

YOUTH WITH A MISSION (YWAM) – ENGLAND

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Part I

Introductory Statement: The objective of Youth With A Mission England is to mobilize and equip individuals to bring help and hope to peoples in places of despair, and to transform the cultural, economic and spiritual lives of people in the UK and in the world, through education, training, relief and development.

The *Centre for International Justice and Reconciliation* (CIJR) is the public policy branch of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), England. YWAM England has over 500 members of staff in England and currently has over 450 British volunteers working in projects overseas involved in relief and development, education and training with other national branches of YWAM International worldwide.

Aims and Purpose: Members of our organization are involved in various areas of social and economic development with particular interest and involvement in gender issues, human trafficking, poverty alleviation, children at risk, indigenous issues, HIV/AIDS, conflict resolution. Members of CIJR work very closely with members of YWAM International (16,000 staff in over 160 Nations) and with other NGOs around the world who are doing relief and development projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

One of the aims of CIJR is to promote knowledge of the principles and activities of the United Nations, particularly as they pertain to promoting peace and justice around the world. We are committed to bringing understanding and furthering the United Nations work, particularly disseminating information about the United Nations and its work to our constituency (primarily Christians). We are committed to furthering the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG's).

The work of CIJR also involves analyzing links between religion and culture and looking at how religion shapes attitudes and values that can either help or hinder both the processes of social and economic development and the promotion of human rights. We support the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations mandate for peace.

PART II

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings:

Attendance at United Nations, New York – Chair and other representatives of YWAM

The specific focus of Youth With A Mission – England’s participation at the *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)* sessions is bringing information about violence against girls and women, and lobbying for implementation of steps to eradicate gender injustice.

In **2004**, the Chair and four other representatives attended the 48th session *Commission on the Status of Women* (1st – 12th March) and lobbied on trafficking of women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

In **2005**, the Chair and 8 other representatives attended the 49th session *Commission on the Status of Women* (28th February – 11th March) and lobbied for abolition of trafficking of women and girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation and urged language to be adopted with respect to the demand side of human trafficking. Also in 2005, the Chair and two representatives participated at the *General Assembly Informal Interactive Hearings with non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector* (23rd – 24th June) and contributed information about the positive role of faith-based NGO’s in countering gender-based violence in society. Also in 2005, the Chair and one other representative participated in the 58th session *DPI/NGO Annual Conference* (7th – 9th September).

In **2006**, the Chair and one other representative attended the 50th session *Commission on the Status of Women* (27 February – 10 March) and lobbied on the five-year work plan for CSW. YWAM also advocated the inclusion of the role of men and boys as a review issue at the 50th session of CSW. Also in 2006, the Chair and three representatives attended the *United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS* (31st May – 2nd June). Mr. Sam Kisolo, HIV/AIDS expert from Uganda contributed best practices from YWAM’s extensive relief and development work in Africa.

Attendance at United Nation, Geneva – Chair and other representatives of YWAM

In 2004, the Chair and nine representatives attended the *UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10 years Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action* (14th – 15th December) lobbied for the rights of the girl child and against the trafficking of young girls for the purposes of sexual exploitation as part of the Beijing +10 review. In 2006, one representative attended the 1st session of the *Human Rights Council* (19th – 30th June) and lobbied on the rights of refugees and displaced peoples.

B. Written Interventions and Oral Interventions

In 2005, Youth With A Mission - England submitted a commentary on “*The President’s Draft Negotiating Document for the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly of September 2005*” submitted by the President of the General Assembly – 6 September 2005 on gender mainstreaming and development issues. (www.un-ngls.org/un-summit-YWAME.doc). Also in 2005, after the Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, Youth With A Mission - England submitted a commentary on “In Greater Freedom” in response to the Secretary-General’s Report *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all* (A/59/2005) on gender issues, human rights and United Nations reforms. (www.un-ngls.org/UNreform/Youthwithamission.doc). Also in 2005, Youth With A Mission England’s representative Ms. Philippa Newis made an oral intervention on the role and rights of young girls at the Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly as a participant for the Hearings on Freedom to Live in dignity cluster.

C. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field

Youth With A Mission has worked in partnership with World Food Program in Indonesia and with the United Nations Volunteers programme for the implementation of the project “Post Tsunami Livelihood Rehabilitation in Banda Aceh”, within the framework of the UNV project “Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation and Recovery in Aceh and North Sumatra”.

D. A few major highlights of initiatives undertaken by Youth With A Mission in partnership with other NGOs to advance the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals

▪ **Goal 1 & 2. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and Achieve universal primary education**

Youth With A Mission in Vietnam from Jan 2003 – Dec 2006 in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare worked in Ba Vi district, Ha Tay province to provide homes and schools for children in difficult circumstances, flood relief and rural development, water sanitation and waste treatment. In Cambodia, from Jan 2003 – Dec 2006, Youth With A Mission in partnership with local government and other NGOs (COM, FF) provided primary education and community development in Siem Pang and Thala Boriwat in Stung Treng District.

▪ **Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

Youth With A Mission internationally runs HIV/AIDS clinics and training centres in over 50 locations in Africa and Asia. In Uganda from 2001 – 07, YWAM in partnership with other NGOs (Mild Way UK, AIDS Information Centre, TASO, UNASO) carried out HIV/AIDS works in the following districts – Jinja, Kuyuga, Mukono and Soroti that serves over 10,000 HIV/AIDS victims every year. In Brazil from 2004 – 07, YWAM in partnership with local government runs Malaria clinics based in Porto Velho, Rondônia state that serves over 400 children from the Amazonian region every year.

E. Youth With A Mission staff member Ms. Sunny Yun completed in July 2005 an internship at the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United Nations. She worked on updating the UN-NGO-IRENE monthly newsletter. Youth With A Mission England holds annual membership with The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO).