

**AFRICAN GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE**

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

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**APPLICATION FOR 2007 WORKCAMPs IN BURUNDI,  
KENYA, RWANDA; and UGANDA – Saturday, June 23 to Friday, July 28, 2007**

Thank you for your interest in taking part in peace team opportunities in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Below is an application form including a set of questions. We recommend the following course of action as you consider applying to be a member of one of the teams.

1. Listen well to the Spirit within to discern how you are led.
2. If you are a Friend, or are associated with a Friends Meeting or Church, ask for a Clearness Committee to sit with you as you test your leading. If you are not associated with a Friends Church or Meeting, please seek out 3 to 6 people with whom you can discuss your leading to apply for this project and ask them to help you gain clarity. (This group is referred to in the application as your Clearness Committee.) You may wish to use the questions below in this application as a basis for exploration in meeting(s) with your Clearness Committee. If you are approved as a team member it is expected that you will form a Support Committee which could be the same group or could be different people. (See more information below).
3. As you answer the questions on the Application be clear and true to yourself.

Applications will be accepted on a first come/first served basis until the workcamp teams are filled. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email Dawn Rubbert, AGLI Program Manager, via [Dawn@aglionline.org](mailto:Dawn@aglionline.org). We will inform you regarding acceptance for a specific workcamp within one month of receiving both your application and the report from your clearness committee.

We hope that after you have sought guidance from the Spirit you will feel led to apply. Whether or not you do, we thank you for your inquiry and for any thought and care you devote to the people of the Great Lakes region as they work to reweave the fabric of their societies.

**THE APPLICATION FORM**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This application, including answers to the questions, should be filled out and ***emailed*** to [Dawn@aglionline.org](mailto:Dawn@aglionline.org). Please help us to read your application more easily by using color or all caps, or a different font so that your responses stand out from the application itself.

Which workcamp are you applying for?

Any \_\_\_\_\_ Burundi \_\_\_\_\_ Kenya \_\_\_\_\_ Rwanda \_\_\_\_\_ Uganda \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name:

Your official name as found on your passport:

Date of birth:

Mailing Address: if you are a student please give current and permanent addresses:

Phone(s) – if you are a student give all possible contact numbers:

Email address:

Citizenship status of passport:

List places you have lived for a period of 1 year or more, plus any experiences outside your home country.

Current employment:

Volunteer commitments:

If you are a member or attender of a Friends Church or Meeting, give its name and location:

If you are actively involved in a faith tradition other than that of the Society of Friends, please give your affiliation and briefly describe your involvement in this tradition.

List languages that you speak and your level of fluency (e.g., minimal, fair, very fluent)

What is the name and email address of the clerk (chair) of your clearness committee:

## SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What experiences or skills do you have that prepare you to work cooperatively with AGLI projects in the Great Lakes Region of Africa?
  
2. Discuss your ability to work with a team, and to make decisions with a team, using consensus or 'sense of Meeting' (Friends decision making processes). How do you give and receive criticism?
  
3. Discuss your ability to work cooperatively under the care of local Friends Yearly Meetings, whose values and style of worship may be significantly different from the values and worship style to which you are accustomed.
  
4. Why do you want to do this work?
  
5. How has your interest in Africa developed? Do you have much knowledge of the country and situation where you are applying?
  
6. Tell us about a time when you discovered that you yourself had a bias or discrimination against a person or group of people. How did you make the discovery? What did you do about it?
  
7. Circumstances in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda, and the weight of working with those who have undergone traumatic experiences, may prove to be stressful. Tell us about a previous stressful situation you have experienced and discuss your ability to work in stressful situations. Describe what you might do to alleviate your stress, and to nurture yourself.

### SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS continued

8. Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda are very poor countries. Daily wages are often less than the equivalent of \$1 per day. How do you believe that you will adjust to these circumstances? Tell us your reflections on how you have responded to similar circumstances you have already experienced.
  
9. Team Members are expected to raise funds to support their work. The amount will vary based on the length of time each team member will stay in Africa, amount of travel involved, etc. We will contract individually with each team member regarding the total required. As a baseline \$1600 must be raised for airfare from the US to Africa and return. Tell us your plans for fundraising; who will help?
  
10. We expect you to meet with a Clearness Committee. The clerk (chair) must email a report of the sense of the committee to Dawn@aglionline.org. We recommend that you first answer the questions below and share them with the committee. You may wish to revise your answers following the clearness process. This Clearness Committee may become your Support Committee. See more details below.
  
11. A critical part of developing the African Great Lakes Initiative has been developing continuing relationships between people living in the Great Lakes region and people outside the region. What continuing role might you envision for yourself, and for your Meeting or other faith community, with Great Lakes Friends following your experience as an AGLI team member?
  
12. Your return home can be one of the most creative parts of your experience if you use it to synthesize what you have observed while in Africa. It can also be a very trying time as people may not seem to understand your experiences. How do you expect to cope with your re-entry into your home country?

