

**Yvonne Mbewe, LCSW**

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

[www.linkedin.com/in/yvonne-mbewe-lcsw-57a179126](http://www.linkedin.com/in/yvonne-mbewe-lcsw-57a179126)

**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**

Human Trafficking	Child Labor/Children's Rights
Program Implementation	Policy Analysis
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**

**Adjunct Lecturer, University of Connecticut** **08/24-Present**

- Serve as Instructor on Record teaching and supporting 20 undergraduate students learning about social welfare and social work through a human rights perspective
- Facilitate and led discussions on topics related to oppression, the history of social welfare, political engagement and social work, and international social work practice
- Grade and evaluate student progress through papers, assignments, and quizzes throughout the semester

**Graduate Assistant, Human Rights Close to Home, University of Connecticut** **06/24-Present**

- Develop and facilitate trainings on Conversations Across Differences and Anti-racist practices
- Oversee the logistical support for the annual HRCH Youth Summit with 300 high school students learning about human rights and civic engagement
- Supervise HRCH undergraduate college mentors providing guidance to high school students regarding the implementation of community civic action plans
- Serve as an additional advisor to the high school teachers and students on the development and integration of civic action plans

**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

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

- Facilitate seminars on professionalism, adapting to social work practicum culture, social work role/identity, privilege, race, & oppression
- Meet individually with 20 students per semester assessing progress in practicum
- Serve as CSSW representative to practicum placement agencies
- Evaluate and grade student progress during practicum placements

**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
- Served as a Practicum Instructor with 4 master's level social work interns representing Hunter College, CUNY, New York University, & Stoneybrook University under my clinical tutelage

**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
- Educated and mentored the clinical and professional development of 2 master's level social work interns from Columbia University as their Practicum Instructor

**Supervising Family Social Worker, African Services Committee, NY** **04/15-02/17**

- Managed a departmental case load of approximately 120 clients and their families
- Supported 6 master's level social work interns from Columbia University and New York University as they navigated clinical placement learning needs as a Practicum Instructor
- Supervised four case managers 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 four senior case managers and set the department's strategic goals
- Acted as Practicum Instructor with 3 master's level social work interns from Columbia University as they developed clinical social work skills during practicum learning
- 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 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:** *Analysis of Zambia's 2022 Anti-Human Trafficking Act Amendment No. 16, International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference, Online* 09/24
- **Presentation:** *The 3C's of Communication Across Differences, Human Rights Close to Home Summer Intensive, UCONN* 07/24
- **Presentation:** *Youth Get out the Vote! African American Women's Summit, CT* 03/24
- **Poster:** *Cultural Competence Training in Social Work Education: The Undocumented LGBTQ+ Immigrant Youth Perspective, CSWE Annual Program Meeting, GA* 10/23
- **Presentation:** *Community Sponsorship of Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Why U.S. Social Work Should Care, CSWE Annual Program Meeting, GA* 10/23
- **Poster:** *A Call to Action: Reassessing Social Work's Role in Supporting Unaccompanied Minors, ResilienceCon, Nashville, TN* 04/23
- **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* **05/11**
- **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* **04/02**

### **Publications**

- Mbewe, Y. (in preparation). Call to Action: Undocumented immigrant youth and the social work response. Manuscript in preparation.
- Mbewe, Y., & Moynihan, L. (in preparation). Intersection of health, mental health, and acculturation: The immigrant experience. Manuscript in preparation.
- Mbewe, Y., & Mortley, C. (in preparation). Cultural competence training in social work education: The undocumented LGBTQ+ immigrant youth perspective. Manuscript in preparation.
- Hall-Faul, M., Mbewe, Y., Mortley, C., Berthold, M., Libal, K., & Harding, S. (in preparation). Community co-sponsorship of refugees and asylum seekers: Why U.S. social work should care. Manuscript in preparation
- Mbewe, Y., Mortley, C., Libal, K., & Berthold, M. (in preparation). Community sponsorship and accessing health and mental health for newly arrived refugees in America. Manuscript in preparation.

### **Affiliations and Honors**

Golden Key International Honor Society	Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
Public Service Scholar Fellowship	Joan Pincus Political Science Fellowship
David Haight Political Science Fellowship	UCLA, African American Studies Fellowship
Phi Beta Kappa/Dean's List	Doris Coleman Kempner Graduate Fellowship
Phi Alpha Honor Society-NYU Pi Pi	Constance McSilver Social Work Fellowship,
National Association of Social Workers	CORO Leadership Program
Black Social Work Alliance of Hartford	Institute of Teaching & Mentoring: SREB
UCONN Harriott Fellowship	UCONN Conference Travel Fellowship
African Services Committee Board Member	Civic Engagement Leadership Certificate
ResilienceCon Emerging Scholar Award	Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI) Certification

Society for Social Work Research Doctoral Student Committee  
 National Association of Black Social Workers Cenie "Jomo" Williams Tuition Scholarship  
 UCONN Center for International Social Work Advisory Committee  
 UCONN Office of Research and Scholarship Advisory Committee

### **Skills**

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