Yvonne Mbewe, MSW, LCSW
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Education

University of Connecticut, School of Social Work **08/2022–Present**
Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work (Expected August 2027)
Dissertation Title: *Protecting the Right to Childhood: Exploring Legislative, Clinical, and Social Service Interventions for Survivors of Child Labor in Zambia*
Dissertation Research: Three-article dissertation examines the rehabilitation and reintegration of children affected by child labor in Zambia through qualitative interviews with service providers and analysis of national and international policy. Draws on structural social work, structural violence, social empathy, and human rights frameworks to identify implications for social work practice and policy.
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Megan Berthold, Dr. Jennifer Manuel, and Dr. David Okech

New York University, Silver School of Social Work **2011**
Master of Social Work: Clinical Focus

Hunter College, City University of New York **2003**
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science & Thomas Hunter Honors Program

Research Interests

Child Labor and Children's Rights	Human Trafficking and Exploitation
International Social Work	Human Rights and Social Justice
Forced Migration and Refugee Experiences	Social Welfare Policy and Implementation
Structural Violence and Inequality	Trauma-Informed Interventions

Academic Employment Experience

Adjunct Lecturer, University of Connecticut **08/2024–Present**
- Social Welfare and Social Work (SOCI 3425): Taught and supported undergraduate students through a human rights perspective covering history of social welfare, social welfare policy, civic engagement, and social work professional identity
- Social Justice for the Social Work Profession (SOWK 2000): Facilitated and led discussions on topics related to oppression, the history of social welfare, political engagement and social work, social work professional identity, and international social work practice
- Substance Abuse I (HBEL 5300): Educated master's level students on neurobiology of addiction, evidence-based interventions, substance use policy, DSM-5-TR assessment
- Foundation for Micro Practice (SSW 5004): Teach graduate social work students foundational clinical practice skills, including engagement, biopsychosocial assessment, interviewing, intervention planning, crisis intervention, and evaluation, emphasizing culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and evidence-informed approaches to working with individuals and families. Provide individualized student support and assess learning through assignments, class activities, and office hours.

Advisor/Adjunct Lecturer, Columbia University School of Social Work **01/2021–Present**

- Facilitate seminars on professionalism, adapting to social work practicum culture, social work role/identity, privilege, race, & oppression
- Meet individually with 20 master's level students assessing progress in practicum
- Serve as CSSW representative to practicum placement agencies and conduct site visits to assess practicum progress and troubleshoot challenges
- Collaborate with Financial Aid, Practicum Learning, and other university offices to coordinate student support, resolve academic and practicum-related concerns, and promote student success.
- Evaluate and grade student progress during practicum placements

Social Work Employment Experience

Social Work Director, Partnership with Children, NY **10/2019–07/2022**

- 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, & Stony Brook University under my clinical tutelage

Youth Development Specialist, Peace Corps, Morocco **09/2018–09/2019**

- 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 **02/2017–09/2018**

- 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 **04/2015–02/2017**

- 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 **08/2014–03/2015**

- 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 **06/2011–08/2014**

- 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 **05/2008–09/2009**

- 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 **10/2006–05/2008**

- 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 **05/2003–04/2004**

- 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 **06/2000–04/2003**

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

Instructor, Elmendorf Opportunity Center, NY **01/1999–05/2000**

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

Publications and Scholarly Manuscripts

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Berthold, M., Hall-Faul, M., Mortley, C., Mbewe, Y., Libal, K., & Harding, S. (2025). Community co-sponsorship of refugees and asylum seekers: Why U.S. social work should care. *Advances in Social Work, 25*(3), 823–843.

Forthcoming Publications

Mbewe, Y. (in press). From awareness to action: Human rights education as praxis in social work. In S. Sirota & G. Russell (Eds.), Human rights education handbook. De Gruyter.

Moynihan, L., Mortley, C., & Mbewe, Y. (in press). Devolution as a small step forward to address the individual cost of being uninsured in the United States for undocumented individuals. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

Manuscripts Under Review

Sanchez, K. C., Mogro-Wilson, C., Holle, L., Mbewe, Y., Moynihan, L., & Saghir, F. (n.d.). The burden of self-stigma and trauma: A national study of predictors of acculturative stress among Latinx immigrants [Manuscript submitted for publication].

