Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the members, staff and Board of Directors of the Youth Coalition for all of their hard work in 2008. It was another exciting year, filled with many accomplishments and challenges. Thank you to all of our funders and partners for your support, without which we would not be able carry this important work.

Office Staff 2008

Katie Chau – Executive Coordinator (July 2006 – July 2008)
Ashley Hunkin – Interim Executive Coordinator (July 2008 – October 2008)
Lynda Saleh – Executive Coordinator (December 2008 – present)
Emily Turk – Communications and Outreach Officer
Rosario Castro – Program Officer

Board of Directors

September 2007 – August 2008
Yara Jarallah, Palestine – Chair
Victor Bernhardtz, Sweden – Vice-Chair
Ariel Gonzalez Galeano, Paraguay – Treasurer
Samuel Kissi, Ghana – Secretary
Claudia Ahumada, Chile
Maria Eugenia Miranda, Argentina
Nadia Ribadeneira, Ecuador
Nino Susanto, Indonesia

August 2008 – Present
Claudia Ahumada, Chile – Chair
Tanya Baker, Canada / Trinidad – Vice-Chair
Nino Susanto, Indonesia – Treasurer
Liping Mian, China – Secretary
Laura Villa Torres, Mexico (August 2008 – June 2009)
Neha Sood, India
Nadia Ribadeneira, Ecuador
Ricardo Baruch, Mexico

For more information on the Youth Coalition:

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©2008 Annual Report prepared by Emily Turk, Communications and Outreach Officer
A Letter from the Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to introduce you to the 2008 Annual Report of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights. This has been a year of great opportunities and continued learning. As we look toward our 10 year anniversary, our conviction that young people are capable of meaningfully contributing to decisions that affect our lives, and that our involvement makes a difference, is stronger than ever.

Throughout 2008, we have been involved in a number of conferences, United Nations processes, and events. By taking part in the planning stages, as well as being deeply involved in the meetings themselves, sharing information and working with young people from around the globe, we aim to inform the decision-making related to the sexual and reproductive rights of young people in order to have these decisions, policies and programmes effectively respond to the diverse realities of young people. We believe in processes that are led from the bottom up and that work not on young people but with young people.

We have also continued to contribute to the knowledge and skills-building of young people on advocacy and sexual and reproductive rights related issues. All Youth Coalition trainings are designed with a two-way learning component, in recognition that training participants themselves have much to contribute. In coming together, we learn from each other and strengthen the impact of our work at the national, regional and international levels.

As a completely youth-led, volunteer driven, member-based organization, we are proud to be a working example of the contributions that young people can make. We work with many partners and young activists who inspire us on a daily basis and who have believed in our work since the beginning. As we look toward our 10 year anniversary, we look forward to new and strengthened partnerships, as well as finding innovative ways for young people to achieve our goal: a world where sexual and reproductive rights for young people is a reality.

Claudia Ahumada, Chair
Board of Directors
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Introduction

Welcome to the Youth Coalition’s 2008 Annual Report! Once again, we’ve had a successful and rewarding year by capitalizing on new and ongoing partnerships and venturing into new areas of advocacy.

This year’s activities strongly emphasized the Youth Coalition’s ongoing commitment to advocacy and youth involvement in decision-making. Throughout the year, our members participated in over a dozen international meetings and global dialogues, and also planned and convened a Progressive Youth Caucus prior to the UN High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS. In addition, a large delegation of YC members attended the 2008 International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, where many of them played key roles in the conference’s planning processes, and we also continued our work at the UN’s Human Rights Council by participating in the 7th and 9th Sessions.

Furthermore, after several years of research, the Youth Coalition decided to look at advocacy in relation to International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and international donors to ensure that sexual and reproductive health commodities and services are adequately reflected in development assistance policies and programs, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies. Subsequently, the YC held an internal training in early 2008 in order to increase members’ knowledge on IFIs, national-level budgeting and other adjacent issues. This internal work and research has set the stage for the Youth Coalition’s first series of national-level trainings on Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), with the pilot training set to take place in Accra, Ghana in January 2009.

