

## **CULTURE**

Music, dance, dress and food are some of the many parts of Rwandan culture. During the seminar we will be exposing you to as much of Rwandan culture as possible.

Celebratory dances, backed by drum orchestra produce an exciting explosion of intertwining African rhythms. From epics commemorating the genocide, excellence and bravery, humorous lyrics, hunting rituals and theatre communicating messages of hope for the future – Rwanda's theatre, music and dance showcase the multitude of layers of Rwandan society, history and culture.

We hope to provide an opportunity for you to attend an educational performance and workshop from Mashirika whilst in Rwanda. Mashirika is recognised as Rwanda's foremost youth performing arts company. Following their recent educational tour of the UK organised by Aegis, Mashirika have returned to Rwanda with their performance of 'Africa's Hope' which tells a story of hope for the future of Africa, whilst confronting the memories and the reasons behind the Rwandan genocide. Mashirika continues to evolve artistically and remains at the forefront of exciting African theatre. At the same time, it maintains its distinctive style and commitment to bringing accessible real-life theatre to an international audience.

## **ABOUT RWANDA**

**Often referred to as 'Pays des Mille Collines', literally, Country of a Thousand Hills,** Rwanda is a far a cry from the common conception of the arid deserts of Africa. A small country compared with neighbouring Tanzania and Uganda, Rwanda nevertheless boasts a beautiful and varied landscape.



Green trees, rolling hills and rugged mountains stretch as far as the eye can see. Lakes and rivers provide welcome relief from the heat, and lend a luscious aspect to the land, inevitably causing the growth of a variety of shrubbery, trees and wild flowers covering the shores for miles around.

A landlocked country located in Central Africa, on the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), Rwanda is also bordered by Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi.

Rwanda's capital is Kigali, which is located in the geographical centre of the country. It is a rapidly growing city and boasts significant development over recent years.

Rwanda's high altitude ensures that, although the scorching heat one would expect from a country situated just south of the Equator is present in some areas, the weather is more clement than visitors generally anticipate. The luscious landscape is fed by two rainy seasons, the first beginning sometime in late February and extending until April, and the second spanning early October up to December. The mountainous areas are generally mild and are occasionally susceptible to frost and snow.

Rwanda's plains and lower slopes mainly consist of agricultural land, with coffee, tea and bananas forming a large proportion of the nation's permanent crop harvest. In the northern higher slopes, there are active volcanoes which are today visited by tourists on a regular basis. Rwanda is also home to a large number of mountain gorillas, and is well known for Dian Fossey's remarkable work with these primates. Group visits to view the gorillas in their natural habitat can be organised in the capital.

The country's road system has been greatly improved and extended, travel between major cities and neighbouring countries is far safer and easier. Over the next few years, several international projects are planned to improve the country's transport system, including proposals for a new international airport, train line and roads.

More information [here](#):

## **AEGIS TRUST & KIGALI MEMORIAL CENTRE**

**In April 2004, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide which tore Rwanda apart in 1994, the Kigali Memorial Centre was opened.** Following a visit by members of the Rwandan Government to the UK's Holocaust Memorial Centre and Aegis Trust, founded and run by Dr's James and Stephen Smith, Aegis was invited to build the Kigali Memorial Centre in partnership with the Kigali City Council.



The Memorial Centre is a place where the bereaved can bury their families and friends – the human remains of over 250,000 victims of the genocide are buried at the site – a clear reminder of the cost of failure to protect people at risk of genocide. Burials continue to take place throughout the year and in April 2008, on the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide, the remains of more than 250 victims were laid to rest.

The Kigali Memorial Centre is an international centre, dealing with a topic of international importance, with far-reaching significance. The centre is designed to engage and challenge the hearts and minds of its visitors.

The centre exists as a permanent memorial to those who fell victim to the genocide, as a place for Rwandans to grieve for those who were lost and as a warning from history for the region and the world. It hosts three permanent exhibitions, the largest of which documents the genocide in 1994. There is also a children's memorial and an exhibition on the history of genocidal violence around the world. The Education Centre, Memorial Gardens and Documentation Centre of the genocide all contribute to a meaningful tribute to those who perished and for a powerful educational tool for the

in 2000; the Kigali City Council had begun to construct the shell of a building, which was eventually to become the Memorial Centre. Aegis was invited to turn the aspiration for a centre into a reality.

The Aegis Trust then began to collect data from across the world to create the three graphical exhibits. The text for all three exhibitions was printed in three languages, designed in the UK at the Aegis head office by their design team, and shipped to Rwanda to be installed.

The Kigali Memorial Centre is an international centre. It deals with a topic of international importance, with far-reaching significance, and is designed to engage and challenge an international visitor base.

The response from genocide survivors to the creation of the Centre was unpredicted. In the first week, over 1,500 survivors visited each day. In the first three months of the Centre's opening, around 60,000 people from a variety of backgrounds visited it. Over 7,000 of these visitors were from the International Community.

