



GWI UPDATE – 4 July 2018

38th session of the Human Rights Council

Special Edition



The ceiling of the Human Rights Council Chamber, created by Spanish abstract artist Miquel Barceló.
U.S. Mission Photo by Eric Bridiers

— GWI at the Human Rights Council —

The world is home to the largest youth population in history. They are the most connected generation ever and their perspectives are shaping global development and the implementation of the United Nation's 2030 Global Agenda on Sustainable Development. This Special Edition of the GWI Update Newsletter showcases the experience of four talented GWI interns who participated in the 38th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC38) in Geneva. The HRC38 sessions they attended support GWI's advocacy work that aims to advance the status of all women and girls through the safe access to quality, lifelong education. We value their viewpoints as young women who are progressing our mission through the ideas they express in this publication. *Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director, GWI.*

Welcome to the 38th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC38)!

Having the opportunity to participate in the HRC38 is most certainly one of the greatest opportunities that comes with being an intern at Graduate Women International (GWI). During my six-month long internship, I had the privilege to participate in two sessions of the HRC, in March and June 2018. As I came to learn, the March session provided extra benefit because of its week long high-level segment for which numerous State dignitaries and diplomats from around the world, including no less that the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, gathered in Geneva. Saying that it was an exciting and impressive experience is an understatement: this was certainly the experience of a lifetime and one that I would not have dreamt to live before starting my internship.

Whilst the June session is a bit less overwhelming but no less captivating, one thing that certainly did not change in between the two session is the very specific atmosphere that fills the HRC Room. Also known as the Human Rights and Civilization Alliance Chamber, Room XX is buzzing with a diversity of delegates and representatives of States, civil society organizations and other international organizations, united under the impressive ceiling created by the Spanish abstract artist, Miquel Barceló. This piece of art is probably my favorite feature of the whole Palais des Nations, not only

because of its impressive scale, but also because of its fantastic symbolism, linked to the core values and missions of the HRC.

Barceló's impressive piece consists of multicolored stalactite forms that appear to be dripping from the ceiling. On the inauguration of the new Chamber in 2008, Barcelo mentioned two primary sources of inspiration for the appearance of the dome: a cave and the sea. Representing both at once, the monumental work is an absolute union of opposites. The cave is a metaphor for the agora, the first meeting place of humans, the big African tree under which to sit to discuss what matters for the community and the only possible future: dialogue, human rights. The sea refers to the past, the common origin of all species and the promise for a new future: emigration, travel, exchange.

This massive work of art is also a powerful symbol of the need for openness and dialogue, as the dome's appearance changes depending on one's perspective, thus representing the complexity of our modern and globalized world. The work cannot be properly understood from any one perspective, which speaks to the importance of looking at this work of art in the same way the participants of the HRC need to look at the issues on the agenda: from multiple angles with openness and tolerance. Despite its diversity of appearance, the dome presents many of the same pictorial similarities from different angles. Similarly, although the people of the world differ in culture, traditions, perspective and color, we all share some universal values. The symbolism of the ceiling perfectly fits the function of the Chamber and the very goal of the HRC, which seeks to solve human rights issues with a tolerant and multilateral approach, drawing both from the teaching of the past and our hopes for the future.
Clémence Mathiaud

— Trafficking —

Special Rapporteur denounces a lack of humanitarian action regarding human trafficking in mixed migration

On 20 June at the HRC38, Special Rapporteur, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, addressed human trafficking in mixed immigration and how women and children are more at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, just four weeks before World's Day against Trafficking in Persons. Though often confused with prostitution, trafficking concerns several forms of exploitation such as domestic service, sex trade, forced marriage and organ removal among others. The lack of effective methodologies for victim identification and the endorsement of the current situation of irregular migration fluctuations around Europe was one of the main concerns brought to light. Human rights seem to have been put aside in the process of protecting European nations; while the sufferers of trafficking have a strong reticence on admitting their current status of victims, the local government does not provide proper measures of identification, dismissing potential cases and focusing more on 'economic migrants'.