This year also saw a revamp of the Youth Coalition brand and image, and the launch of a new more user-friendly website. After months of research and preparation, the website went live in July 2008, and has since seen an 8.5% increase in hits. The Youth Coalition’s listserv, the YC NEWS, has also seen an increase of almost 200 new subscribers in the past year.

Altogether, it has been an outstanding year of sexual and reproductive rights advocacy, partnerships, and new frontiers for the Youth Coalition. We have continued to grow, and have welcomed four new members this year, as well as our new Executive Coordinator. We have and will continue to work hard to ensure that the rights of young people and adolescents are protected and respected, and that young people are able to participate meaningfully in the decision-making that affects their lives.

We greatly appreciate all of the organizations and individuals with whom we have worked throughout 2008. Thank you to the following funders and organizations for all of their generous support, without which we could not have achieved so much:

Funders

The Summit Charitable Foundation; The Ford Foundation; Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via CHOICE); Population Action International (PAI); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and our Anonymous Donor.
**Partner Organizations**

Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD); Advocates for Youth; Asia-Pacific Alliance for ICPD (APA); CHOICE for youth and sexuality; Family Care International (FCI); Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA); Huesped Foundation; International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organization (IGLYO); International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC); Ipas; IPPF-WHR; Mexico Youth Force; Plan International; Public Health Institute (PHI); the Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights; World AIDS Campaign; YouAct; Young and Wise; and Youth Incentives.

From our advocacy work to trainings to publications and beyond, the Youth Coalition always makes certain that our activities are in line with the goals and objectives that we have set forth, and that they adhere to the principles and values we dearly respect.

Within this report, we have broken down our activities according to the 4 pillars of the Youth Coalition’s current Strategic Plan, and we have also included a profile of the Youth Coalition’s 2008 finances:

I. Advocacy;  
II. Trainings and Workshops;  
III. Organizational Development;  
IV. Communications.  
V. Financial Profile

We hope that you enjoy reading about this year’s activities!

### 2008 Youth Coalition Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vincent Abrigo</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
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<td>Claudia Ahumada</td>
<td>Chile</td>
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<td>Tanya Baker</td>
<td>Canada/Trinidad</td>
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<td>Ricardo Baruch</td>
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<td>Imene Ben Ameur</td>
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<td>Victor Bernhardtz</td>
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<td>Thokozile Budaza</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Joana Chagas</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
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<td>Katie Chau</td>
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<td>Ariel Gonzalez Galeano</td>
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<td>Svenn Miki Grant</td>
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<td>Gemma Hobcraft</td>
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<td>Yara Jarallah</td>
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<td>Imane Khachani</td>
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<td>Samuel Kissi</td>
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<td>Fredrik Lindahl</td>
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<td>Kristina Mena</td>
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<td>Liping Mian</td>
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<td>Maria Eugenia Miranda</td>
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<td>Kunle Odeyemi</td>
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<td>Rikke Enggaard Olsen</td>
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<td>Nadia Ribadeneira</td>
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<td>Martijn Seijsener</td>
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<td>Neha Sood</td>
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<td>Prateek Suman</td>
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<td>Wesam Tohlob</td>
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<td>Daniel Townsend</td>
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<td>Yeranuhi Hovhannisyan</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
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I. Advocacy

The importance of advocacy work to the Youth Coalition’s mandate cannot be understated. Our advocacy objectives are manifold: We strive to influence decision-making processes so that they respect, prioritize and guarantee young people’s sexual and reproductive rights, and to increase the effective participation of young people in the development, implementation, evaluation of the policies and programs that affect their lives. We also hope to increase both awareness about sexual and reproductive rights and support among key stakeholders, and to hold those same stakeholders accountable to their commitments.

International Human Rights Funders’ Group Meeting
January 28, 2008 – San Francisco, USA
The International Human Rights Funders Group is an association of US-based grant makers who focus on human rights. The IHRFG gathers twice a year a meeting where members discuss common issues under a given theme. It is also an opportunity for its working groups to enhance knowledge and discuss strategies. The broad theme of the January meeting was “Human Rights and Natural Resources”, and the Sexual Rights working group invited the YC to attend. YC member Victor Bernhardtz gave a one-hour presentation of the Youth Coalition’s analysis and work on sexual and reproductive rights, International Financial Institutions, and youth participation.

