



I-House Alumni Spotlight: Jan Egeland (IH 1983)

Norwegian diplomat and humanitarian leader
2005 I-House Alumnus of the Year

December 10 is
United Nations Human Rights Day

Years at I-House: 1968-69
Birthday: September 12, 1957
Country of Origin: Norway



“Living in International House was like living in the United Nations without the bureaucracy.”

About Egeland:

Born in Stavanger, Norway, Jan Egeland has 30 years of experience as an international humanitarian and peacemaker. Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan hailed Egeland as a tireless advocate who “coordinated our humanitarian efforts in neglected and forgotten crises” across Uganda, Somalia, the Congo, and more. Among his many accomplishments, Egeland served as a liaison in efforts that led to the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian Oslo Accord and represented Norway in negotiating the 1997 Ottawa Treaty to ban land mines. Egeland was also a leading figure in marshaling aid for the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Today, Egeland remains a prominent leader of humanitarian operations around the world.



Education:

- Magister Atrium in Political Science, University of Oslo
- Fulbright Scholar, University of California, Berkeley

Roles:

- Chair of Amnesty International Norway (1979-81)
- State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1992-97)
- Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross (1999-2002)
- U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (2003-06)
- Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (2013-Present)



“Every single day led to new friendships with engaging students and scholars from all over the world. My year as a Fulbright fellow at Berkeley, living in I-House, was my most liberating, happiest and social year ever.”

