



World **Youth** Alliance



2018

ANNUAL REPORT



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VIKTOR FRANKL AWARDEE



Doreen Nakato
Africa

“I came to experience WYA practically since the different regions were brought together.... ***I appreciated unity in diversity and despite our differences in nationalities, being human and respecting our intrinsic dignity stood out most.***”

Doreen joined WYA in 2012 before becoming a certified member in 2015. Since then, she has participated in different events such as helping coordinate the Emerging Leaders Conference at the Uganda Christian University, being part of the interview panel for the Vanessa Cherese Oyugi Scholarship, and even attending the CIAM-WYA Youth Colloquium in Rome, Italy. Currently, she serves as the coordinator of the WYA Uganda National Committee.

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Letter from the Founder



Anna Halpine

World Youth Alliance
Founder

Dear WYA Friend,

2018 was another year of growth and development for WYA. Our focus shifted from expansion to the development of better training and online tools to ensure ongoing growth and scale over time.

Significant work was done to upgrade our online Certified Training Program (CTP), in order to help us bring this program to more young people each year. An Arabic translation of our core program is in progress, led by our members within the Middle East region.

Policy experts continue to respond favorably to our Human Dignity Curriculum, and to express interest in FEMM. We see these as important contributions to implementation programs on the ground that support and recognize human dignity, especially for the most vulnerable. New partnerships are critical to leveraging these opportunities into the future.

Our members continue to be the reason for our work, and their commitment, enthusiasm, and response encourages us each day. "Don't hesitate", says Hichem, from Tunisia, "the world is in real need of WYA values". Diana, in London, is grateful that "WYA taught me to put into words the convictions which I already had but found so hard to speak about". Rogin, from the Philippines, simply said "WYA is home". And from Mexico, Ana Laura told us that "Most of all, [through WYA] you reinforce your view of the human being, and this leads you to act differently forever."

These young people are the reason for our work, and allow us to continue to support, educate, and transform their lives each day. In this way, they change and transform the world.

I hope you enjoy reading about our work over this past year. We are grateful for all who made it possible.

Anna Halpine

WYA Founder

2

Global Expansion | Membership Growth



Number of new members per region

Africa	2,020	Latin America	504
Asia Pacific	4,468	Middle East	439
Europe	1,469	North America	569



VIKTOR FRANKL AWARDEE



Hichem Ouertani
Middle East

*“Don’t hesitate; it takes only to take the first step in order to find yourself “addicted” to this work . Don’t think that philosophical or social readings are too deep to be understood.... **Start now, the world is in real need of WYA values.**”*

Hichem joined WYA during a Certified Training Program batch before being selected as a trainer for the Emerging Leaders of the Arab Region Program with UNDEF. During the program, he trained more than 100 participants and organized about 15 community awareness activities all over Tunisia. He then went on to participate in the Training of Trainers to become a CTP Trainer. He has and continues to organize CTP batches in Tunis for individuals and WYA Chapters.

2

Global Expansion | Membership Engagement



WYA Headquarters Batch 3 Interns, 2018



Certified Training Program (CTP)

The CTP is the foundation for our leadership training. The 400-page collection of texts provide the philosophical underpinnings for the mission of WYA which presents a summary of philosophical, historical, and modern day texts that focus on the dignity of the person and human rights. Certified members usually take their membership to the next step by becoming interns, chapter or committee leaders, CTP trainers, advocacy volunteers, and more. **This year, 280 members completed the CTP.**



Chapter and National Committee Expansion

In 2018, WYA welcomed 16 new Chapters and Committees – enjoying 20% growth from last year. This includes new Chapters in the high school, university, province/state, and country level. This year, we've witnessed how great Chapter activity not only boosted membership count but also increased member certification.

Chapters are formed by committed WYA Members who successfully complete WYA's Certified Training Program, equipping members to articulate and defend the principles of the dignity of the person within the public square.



Internship Program

69 active members completed the internship program under the six regional offices around the world. Meanwhile, the externship program was successfully launched in 2018 resulting to over 23 externs. This new approach engaged members who were not able to come to their regional office's location and allowed them to work on various projects that uniquely catered to their skills.

2

Global Expansion | Chapter and National Committee Growth



Members of the World Youth Alliance-
University of the Philippines Visayas Chapter

Number of new Chapters and National Committees

AFRICA

6

ASIA
PACIFIC

3

EUROPE

6

MIDDLE
EAST

1

This year was an exciting time for our Chapters and National Committees as more young people started chapters to bring WYA to their peers.

