

Annual Membership:

- ☐ \$500 + Platinum Step
- ☐ \$300 + Gold Step
- ☐ \$200 + Silver Step
- ☐ \$100 + Bronze Step
- ☐ \$60 Basic Membership
- ☐ \$25 Student Membership

Please check the membership level of your choice and supply the membership information below. Detach form and mail to address on the back panel. We will contact you later with details for paying your membership.

Member Information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Association Contact:

Step Up!
**American Association
for Rwandan Women**
Suite 3B
1214 Steelhead Ct.
Columbia, MO 65203
573-446-8084



STEP UP! ***AMERICAN*** ***ASSOCIATION FOR*** ***RWANDAN WOMEN***

*STEP UP! is a nonprofit organization
founded exclusively for charitable
and educational purposes.*

Rwanda is located in Central Africa. This small country, about the size of Maryland, has been in the news because of the genocide that took place in 1994 when a million people were killed. Most of the victims were from the minority Tutsi ethnic group. Others were sympathizers from the majority Hutu group.

The 1994 genocide differs from earlier Rwandan conflicts in that many Tutsi women were specifically targeted for torture and extermination. In the Human Right Watch report titled *Shattered Lives: Sexual Violence during the Rwandan Genocide and its Aftermath*, it is reported that “thousands of women were individually raped, gang raped, raped with objects such as sharpened sticks or gun barrels, held in sexual slavery, or sexually mutilated”. Many were subsequently killed. Those who survived were infected with HIV. Some of them have died and many others are severely physically ill and psychologically traumatized.

Another terrible consequence of rape is unwanted pregnancy. Rwandan rape survivors have had to raise and live with the children of the men who raped them. In many cases, the rapists also killed the families of these women. The children of these assailants are a daily reminder to the rape survivors of their trauma. Trauma is one the silent killers Rwanda is presently facing. There are not enough trauma centers in Rwanda and those operating are understaffed.

Udashinga, ntabyina: “You cannot dance if you cannot stand.” This Rwandan saying was used by a Rwandan woman refugee in response to a United Nations worker who asked whether a United Nations High Commission for Refugees project was helpful to her. It is from this saying and the woman’s response that the name STEP UP was drawn for this association. During the last ten years, Rwandan women have been trying to stand up. And there are success stories of Rwandan women who recovered after their world fell apart in 1994. Today, we can help them not only to stand, but also to step up (gushingura)!

The purpose of the **Step Up** association is to build a counseling center in Rwanda to assist women survivors of rape and other forms of gender-based violence. This center for hope and healing will be called **Nsanga**, a Rwandan name which means “come to me.”

The Nsanga Center will be affiliated with the Rwandan Women Network (RWN) which is based in Kigali, Rwanda. Please see their website at <http://www.rwandawomennetwork.org/>.

The Nsanga Center will also provide training in peer trauma counseling. Members of the University of Missouri International Center for Psychosocial Trauma will serve as consultants and trainers for the Nsanga Center.

Mail membership application to:

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