More information [here](#):



## **A GENOCIDE SURVIVORS TESTIMONY**

### **ANNE-MARIE BUCYANA**

**Born in 1967, I grew up in a loving home with my parents, two brothers and five sisters. In 1990, I married. My husband, Jean-Marie, and I had our first child in Kicukiro - a boy named Patrick. After his birth, the authorities started persecuting the Tutsis.**

They arrested my husband, accusing him of being an RPF accomplice. He was jailed for two weeks, and, after his release, fled to Kibuye. I and my son followed after the *Interahamwe* came looking for him. In 1993, I gave birth to my second child, a boy we

named Iradukunda, meaning 'God loves us'. This was where we were in April 1994 when Habyarimana's plane was shot down.

When the killings began, they came and took my husband away. Shortly after, I could hear those who took him away singing that they had killed a cockroach, and I knew he was dead. One soldier came up to the house. I was sitting with my baby boy on my lap. He grabbed the child and threw him against the wall. He died from the impact. I ran to pick up my baby's body, but the soldier threatened me and told me to lie down. And there he raped me. I don't really have the words to explain all that he did to me. At some point he heard a commotion, and ran off.

When he heard that I was still alive, Zacharya, a colleague of my husband's, came on a motorbike to take me away. I did not know that he had been involved in my husband's murder, and thought that I would be safe with him. I took my son with me. Zacharya had taken many houses from Tutsis, and he took us to one of them in Safi Cyumbati, putting us in a room with *Interahamwe*. I remained at this house for six days, and was raped every night. At any time one of the *Interahamwe* wanted me, he took me - even in front of my son, who was with me.

At dusk on the sixth day, I was raped by two gangs of *Interahamwe*. A third gang gave me a hoe and ordered me to dig my grave; they couldn't be bothered to do it themselves. I was naked; they had already taken my sarong. I started pleading with them to shoot me, and not to kill me with a spiked club. They asked me if I knew the price of a bullet. While they were deliberating, another gang of *Interahamwe* came. Because I was claiming to be a Hutu, their leader ordered the group to take me back to the house, and check my tribe in the morning. As they were taking me back to the house, someone went and told an old lady whom I had helped in the past. Later that night, she stole me away to her house and hid me and my son. We started hearing rumours that the RPF were advancing and killing. Everyone started fleeing. I asked myself, "Why leave?" But I had no reason to stay; so I decided to leave with them. But once we reached the Rusizi River, where we would cross into Zaire, I felt that they all had something in common, and I was on my own. I decided to stay in Rwanda.

When I learned I was infected with HIV/AIDS, I was shocked, confused, in denial. I felt worthless; I felt I was finished. That's when I started to feel the trauma. I looked for something with which to commit suicide, but I couldn't find anything. Ever since I found out I was ill I have never received any medication for my illness, not once. I only half survived. I am still carrying death in me; not only the death that AIDS will bring. Others say they escaped from the sword, but the sword is still in my heart. Even in death, I do not believe I will find rest. Only my son gives me the strength to live. It is a miracle that I am still alive after ten years. If I can survive another two years, he will be a little older, and maybe he will have a chance in life; maybe he will not become a street child.

Read more in Aegis Trust's book; ***We Survived***

## **PROVISIONAL ITINERARY**

### **Day 1 – Arrival and Orientation (5<sup>th</sup> July)**

**Arrive in Rwanda** – travel to hotel and rest for the remainder of the day

- Introduction and orientation
- Tour of Kigali (*if there is time*)

### **Day 2 – The Impact of Genocide (6<sup>th</sup> July)**

**Visit Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre and Genocide Orphans in Kimironko**

- Maybe tour Kigali if can't on Day 1
- Meet At Kigali Memorial Centre
- Welcome and introduction to the trip from Aegis and KMC
- Visit the memorial gardens with guide
- Visit exhibitions with guide and spend time reflecting
- Visit Genocide Orphans in Kimironko

### **Day 3 – Genocide Sites and Memorials (7<sup>th</sup> July)**

**Memorials and genocide sites - Nyanza, Nyamata and Ntrama**

- Visit each site with guide
- Survivor testimony
- Visit to school and university which Aegis has been working with in Rwanda in preparation for following day

### **Day 4 – Education (8<sup>th</sup> July)**

**Workshops and presentations at Kigali Memorial Centre**

- Presentation from Aegis' Education Programme Team in Rwanda about the Genocide Education Programme
- Educating the youth of Rwanda about genocide
- Presentation about justice after genocide
- Questions and answers followed by discussion on delivering the programme

### **Day 5 – National University of Rwanda and Murambi Memorial(9<sup>th</sup> July)**

**Site visit to Murambi Memorial**

- Testimony from Genocide Survivor
- Visit the genocide memorial site at Murambi
- Travel to Butare town
- Visit the National University of Rwanda, meet with survivors group, university staff and Aegis Students Members for a discussion and workshop on education.