Chapter led activities taking the forefront for this year were the number of regional and national events hosted by active chapters in WYA Europe. WYA Croatia organized its annual WYA Week with over 500 participants. Meanwhile, WYA Austria hosted a 3-day event on European Youth Strategy fully funded by Erasmus Plus. The event was done in collaboration with WYA Europe, WYA Middle East, WYA Spain, and WYA Croatia.

We continue to reap the fruit of equipping our Chapter and NC leaders with the skills to boldly take charge. The WYA Bangladesh Chapter has piloted the Campus Ambassadors Program in Dhaka to increase awareness of

WYA in different schools in the country. Meanwhile, North America Chapters like the Benedictine College Chapter continue to grow by hosting the Emerging Leaders Conference. Lastly, a training model designed by WYA Europe has allowed Chapters to take the lead in organizing CTP trainings. With this, they were able to hold intensive trainings in Sarajevo, Rome, Krakow, London, Maastricht, and Slovakia.

With these inspiring member initiatives, we see no signs of slowing down. One new country chapter, provincial chapter, and national committee opened in the Asia Pacific region, namely the WYA Nepal Chapter, WYA Antique Chapter, and the WYA Philippine National Committee. A roster of accomplished members have been selected for the Philippine NC and are looking forward to supporting WYA's growth in their country. Meanwhile, WYA Africa welcomed 4 new Chapters this year comprised of a younger generation of members in Olympic High School, Upper Hill, Mustard Seed, and Gilgil Hills.

VIKTOR FRANKL AWARDEE



Clare Halpine
North America

*“Everyone wants to be invited – to be a part of something – and **WYA is an exclusive inclusive organization that moves what’s best about human-kind**. I hope WYA can continue to be a bridge over troubled water in these times of extreme political polarization in North America and globally. I also hope that the Human Dignity Curriculum can be implemented around the world so that children grow up in the confidence of their dignity and the dignity of others.”*

Clare sees WYA as being greatly formative in her life, from participating in an art competition called “Jubilatio!” when she was twelve to spending summers interning for WYA during high school. At the time, she underwent her internship at “the Pogue” – the now infamous cockroach-infested building where staff and interns lived before the WYA house. She attended the International Solidarity Forum as a university undergraduate as she knew that it would give her the information and education needed to understand and respond to the debates at school. Clare served as WYA North America’s Director for two years.



WYA Africa delegates at the 2018 ELC

2018 Global Theme: Human Dignity and Bioethics

379

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

Regional Themes:

Africa: Human Dignity and

Bioethics: African Youth

Perspective on Bioethics,

Migration, and Livelihood Solutions

Asia Pacific: To My Future Self:

Becoming Persons for Dignity,

Sustainable Development, and

Well-being

Europe: Human Dignity and

Bioethics

North America: The Person and

Bioethics: Promoting the Dignity of

the Human Person in Modern

Medicine

3

A Voice for Human Dignity: Emerging Leaders Conferences Around the World

The Emerging Leaders Conference (ELC) is a venue for young people to discuss, learn, and receive training on relevant issues in ongoing international policy debates. Each region hosts a local ELC according to a central theme. Unfortunately, WYA Middle East and WYA Latin America were not able to hold an ELC in 2018 due to staff transitions in their regional offices.

Africa

The Africa ELC attracted more than 120 young people from Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Ghana, South Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Kenya. Hosted in partnership with the Strathmore Law School (SLS), WYA Africa was able to gather 10 speakers who were experts in the field of bioethics, migration, and livelihood solutions with each day marked by a topic from the theme. Most delegates looked forward to starting the Certified Training Program as they envision next steps in their engagement to be opening chapters in their countries.

Asia Pacific

Organized in collaboration with the University of the Philippines Centre International de Formation des Autorites et Leaders (UP CIFAL Philippines), the Asia Pacific ELC was designed to focus on three core areas: mental and emotional well-being, physical well-being and bioethics, under the umbrella of Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The topics covered during the ELC consisted of Social Media and Psychology, Human Dignity and Bioethics, Advocating Road Safety and the SDGs, and Promoting Well-being and Joy in the Home featuring experienced speakers from organizations like Childfam Possibilities Psychosocial Services, Universitas Foundation, Right of Way on Rappler.com and Yorokobi.