On the same day, another side event took place titled, *Human Trafficking of Women and Girls*. The event put focus on the prevalent social stigmas affecting migrant women, who make up most of the numbers of victims of human trafficking. While patriarchal norms and poverty feminisation make women more vulnerable to trafficking, gender stereotypes affect even protective measures applied to fight the inhumane practice: a person is disqualified if they don't fit in the 'perfect victim' profile. Noted at the side event, in Nigeria 1/3 of the young women have been recruited into trafficking. The increasing population over



Side Event: Human Trafficking of Women and Girls.

the last decades in the country plus migration flows between Nigeria and Italy has facilitated the development of the practice. Most of the victims are single mothers or women seeking resources for their family. Therefore, short term solutions such as economic help would not break the cycle. It will take time and the collaboration of the government and communities to improve circumstances, as well as culturally adapted measures. The identification of potential victims and its difficulties were also disclosed in the panel, reminding how the exposure of the victims to abuse impede them to put coherence to their stories. Panelist spoke of the “demonisation” of NGOs whose use of human trafficking as an excuse push immigration policies in European states and beyond are obstacles to tackle in the fight against human trafficking. Nowadays, younger and younger women are becoming victims exploitation (Cáritas).

That being said, I believe the refusal of help from third parties such as civil organisations and NGOs some governments affected by the migration crisis have adopted is, by all means, counterproductive. Organisations like GWI use all their sources in order to raise awareness of the issue, urge governments to implement legislations in defense of human rights and veil for the safety of women and children vulnerable to human trafficking as part of their resolutions. Stripping away the humane part of the policies that are supposed to protect persons will not make the system more effective, but more heartless. *Yingyan Qiu*

Girls with no name, the price of being a girl on the street

The final event that I attended was titled ‘Girls with no name, the price of being a girl on the street’, which discussed the issue of young girls in Sierra Leone pursuing prostitution. Father Jorge Crisafulli opened the event and discussed how he started the charity ‘Don Bosco’ in Freetown Sierra Leone. The charity offers the young women and girls from the streets, medical and psychological assistance oriented towards social reintegration, as well as, accommodation, food, clothing, non-formal education and vocational training. Crisafulli stressed that despite these girls pursuing prostitution, we



Girls at the Don Bosco center in Freetown Sierra Leone

must remember that they are children, some as young as nine. Moreover, 100% of the girls Crisafulli has helped have had some form of sexually transmitted disease, 12% requiring treatment for HIV. I believe this is only one side effect of prostitution that illustrates how these young girls are being forced to grow up too fast. The First Lady of Sierra Leone also attended the event and commented on this fact stating, ‘this is the price that young girls pay to afford their education’. It seems that Crisafulli’s efforts inevitably ensures that an increasing number of girls will gain an education or be able to support themselves financially in alternative job opportunities once they leave Don Bosco’s housing. The help from this charity illustrates the methods that can be undertaken to fulfil several of the SDGs, most notably SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being and SDG 5, gender equality. *Katie Taylor Flintham*

— Education and the Rights of Women —

Annual Full Day Discussion on the Rights of Women

On 21 June, HRC38 opened the Annual Full Day Discussion on the Rights of Women with a Panel Discussion focusing on the impact of violence against women human rights defenders and women’s organisations in digital spaces. A member of what is often called Generation Z, or the iGeneration

myself,- that is the first cohort to have had Internet technology and social media readily available from a young age -, I was particularly keen to learn about the evolution of violence against women in digital space and its impact on women human rights defenders.

In his opening statement, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that despite the immense benefits that digital connectivity had delivered, digital media had also opened the door to new forms of oppression and violence. Women all too frequently faced harassment and intimidation online that spilled over into the real world. Online campaigns against women rights defenders and organizations aimed to damage their credibility as advocates and restrict the already limited public space afforded to women activists. If such trends continued, online spaces could widen sex - and gender-based discrimination. Seyi Akiwowo, Founder and Director of Glitch!UK and former politician, reminded that in Europe, a shocking nine million girls had experienced some kind of online violence by the time they were 15 years old. Globally, women were 27 times more likely to be harassed online. Online violence against politically active women represents a direct barrier to women's free speech and political participation. Digital citizenship needs to be central to education, taught universally and from a young age.