### **Day 6 – Justice, responsibility and the future (10<sup>th</sup> July)**

**Meet at Kigali Memorial Centre**

- Debrief on memorials visited -
- Justice after genocide
- Delivering an effective education programme in your institution
- Empowering young leaders
- Building links between your institution and those in Rwanda
- Supporting Aegis after going home

### **Day 7 – Break from scheduled Activities (11<sup>th</sup> July)**

**Free day**

- Arranged visit to craft market and shops to buy souvenirs, gifts etc
- Gorillas, Volcanoes etc for those who have arranged to go (suggest minimum of two in a group for such activities)

### **Day 8 – Debrief and Travel (12<sup>th</sup> July)**

- Packing
- Trip debrief



## **USEFUL WEBSITES AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Trip Organiser**

Kigali Memorial Centre, Gisozi, Kigali, Rwanda  
 Sam Boarer  
 Tel: (250) 0341 5203  
 Email: [sam.boarer@aegisstudents.org](mailto:sam.boarer@aegisstudents.org)

### **Aegis Trust UK**

the Holocaust Centre, Laxton, Newark, Notts, NG22 0PA.  
 Tel: 01623 826627  
 Website: [www.aegistrust.org](http://www.aegistrust.org)  
 Email: [office@aegistrust.org](mailto:office@aegistrust.org)

### **Aegis Students UK**

Audrey Mogan  
 The Holocaust Centre, Laxton, Newark, Notts, NG22 0PA.  
 Tel: 01623 836627  
 Tel: 07918637218  
 Website: [www.aegisstudents.org](http://www.aegisstudents.org)  
 Email: [audrey.mogan@aegisstudents.org](mailto:audrey.mogan@aegisstudents.org)

### **Aegis Trust Rwanda**

Kigali Memorial Centre, Gisozi, Kigali, Rwanda  
 Tel: 08307666  
 Web: [www.kigalimemorialcentre.org](http://www.kigalimemorialcentre.org)  
 Web: [www.aegistrust.org](http://www.aegistrust.org)

### **Aegis Students Rwanda**

Kigali Memorial Centre, Gisozi, Kigali, Rwanda  
 Tel: (+250) 08573070 (Emmanuel Nshimiyimana, National Coordinator – Aegis Students Rwanda)  
 Tel: (+250) 0341 5203 (Sam Boarer)  
 Web: [www.aegisstudents.org](http://www.aegisstudents.org)

### **Office Rwandaise du Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux (ORTPN)**

Street Address: Boulevard de la Révolution no 1, Kigali, Rwanda  
 Postal Address: BP 905, Kigali, Rwanda  
 Tel: (250) 576 514 or (250) 573 396  
 Website: [www.rwandatourism.com](http://www.rwandatourism.com)

### **Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Canada**

53 Gilmour Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0N8, Canada  
 Tel: (613) 569-5420  
 Website: [www.ambarwaottawa.ca](http://www.ambarwaottawa.ca)

### **Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in the UK**

120-22 Seymour Place, London W1H 1NR, UK  
 Tel: (020) 7224 9832  
 Website: [www.ambarwanda.org.uk](http://www.ambarwanda.org.uk)

### **Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in the USA**

1714 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009, USA  
 Tel: (202) 232 2882  
 Website: [www.rwandaembassy.org](http://www.rwandaembassy.org)

## **OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES**

### **Rwanda Section of Aegis Trust Web Site**

<http://www.aegistrust.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=37&Itemid=68>

### **BBC Rwanda Genocide Overview**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/1288230.stm>

### **Wikipedia:**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwanda>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwanda\\_genocide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwanda_genocide)

### **Rwanda Tourist and Information Web Sites**

[www.rwandatourism.com](http://www.rwandatourism.com)

[www.rwandagateway.org](http://www.rwandagateway.org)

### **Rwandan Government Site**

<http://www.gov.rw/>

<http://www.gov.rw/government/tourismp.html>

### **Rwanda Embassy Tourist Information**

[http://rwanda.embassyhomepage.com/rwanda\\_tourist\\_information\\_kigali\\_tourist\\_attractions\\_gisenyi\\_flights\\_rwanda\\_holiday\\_resorts\\_gitarama\\_rwandan\\_hotels.htm](http://rwanda.embassyhomepage.com/rwanda_tourist_information_kigali_tourist_attractions_gisenyi_flights_rwanda_holiday_resorts_gitarama_rwandan_hotels.htm)

### **British Embassy in Kigali**

<http://www.britishembassykigali.org.rw>

### **UK Foreign Office Travel Advice for Rwanda**

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/sub-saharan-africa/rwanda/>

### **National Geographic Rwanda Site**

[http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/places/countries/country\\_rwanda.html](http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/places/countries/country_rwanda.html)

### **Rwanda Expert & Investigative Journalist Linda Melvern's Web Site**

[www.lindamelvern.com](http://www.lindamelvern.com)

### **Rwanda Film Sites**

#### **Shake Hands with the Devil**

<http://www.whitepinepictures.com/dallairesite/index.htm>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0424435/>

#### **Shooting Dogs**

<http://www.shootingdogsfilm.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0420901/>

#### **Hotel Rwanda**

<http://www.unitedartists.com/hotelrwanda/intro.html>

[www.imdb.com/title/tt0395169/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0395169/)

#### **Sometimes in April**

<http://www.hbo.com/films/sometimesinapril/>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0400063/>

#### **God Sleeps in Rwanda**

[www.godsleepsinrwanda.com](http://www.godsleepsinrwanda.com)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0480247/>

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