WYA North America hosts
ELC Philadelphia leg



Europe

More than 50 young people from all over Europe participated in WYA Europe's 2018 Emerging Leaders Conference. The five-day conference successfully engaged the delegates by tackling two of the most prominent human rights topics being discussed in Europe today: Euthanasia and Surrogacy. The delegates also earned relevant skills and insights during the conference in receiving a media training workshop, learning about the history of human rights in Europe in the House of European History Museum, experiencing a European Parliament Voting Simulation, participating in open debates at the European Parliament, and taking part in a project lab to reflect on what they had learned during the project and how they were going to use these insights in their home countries.

North America

WYA North America completed its 2018 – 2019 ELC campus series by visiting five universities: St. Charles Borromeo Seminary (Philadelphia, PA), Benedictine College (Atchison, KS), Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), Fordham University (Bronx, NY), and University of Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown, Canada). With The Modern Identity Crisis as the theme, with a focus on Bioethics, the tour was made possible through partnerships with host universities, their clubs, and active WYA Chapters, externs, and members.

VIKTOR FRANKL AWARDEE



Rogin Eribal
Asia Pacific

"To me, World Youth Alliance is a Home. It is in WYA that I learned how to conquer my limitations and discover more of what a young person like me can offer to the world. It pushed me beyond the boundaries of my comfort zone and allowed me to inspire others to do the same."

Rogin was so inspired by his experience at the 2014 WYA Asia Pacific Summer Camp that he established the WYA Ateneo de Zamboanga University Chapter with three other camp alumni. The club went on to be awarded the Best New Club for that year. Rogin eventually became a regional intern with WYAAP before joining succeeding summer camps as a facilitator. He has hosted two ELCs and represented WYA at the 2017 Global Youth Trends Forum Youth Initiatives for Sustainable Development in Taiwan.



WYA gathers certified members to create WYA's Arabic Training Program

Anything that can withstand the test of time requires a good foundation.

Thus, we focused on enriching the quality of our members' encounter with WYA so that quantity will follow. As we progressed through 2018, our regional offices shaped and integrated these ongoing developments in key programs like the Certified Training Program, internship/externship, and training Chapter and Committee leaders.

Membership certification remains a top priority in assuring sustainability for WYA's programs. One way is through upgrading the Online Training Portal with notable improvements including the website's overall design, layout, and content. New features like video chapter summaries, forums, and quizzes (available in select regions for now) were developed and continue to be added.

2018 also saw the beginnings of the Arabic edition of the CTP. WYA Founder Anna Halpine and WYA President Lord Pomperada spearheaded the project with select WYA members in a gathering in Morocco. For the duration of the year, the project was turned over to the WYA Middle East office who translated a number of the texts with a team of active WYA members and externs. Coming into 2019, the translated texts are now being proofread by our active CTP Trainers from Morocco and Tunisia.

Due to popular demand, the CTP Training of Trainers (CTP TOT) program had been developed and undergone pilot testing in 2018.

The TOT pilot in the Africa region led by the WYA President during his regional visit resulted in eight new trainers from Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, and Congo DRC. Meanwhile, TOT sessions implemented by WYA Europe in Romania and Barcelona resulted in two new trainers from Romania, and CTP trained professors in universities in Barcelona. The CTP TOT is now set to launch in 2019. Certified members who have received a very good score in



their Certified Training Program and have the skills and experience to train young people will now be invited by their Regional Director to participate in the WYA Training of Trainers program. This will allow them to train fellow WYA members in their school or country.

Meanwhile, the WYA externship program was launched, and compliments our current internship program. Not only were the externs active in terms of translating the Arabic CTP in the Middle East region and building Chapters in their own community with WYA Europe, we were also able to test an interregional externship. Lillian Quinones, a Hillsdale alumna who co-hosted the North America ELC in her university this year, underwent the North America externship while doing research on Euthanasia in the Brussels office. As a successful pilot, we hope to explore more specialized externships that will greatly help our members make the most out of their WYA training.

The introduction of the externship program, and a better training system to mobilizing our best members are key pieces we've laid out towards building a more robust Chapter and Committee community. We are gradually seeing the effects of this by means of an active (and expanding!) network that will help us come into our 20th year strong.

