

**Yvonne Mbewe, LCSW**

Email: [yvonne.mbewe@uconn.edu](mailto:yvonne.mbewe@uconn.edu), Phone Number: 917-859-8813

**Education**

- University of Connecticut-School of Social Work **8/22-Present**  
*Doctor of Philosophy*
- New York University-Silver School of Social Work **MSW 2011**  
*Master of Social Work: Clinical Focus*
- Hunter College, City University of New York **BA 2003**  
*Major: Political Science & Thomas Hunter Honors Program*

**Research Interests**

Forced Migration	Unaccompanied Immigrant Youth Trauma
Immigrant/Refugee Focused Interventions	International Social Work
Positive Youth Identity Formation	Women's Empowerment
Social Work Political Advocacy	Intersectionality of Poverty & Race
Leadership Practices in Academic Settings	Grief, Loss, & Bereavement

**Professional Experience**

**PhD Student/Research Assistant, University of Connecticut** **08/22-Present**

- Provide administrative support to National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs
- Research government and state refugee resettlement programs and policies
- Participate in research exploring community mobilization to support refugee resettlement in the United States
- Transcribe, code, and analyze data for theme development using Nvivo software

**Field Advisor/Adjunct Lecturer, Columbia University School of Social Work** **01/21-Present**

- Facilitate seminars on professionalism, self-care, privilege, power, race, & oppression
- Meet individually with 20 students per semester assessing progress in field
- Serve as CSSW representative to field placement agencies

**Social Work Director, Partnership with Children, NY** **10/19-07/22**

- Offered crisis intervention for elementary and junior high school students
- Administered individual counseling and subsequent parent engagement
- Developed curriculum and implemented student support groups
- Provided monthly professional development trainings on trauma informed practices
- Co-Led the Advisory program designed to develop mastery and leadership
- Engaged in classroom interventions to support emotionally dysregulated children
- Supervised the social work department and managed subsequent administrative duties

**Youth Development Specialist, Peace Corps, Morocco** **09/18-09/19**

- Collaborated with indigenous local farmers on food sustainability through workshops
- Supported the implementation of an indigenous women's cooperative
- Promoted literacy through teaching English to adolescents within the local youth center
- Provided health workshops on dental hygiene and hand washing in village associations
- Chaired the Special Needs Committee to increase support for individuals with disabilities

**Social Work Director, *Partnership with Children, NY***

**02/17-09/18**

- Led the Wellness Committee consisting of interdisciplinary professionals to address the emotional/mental/physical well-being of high school students
- Facilitated a weekly LGBTQ and Girls Support Group with curriculum regarding self-esteem, healthy relationships, and appropriate coping skills
- Communicated with stakeholders through home visits, weekly phone calls, and bi-annual community forums to assess the needs of New Explorers High School
- Delivered individual counseling and case management services
- Supported the Administrators and Guidance Officers with all mental health crises

**Supervising Family Social Worker, *African Services Committee, NY***

**04/15-02/17**

- Managed a departmental case load of approximately 120 clients and their families
- Supervised four case managers and two interns in the area of staff development
- Provided individual and group counseling sessions to families impacted by HIV/AIDS
- Presented at conferences on cultural competency, PTSD, and HIV Awareness
- Created monthly reports to funders reflecting services delivered and expenses utilized

**International Program Leader, *Thinking Beyond Borders, Global Program***

**08/14-03/15**

- Led eighteen students through a 30-week traveling gap year studying international development, sustainable agriculture in Thailand, public health/HIV in South Africa, environmental responsibility in Ecuador, and educational access & reform in India
- Instructed seminars compiled of readings and immersive activities in host country
- Participated in work site projects in conjunction with local partner organizations
- Facilitated reflection on social change and leadership group sessions
- Analyzed logistics and budget for all service-learning activities, travel, and home stays

**Supervising Family Social Worker, *African Services Committee, NY***

**06/11-08/14**

- Performed intakes for individuals who are HIV+ or living with AIDS
- Created assessment tools for the department to identify client needs
- Implemented group and individual supportive counseling sessions
- Supervised three senior case managers and social work interns/volunteers
- Coordinated with community resources including but not limited to health, educational, immigration, childcare, employment, financial, and legal services
- Advocated for family needs in family and immigration court proceedings
- Managed the employment preparation program that supported adapting to expectations of work life in America; supported the development of resumes and cover letters

**Supportive Supervisor, *Girls Educational and Mentoring Services, NY***

**05/08-09/09**

- Provided counseling and crisis intervention to girls commercially sexually exploited
- Supplied vocational, medical, and educational referrals
- Facilitated group exercises on processing trauma and fostering independent living
- Appeared as an advocate providing testimony in New York's court systems
- Participated in street outreach to areas where girls are forced into the sex industry

