

Dear Supporters,

I want to first off thank you all so much for the opportunity to take part in this life changing, remarkable experience. This trip to New York has helped me to better understand the world and the people in it, it taught how much is going on in the world and what can be done to change the world. This experience opened my eyes to the importance of teamwork not just here at home but abroad.

Each and every person has the duty to impact their community for the better. This conference that forced me to meet people all over the world in order to literally survive. I knew of no one and knew not of New York. When it all began i found myself lost more than found, and found myself asking questions and garnering friendships. I met extraordinary people as I was a Youth Observer on the USA team, people from UK, Ireland, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Mexico, to name a few of the 45 delegations that attended. (1-2 ambassadors, 1-2 delegates, 1-2 observers, on each delegation) The conference's goal was for students all over the world to share what human rights violations have occurred at home and what they did to overcome and spread human rights knowledge.

The first day of the "Summit" we heard from keynote speakers on the importance of Education. The key note speaker of the day was the ex-president of Costa Rica. We also heard from leaders from Canada, Afghanistan, and the U.K. Day two stressed the knowledge of sex/human trafficking and what survivors are doing as they overcome such atrocities. Day 3 we are no longer in fancy outfits as delegates to the United Nations we all pile in a bus and head to Harlem where we experience cultures from all over the world at The Multicultural Festival in East Harlem.

Now, what I just briefly described above was the conference, what really stood out to me was the amount of free time to meet friends and get in small groups to explore the city. This allowed me to meet great friends that I know I will cherish for a lifetime. For examples piling into an Uber to go 70 blocks to a restaurant, or renting a bicycle in times square, or even staying up late at an Irish pub. All these events transformed friendships into making everyone feel like family. We were able to ask questions and get a better understand of human rights in the world.

This trip showed me that there is much to be done. We MUST push forward the educational materials found on the Youth for Human Rights website. I expect that since you all sent me as a delegate that the FREE supplies will be handed out at the fall/spring sessions of the Human Rights Academy days. I believe it is our duty to share the knowledge of the declaration of human rights, and this organization has amazing (tested successful) ways on how to do. The world deserves to know about the work Youth for Human Rights does, and as those that embrace our human rights it is our duty to work together with the world.

If there is anything I can do to help please send me an email. Thank you so much, without your support I never would have had this opportunity to add more flames to my fire and had the opportunity to reach across the world.

Sincerely,

-Matt West