5

Defending Human Dignity: The WYA Advocacy Response

WYA's theory of change is rooted in an understanding of the policy wheel, which recognizes the relationship between policy, funding, and programs (implementation). WYA recognized that policy advocacy cannot be successful without the ability to offer programs which concretely implement and respect human dignity. The Human Dignity Curriculum and FEMM are WYA's answers to the challenges facing the definition of the human person today. Believing that societies are only as strong as their ability to protect the most vulnerable, these two programs invest in the development and personal education of our children, and provide a new paradigm of health care for adolescents and women.

teenMEN program, Bronx, New York

VIKTOR FRANKL AWARDEE



**Ana Laura
Huerta Sobrino**
Latin America

"(Involvement in WYA) implies time, concentration, effort, and even money. But at the end, you cannot measure everything you win. Not only in the professional aspect, but also in the personal. You make friends from all over the world with similar ideas. You realize that you are not that crazy; there are more people that see the human being like you and share similar values. Most of all, ***you reinforce your view of the human being, and this leads you to act differently forever.***"

Ana opened a WYA Chapter in Queretará, Mexico with friends upon returning from the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) at the United Nations. Although the Chapter was only active for 3 years, Ana was able to finish her CTP and represent WYA in the youth caucus for the government in trying to develop proposals for the family's promotion and protection. She is now a teacher by profession. She shares WYA through helping her students work on the CTP and bringing them to events like the International Solidarity Forum in 2016, 2017, and 2019.

5

Defending Human Dignity: The WYA Advocacy Response | The Human Dignity Curriculum



WYA Croatia, Human Dignity Curriculum

The Human Dignity Curriculum (HDC) is an innovative program developed by the World Youth Alliance (WYA). It lends its roots to the growing request of our key partners to take the Certified Training Program (CTP) and teach its main ideas on human dignity through a school curriculum suitable for young children. The HDC focuses on personal development and informed decisions, which roots an understanding of themselves in a clear anthropology. The curriculum begins with the question ‘who am I’, moves to ‘who can I become’, and explores the habits for human excellence that are required to help us get there.

With human dignity as the basis for the HDC, it aims to foster a holistic understanding of the person.

As a global coalition of young people from all walks of life, WYA’s main mission of promoting the dignity of the human person led to the creation of the HDC as an intended alternative to existing programs, often confused and inadequate, regarding personal identity and human development.

After its official launch last year, the Human Dignity Curriculum continues to advance as one of WYA’s premier educational programs with its steady integration in local governments and institutions in 2018.

5

Defending Human Dignity: The WYA Advocacy Response: Notable HDC Developments for 2018



HDC at the Christian Mission Service Philippines

Africa

WYA Africa has started working with the Mercy Education Office to plan for the 2019 implementation of the HDC in different schools in Kenya. This year, they continued to work with the Strathmore University Program for Family Development to officially recognize the HDC as a character-building program for their school network.

Asia Pacific

In the Philippines, the WYA Asia Pacific staff is in the final stage of completing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Education to integrate the HDC program in all public school institutions in the Philippines. They are now in the process of organizing 3 test sites in Metro Manila with the Department of Education before the national implementation in order to assess the needs, especially in the area of training teachers. The office also hosted their 4th HDC implementation with Christian Mission Philippines (CMP) in the same year. At the conclusion of the partnership, the region was able to train 76 preschool children. The teachers shared positive feedback sharing that the students have continued to use the language that they've learned even after the classes.

Europe

In 2018, the WYA Croatia Chapter continued to implement the HDC with its new partner schools. They have also taken this opportunity to begin translating some of the HDC grades to Croatian. Following the completion of the Spanish edition of the HDC through an independent translation company in Mexico, the WYA Europe Director is now working with WYA Spain to do the final review of the translated materials and integration of cultural adaptations.

North America

In the United States, partnerships continued to emerge at La Salle Academy in Manhattan, Saint James School in Birmingham, and Elevate New York, a nonprofit working with students and at risk youth at the Bronx. In Birmingham, Alabama, the WYA North America Regional Director was joined by the WYA President in a 2-day conference introducing WYA and the HDC to over 1,000 teachers and youth ministers.

VIKTOR FRANKL AWARDEE



**Diana Doat
Pinto da Costa**
Europe

“WYA taught me to put into words the convictions which I already had but found so hard to speak about, especially in public when there is so much pressure to think on your feet. I also appreciate that we are not ideological and that we are very clear that the texts of the CTP express some of the philosophical underpinnings of the idea of human dignity.”

Diana first heard about WYA at a conference on the “Freedom of Women” at the European Parliament. After she became a member, Diana joined a local chapter in London where she was able to attend chapter discussions, as well as a conference on Maternal and Child Health, and HIV in Rome of 2012. As the head of WYA UK Chapter, the highlights of her involvement had been hosting the first European FEMM teachers training, presenting at intercollegiate halls of residence and working with great young people.

