ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all of the members, staff and Board of Directors of the Youth Coalition for all of their hard work in 2009. 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 2009
Lynda Saleh – Executive Coordinator
Emily Turk – Communications and Outreach Officer
Rosario Castro – Program Officer

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

Board of Directors, September 2009 – present
Neha Sood, India – Chair
Ariel Gonzalez, Paraguay – Vice-Chair
Katie Chau, Canada/UK – Treasurer
Wieke Vink, Netherlands – Secretary
Liping Mian, China
Nida Mushtaq, Pakistan
Ricardo Baruch, Mexico
Samuel Kissi, Ghana

For more information on the Youth Coalition:
www.youthcoalition.org
190 Maclaren Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K2P 0L6
admin@youthcoalition.org
Phone: + 613 562 3522
Fax: + 613 562 9502

©2009 Youth Coalition.
Annual Report prepared by Emily Turk, Communications and Outreach Officer
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am very pleased to welcome you to the 2009 Annual Report of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (YC). In 2009, we celebrated ten years of advocacy, capacity building, knowledge generation and information sharing to promote adolescent and young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights. We marked this anniversary by reflecting on the past years, remembering and honoring the efforts and contributions of former staff and members, strategizing for the years to come, and strengthening the current YC team to work together.

We shared this anniversary with another important one: fifteen years of the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA). Fittingly – since YC was created during an ICPD@5 review process – this year focused in large part on furthering the implementation of the ICPD PoA, in particular, with respect to adolescents and young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights. The strategy employed included workshops for young activists on ICPD and advocacy, and direct advocacy with the UN, Parliamentarians and civil society.

In light of the 10-year anniversary, the YC produced two important publications – one documenting its history and work, and another serving as a guide to creating sustainable youth-led organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights. We hope that both these publications will be sources of inspiration and guidance for other youth groups, organizations and networks.

Another significant milestone for the past year was the induction of ten young and amazing new members to the organization. This was part of YC’s ongoing effort to be a sustainable organization and a particular effort to respond to the fact that a large number of members will age out in the next couple of years. Hence, currently the focus is on passing on knowledge and skills, thereby strengthening the youth sexual and reproductive rights movement.

This past year, we continued to work in true collaboration with other young advocates, youth organizations, organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, donors and UN agencies. This is in keeping with our belief that we are part of a movement and that change brought about through collective efforts benefits many more and is more sustainable. We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest and heartfelt thanks to all our partners, donors and colleagues – past and present.

Neha Sood
Chair, Board of Directors
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The YC Board of Directors in Montreal, Canada.
Welcome to the Youth Coalition’s 2009 Annual Report! 2009 marks the ten year anniversary of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and we could not have more reasons to celebrate. We have had another eventful and rewarding year, with much of it owing to successful collaborations with other youth-led organizations and advocates. Together with their support and our own hard work, the Youth Coalition continues to make a strong impression at international advocacy forums, to build the capacity of dozens of young advocates, and to produce quality youth-friendly resources, sharing them across the globe.

Our activities in 2009 largely focused on influencing decision-making processes and policy outcomes, and holding governments accountable to their commitments. Throughout the year, Youth Coalition members participated in a phenomenal number of international meetings and global dialogues, and also planned and convened a Youth Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR) Symposium prior to the Global Partners in Action NGO Forum in Berlin. Our work at these venues and our close collaboration with other youth advocates contributed to the successful inclusion of progressive language in key documents, and to the production of several strong youth statements and calls to action.

The Youth Coalition also held a number of workshops and training sessions in 2009. In January, we followed through on our plans to look at advocacy in relation to International Financial Institutions and development assistance policies and programs, and subsequently held our first national-level pilot training on SRR and Poverty Reduction Strategies in Accra, Ghana. We also continued our series of ICPD 15-year review trainings with a workshop in Cairo, helping young people in the Middle East and North Africa to prepare for the ICPD regional meetings. Through these and other trainings, we have worked diligently to increase the knowledge and capacities of the young people in the field of SRR and to strengthen our partnerships with other youth-led organizations.

Lastly, we had a banner year in the production of youth-friendly SRR resources. In 2009, the YC produced three booklets and six factsheets, both on our own and in collaboration with partners. We used these publications to not only inform and raise awareness, but also to support our advocacy work and to assist us in our trainings. These resources address many topics, but the key themes this year included meaningful youth participation, universal access to reproductive health, and youth leadership and sustainability.