World Aids Campaign (WAC) Youth Consultation Meeting
January 30 – 31, 2008 – Amsterdam, the Netherlands
The World AIDS Campaign coordinated a two-day Youth Consultation, with the specific goal of identifying and analyzing the HIV and AIDS youth constituency’s current needs, strengths, and challenges; and to agree upon key campaigning and mobilization opportunities and concrete universal access activities leading up to 2010. Executive Coordinator Katie Chau sat on the steering committee that helped the World AIDS Campaign (WAC) convene this international conference/ consultation. As a member of the steering committee, Katie was able to input on the objectives, content, agenda and invitee list for the consultation. YC members Maria Eugenia Miranda and Samuel Kissi attended the meeting on behalf of the YC, and several other members attended in other capacities (Prateek Suman – as Chair of WAC’s Steering Committee, Claudia Ahumada – as WAC’s Youth Campaigns Coordinator, and Ricardo Baruch – on behalf of the Mexico Youth Programme).

WAC Global Steering Committee Meeting
January 28 – 29, 2008 - Amsterdam, the Netherlands
The World AIDS Campaign (WAC) held its seventh Global Steering Committee (GSC) meeting in January 2008. This meeting, which brought together representatives from the various constituency networks, was key in defining the WAC’s focus for 2008 and looking to the future. At the meeting, the faith-based representative (from the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance) Linda Hartke, handed over the role of Chair to YC member Prateek Suman, who will serve as chair until 2009. Throughout the meeting, the GSC approved revisions to the 2008 World AIDS Campaign annual plan and budget, which underlined clear priorities for its national and constituency programme work and communications activities.
Human Rights Council (HRC) 7th Session  
*March 15 – 29, 2008 - Geneva, Switzerland*

YC members Fredrik Lindahl and Joana Chagas were selected to participate at the 7th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. While attending the HRC, the YC was invited to participate in an NGO side event on Sexual Rights convened by DAWN, International Council on Human Rights Policy, MADRE and Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI), and Joana spoke on behalf of the YC at their panel session. Fredrik and Joana also participated in the informal meeting on the Resolution on Violence against Women, monitored the Resolution on the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and focused principally on the Resolution on the Rights of the Child.

In addition, the YC delegates were invited, along with DAWN and SRI, to a meeting with the Department of Reproductive Health Research of the World Health Organization. The objective of the meeting was to brief WHO representatives on the difference between the former Commission and the present Council, and to also indicate whether or not sexual and reproductive rights issues are being addressed within the HRC.

Civil Liberties and Public Policy Programme of Hampshire College Annual Conference and International Leadership Development Meeting  
*April 5 – 8, 2008 – Boston, USA*

Executive Coordinator Katie Chau was selected to represent the YC at the Hampshire College's annual conference. She spoke in two panel presentations, including an international reproductive rights roundtable, and led a “strategic action” session on international organizing for sexual and reproductive rights. Katie also participated in the International Leadership Development Meeting, a gathering funded by the Ford Foundation. As follow-up to this meeting, Katie drafted a document on “Meaningful Principles of Youth Participation” with input from the YC membership. This working document will continue to be developed by Hampshire College's Civil Liberties and Public Policy Programme.

Project RMA Meeting  
*April 24 – 25, 2008 – Kampala, Uganda*

The Project Resource Mobilization and Awareness (Project RMA) is a joint effort by PAI, IPPF and the German Foundation for World Population (DSW) to increase financial and political support for RH Supplies at the national, regional and international levels. The Youth Coalition’s participation in the meeting was included in our grant from Project RMA, and YC member Fredrik Lindahl attended. The two-day meeting gave all grantees the opportunity to network, and to get to know what others are working on with regard to Reproductive Health Supplies.