5

Defending Human Dignity: The WYA Advocacy Response | Fertility Education and Medical Management

FEMM is a comprehensive women's health program that aims to address the global crisis in women's health. FEMM provides education for women about their body and hormonal health, an app to track their health and fertility, and medical support when required. FEMM collaborates with the Reproductive Health Research Institute (RHRI) in the development of medical research, protocols, and medical training. FEMM's knowledge-based reproductive health education program provides women with crucial information to monitor their own health and fertility, empowering them to make informed decisions about the choice and delivery of their medical care and services.

FEMM continued to grow in 2018, with ongoing trainings for medical providers in Europe and the US (over 160 medical providers trained), and FEMM health coaches and teachers (over 150 trained). This continues to expand the global network of health care providers needed to offer FEMM's model of care worldwide.



MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

WYA Chapters and Committees and our dedicated interns provide great support to their regions in expanding WYA's Human Dignity Curriculum (HDC) and partner women's health program FEMM (Fertility Education and Medical Management). This year, the WYA Chapter at Ateneo de Zamboanga University in Southern Philippines hosted their 5th implementation of the HDC led by 2018 Viktor Frankl Awardee for Asia Pacific, Rogin Eribal. Meanwhile, the externship program became a wonderful opportunity to bring the FEMM program to university students who work on a full schedule.

North America externs Sarah Becker (Hillsdale College, Michigan) and Katherine Douglas (University of Illinois, Illinois) were able to take the FEMM training while studying biochemistry and molecular and cellular biology, respectively. "(FEMM) is an empowering, informative, and safe option that can be feasible for so many. It turns the current philosophy of the typical women's health knowledge on its head, yet it is actually so practical and important for women today", shares Katherine when asked what made her decide to take the FEMM externship.

6

Philanthropic and Board Profiles

Kathryn Hoomkwap Awardee

The Kathryn Hoomkwap Award recognizes distinguished service in defense of the dignity of the human person among WYA members who demonstrate commitment to implementing WYA's mission in their professional and personal lives.

This year's award was presented to Caroline de Dorlodot who shared the following speech during the WYA Birthday Ball:

"Thank you very much for this award. I'm a bit ashamed because I don't know what I did to actually deserve it but I'm happy today to be able to thank WYA and you, Anna, for having had this great opportunity to work for WYA and give my little contribution to this beautiful mission of promoting dignity.

There are many things I could highlight during my years there. I actually did my first internship in 2012 (I think it was a 6-month internship) and I've been employed 2014 first as Director of Operations for WYA Europe and then Regional Director and still today, I'm a member of WYA (although differently involved). What I would like to highlight maybe more today is what first attracted me to WYA. When I had to apply for this first internship, I had to do the Certified Training Program and it really awakened in me a thirst for truth. And I think it makes the continuity of my life today. I'm still searching for it by the way. It's quite unique to have this possibility inside of an organization, of professional life to be able to have time to discuss about core issues with other staff members and interns. And I loved this part. We were like having Track A discussion every week, speaking about, "What is the human person? What is freedom?" And this makes a whole difference in the way we were working together and in the work we were doing outside. More so because we were sharing essential art and this thirst of searching the truth that I experienced and discovered in WYA awakened me in the work that we were doing and in the people we were meeting, and to realize that, actually, today we stopped... we are not taking the time to actually search for what is (true).

I was very surprised in this big campaign we did for Down Syndrome, it was a mismatching socks campaign. It was a lot of fun and we were promoting among the commissioners and the European Parliament Members to wear mismatching socks to show that Down Syndrome people may be different but that this enriches society. And we met this politician who was

like a president of a political party and we were explaining about the campaign and how great it was, and during the whole discussion, we didn't speak about abortion, whereas for sure, it was one of our intentions to say, well, if they have dignity, as we all have, it's maybe not totally coherent to promote abortion of Down syndrome children. And at the end, she was like, "Oh, I'm super excited about this campaign and you're totally right, it's good to promote that each of us have this dignity, even if they have Down syndrome it doesn't make any difference, we are all human beings but I would like to ask you one thing: not to ask me any questions about abortion. She realized during the discussion that there was an incoherence.

This search I was experiencing in WYA, I realized in my work that maybe it was not enough to be in the battle but that somehow we needed a core army behind us. And with my poor contribution, I hope to be this core army behind that has this time and this gratuity to search for truth and being able to carry others with me in this search."



**Caroline de
Dorlodot**

Kathryn Hoomkwap
Awardee

Caroline was the 6th Regional Director for the World Youth Alliance Europe (WYAE) Region and received the fifth WYA Kathryn Hoomkwap Award for Extraordinary Service in Defense of the Dignity of the Human Person at the 2018 WYA Gala.