In all, 2009 has been an exceptional year of advocacy, collaboration and celebration for the Youth Coalition. Over the past ten years, we have worked very hard to ensure that the rights of youth and adolescents are protected and respected, and that young people are able to participate meaningfully in the decision-making that affects their lives. As we begin our second decade of work, we look back and thank those who have helped shape our efforts and our organization, and we now look forward to the opportunities and challenges that await us.

The Youth Coalition greatly appreciates all of the organizations and individuals with whom we have worked throughout 2009. 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 Organisation (IGLYO); International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC); Ipas; International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); 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:

- Advocacy;
- Trainings and Workshops;
- Organizational Development;
- Communications (information sharing, knowledge generation and awareness-raising)

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

2009 Youth Coalition Membership

- Vincent Abrigo, Philippines
- Claudia Ahumada, Chile
- Tanya Baker, Canada/Trinidad
- Ricardo Baruch, Mexico
- Imene Ben Ameur, Tunisia
- Victor Bernhardt, Sweden
- Thokozile Budaza, South Africa
- Joana Chagas, Brazil
- Katie Chau, Canada
- Ioana Contu, Romania
- Ariel Gonzalez Galeano, Paraguay
- Svenn Miki Grant, Trinidad
- Gemma Hobcraft, United Kingdom
- Yara Jarallah, Palestine
- Imane Khachani, Morocco
- Samuel Kissi, Ghana
- Fredrik Lindahl, Sweden
- Kristina Mena, Jamaica
- Liping Mian, China
- Maria Eugenia Miranda, Argentina
- Kunle Odeyemi, Nigeria
- Rikke Enggaard Olsen, Denmark
- Nadia Ribadeneira, Ecuador
- Martijn Seijsener, Netherlands
- Neha Sood, India
- Nino Susanto, Indonesia
- Prateek Suman, India
- Wesam Tohlob, Egypt
- Daniel Townsend, Jamaica
- Yeranuhi Hovhannisyan, Armenia
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.

With Women Worldwide Compact Working Group on HIV and AIDS Annual Meeting
January 15, 2009 – New York, USA
YC representative Imane Khachani attended the Compact Working Group’s annual meeting, convened by the International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC). The Compact (With Women Worldwide – A Compact to End HIV/AIDS) is a consensus agenda that aims to support the redesign of HIV/AIDS policies and programs and generate new political and financial support to empower girls and women to protect themselves against HIV and AIDS. The meeting focused on strategizing for key events in 2009/2010, and also on the new U.S. administration and the implications for the SRR movement. During the meeting, the group drafted a letter to Hilary Clinton, to congratulate her on her appointment to the position of Secretary of State, but also to emphasize that U.S. leadership on the health and rights of women and young people is critical. The letter also demanded the recognition of SRR as core elements of HIV/AIDS responses, the commitment to working with civil society organizations, and that the administration meaningfully engage women and young people and those living with HIV in all stages of policy and program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

World YWCA 2009-2012 Strategy Consultation Meeting
February 23 – 25, 2009 - Geneva, Switzerland
On behalf of the YC, Imane Khachani participated in this Strategy Consultation Meeting for the World Young Women’s Christian Association (World YWCA). The purpose of the meeting was to review the World YWCA strategy on HIV and AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for 2009-2012 and to strengthen a comprehensive HIV and AIDS approach that includes condoms programming, in the context of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

Human Rights Council (HRC) 10th Session
March 9 – 28, 2009 - Geneva, Switzerland
YC member Samuel Kissi was selected to participate at the 10th Session of the UN Human Rights Council. While at the Session, Samuel attended a civil society meeting with the President of the Council, participated in a full-day meeting on the evaluation and follow-up of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and also attended the presentations made by the Special Rapporteurs on issues including on minorities, trafficking, and human rights defenders. Samuel also collaborated with the Sexual Rights Initiative and other partners on advocacy around the maternal mortality (MM) statement drafted by civil society, and following their advocacy work with States, the MM statement was presented to the Council by New Zealand. Additionally, Samuel was able to attend a side event organized by the Philippines, Germany and the OHCHR on Combating Human Trafficking and made an intervention on criminalization of sex work and how it results in systemic and multiple forms of discrimination. He also spent some time reviewing UPR
(Universal Periodic Review) reports and drafting recommendations, as well as reviewing resolutions (with support from other YC members) and collaboratively drafting recommendations; the resolution on defamation of religion was passed containing some language recommended by Samuel and partners.

