KEYNOTE ADDRESS
INFORMATION

“Uganda By Way of Boston & Hollywood:
A Social Justice Journey”

Wednesday, February 6th
7:00 – 8:30 pm @ Levin Ballroom, Brandeis University

Brief Summary of Ugandan Civil War
The current civil unrest in Uganda is linked to the beginnings of the Ugandan civil war in the early 1980’s. Even after the years of turmoil under rulers such as dictator Idi Amin Dada, Uganda continued to suffer from widespread violence; President Museveni’s election in 1986 was a significant change, but not an end to war. Only a year later, what is now called the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) was created. (from http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/uganda.htm)

KONY 2012
The LRA has recently become internationally infamous through the Kony 2012 campaign run by the organization Invisible Children. The campaign spread awareness of the atrocities committed by the LRA, led by Joseph Kony. Though effective in terms of awareness, the information was limited, and criticized by the Ugandan government. Now, Kony is in hiding outside of Uganda, and LRA attacks are focused on neighboring countries. The International Criminal Court has accused Kony and two other LRA leaders of war crimes, but neither of the two living offenders has been convicted. Read more at “The Ethics of Advocacy: KONY 2012” at brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry/2012/April.html

THRIVE-Gulu is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2009 and operating a trauma healing and reflection center in Gulu, northern Uganda. Its purpose is to support the emotional healing and rehabilitation of trauma victims of the Ugandan civil war through educational programs. THRIVE-Gulu represents the Ugandan people as they want to be represented; their input and approval is of utmost importance, and a team of international and local leaders manages and help their programs flourish. (from THRIVEGulu.org)

Judy Dushku, Associate Professor of Government at Suffolk University, is the founder of THRIVE-Gulu. Her writing and teaching focus on comparative politics, particularly in the Global South and in nations in a state of transition. Judy Dushku is a passionate academic as well as activist; her work focuses on the effects of trends in international economy and politics on women. She was a participant in the United Nations Conferences on Women, and is a speaker on the topics of rural development and health as they relate to women. (from go.brandeis.edu/deisimpact)

Eliza Dushku has starred in numerous well-known film and television projects, such as “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and “Bring It On.” Most recently, she produced and starred in Fox’s “Dollhouse” TV series. Eliza is involved with a number of charities, including THRIVE-Gulu and Camp Hale, a camp for inner-city Boston children. With over 1.3 million followers on Twitter (@ElizaDushku), Eliza is a strong advocate in areas such as LGBT, women’s rights, and civil rights, and writes commentary on topics ranging from health to gaming. (from go.brandeis.edu/deisimpact)

This keynote is part of a weeklong “festival of social justice” – see go.brandeis.edu/deisimpact

Compiled by ‘DEIS Impacters So Hyun Shin ‘15 and Leah Staffin ‘15