Caroline first became a regional intern in 2012 and helped organize the first Emerging Leaders Conference in Europe. As an intern, she also participated in the International Solidarity Forum hosted by WYA in NY, and the United Nations' Commission on Population and Development. She fell in love with the WYA training, in particular, the emphasis on understanding and articulating a vision of the human person at the heart of policy and culture. She then served as Regional Director of Operations before becoming Regional Director. During her time with WYA, she helped lay the framework for our successful Down Syndrome Day campaigns, which led to changing EU policy and opening up EU research funding for Down Syndrome. She also contributed towards building our European National Committee structure, which has led to so much growth and expansion of the WYA Europe region today.

After working for WYA Europe, she joined a religious order in Spain.

The Mary R. Smith Award

Every year, the World Youth Alliance recognizes outstanding contributors to the WYA mission through the Mary R. Smith Award. Established in 2013, the Mary R. Smith Award was named after one of the earliest and important supporters of the WYA mission. The organization honors her legacy by presenting this award to individuals who have been identified for their distinguished service in supporting WYA's beliefs and works.



Archbishop Bernardito Auza

Remarks at the World Youth Alliance Dinner

Acceptance of the Mary R. Smith Award For Extraordinary Service in the Defense of Human Dignity

The Union Club, New York

May 1, 2018

Thank you, Anna, for your very kind words and for this honor tonight.

My Brother Bishops and Priests, Reverend Religious,
Staff, Interns, Members, Board Members
and Supporters of the World Youth Alliance,

Dear Friends,

It is great to be here with you tonight at this World Youth Alliance Gala Dinner in support of WYA's important work, not just at the United Nations where it got its start, but across the globe.

We come together on the day Catholics celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker who reveals to us the Gospel of Work. He was the quiet one whose labor provided for the Holy Family, the courageous man who defended the child Jesus and Mary his mother when King Herod sought to take his life, the wise and patient teacher who mentored the young Jesus to be a tekton, a construction worker, according to his humanity, as Jesus simultaneously was building the kingdom of God. He remains for Catholics not just the just man who helped to raise Jesus, but the celestial patron and foster father who helps to lead to maturity Jesus' Mystical Body, the Church.

I mention St. Joseph and his work because I think we can perhaps see a several reflections of his example and intercession at work in World Youth Alliance: in its quiet and often courageous efforts to build up a culture of life and civilization of love; in its training, mentoring and guiding tens of thousands of young people, on every continent, over the last 19 years, to become artisans of that culture and civilization; and in its passionate defense of human dignity in the context of various modern menaces that in some ways can evoke the ignorance, weakness, undisciplined libido and homicidal impulses against the youngest members of the human family that history sadly recalls of Herod.

The World Youth Alliance is both a sign and an instrument of hope in a world that ever needs it. At a time of year when platitudes will soon resound at graduation and commencement addresses about how young people are “not just the future but a crucial part of the present,” blandly attempting to inspire the young to “live up to their dreams” and “make a difference with their lives,” I think we all need to be grateful that the World Youth Alliance aspires to and accomplishes something truly substantial: forming tens of thousands to think, to value and to choose in a way far different, richer, and more consequential than what our beloved young are normally offered.

To the rampant identity confusion dominating our airwaves and schools, WYA offers the young a robust, practical understanding of human anthropology and dignity.

To the loneliness that flows from so many online pseudo-friendships and loveless swipes and late night addictions that leave so many people broken, WYA (“Why-ah”) has catalyzed a different culture of community — full of lively parties, concerts, and events — that help the young become whole.

To the violence that starts in video games and often spills over as toxins poisoning speech, politics, and normal interpersonal interactions, WYA models and trains the young in virtues that are ever ancient, ever new.

In short, WYA's way is to try to respond to ugliness with beauty, ignorance with truth, injustice with goodness, lies with light, unbridled rights talk with responsible deeds grounded in one's own and others' inherent dignity. This is why the World Youth Alliance, its staff and members across the world, are, indeed, a sign and an instrument of hope.

I could speak for quite some time about the many things that deeply impress me about the World Youth Alliance, but insofar as this is a dinner talk, ... and the insulin is already spiking within you as a result of the delicious pears, goat cheese, chicken, potatoes and asparagus, ... and I'm the only thing standing between you and your crême brûlée, ... I would like to

highlight just three things.

First, I am impressed by its founding and growth, which shows how God can bring good out of every situation!

Every year at the UN, we have to endure the deliberations of the Commission on Population on Development (CPD), an annual week-long meeting that basically intends to achieve a humane and better future by striving to reduce the number of human beings who will share that future. The chosen means is through vigorous population control policies involving ideological sexual education programs, various forms of contraception and unrestrained access to abortion.