Meeting of the International Working Group of the Yogyakarta Principles
March 11-14th, 2009 - Los Angeles, United States
The International Working Group of the Yogyakarta Principles meets periodically to review the Yogyakarta Principles (Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity). It is comprised of activists, advocates, lawyers, scholars and other persons involved in international advocacy issues related to SOGI issues. YC member Daniel Townsend attended this meeting, which was a new activity of the YC, having not previously participated in the Working Group. The purpose of this particular meeting was to review the Yogyakarta Principles with aim of making recommendations for ways in which the principles can be further incorporated into international treaty negotiations, general UN initiatives, domestic and regional legal structures and made useful to general SOGI advocacy by local activists.

IGLYO ‘This is Who We Are’ Conference Preparatory Meeting
March 13 – 21, 2009 - Amsterdam, the Netherlands
The Youth Coalition was invited by IGLYO (the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Youth and Student Organisation) to be co-organizers of an international LGBTQ conference that they were planning as part of their 25th anniversary. IGLYO is a sustainable youth network that has been working in Europe for 25 years, but wanted the YC to be involved in the planning process in order to share our global expertise. YC member Ricardo Baruch sat on the conference preparation team, who met in-person in March to map out the conference activities and draft a skeleton agenda.

WAC Joint Communications Campaign Meeting on HIV, AIDS and Human Rights
March 15 -18, 2009 - Geneva, Switzerland
Vincent Abrigo represented the Youth Coalition at the World AIDS Campaign’s (WAC) Joint Communications Campaign Meeting. The meeting hosted communications staff from all of the constituencies representing WAC’s Global Steering Committee, as well as communications experts in the field of media, marketing and human rights, in order to lay the ground work for a communications action plan around human rights and universal access for 2009 – 2010. Participants also discussed joint communications strategies to keep AIDS in the public agenda, examining factors such as media fatigue, AIDS versus health systems strengthening and AIDS versus other critical world issues.

International Leadership Development Meeting and Hampshire College 23rd Annual Reproductive Rights Conference
March 30 - April 6, 2009 - Amherst, Massachusetts
The Youth Coalition was invited to participate in this annual conference organized by Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, where approximately one thousand SRR activists working throughout the U.S. and a dozen participants from different international organizations came together to network and discuss issues related to sexual and reproductive rights. YC member Victor Bernhardt attended the International Leadership Development Meeting, which consisted of meetings, discussions and workshops with the international participants. At the main conference, Victor facilitated two workshops on meaningful youth participation, and on international SRR advocacy and activism (with a focus on the YC’s work on PRSPs and International Financial Institutions), and he also contributed to a large networking workshop.

42nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)
March 30 – April 3, 2009 - New York, USA
The 42nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) was significant to the Youth Coalition, as its theme was “the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals”. YC members Katie Chau and Yeranuhi Hovhannisyan collaborated with a remarkable group of youth advocates to ensure that young people’s SRHR and youth perspectives were adequately included in the Commission meeting. They also worked closely with a coalition of SRHR NGOs from diverse countries around the world. These collaborative advocacy efforts contributed to the inclusion of progressive statements on youth SRHR in the final resolution.
The YC also produced an issue of the Watchdog with input from various youth advocates and a strong youth oral statement, read by a member of CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality.

**XVIII International AIDS Conference - 1st Joint Programme Committee Meeting**
May 9 – 12, 2009 - Vienna, Austria
YC member Liping Mian was nominated and accepted to the Leadership and Accountability Programme Committee (LAPC) with the support from WAC and YC in March 2009. The LAPC is one of three programme committees working under the Conference Coordinating Committee to organize the XVIII International AIDS Conference in 2010. At this meeting, all of the programme committees discussed the focus and goals for the upcoming IAC, and the youth representatives also raised the importance of youth leadership and how young people can play an active role in the conference preparation. The LAPC discussed evaluations and lessons learned from the previous IAC, and their vision for the coming year. Liping recommended that for IAC 2010 the LAPC should integrate the leadership sessions from youth programme with the other community programmes. Her recommendation was accepted.