**Intake Coordinator, *Esperanza: Community Options for Youth, NY*** **10/06-05/08**

- Executed intake interviews of court-involved youth at detention centers or homes
- Created therapeutic assessments for family court testimony
- Organized the transition to the community and the commencement of counseling services
- Collaborated with attorneys, judges, and social service agencies to implement services

**APT Research Aide, *Vera Institute of Justice, NY*** **05/03-04/04**

- Conducted interviews of detained youth seeking drug rehabilitation
- Updated and analyzed data to track the progress to reduce teenage substance use

**Supervisor, *The Bell Foundation, NY*** **06/00-04/03**

- Worked with 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders on self-esteem, conflict mediations, and academics
- Supervised and managed international volunteers

**Instructor, *Elmendorf Opportunity Center, NY*** **01/99-05/00**

- Mentored 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade scholars in a literacy enhancement program
- Choreographed the theatrical production of the summer recital

### **Social Work Intern Experience**

**Intern, *Pediatrics/Pediatric ICU, Harlem Hospital Center, NY*** **09/10-05/11**

- Delivered short term supportive counseling to patients and their families
- Provided clinical assessments to facilitate discharge planning
- Co-trained staff on Mandated Child Abuse, Maltreatment, and Neglect reporting
- Referred families to necessary outpatient/community based services
- Rotated periodically to OB/GYN, Burn ICU, and Palliative Care Services

**Intern, *Supportive Housing, Harlem United-AIDS Community Center, NY*** **09/09-04/10**

- Assisted clients with creating health related goal planning and treatment plans
- Provided counseling & psychoeducation on medications and implications of addiction
- Held weekly group counseling sessions on death & bereavement
- Achieved weekly therapeutic home visits to assess living conditions
- Escorted clients to court appearances and social services to retrieve entitlements/benefits

### **International Field Learning Experience**

**Volunteer, *Project Esperanza, Puerto Plata, DR*** **12/12-01/13**

- Taught English and reading skills to Haitian refugees living in Dominican Republic
- Conducted group/ individual counseling sessions to girls impacted by sexual trauma
- Implemented dance and singing competitions to increase self-esteem and learn English
- Dug wells and planted vegetables to offer sustainable living options for Haitian families

**NYU Scholar, *Voluntary Help Organization, Cape Coast, Ghana*** **01/11-01/11**

- Delivered community outreach and disseminated information on HIV/AIDS prevention
- Educated students ages 11-22 on HIV/AIDS education, hygiene, and self-esteem
- Received training on how to test for HIV/AIDS and pre & post-test counseling services

NYU Scholar, Chikumbuso Orphanage & School, Lusaka, Zambia

05/10-07/10

- Led group sessions with adolescents and adults on sexual exploitation, rape, and trauma
- Held play therapy sessions with children living with disabilities
- Supervised and evaluated staff performance and wrote follow up reviews
- Made referrals to medical, educational, and mental health services

### **Research and Conference Presentations**

- **Presentation:** *Intimate Partner Violence & HIV/AIDS*, University of Minnesota, **06/14**
- **Presentation:** *African Women & HIV/AIDS*, Bronx Community College **03/14**
- **Presentation:** *HIV/AIDS in Ghana, Global Social Work Conference, NYU* **05/12**
- **Poster:** *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Hebrew University, Israel* **01/12**
- **Paper/Presentation:** *The Politics of Reparations: A Case Study of Black Activism, 1860s-Present*, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Hunter College, CUNY **04/03**
- **Paper/Presentation:** *Female Leadership with the Black Panther Party: A Case Study of Elaine Brown*, UCLA, Center for Africa American Studies Research Fellowship **08/02**
- **Paper/Presentation:** *The Plight of Zambian Women and UN Charter, CEDAW*, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Hunter College, CUNY **04/02**

### **Affiliations and Honors**

Golden Key International Honor Society  
Public Service Scholar Fellowship  
David Haight Political Science Fellowship  
Phi Beta Kappa/Dean's List,  
Phi Alpha Honor Society-NYU Pi Pi  
National Association of Social Workers  
Black Social Work Alliance of Hartford  
University of Connecticut Harriott Fellowship

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship  
Joan Pincus Political Science Fellowship  
UCLA, African American Studies Fellowship  
Doris Coleman Kempner Graduate Fellowship  
Constance McSilver Social Work Fellowship,  
CORO Leadership Program  
Institute of Teaching & Mentoring: SREB

### **Skills**

Microsoft Word, Power Point, Access, Outlook, Excel, Research, Public Speaking, AIRS, Eshare, Apricot Social Solutions, Windows and Mac operating systems, conversational Moroccan Arabic (Darija), Trauma Informed Care Trainer, Nvivo