My observations were that it is the case for so many other issues, one can see how education can be the primary agent of change in regard to making the internet a safe space for all women and girls. Much of what was said by the variety of speakers who intervened during this panel discussion resonated with GWI's commitment to ending bullying and cyberbullying through education, as shown by Resolution 1 passed by the 2016 General Assembly. As stated in the resolution, "Education at all levels is the primary line of defence that must be used to bring about meaningful change and aid in the understanding of the power of a new technology and the laws that must govern its responsible use". After leaving this panel discussion, I was more certain than ever that it is mostly through education that we can ensure that women and girls are able to use the internet safely to share and gain knowledge, exchange ideas and actively participate in the advancement of their status. *Clémence Mathiaud*

Special Rapporteur on the right to education: Governance and rights

The report on the right to education during HRC38 considered how the right to education can be mainstreamed into the governance of education. Governance in this context can be thought to include the laws, policies, institutions and administrative procedures and practices. The Special Rapporteur stressed that learners who are the hardest to reach, including members of vulnerable groups, should be prioritized. GWI recognizes this in [resolution 5](#) and believes that by ensuring all children have the conditions needed to learn and succeed, societies become more tolerant and successful. As a result, inequalities are reduced, and people are in a better position to achieve their full potential. The first Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Ms Katarina Tomasevski, created a framework of four A's: accessible, available, acceptable and adaptable, which can guide legislators, policy makers and educators on the implementation of the right to education. This framework holds that education must be available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable. For example, to ensure that education is available, states should ensure a free education and that schools have adequate infrastructure. To guarantee that education is accessible, it must be non-discriminatory and open to everyone, with positive measures to include marginalized students. The content of education must also be culturally appropriate to allow the quality of learning to be acceptable. Lastly, education should be able to evolve with the changing needs of society this will contribute to making education adaptable. GWI believes that if state legislatures were to advance new legislation that implements these four A's, this will contribute to making sure girls gain an equal opportunity to education. *Katie Taylor Flintham*

— Women and Girls in ICTs —

Violence and discrimination against women through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) treated as a human rights issue

The accelerated development of ICT during the past decades has inadvertently created a wide contrast compared to the slow awareness of violence and discrimination against women. As I am taking down notes of the statements made in the 3rd session of HRC38 on my phone app, thousands of women worldwide, specially workers in the media and public relation sector and minorities are likely to be reading threats and violent messages on their screens at the same moment.

Acts like word violence, invasion of privacy and non-consensual image distribution are often ignored and not considered a legit form of violence in a many States, as the Special Rapporteur, Dubravka Šimonović, addresses in her report. Nowadays, there is a possibility for all women and girls to achieve a fuller realisation of their human rights —the right to an education being one of them. Although the technology is available, education can be unachievable due to connectivity in developing countries as the latter causes a gap between the number of male and female ICT users. Not only that, Ms. Šimonović believes passivity towards the absence of human rights in ICTs can even wider gender-based discrimination, thus increasing violence against women and girls.

GWJ seeks for a safe access to quality education for all girls and women, as well as legislation and policy initiatives that enable indigenous girl and women through non-traditional means adapted to their environment and culture. GWJ also aims to influence policy and improve political will to ensure all governments are held accountable to implement UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 and its targets. I believe that, as society advances and the devices created for commodity become a responsibility, policy makers must ensure the adaptation of their rules to the situation the community faces. *Yingyan Qiu*

Information and technologies

Event held by Charo Sabada, Renato Opertti and Juan Gracia as a side event on the HRC38. The main discussion debated the types and the utility of information which we share through new technologies. Reminding how the use of technologies for education is ordinary in Western society, Charo Sabada discussed the shifting of the perception of those throughout the years. Although, when first introduced in society, technologies had a negative connotation attached to them, there was a change in the moment countries realised how useful to economy they can be. However, for what concerns the impact on children, Charo warns the public: the internet was not designed for them and can be dangerous if not handled as it should. In order to protect our children, we need to empower them through education; for this, parents are responsible to make them aware of the risks. Renato discussed new technologies changing the educational system; engaging the learner in the appropriate way is crucial. Furthermore, additional philosophical and ethical discussions about technologies are needed, being their role always more inclusive in our community. Technologies are useful; however, we cannot depend on algorithms. Renato reminded the need for a holistic education; both sciences and humanities are important to allow children to fully understand our society. Thus, it is essential for governments to regulate technologies. Juan Garcia clarified that technologies are a mean to realise human rights. In order to do so, we need to promote the access of those goods for everyone, as the disproportion of who can benefit from those is wide.