Investing in Young People’s Health and Development: Research that Improves Policies and Programs  
*April 27 – 30, 2008 – Abuja, Nigeria*

YC member Svenn Grant was selected to represent the YC at the Young People’s Health and Development Conference, hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health. The conference goal was to look into research funding and programmes used to address health and development issues, and to promote a progressive agenda for improving young people’s health and development. The conference was attended by researchers, academics, sexual and reproductive health service providers, advocates, and government officials - mostly from the Sub-Saharan African region and from international agencies working in the field of sexual and reproductive rights. Svenn participated in a panel discussion in order to present the methodology and outcomes of the YC’s regional youth trainings, and also participated in a meeting, “Scaling up Youth Programs - Policy Maker's Forum”.

7
UN High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS
June 8 – 11, 2008 – New York, USA

From June 10-11, 2008, the United Nations welcomed civil society organization participants to the 2008 High Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV and AIDS. This Mid-Term Review was called a High Level Meeting (instead of a UN General Assembly Special Session) and the organizing resolution made it clear that there would be no political declaration - and therefore no negotiated document - but rather a summary prepared by the President of the General Assembly. While there would be limited space for any negotiations or lobbying, the Youth Coalition planned and convened a Progressive Youth Caucus prior to the HLM to mobilize youth organizations and activists to work together.

YC members Prateek Suman, Liping Mian and Executive Coordinator Katie Chau attended the HLM and facilitated the Youth Caucus. YC member Claudia Ahumada also attended the HLM on behalf of the World AIDS Campaign. Approximately 40 young advocates from around the world attended and worked together to develop a set of key messages directed at governments, the UN and other leaders to uphold their commitments to universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support of HIV and AIDS. Thematically, the messages focused on: comprehensive sexuality education over abstinence-only prevention; the participation and leadership of young people; the need for age and sex disaggregated data; the rights of people living with HIV; youth-friendly services; and linkages between HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Following the caucus, a smaller group of participants prepared a one page document with a finalized messaged, developed through analyzing the six messages and building them into advocacy slogans and talking points. With these key messages in hand, caucus members met daily throughout the review to exchange information and share their assessments of the review process throughout.

Mexico International AIDS Conference and IAC Pre-Conference
July 31 – August 8, 2008 – Mexico City, Mexico

The Youth Coalition was able to fund and send one member, Vincent Abrigo (Philippines), to Mexico City for the International AIDS Conference; however, several other YC members were also able to attend IAC and the IAC Pre-Conference by way of funding from various other organizations. Throughout the week, YC members were involved in running the pre-conference workshops, and also actively participated in the IAC. In fact, many YC members played a key role in it’s planning: Ricardo Baruch (Mexico) was the conference’s Youth Programme Coordinator; Claudia Ahumada co-chaired the reception subcommittee, as well as the main conference subcommittee (with support from YC Executive Coordinator, Katie Chau); Wesam Tohlob was a member of the reception subcommittee; Samuel Kissi was on the media subcommittee; and Imane Khachani was a spokesperson.

Other YC members in attendance participated in the conference in various capacities: Liping Mian attended on behalf of the YC and China Youth Network and was involved in the Mexico YouthForce (MYF) Advocacy Subcommittee; Neha Sood was funded by the International Women’s Health Coalition to attend and focus on advocating for women’s rights and youth issues; Daniel...
Townsend represented the YC on a panel about Sex Work, organized by the World AIDS Campaign and STI Netherlands; and Kristina Mena contributed to several media features highlighting the pandemic and issues faced by the Caribbean region.

Overall, YC members worked throughout the conference to effectively contribute to the debates concerning meaningful youth participation and other related discussions in the fight against HIV and AIDS, as well as establishing links with other organizations to create partnerships in future work against HIV and AIDS. Members also distributed over a thousand YC factsheets on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, and on Young People and HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination.

**Human Rights Council (HRC) 9th Session**  
*September 12 – 24, 2008 - Geneva, Switzerland*

YC member Samuel Kissi attended the 9th session of the UN’s Human Right Council. This session marked the third time the Youth Coalition has participated at the HRC. While at the HRC, Samuel contributed to a draft resolution on Maternal Mortality initiated by the Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI) and other ally NGOs. Samuel also attended a session for the Universal Periodic Review, where he, along with Sandeep from ACPD, Angela from DAWN, Alejandra from CLADEM and Wanda from Federation for Women and Family Planning, prepared a joint statement on the lack of attention paid to maternal health as well as adolescent sexuality education throughout the prior two rounds of the UPR process. Samuel read the statement of behalf of the team. Samuel also initiated another statement on the Durban Review Process with help from his SRI colleagues.