**Human Rights Council (HRC) 11th Session**
June 2 –18, 2009 - Geneva, Switzerland
Neha Sood was selected to represent the Youth Coalition for the duration of the three-week 11th session of the Human Rights Council. YC member Liping Mian was also able to attend the second week of the session supported by the Sexual Rights Initiative, and worked with Neha on a number of activities. The YC’s focus for this session was following the progress of resolutions, particularly the ones on maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights, and violence against women; making statements during the adoption of UPR reports to highlight sexual and reproductive rights issues, particularly for China, Mexico and Malaysia; and co-organizing a panel on maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights. Additionally, Neha was asked to speak at a side event – a High Level Panel on Human Rights and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

**Global Partners in Action NGO Forum 2nd Steering Group Meeting**
June 7-14, 2009 - Berlin, Germany
Vincent Abrigo represented the Youth Coalition at the second Steering Group meeting for the Global Partners in Action NGO Forum. At the meeting, the Steering Group finalized their selection of applicants who would be attending the NGO Forum. The group also worked on the financial and logistical planning of their Youth SRR Symposium for the youth participants of the NGO Forum.

**IGLYO 25th Anniversary Conference “This is Who We Are”**
July 1-24, 2009 - Amsterdam, the Netherlands
The Youth Coalition was an international supporting partner of IGLYO’s (the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organisation) 25th anniversary conference “This is Who We Are.” YC member Ricardo Baruch sat on the conference prep team, and Daniel Townsend, Joe Hammoud, Stephen Chukwumah, and staff member Emily Turk attended the conference as participants. The YC was keen to participate in this event in order to seek out new partnerships and to find opportunities for linking SRR to LGBTI issues. The conference hosted approximately 80 young people from around the world, and offered the opportunity to explore the potential for future cooperation between LGBTI youth activists in different regions of the world. The event largely focused on the challenges and barriers facing activists in specific regions, and also ad-
dressed the application of human rights in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, using the Yogyakarta Principles.

**World Population Foundation - Pakistan**

**July 17, 2009 - Islamabad, Pakistan**

YC member Nida Mushtaq was invited by the World Population Foundation - Pakistan to an interactive forum that they conducted for their different stakeholders. Nida gave a presentation on youth participation and ICPD +15 which focused on recommendations for the meaningful participation of young people in advocacy processes, in civil society, and in implementing ICPD. Among those invited to the forum were representatives from civil society, youth groups/networks, and the Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Affairs in Pakistan. The Secretary gave a speech which took note of the recommendations presented at the forum and promised to ensure active representation of youth parliament of Pakistan in activities concerning ICPD+15.

**Global Partners in Action NGO Forum / Youth SRR Symposium**

**September 1 - 4, 2009 - Berlin, Germany**

In September 2009, Civil Society leaders, representing approximately 400 NGOs and coming from over 130 countries, gathered in Berlin for the Global Partners in Action NGO Forum. The Forum aimed to strengthen NGOs working in partnership to secure political and financial investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights as a development priority. The Youth Coalition was a member of the Forum’s Steering Group, and members, Vincent Abrigo, Katie Chau, Imane Khachani, and Executive Coordinator Lynda Saleh participated in the NGO Forum and also organized a Youth SRR Symposium for all youth participants one day prior to the Forum. The symposium was very successful. Close to 60 young people shared experiences and discussed opportunities, challenges and innovative ideas for further promoting young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights. Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, Ms. Thoraya Obaid, delivered a speech to the youth participants, and the symposium culminated in the production of a Youth Statement outlining key priorities for policy makers and decision makers from government, donors, private sectors, and civil society to act on. The youth statement fed into the Berlin Call to Action and the Strategic Options for NGOs document.

**MenEngage Africa Symposium**

**October 5 – 9, 2009 - Johannesburg, South Africa**

The MenEngage Africa Symposium hosted 240 delegates representing 25 African countries, and brought together organizations and policymakers from across Africa to build civil society and government capacity to work with men and boys to respond to gender-based violence and HIV. YC member Samuel Kissi spoke on a panel which focused on addressing the sexual health needs and rights of men in Africa. In his presentation, Samuel discussed how media advocacy can be used as a tool in creating change with men and boys on SRH.

