

AFRICA UNITE INTERNSHIP



February- May 2017 - Kaitlyn
Posselwhite

ABOUT ME



uOttawa

University of Cape Town

SPES BONA

YUM!

Tea

FOOD

Eat

cafe

kitchen

Cucina

WHY AFRICA UNITE?!

- Master's programme internship component
- Needed a change from usual coursework/academia
- Highly recommended by program convener and former interns
- To gain more NGO experience, specifically in the area of human rights
- To become more engaged with communities in and around Cape Town
- To help inform thesis topic

Work, work, work... What I did:

Events and Programmes

- School Clubs
- “These hands don’t hurt”
- “Piece by Piece: A sustainable peace dialogue” with IPYG
- Funding proposal
- Nyanga Dialogue
- My Child is your Child
- IJR talks- “Seeing the ‘Other’ & being the ‘Other’-ARNSA
- Parliament consultative meeting for Africa Day
- SASA human rights training
- “What does 23 years of freedom mean to you?”
- TCOE Winelands Youth Training Camp
- “Coming to grips with the employment crisis”- Brian from the alternative information and development center-

Specific duties/tasks

- Concept notes/ posters
- Chaired meetings/minutes/facilitate discussions
- Took pictures at events
- Peer educator interviews
- Designed/made t-shirts
- Lobbying- Rotary clubs
- Event planning and organization
- Following up with partners/stakeholders/communities/etc.
- Writing thank you letters to participating stakeholders
- Making requisitions/invoices
- Translation- migrant board

If you don't take a picture, did it even happen?



Lessons Learned / What I Gained

- Work smart, not hard! Thanks Zoe
- Gained team working skills
- Gained appreciation for NGO working environment (horizontal vs. hierarchical)
- Gained skills in event planning and coordination
- Learned to be productive, proactive and to take initiative in a laid back work space
- Need to be passionate and very patient for this type of work
- Realities of Cape Town- socioeconomic and spatial legacies of apartheid
- Current state of racism and identity discrimination in SA, as well as the reality and severity of unemployment
- Importance of collaboration for community outreach and benefits of working with a diverse team

Challenges

- Trying to pronounce words/names with clicks
- Forcing my inner control freak to go with the flow and not stress about things that are out of my control
- Being patient- work in progress
- Remembering to speak slowly
- Not eating at bread, milk and honey every single day- sorry bank account
- Language barriers
- Working 2 days a week vs. 5
- Privilege

Recommendations

- Team-building activities- never happened 😞😞
(please invite me when it does)
- “Where’s the office phone?!”- keep it in one place
- Online office calendar
- Try and ensure that Monday meetings (or weekly meeting) consistently take place

THANK YOU AU 😊😊😊😊

- Thank you to all staff, interns and volunteers- your resilience and passion demands admiration and it was a privilege to work with