**Asia-Pacific Alliance Meeting**  
*October 4 – 5, 2008 – Chiang Mai, Thailand*

The Asia-Pacific Alliance (APA) invited YC member Liping Mian to present at their annual general meeting, on behalf of China Youth Network. Interim Executive Coordinator Ashley Hunkin was also invited to attend. The theme of the APA AGM was “How does SRH work for Mobile, Refugee and Displaced Populations?”, and it included a Reproductive Health Supplies workshop, and a session for presentations from various NGOs working on sexual and reproductive health and rights around the region. During this time Liping gave a presentation on youth participation in China and she also introduced the attendees to the Youth Coalition and distributed YC materials to participants after the presentation. The AGM also had a donor panel session, and featured guest speakers from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNAID, and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

**IGLYO Workshop on International Advocacy on Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity Youth Issues**  
*October 12 – 16, 2008 – Torino, Italy*

The organizations IGLYO and ArciGay organized this four-day workshop, which invited participants from all over Europe (including former soviet countries). Ricardo Baruch attended on behalf of the Youth Coalition. The workshop theme was *Advocacy strategies for young LGBTQ activists*, and participants learned about the LGBTI contexts in different European countries, about advocacy in European institutions (such as the European Union and the Council of Europe), and also how to create effective advocacy projects. The sessions also dealt with the incidence of institutionalized homophobia in the former Soviet Union, with legislation on legal registration for transpeople, and with exploring the European Union’s policies concerning sexual
orientation and gender identity. In addition, the workshop afforded the YC the opportunity to network with larger LGBTI organizations such as the FELGBT (Federacion Española de LGBT), the Students Union of the UK, COC Netherlands and IGLYO – which like the YC - is a sustainable youth organization. Post-workshop, IGLYO has become a strategic partner of the Youth Coalition.

**XVII and XVIII Meeting of the Board of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**

*May 2-5, 2008 – Geneva, Switzerland*

*November 7 - 8, 2008 – New Delhi, India*

Ricardo Baruch participated in the Global Fund Board meetings in his role as a member of the Developing Countries’ NGOs Delegation on behalf of the Youth Coalition and of the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA). Over the past two years, Ricardo has brought a crucial youth perspective to these meetings; and although there have been some challenges, he has seen an increase in the prioritization of youth issues, and he feels that the Youth Coalition’s continued involvement is important.

**Reproductive Health Supplies Conference**

*November 19 – 21, 2008 - Accra, Ghana*

Victor Bernhardt attended the Reproductive Health Supplies Advocacy meeting organized by our partner organizations Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana and Project RMA partners Population Action International (PAI), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and the German Foundation for World Population (DSW). The meeting’s theme was Global Policy Frameworks: Turning Commitment in to Access for RH Supplies, and participants discussed the difficulty of converting public government commitments to increase funding and financing for RH and supplies into actual action. Other topics discussed include: the influences and changes in current “aid” architecture; global trends in development aid; the difficulties facing RH organizations in accessing development aid; and RH supplies in Ghana.

**Global Youth Advisory Panel Meeting**

*December 3 – 5, 2008 - New York, USA*

The Global Youth Advisory Panel (GYAP) is a mechanism for UNFPA to dialogue with youth organizations and networks that advise UNFPA on strategic actions to address the needs of young people, especially regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights. At the end of July Liping was selected by the YC Board of Directors to join GYAP for 2008, and currently the panel consists of 17 young people, 7 of whom represent international youth organizations and 10 who attended the meeting representing different regions and countries. The meeting in December focused on four main topics: finalizing a youth participation guideline; how to increase youth participation at international, regional and national levels; the youth agenda for ICPD+15; and reviewing last year’s GYAP recommendations for UNFPA, and how/if they were achieved.