Manuscripts in Preparation

Mbewe, Y. (n.d.). Call to action: Undocumented immigrant youth and the social work response [Manuscript in preparation].

Mbewe, Y. (n.d.). Silent genocide: Structural violence, social empathy, and the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women [Manuscript in preparation].

Mbewe, Y. (n.d.). Educational reintegration of former child laborers in Zambia: Human rights and social justice approaches to trauma-informed schooling [Manuscript in preparation].

Mbewe, Y., & Mortley, C. (n.d.). Cultural competence training in social work education: The undocumented LGBTQ+ immigrant youth perspective [Manuscript in preparation].

Mbewe, Y., Mortley, C., Libal, K., & Berthold, M. (n.d.). Community sponsorship and accessing health and mental health for newly arrived refugees in America [Manuscript in preparation].

Conference Presentations

Mbewe, Y., Berthold, M., & Mortley, C. (2025, October). *Social work practice with forced migrants with disabilities and/or other chronic health conditions* [Conference presentation]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2024, September). *Analysis of Zambia's 2022 anti-human trafficking act amendment no. 16* [Conference presentation]. International Human Trafficking & Social Justice online conference.

Mbewe, Y. (2024, July). *The 3C's of communication across differences* [Conference presentation]. Human Rights Close to Home Summer Intensive, Storrs, CT, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2024, March). *Youth get out the vote!* [Conference presentation]. African American Women's Summit, New Haven, CT, United States.

Mbewe, Y., & Mortley, C. (2023, October). *Cultural competence training in social work education: The undocumented LGBTQ+ immigrant youth perspective* [Conference presentation]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA, United States.

Libal, K., Mbewe, Y., Berthold, M., & Mortley, C. (2023, October). *Community sponsorship of refugees and asylum seekers: Why U.S. social work should care* [Conference presentation]. Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2023, April). *A call to action: Reassessing social work's role in supporting unaccompanied minors* [Conference presentation]. ResilienceCon, Nashville, TN, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2014, June). *Intimate partner violence & HIV/AIDS* [Conference presentation]. University of Minnesota's Conference on Domestic Violence, Washington, DC, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2014, March). *African women & HIV/AIDS* [Conference presentation]. Bronx Community College, Bronx, NY, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2012, January). *Commercial sexual exploitation of children* [Conference presentation]. Hebrew University's Annual Trauma Conference, Jerusalem, Israel.

Mbewe, Y., Rivas, N., Morton, P., & Tuchman, E. (2011, May). *HIV/AIDS in Ghana* [Conference presentation]. New York University's Global Social Work Conference, New York, NY, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2003, April). *The politics of reparations: A case study of black activism, 1860s-Present* [Conference presentation]. Annual Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship conference, Hunter College, CUNY, New York, NY, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2002, August). *Female leadership with the black panther party: A case study of elaine brown* [Conference presentation]. UCLA's Center for African American Studies Research Fellowship conference, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

Mbewe, Y. (2002, April). *The plight of Zambian women and UN charter, CEDAW* [Conference presentation]. Annual Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship conference, Hunter College, CUNY, New York, NY, United States.

Research and Scholarly Experience

Graduate Assistant, Human Rights Close to Home, 501(c)(3)

University of Connecticut **06/2024–Present**

- Research topics related to human rights education and social work engagement
- Develop and facilitate trainings on Conversations Across Differences
- Oversee the logistical support for the annual HRCH Youth Summit with 300 high school students learning about human rights and civic engagement
- Created the HRCH Mentor Training Manual used to enhance mentorship and leadership
- Supervise HRCH undergraduate college mentors providing guidance to high school students regarding the implementation of community civic action plans
- Advise high school teachers and students on the development and integration of civic action plans
- Support with the recruitment of teachers from ethnically diverse backgrounds
- Research grants and foundational support for potential grant applications

Research Assistant, National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs

University of Connecticut **08/2022–06/2024**

- Provided administrative and organizational support
- Researched government and state refugee resettlement programs and policies
- Participated in research exploring community mobilization to support refugee resettlement in the United States
- Wrote and revised manuscripts on the community co-sponsorship of refugees
- Transcribed, coded, and analyzed data for theme development using NVivo software
- Presented at national social work conferences on community co-sponsorship of refugees

Research and Policy Consultant, UNICEF USA | Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI)

Human Rights Practice Lab, University of Connecticut **01/2025–05/2025**

- Conducted comparative policy research and landscape analysis of municipal governance frameworks to identify opportunities for integrating children's rights into city-level initiatives.
- Collaborated on nine framework assessments examining governance, funding, implementation strategies, and alignment with UNICEF USA's Child Friendly Cities Initiative.
- Developed evidence-informed recommendations to strengthen child-centered governance, youth participation, and equitable access to essential services.
- Identified partnership opportunities, implementation barriers, and incentives for sustainable child-friendly municipal policies.

Professional Service and Leadership

Board Member, African Services Committee, NY **04/2023–Present**

- Provide strategic guidance and organizational oversight to support ASC's mission of advancing health equity, human rights, and social services for African immigrant and refugee communities.
- Contribute to board-level discussions on organizational priorities, program sustainability, and community engagement.
- Support advocacy and strategic initiatives addressing healthcare access, social justice, and the needs of underserved immigrant populations.
- Collaborate with board members and organizational leadership to strengthen partnerships, resource development, and long-term organizational impact.

Doctoral Student Committee Member and Mentoring Subcommittee Co-Chair

Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) **05/2024–Present**

- Lead the Mentoring Subcommittee in developing initiatives that foster mentorship, professional development, and networking opportunities for doctoral students.
- Collaborate with committee members to strengthen doctoral student engagement, peer support, and connections with established social work scholars.
- Support the planning and implementation of mentorship programming and professional development activities at the SSWR Annual Conference.

Advisory Committee Member, Center for International Social Work

University of Connecticut **09/2023–Present**

- Provide strategic guidance to support the Center's mission of advancing international social work education, research, and global engagement.
- Contribute to discussions on program development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and initiatives addressing global social welfare and human rights.
- Support efforts to strengthen international partnerships, educational opportunities, and engagement among students, faculty, and community stakeholders.

Social Work Clinical Training Experience

Intern, Pediatrics/Pediatric ICU, Harlem Hospital Center, NY **09/2010–05/2011**

- 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 **09/2009–04/2010**

- 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 Service Commitments

Volunteer, Project Esperanza, Puerto Plata, DR **12/2012–01/2013**

- 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 **01/2011–01/2011**

- 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 **05/2010–07/2010**

- 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

Honors

- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Hunter College, CUNY
- Public Service Scholar Fellowship, Hunter College, CUNY
- Joan Pincus Political Science Fellowship, Hunter College, CUNY
- David Haight Political Science Fellowship, Hunter College, CUNY
- African American Studies Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles
- Doris Coleman Kempner Graduate Fellowship, New York University
- Constance McSilver Social Work Fellowship, New York University
- Harriott Fellowship, University of Connecticut
- Pre-Dissertation Conference Travel Fellowship, University of Connecticut
- ResilienceCon Emerging Scholar Award
- PhD Pre-Dissertation Travel Scholarship, University of Connecticut
- Professional Development Award, University of Connecticut
- Dissertation Research Facilitation Award, University of Connecticut
- National Association of Black Social Workers Cenie "Jomo" Williams Tuition Scholarship
- National Association of Black Social Workers Pre-Dissertation Scholarship

Affiliations

- Golden Key International Honor Society
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Phi Alpha Honor Society-NYU Pi Pi
- National Association of Social Workers
- Black Social Work Alliance of Hartford
- Congressional Research Institute and Social Policy (CRISP) Graduate Fellow
- Southern Regional Education Board: Institute of Teaching & Mentoring Fellow

Languages

- Conversational Moroccan Arabic (Darija)

Certifications

- Seminar in Field Instruction (SIFI), Columbia University School of Social Work
- CORO New York Leadership Program, New York
- Civic Engagement Leadership Certificate, University of Connecticut
- Trauma Informed Care Trainer, National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI), New York
- Graduate Certificate in Human Rights (In Progress), University of Connecticut