During a special session of the CPD in 1999, five years after the Cairo Conference, 21-year-old Anna Halpine saw three dozen well-coached peers assert they were representing all three billion youth in the world and insist on the need, as essential elements for their and the world's development, not for education, employment, energy, access to water and sanitation, and health care; rather, they clamored for abortion guaranteed as a fundamental human right, for parental rights to be abolished and for children's supposed rights to contraception to be ensured.

Anna wouldn't let that claim remain unanswered. The following morning, helped by other young Canadian pro-lifers present for the deliberations, she distributed hot pink fliers reminding delegates that those they heard the previous day didn't speak for the majority of young people, that "the development of the whole person includes the moral, spiritual, emotional, intellectual as well as physical dimensions," and that the young should not be reduced to their sexual faculties but helped in their pursuit of sound education, family, employment and development.

Several delegations thanked her for what it did and what it helped them to do as a result. They applauded her focus on human dignity, basic human needs and authentic human rights, and told her that the United Nations would benefit greatly from the permanent presence of young people committed in combating the ideology that asserts that a better future for young people would come only from living every year as if it were the summer of 1968.

And so the World Youth Alliance was born. Through the dedication and sacrifices of Anna, other bright young people who shared her ideals and capacity to sleep on floors and live on shoestrings, and donors who believed in what they were doing and generously stepped forward to ensure that their ideas would have consequences, the World Youth Alliance survived infancy and even adolescence. Now at 19, and extending all across the world, we

can say it is already showing that it is capable of adult responsibilities ... while of course always remaining youthful!

The second thing that impresses me about WYA is how it goes about its work at the United Nations. There are many NGOs that, while solid on the issues, have very little impact, engaging in what Pope Francis during his Address to the General Assembly labeled “declarationalist nominalism.” They put out statements during debates but their statements have little or no impact because there’s no organization on the ground to make their ideas effective. There are other NGOs that are philosophically reliable but whose style of engagement is unfit for diplomatic arenas, because they seek crudely to embarrass those who disagree with them, burning bridges that might need to be crossed later and often turning people off to those, like the Holy See, who hold similar ideas.

The World Youth Alliance is different. It understands how to do effective work among delegations by not just speaking about human dignity but treating others, including those on opposing sides of issues, with dignity. Its delegates back up their words with highly effective alternatives on the ground.

We see this with regard to two of the most contentious issues on the human rights agenda at the UN. There is a coordinated effort among certain Member States, UN Agencies, the WHO and international abortion conglomerates to push what is called “comprehensive sexuality education,” which basically refers to an ideological indoctrination of the young with regard to the human person, human sexuality, love, marriage and family according to the principles of the sexual revolution. Rather than simply lament the situation from the sidelines, however, the World Youth Alliance has gotten on the playing field, developing its outstanding Human Dignity Curriculum to provide the necessary aspects of education in human sexuality in a way that respects the rights of parents, the age of the students, the dignity of young men and women, and the power and beauty of human life, marriage and family. It is now being implemented in different countries and both Catholic and public school systems.

Another example is with regard to the aggressive push from the same consortium of Member States, UN Agencies and international organization, under the moniker of “sexual and reproductive health and rights,” of contraception as one of the world’s greatest unmet needs for women’s health. The World Youth Alliance hasn’t merely decried what’s wrong in these euphemistic proposals, but has put in the hard work to develop something better. Through FEMM — the Fertility Education and Medical Management training and its associated smartphone app — Anna and many of those associated with WYA have developed a comprehensive women’s health program that accepts and values woman at the level of her

full humanity including the maternal meaning of her femininity and the innate patterns of her fertility cycle. FEMM treats such rhythms — and the maternal ends to which they're directed — not as problems to be solved, maladies to be remedied, or, worse, evils to be rejected, but rather as aspects of the woman that ought to be embraced as part of the reverence owed to a woman in accordance with her dignity. With its state of the art understanding of a woman's hormonal cycles, it is able not only to help women manage their fertility in a healthy and ethical way, but also to diagnose and remedy many of the underlying issues involved in infertility, such as menopause, thyroid dysfunction, migraines, depression, weight gain, fatigue, pain, PMS, polycystic ovary syndrome, endometriosis and even acne.

Both FEMM and the Human Dignity Curriculum show that the World Youth Alliance, its leaders, members and supporters are not satisfied with a seat at the table in front of a microphone. They are, rather, highly innovative in coming up with solutions in situations where billion dollar corporations, powerful Member States and others would like to pretend that no alternatives exist. How can we all not be impressed by that type of ingenuity and youthful boldness?