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**II. Trainings and Workshops**
It is the Youth Coalition’s goal that young people working in the field of sexual and reproductive rights have a full understanding of these issues and are empowered to effectively advocate for them. Therefore, we organize trainings and workshop sessions in order to increase the knowledge and capacities of young people working in our field, and to strengthen our partnerships with youth-led organizations and networks working on sexual and reproductive rights. Through our trainings, we also endeavour to promote networking and coalition building between the young people we engage and other organizations and networks advocating for sexual and reproductive rights.

Bi-national Safe Abortion Advocacy Workshop (Uruguay and Argentina)
*May 10 – 12, 2008 - Montevideo, Uruguay*
Maria Eugenia Miranda and Nadia Ribadeneira facilitated the YC’s sixth National Safe Abortion Advocacy Workshop in Uruguay. The workshop was bi-national in nature, and hosted 13 participants from both Uruguay and Argentina. The training content was specifically adapted to the two countries’ specific national contexts, as both Uruguay and Argentina were in the midst of a national discussion about changing their constitution [with regard to abortion]. Throughout the workshop, the group examined the history of SRR, the medical aspects of abortion, gender perspective, media, and abortion issues and advocacy strategies from both national and international perspectives. The facilitators also collaborated with Daniella Tellechea from the Uruguayan NGO Mujer y Salud en Uruguay (MYSU), who assisted with two sessions.

4th World Youth Congress
*August 10 – 21, 2008 - Quebec City, Canada*
Youth Coalition member Daniel Townsend attended the 4th Annual World Youth Congress in Quebec City and co-facilitated a workshop session with UNFPA on Young People and Sexual and Reproductive Health. The workshop touched on several topics, including: comprehensive sexuality education, HIV and AIDS education, access to contraception, access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, and other significant sexual reproductive rights themes. Young people from diverse regions attended the session, and shared their experiences as youth working in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

Rights and Realities International Conference
*November 10 – 11, 2008 - Rotterdam, the Netherlands*
The Youth Coalition was invited by Youth Incentives to facilitate a workshop at their international “Rights and Realities” conference. Nadia Ribadeneira was selected to represent the YC, and Maria Eugenia Miranda was also invited to the conference as a guest speaker for a session facilitated by CHOICE. The conference took place over two days, hosted 250 participants from 28 countries from Africa, Asia, Latin-America, North-America and Europe, with the objective of discussing and analyzing the advances and challenges facing the sexual and reproductive rights arena, and also to share experiences of the different organizations that work on sexual and reproductive rights. The YC organized a workshop on abortion called How to Break the Barriers: Linking International Advocacy to the Grassroots Level, Abortion and Sexual and
Reproductive Rights from a Young Woman’s Perspective. The workshop objective was to share the YC’s knowledge and experience working on abortion at international, regional and national levels.

ICPD and Advocacy Training (South, East and Southeast Asia)
November 24 – 27, 2008 - Bangkok, Thailand
YC members Neha Sood and Ariel Gonzalez Galeano facilitated the ICPD and Advocacy training for South, East and Southeast Asia, and hosted 18 young people from around the region. The training was held in anticipation of the ICPD 15-year review and its associated regional meetings. The workshop objectives were to educate young activists on the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA), to share experiences and strategies of the ICPD PoA and national level advocacy, and to train young people how to use the ICPD PoA to hold their national government accountable for commitments made.
III. Organizational Development

The Youth Coalition is an effective and sustainable organization, and we strive to strengthen the capacity of the YC membership to effectively advocate, facilitate and train on sexual and reproductive rights issues. Building the skills and capacities of our members is an ongoing process, and therefore we endeavour to hold internal trainings and skills sessions as they are needed. Both our Board of Directors (BD) and the membership at large have the opportunity to meet in-person each year in order to plan our organizational activities, monitor our progress, and strategize for the future. These BD meetings and the Annual General Meeting are excellent opportunities for organizational development, and we aim to ensure that all members are equipped with the necessary skills and competencies for effective participation in organizational decision-making.