**Regional Seminar: Progress and Key Actions for Implementing the Cairo Programme of Action, 15 Years after Approval**

**October 7 – 8, 2009 - Santiago, Chile**

On behalf of the Youth Coalition and the World AIDS Campaign, Claudia Ahumada attended this regional (Latin America and Caribbean) seminar. The seminar was a joint initiative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the UNFPA, and it examined the progress and challenges 15 years after the implementation of the ICPD PoA. Many of the seminar’s presentations focused on youth, migration, HIV and stigma and discrimination. There were also discussions on the revised costing of ICPD and whether or not LAC governments would be able to meet those costs.
Expert meeting on the right to sexual and reproductive health with UNFPA and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
October 8-9, 2009 – New York, USA
YC member Neha Sood was invited to participate in this consultation comprising Committee members, UNFPA staff, academics, advocates and other experts. The Committee is preparing a General Comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health, with advice and assistance from UNFPA. This meeting was an opportunity for civil society to give input to the Committee on the different rights elements connected with sexual and reproductive health. At this meeting, Neha worked with other SRR advocates to make suggestions including: focusing on sexual and reproductive rights rather than the narrow ‘right to sexual and reproductive health’; rights of different populations such as youth, people living with disabilities, men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people and indigenous people; and while cultural diversity does impact the realization of these rights in different contexts, it cannot be considered while defining the right itself.

Leadership and Accountability Programme Committee (LAPC) Meeting for the XVIII International AIDS Conference
October 11-12, 2009 – Vienna, Austria
YC member Liping Mian attended this meeting for the Leadership and Accountability Programme Committee (LAPC), one of three programme committees working under the Conference Coordinating Committee to organize the XVIII International AIDS Conference. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the topics and potential speakers for the conference plenary sessions, review the concept notes of non abstract driven sessions (NADS), and discuss the ten skill building workshops the LAPC will be organizing.

High-Level Meeting on Maternal Health - MDG 5
October 26, 2009 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
In October 2009, the Ministry for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands and UNFPA organized a High-Level Meeting on Maternal Health - MDG 5, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The purpose of the meeting was to give maternal health a more prominent place on the development agenda, as well as to increase the political and financial commitment to improve programme implementation at country level. Youth Coalition members Imane Khachani, Neha Sood, and Ivens Reis Reyner participated in the meeting, and Imane was invited by UNFPA to give a speech. Imane’s speech called attention to the fact that adolescent girls and young women are disproportionately affected by pregnancy and childbirth-related mortality and morbidity, and also highlighted four crucial needs: research, legal action, programmatic action and funding action. A draft call to action was circulated amongst the meeting participants, and the Youth Coalition was invited to share our input. The final document, the Addis Call to Urgent Action for Maternal Health reflects the YC's effort to include ‘youth participation’

4th International Parliamentarians’ Conference on the Implementation of ICPD
October 27 – 28, 2009 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
In the two days following the High-Level Meeting on Maternal Health – MDG 5, the 4th International Parliamentarians’ Conference on the Implementation of ICPD (IPCI/ICPD) took place in Addis Ababa. A significant portion of the conference agenda was devoted to countries sharing the challenges they face in achieving the ICPD PoA. The conference also held roundtables on several issues including climate change, youth, and migration, among others. A major outcome document, the Addis Ababa Statement of Commitment, was developed during the conference and asked that Parliamentarians pledge to carry out specific actions (listed in the statement) in order to complete the unfinished agenda of the ICPD Programme of Action, and to actively monitor the progress they make in
doing so. In the roundtable on youth issues, the draft Statement’s section on youth was shared with delegates. After examining the text, the Youth Coalition (members Imane Khachani, Neha Sood, and Ivens Reis Reyner) worked to lobby supportive State representatives to propose language on meaningful youth participation and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, especially for young people.

