

Thank You

FOR ALL YOUR HELP!



Dear Friend of the World Youth Alliance,

My name is Natalie Lam. I am twenty-eight years old and I'm from Singapore. I graduated from the National University of Singapore (NUS) with a degree in Law (LL.B.). I practiced as a civil and criminal litigation lawyer for two years and I arrived in the USA on 2012. In 2013, I graduated from Georgetown University Law Center with a Masters in Law (LL.M.) in International Legal Studies and International Human Rights.

I became acquainted with WYA through Meghan Grizzle Fischer, the current Research and Policy Specialist at WYA, who introduced me to WYA's positions on maternal health and sustainable development. I was very impressed by the high quality international legal research seen in the policy papers, but most of all I was very attracted to the positions WYA took on achieving maternal health, sustainable development and addressing HIV/AIDs, which were all supported in international law and were in line with my own convictions.

After meeting Meghan and Anna Halpine in December 2013, I joined the WYA Advocacy Team in February 2014. During these 3 months, I have represented WYA at the United Nations Economic and Social Council Commissions: the Commission on Social and Development (Feb 2014); the Commission on the Status of Women (February 2014); and the Commission on Population and Development (April 2014). During the commissions, I met with delegates of UN Member States and spoke with many of them including Malawi, the Holy See, Malta, Singapore, Zimbabwe, and Jordan on WYA's positions on issues such as AIDS/HIV and maternal health. I wrote several press releases and blog posts on these commissions. I've also been following the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and helped draft WYA's proposals for the Post-2015 SDG targets, justifications, and indicators. The Advocacy Team and I presented these SDGs proposals to our allied Member States, who have circulated them amongst their groups.

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I was also able to participate in WYA's International Solidarity Forum (ISF) 2014. For the ISF, I prepared the draft declaration that was given to WYA's members to negotiate a final document that represented all the different geographical regions where WYA is located. It was a great learning experience to participate with like-minded young people and work together to achieve a future that we can all be proud of. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to be here in New York City and for all I have learnt since coming to WYA. I'm grateful for being able to live and work with so many young people from around the world who share a similar vision of empowering youth through education and holistic learning. Thank you, WYA Friends, for your contributions and for making this possible.

With warmest regards, Natalie Lam

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