Internal Training on International Financial Institutions (IFI)
February 19 – 24, 2008 – Arlington VA, USA
Five YC members and two staff participated in this internal workshop on International Financial Institutions (IFIs). This workshop served as a training of trainers seminar to prepare YC members to facilitate similar workshops and support young activists in other countries in the Global South - beginning with a pilot workshop in Ghana for 2009. The Youth Coalition invited representatives from UNDESA, World Bank, International Budget Project, Gender Action and Population Action International (PAI) to facilitate sessions for the training. The YC believes that it is essential to advocate in relation to IFIs and international donors to ensure that sexual and reproductive health commodities and services are adequately reflected in development assistance policies and programs, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies. It is also important to enhance public budgeting processes to ensure that national budget systems allocate sufficient resources to RH supplies and services. The YC believes that such advocacy efforts require the meaningful participation of young people, since they are one of the main populations who are most affected by RH supply issues.

In-Person Board of Directors Meeting
March 9 – 12, 2008 – Plymouth, Tobago
In March, the Youth Coalition’s Board of Directors held their in-person meeting in Plymouth, Tobago. Board members Yara Jarallah (Chair), Victor Bernhardtz (Vice-Chair), Ariel Gonzalez Galeano (Treasurer), Samuel Kissi (Secretary), Nadia Ribadeneira, Nino Susanto, Maria Eugenia Miranda, as well as Executive Coordinator Katie Chau were in attendance. The BD approached the entire meeting with sunny enthusiasm, and began their work with a series of evaluations including the EC’s evaluation of the Board and vice versa, and the membership’s evaluation of the BD. The group also reviewed the Youth Coalition’s taskforces, and discussed organizational plans for the coming year – including the YC’s approaching 10th anniversary. With regard to finances and fundraising, the Board reviewed the audit process and its preliminary results, the 2008 budget, as well as at future fundraising strategies and concerns.
Pre-AGM: In-Person Board of Directors Meeting  
*August 23 – 24, 2008 - Bangkok, Thailand*  
The 2007-2008 Board of Directors (BD) held their last in-person meeting before elections at the 2008 AGM - at which a new BD would be elected. Board members Victor Bernhardtz (Vice-Chair), Ariel Gonzalez Galeano (Treasurer), Samuel Kissi (Secretary), Nadia Ribadeneira, Nino Susanto, Maria Eugenia Miranda, as well as Ashley Hunkin (interim Executive Coordinator) were in attendance. The BD began the meeting with a series of evaluations including the EC's evaluation of the Board and vice versa, and as well members’ evaluations of the BD and their work over the last six months. In the course if the meeting, office workload and staff transitions were discussed, and the group also reviewed 2008 finances before taking a brief look ahead to 2009 budget allocation and fundraising.

Annual General Meeting and Internal Training  
*August 25 – 29, 2008 - Bangkok, Thailand*  
The Youth Coalition’s Annual General Meeting brings together our members from across the globe in order to discuss the work we have achieved over the past year and our future goals. In July this year, Katie Chau departed the organization after two years as Executive Coordinator. Katie was replaced in the interim by Ashley Hunkin until Lynda Saleh filled the position in late December 2008. This year’s AGM focused largely on organizational introspection, with sessions on principles and values clarification, on the analysis of funding trends and creating strategies to adapt, and on YC taskforce work. The Youth Coalition’s AGMs are also an opportunity for our members to all receive training on strategic themes and topics, and to build capacities and skills in these areas. This year the internal training was on *Sexual Diversity, LGBTI Movements and Advocacy*, and Cynthia Rothschild was selected as our external facilitator. The topic of facilitation was selected by the YC Membership Committee based on needs assessment among the membership, with the aim of increasing members’ knowledge of sexual orientation and gender identity issues, learning about LGBTI language, negotiation and representation at the UN, and paying special attention to the linkages between sexual and reproductive rights and LGBTI issues.