The third and last impressive thing I'd like to note about the World Youth Alliance tonight is how helpful it is in the work of the Holy See at the United Nations. Since its founding, the World Youth Alliance has had warm relations with my predecessors as Permanent Observer of the Holy See and with so many of our diplomats, delegates and interns. WYA leaders have similarly had strong relations with then the Pontifical Council for the Laity, assisting with World Youth Days. Their important work has earned them, at the strong recommendation of the Secretariat of State, a prestigious grant from the Papal Foundation. And we have had so many fruitful collaborations, including for the last three Commissions on the Status of Women, in co-sponsoring conferences together. They are one of the most pleasant, and most effective, of our collaborators in such Conferences.

As a sign of our esteem for WYA's expertise in the training of young people across the world, last May 12, I asked Anna to give a presentation on children as peacemakers during a Conference marking the Centenary of Fatima and the Enduring Relevance of its Message for Peace that the Holy See was sponsoring together with the Permanent Mission of Portugal.

In her outstanding address, Anna remarked, "As the Founder of the World Youth Alliance, dedicated to training and motivating young people from around the world to contribute to the promotion and protection of human dignity, to take up their role in the world not just in the future but also in the present, I could not help but be amazed at the enormous responsibilities the shepherd children were entrusted by the Woman they say appeared to

them. Their response to the mission they were given is a model for all young people to follow.”

She added, “I think that there’s much we can learn from them about the ways children, even very young children, can participate with precocious dedication, maturity and gravity as peacemakers according to their conditions.”

Then she noted, “Fatima, in which the star peacemakers are a woman and three children with minimal schooling, thus poses an important challenge to the UN in its commitment to peace. ...Kings, Queens, Presidents and Popes have gone to them as an example, and in thanksgiving. They have been humbled. In front of children, not much more than infants, in homespun clothes, without wit or wisdom or power, these children have instructed them in the ways of peace. Their approach is radically different from the approaches normally taken in the halls of the UN, but few, if any can boast the successes in building peace that these three children have had.”

What Anna insightfully said about the shepherd children can be applied, I think, to her and to the young people of World Youth Alliance. Their approach is sometimes radically different from those often taken in the halls of the UN, but few NGOS, — and certainly none that represent young people — can boast of the successes that WYA have had, continues to have, and with our support, will continue to have for decades to come.

That’s why it’s such an honor for me to receive from the World Youth Alliance its Mary R. Smith Award. I thank the Board of Directors of the World Youth Alliance, its officers and its members, for this distinction, and I thank all of you for your kind attention.

The crème brûlée awaits!



**Archbishop
Bernardito C. Auza**
Mary R. Smith Awardee

Born in Talibon, Republic of the Philippines, **Archbishop Bernardito Auza** was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Tagbilaran in 1985. He earned a doctorate in Theology and entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See in 1990. He has served at the Apostolic Nunciature in Madagascar, in Bulgaria, and then in Albania before serving in the Secretariat of State in the Vatican. Archbishop Auza was appointed as the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Organization of American States in 2014. He is the sixth recipient of WYA’s Mary R. Smith Award.

7

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Regional Director of Operations: Dima Khalifeh

WYA North America

Regional Director: Julia Kenney

Regional Director of Operations: Julia Kenney
(In Transition)

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Leadership

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**Elisabeth
Hohenberg**

New WYA Board
Member for 2018

Marie Elisabeth Hohenberg is a founding Board member of the Stiftung Ja zum Leben, which was founded to protect human life and the rights of unborn children. Since 2016, she has also served on the Board of Management of the Foundation. Born and raised in Germany, she studied fashion design (Germany) and garden and curtain design (UK). She is fluent in German, French and English, and has lived and traveled throughout Europe. The mother of four children, she has lived in London for the past 18 years, and has moved with her husband to Vienna last May 2018.

8

Audited 2018 Financials*(in US dollars)*

Income	2018	2017
Contributions	1,344,433	876,823
Program Revenue	51,977	7,849
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Total Income	1,396,410	884,672

Expenses	2018	2017
Program services	1,300,637	798,897
Management and General	60,241	63,055
Fundraising	7,229	5,763
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Total Expenses	1,368,107	867,715

Change in Net Assets	28,303
Net Assets (Start of Year)	6,376
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Net Assets (End of Year)	34,679

WYA is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



World **Youth** Alliance

www.wya.net