The speakers had an insightful view on the importance of the use of technologies to help education; the discussion was well exposed with a strong interest for the topic by all the speakers. Technologies are important in modern society and if we make a good use of them we can ensure quality education reaching every part of the world. *Elena Dal Mas*

— CEFM, Widowhood and Older Persons —

Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage: The role of Regional Organisations



The speakers of the Panel Achieving SDG 5.3: Ending Child, Early and Forced

I attended a side event on ending child marriage. Panelists said that 12 million girls in the world, every year, marry before becoming 18 years old. This occurs especially, but not solely, in countries with ongoing conflicts. These girls suffer from a violation of human rights emerging in the consequences of child marriage; those who marry earlier are more likely to be the victim of lack of education and health. Furthermore, these girls often experience domestic violence and depression, which could eventually lead to destructive consequences, such as auto mutilation and suicide. Mr. John Gbodi Ikubaje, Human Rights and Political Officer, Deputy Head of the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Unit at African Union Commission, argued the need of different types of efforts to eliminate the problem, starting from an accurate research to gather data. Consequentially, institutions must implement the laws in order to stop child marriage. Ms. Georgette Gagnon, Director of Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, highlighted the positive achievements obtained in the last decade: a decreasing of 15% of child marriage. Furthermore, measures must be taken to foster the shifting of the ideology of the informal union to a formal one, a problem which is more common in rural areas. Some strategies can be put in place to solve the issue, such as fostering the implementation of laws and collaboration with the civil society and local authorities. There are two problems that push girls to marry at a young age: poverty and security for the family. There must be collaboration and commitment from Governments; ending child marriage would be beneficial for the country itself, leading to economic growth. I was really captured by the intense speech the panelists gave and their determination to end child marriage. *Elena Dal Mas*

Widows of All Ages - Increase in Numbers and Discrimination



The speakers at the panel Widows of All Ages

Widowhood exposes women to discrimination all around the world but especially in developing countries. This is an issue that deals with an alarming under representation. It appears that, among other issues, this is not taken in adequate consideration by any government. It is the “most neglected” issue: widows need a voice at the UN. Because I was myself unaware of the size of the issue, I believe that widowhood is a problem which should be more considered and discussed.

Due to all of the conflicts happening in different parts of the globe, the number of widows is raising. We do not have to picture in our mind only the figure of old women whose husband has passed away at a mature age; widows can also be children married at an early age or women whose husband disappeared. For instance, the first cause of death in Africa is car crashes and, statistically, most male drivers are between the age of 25 to 35, often leaving widows behind. Problems that widows are facing concern, also, the informal union, which is not recognised by the state; widows aids cannot be given without authentication. This is a common problem especially among immigrants. With this issue and the lack of data, it is vital to work with local authorities in order to make sure they push the idea of a formal union. Widows are victims of a stigma following them: they are associated with death, in some cases they are considered “witches”, forced to drink the water in which their husband body has been cleaned and other terrible rituals. Young widowhood prevents opportunities such as working or education exposing children, or widows themselves, to marginalisation. There are cultural, financial and bureaucratic barriers that separate those women from an acceptable life. Furthermore, the psychological trauma which those women are victim of is not even taken in consideration. We do have protections in some countries, however, it is not always enforced. The excuse which is most often used is the lack of money and funds, but those women given the opportunity can help the country itself. When resources are not used to help widows, Plan B comes into place: providing food and sustaining education.