Post-AGM: In-Person Board of Directors Meeting  
*August 30 – 31, 2008 - Bangkok, Thailand*  
A new Board of Directors (BD) was elected at the 2008 AGM and at this in-person meeting, the Executive Committee was selected. The following members sit on the 2008-2009 BD: Claudia Ahumada (Chair), Tanya Baker (Vice-Chair), Nino Susanto (Treasurer), Liping Mian (Secretary), Laura Villa Torres, Neha Sood, Nadia Ribadeneira and Ricardo Baruch. During the meeting, the first urgent item on the BD’s agenda was to come-up with a contingency plan with regard to the potential airport closure in Bangkok (where the meeting was being held) lest the membership be stranded. Luckily the airport closure did not take place. The highlights of the BD meeting included strategizing to improve internal working relations, agreeing upon tentative details for the February in-person meeting, reviewing task force Action Plans and pending decisions on selection of members for activities, reviewing AGM recommendations, as well as discussing general reflections on the organization and planning for the next 6 months.
IV. Communications

As a leader in sexual and reproductive rights advocacy and youth participation, the Youth Coalition endeavours to be a reliable resource for young people, policymakers and others working in the field of sexual and reproductive rights. We use our publications and other communications tools to support our advocacy work, to assist our trainings, and to raise awareness on sexual and reproductive rights issues regionally and internationally.

Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio y la salud sexual y reproductiva: Perspectiva desde la gente joven de Latinoamérica y el Caribe

Published 2008

Family Care International (FCI) and the Youth Coalition collaborated on the Spanish publication Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio y la salud sexual y reproductiva: Perspectiva desde la gente joven de Latinoamérica y el Caribe [English translation: The Millennium Development Goals and Sexual and Reproductive Health: The Perspective of Latin America and Caribbean Youth]. This resource aims to increase Latin American and Caribbean youth’s access to key information on the MDGs and sexual and reproductive health and rights. It includes: key commitments related to sexual and reproductive health adopted in the World Summit; current data on the sexual and reproductive health of young people; strategies and recommendations for promoting youth advocacy campaigns to help ensure that international commitments to improving young people’s sexual and reproductive health are sustained, and more. The publication is available on the YC website (in Spanish only).

Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos Guía Para Activistas Jóvenes

Published 2008 (by Plan International)

At the end of 2007, Plan International approached the Youth Coalition about translating our Youth Activist’s Guide to Sexual and Reproductive Rights into Spanish. In August 2008, the translated version, Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos Guía Para Activistas Jóvenes, was launched at the Youth Networking Zone at the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. The electronic version is available on the YC website.

HIV Factsheets – Spanish Translation

Published 2008

In November 2008, the YC introduced Spanish versions of their HIV factsheets Young People and HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination and Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Young People. The Spanish translations Las Personas Jóvenes y el Estigma y Discriminación por VIH y SIDA and Educación Sexual Integral para Jóvenes are available to download on the YC website. Currently the factsheets are available in English, French, Spanish and Chinese.

Youth Coalition Website and YC NEWS listserv

For the period of August 2008 to January 2009, the Youth Coalition website had 475,102 hits, up 8.5% from the previous six months (437, 693 hits). The YC’s listserv, the YC NEWS, also saw an increase of almost 200 new subscribers in the past year (approximately 500 subscribers).
V. Financial Profile

Youth Coalition Fiscal Year 2008

**Total Revenue for 2008**
- Grant contributions: $442,387

**Expenditures**
- Activities and Programming: $381,880
- General and Administrative costs: $49,551
- Other: $11,350
Final Thoughts

At the close of 2008, the Youth Coalition has once again achieved a great deal. Without a doubt, the central focus of this year’s activities was advocacy, and we saw our members bring their skills to a remarkable number of international meetings and events. This trend in our activities not only emphasizes the vital need for youth advocacy and engagement in all levels of SRR decision-making, but also points to an increasing number of opportunities and forums in which young people from all regions are able to participate.

The Youth Coalition has been building on the success of our activities since our inception in 1999, and we are proud to be leaders in the ever-growing youth sexual and reproductive rights movement. Over the past decade we have made significant progress in advocating for the sexual and reproductive rights of young people, but many challenges remain. It is vital that we continue to work toward the global decriminalization of abortion, to fight homophobia in legal and social spheres, and to continue to work toward realizing the Millennium Development Goals.

As we approach 2009, we look forward to celebrating our 10 year anniversary and we pledge to continue to promote the meaningful participation of young people and advocate for the sexual and reproductive rights of young people at the national, regional and international levels.