13. Peace Team Members are expected to abide by behavioral guidelines as delineated below. These guidelines apply during the entire time you are an AGLI Service Team Member.

- 1 No use of tobacco products, including smoking (it is now illegal to smoke in Kenya and Uganda except in the privacy of one's own home); no alcohol; no sex outside marriage (heterosexual or homosexual); and, no illegal drug use.
- 2 There are many ways of behaving that can be rude or insensitive to Africans. At all times clean clothing, without tears and/or holes, must be worn. Good attire is expected at official functions such as attending church -- women should wear skirts or dresses and men a nice shirt and long pants.
- 3 Do not go barefoot outside the place where you are sleeping.
- 4 Be extremely careful with all the gadgets with which internationals are so well endowed — camcorders, CD players, laptops, cameras, video games, etc. This includes the taking of pictures and videos.
- 5 Do not take expensive things, including jewelry, when modestly priced ones will do. Be keenly aware that funds are very scarce for Africans--what you might consider a modest expense (dinner for \$3) might be better used by Africans for family welfare.
- 6 Individuals will frequently ask you for assistance. Under no circumstances give funds to individuals, no matter how much you want to help. In addition, gifts must not be given to individuals as this will create gossip, envy, and hostility in the community. If you would like to be generous, give funds or gifts to the local organization with which you are volunteering, or which is hosting you. Ask them to use your donation for whatever they consider to be the most pressing need in the community.
- 7 When possible attend social events including church services around your area.
- 8 Wear a seat belt whenever you are in a vehicle that has them. Seat belts are required by law in Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda. Be very cautious about riding a motorcycle.
- 9 It is safer not to give a lift to armed people, except when there is no choice. Do not give beer to or buy beer for soldiers, guards, or any other individuals.

If you want a deeper understanding of the need for any of the above rules please ask. They will be discussed during pre-service training in June. Type your name below indicating that you have read, do accept, and agree to live by these guidelines.

I have read these behavioral guidelines and agree to abide by them while a member of the workcamp peace team.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

## CLEARNESS COMMITTEE

The African Great Lakes Initiative asks that applicants for workcamp peace teams have a clearness committee in conjunction with the application process. This committee should consist of three to six individuals with whom you will be comfortable speaking about sensitive topics. The committee may be appointed by your Friends meeting or church, or, it could be self-constituted. One person should be appointed as clerk (chair) and it is best if that person asks the other people to be part of the committee. AGLI will try to help you find people for your clearness committee if needed. The committee should meet with you one or more times to discern your clearness to go to Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda or Uganda as a member of a workcamp peace team. Topics to be discussed include, but are not limited to, the following.

Are you emotionally, physically, and financially able to go to Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, or Uganda?

Are you spiritually prepared?

Are you willing to adhere to the expected conduct while in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, or Uganda?

Do you think you will be able to thrive in the minimal living conditions in the Great Lakes region of Africa?

While in Africa every word you speak, every action you take, and the clothes that you wear will be observed and commented upon. You will not have the privacy to which you are accustomed, nor the flexibility to “do your own thing” and express your individuality in ways common in America. How do you expect you will react to this?

Africa has a very poor image in America because the international media mostly reports on conflicts, AIDS, famine and death in Africa. Consequently some people, including perhaps your own close relatives, will react very negatively to your intention to join a workcamp in Africa. How will you handle this?

How does your family and those whom you love most dearly feel about your leaving to go to Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda or Uganda? Have you discussed it with them?

Do you understand and accept the risks that are involved in working in a country which has had periods of violent conflict?

As a workcamp peace team member do you think that you will give more than you receive or receive more than you give?

We ask that the clerk of your committee send an email report to [Dawn@aglionline.org](mailto:Dawn@aglionline.org). This can be as brief as saying that the committee met with you and believes that your discernment is free and spirit-led, or, it can be detailed minutes of the meeting(s). If you have further questions, please feel free to contact AGLI.

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## SUPPORT COMMITTEE

If you are selected to be a member of a workcamp peace team in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, or Uganda, AGLI expects you to form a Support Committee before you go. While you will be the person on the "front line" doing the work, your effectiveness will be greatly enhanced by an active, involved committee supporting you and your work back at home. Committee members will become informed of the conditions and progress at your workcamp in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, or Uganda. The duties of the Support Committee include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Help you prepare, in all ways necessary, for your departure to Africa.
- Help you publicize the work and raise funds for AGLI and the workcamp before you leave, while you are there, and after your return.
- Manage any pending issues you have at home while you are away.
- Be the conduit for information that you send back home distributing it to a wider audience of family, friends, the Quaker community, and others, as appropriate. This can be done by many methods including email and may include use of pictures.
- Help you with readjustment back home after you return from the workcamp. This should include meeting with you as often as needed to listen as you assess your time in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, or Uganda and re-acclimate to the home scene.

The clerk of the support committee should have direct contact with the AGLI's Program Manager, Dawn Rubbert, [Dawn@aglionline.org](mailto:Dawn@aglionline.org).