Child widows is a substantial and neglected problem. Those women are invisible to the law, so much that we do not even know the specific number. These strong women on the panel today had one aim in their speech: make sure their voice will be heard and the issue to be talked. *Elena Dal Mas*

Violence Against Older Persons: a human rights violation

On the heels of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2018, I attended on behalf of GWI an HRC38 side-event on Violence Against Older Persons (VAOP) on 18 June. This event was co-sponsored by a variety of civil society organisations, including the NGO Committee on Ageing, the World Health Organisation (WHO), Age International, Make Mothers Matter, HelpAge International and several states' permanent representations, among which were Argentina, Austria, Israel and Slovenia. The theme of this side event was *Violence against older persons, a human rights violation*. I was disheartened to hear that violence against older persons remains largely hidden, in the same way that the question of the human rights of old people still does not benefit from a truly global recognition, whilst the number of persons aged 60 and over is increasing at an unprecedented pace. WHO estimates that between four to six percent of older people have suffered some sort of abuse. Older women and older persons with disabilities may be especially vulnerable to abuse by a range of perpetrators, including intimate partner, family members, caregivers and institutions.

This side event discussed how the issue of VAOP is covered or not by existing human rights mechanisms and showcased legal approaches in national contexts. There are several plans and recommendations at the international level intending to protect older people. However, unlike other groups whose rights are most violated, such as children, women and disabled people, older people do not yet have the universal convention that compels states to protect them, which is still at the proposition stage. As underlined by several panelists, the current challenge is to break with the classic vision of aging as a problem in order to allow every individual to grow old with dignity and normalcy. During the side event, the panelists highlighted the urgency to move forward on this issue: while the proportion of elder abuse victims remains constant, the number of victims will increase rapidly due to population ageing,

growing to 330 million victims by 2050. Furthermore, as noted by Marie Beaulieu, expert researcher on the mistreatment of elder adults at the University of Sherbrooke, Canada, all cases of abuse are associated with increased mortality and are a violation of the victim's fundamental human rights. Ageing is an integral part of life and one does not become a lesser person with age : the time is now to act to ensure that everyone fully retains their rights along the whole course of their life and whatever their age, including their rights to quality and continued education and training at the highest level.
Clémence Mathiaud

— Peacebuilding and Human Rights—

Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) join forces for Korean Unification

As part of the HRC 38 I attended the side event, *Korea Women, North and South: Peace, Reconciliation, Rights and Development*. It is an issue that resonates in the mind of everyone: North and South Korea have become a persistent headline in the daily newspaper, received two-minute covers in every TV channel news every day and millions of tweets of internet users all around the globe every hour. So, when I received a notification to assist an event with the words 'Korea', 'Reconciliation' and 'Peace' in the same title I couldn't help but squeeze my handbag strap excitedly, the idea of any possible plans for further reconciliation between two nations confronted for over seven decades doing a better job at brightening me up than the ice coffee that I had in hand.



South Korea women meeting with ten North Korea women as part of the 'Peacebuilding/Partnership Meeting place for Women' Initiative.

Although the possibility of a peaceful unification was not the only staggering matter that made my ears perk, but the news of an increasing passivity among the youngest South Korean generations about the unification: from the acceptance of the Japanese colonization of the peninsula to the negative portrayal of the Kim dynasty, the waning interest in a future unification in the upcoming generation was understandable. Disheartening, but understandable.

The panel showcased programmes in progress such as the 1% Love Share Project, which supplies North Korean women and children with bedding and children's clothing, and upcoming initiatives like stablishing a peacebuilding/partnership meeting place for women near the DMZ. Projects like the latter could help provide a cultural insight that could be taken into consideration while building political and public will for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

I must confess it took me a while to process the fact that the longing for a unified peninsula was fading as new generations came. But I realized I could not use my mindset as a default template for people who have lived in a completely different situation, and that's when all the pieces fell into place: we must analyse the issues with an open mind, leave behind the western perspective to find practical solutions for issues overseas. *Yingyan Qiu*

The High Commissioner for Human Rights delivered his last global oral update to the HRC
HRC38 heard on Monday 18 June Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights deliver his last global update to the council before his mandate ends in August 2018. The High Commissioner announced that he was not going to seek a second term. In a highly exposed position, he wants to maintain his independence in an era when human rights are under attack.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein from Jordan took his post in September 2014 after appointment by Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki Moon and succeeded Navi Pillay of South Africa. Son of a Jordanian prince and a Swedish citizen, having studied in the United Kingdom and the United States, The High Commissioner is a paradox. At a time when the great powers are trying to undermine the reach of human rights, he is raising his voice, without embarrassment, without political calculation. None of Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein's predecessors served for two full terms. Nevertheless, the departure of the current High Commissioner is still a notable moment for International Geneva, as he is one of the most fervent defenders of human rights at a time where they have never been as increasingly under attack.



The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein ©UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

In this address, the High Commissioner drew attention to the universality of human rights and expressed concern over growing attacks against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Historically, the most destructive force to imperil the world was chauvinistic nationalism: The UN was conceived to prevent its rebirth. States must work for the human rights of all people; only then would peace be attained. The High Commissioner further noted the situation of human rights in a number of countries, adding that every decision to cooperate with the international human rights system would help create openings towards a more harmonious society. Almost 40 States have accepted no visit by a Special Rapporteur over the past five years, despite requests. Among them, 15 States had more than five pending visits: Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe. The High Commissioner stressed that attempts by Governments to selectively cherry-pick mandates they would invite undermined the integrity of the entire international human rights architecture. The human rights ideal was the most constructive movement of ideas of the era. Undermining human rights law was in no way an act of patriotism.

The High Commissioner said to be departing an Office which was strong and absolutely committed to its gargantuan task and which in the face of heavy headwinds, had made progress. His final update was saluted by a standing ovation from the audience in the room of the HRC, a vivid proof of the respect and admiration of the HRC for this outstanding defender of human rights. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, is due to appoint a new High Commissioner. This is a vital moment for the Secretary-General, for the UN and its human rights pillar, and most of all for millions of people around the world whose fundamental human rights are downtrodden every day. *Clémence Mathiaud*

— Our 2018 Spring and Summer Interns —



*GWI Spring and Summer Interns 2018 (from left to right):
Katie Taylor-Flintham, Clémence Mathiaud, Elena Dal Mas, Yingyan Qiu*

Katie Taylor Flintham

My name is Katie Taylor Flintham, I am 20 years old and I have just completed my second year studying International Relations and Politics at the University of East Anglia. I'm not entirely sure what career path I want to follow but once I graduate from my degree I hope to complete the graduate diploma in law. The internship has been inspiring for my future and I am grateful for the personal and professional experience that I gained here. When I am not studying I enjoy horseback riding and travelling.

Clémence Mathiaud

My name is Clémence Mathiaud and I am a 22-year-old student from Sciences Po Lyon, France. I am currently finishing my master's degree in International Relations and Global Governance. I also studied at the University of Geneva in Switzerland and the University of Reading in the UK. The core belief that education is the single most important tool to empower individuals and transform societies was passed on to me by my mother, who has been a primary school teacher in a disadvantaged school for the past 25 years. Thanks to her example and the personal experience I gained through various associative activities, I realized that my dream in life is to do what I can to promote universal access to education. My time as a GWI intern has significantly bolstered my determination to pursue a career in the non-governmental sector, advocating for the fundamental right to education for all and especially women and girls. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, reading and hiking. I am also passionate about Russian culture and language, which I have been studying for the past six years.

Elena Dal Mas

My name is Elena and I am an Italian student currently attending the University of East Anglia. I developed an intuitive and perceptive personality throughout my experiences and my education path, which brought me to study International Relations and Japanese in the United Kingdom. I consider myself as an enthusiastic and driven individual with a generous quantity of curiosity towards cultures,

ideas and marvels of different societies around the globe. I am motivated to positively contribute with innovation and creativity to make a change in the world, challenging my boundaries and my limits. Working at GWI as an intern enabled me to have a better insight of how International Organizations are structured and I am glad I had this wonderful opportunity to expand my knowledge.

Yingyan Qiu

My name is Yingyan. I was born and raised in Spain and I moved to England at my 18s to start my higher education in Norwich. I'm a first year translation, media and French student at the University of East Anglia. Although my course is mainly focused on linguistics and culture, I am also passionate about art: I love to read, draw and write. And as a woman and someone with a multicultural background, gender and cultural issues have always hit home, so I always make sure every piece I draw and every piece I write have a little twist of social awareness in them. As someone with such indecisive nature, I had my uncertainties when it came to apply for an internship overseas in my very first year of university. However, I was sure such opportunity was going to provide me more than work experience: personal growth, social awareness and a taste of how NGOs work. Now halfway through the internship, I can confirm I was right.

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