**UNAIDS Consultancy Meeting on Masculinity, Gender and HIV**

**November 1, 2009 - Geneva, Switzerland**

On behalf of the YC, Joe Hammoud attended a UNAIDS consultancy meeting on Masculinity, Gender and HIV along with other participants from Jamaica, India, Nigeria, South Africa, Uzbekistan, and Austria. The meeting addressed themes of violence against women and sexual and reproductive health, and each participant was asked to present key problematic issues related to violence against women in their own country/region. The group discussed masculinity and its relationship to HIV, and brainstormed strategies to address the challenges identified with masculinity with respect to HIV (i.e. refusing prevention methods because it is perceived as a sign of weakness). The participants also identified points of entry for interventions with men and boys that aim to change masculinities in order to stop violence against women, and discussed the importance of engaging young people in these initiatives.

**Annual Meeting of the Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights**

**November 4 – 6, 2009 - Miami, USA**

The Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights is a network of grantmakers who address issues of population, reproductive health, rights and justice, both domestically and internationally. The Funders Network looks to improve communication, foster collaboration, increase resources and enhance the overall effectiveness of grantmakers in this field. YC member Ricardo Baruch was invited to the Funders Network’s annual meeting speak about funding for youth organizations from both a Latin American perspective and also from a Global Fund perspective. The meeting also addressed funding youth organizations and youth programs, health reform in the U.S., funding women’s programs in conflict situations and advocacy around safe abortion issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**International Conference on Family Planning**

**November 15 -18, 2009 - Kampala, Uganda**

Youth Coalition has been a partner and grantee of Population Action International (PAI) for several years. In November, the organized a training on “linking research and action on SRHR” for their current grantees, which was held alongside the first International Conference on Family Planning. YC member Ricardo Baruch was invited to participate in the workshop, as well as the Conference. The International Conference on Family Planning was organized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population, the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Makerere University’s School of Public Health, and the Implementing Best Practices Initiative, with support from USAID and UNFPA. The conference focused on research and best practices in family planning (FP), and on turning knowledge into action, and one of its main objectives was to reposition family planning issues on the global agenda due to the dramatic reduction of FP support around the world. The conference allowed the YC to learn about new trends and issues in family planning, and also gain visibility as one of the few youth organizations present.

**Internet Governance Forum 2009**

**November 15-18, 2009 - Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt**

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder annual forum for policy dialogue on issues of internet governance. The IGF brings together international diplomats, members of national and regional parliaments, UN-delegates, internet technologists, people from the private sector, activists and youth to discuss issues related to internet governance. Youth Coalition was invited by the Association of Progressive Communications to provide a panelist for a workshop they were delivering at the IGF, called Content regulation, surveillance and sexuality rights – privacy, agency, and security. Wieke Vink was chosen to represent the YC at this event and speak on the panel. ACP’s workshop provided a space for youth and sexual and reproductive rights activists to draw attention to the great opportunities that the internet provides us, both for advocacy and in terms of enjoying one’s sexual and reproductive rights rather than focusing only on the protection of children and youth from harmful online content.
Global Youth Advisory Panel Meeting
November 4 – 6, 2009 - 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. Sara Coumans and Stephen Chukwumah were selected by the YC Board of Directors to join GYAP for 2009, and currently the panel consists of 22 young people, including representation from 6 international organizations and 16 different regions. The meeting in November 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. The YC’s Executive Coordinator, Lynda Saleh also attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the publication “Youth-led Organizations and SRHR: A step by step guide to creating sustainable youth-led organizations on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights”, a collaborative project between the YC and CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality.

HIV Youth Leaders Fund Interim Steering Committee Meeting
November 19 – 20, 2009 - New York City, USA
The HIV Young Leaders Fund (HYLF) is a new community-driven funding mechanism for youth-led HIV initiatives. Young leaders representing HIV networks and organizations will govern the HYLF, ensure its accountability to young people affected by HIV, and guide the Fund’s evolution. An Interim Steering Committee of young people representing both global and local networks will direct the strategic direction of the HYLF in 2010, its first operating year. Tina Andriamahefa represented the Youth Coalition at the first Interim Steering Committee meeting, which convened 11 young people representing youth organizations working at the national and global levels, 3 individuals from AIDS 2031, and one person from the HIV Collaborative Fund (the host of the fund).

IGLYO General Assembly 2009
December 9 -13, 2009 - Edinburgh, Scotland
In December 2009, the International Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organization (IGLYO) held their General Assembly in partnership with LGBT Youth Scotland. The Youth Coalition is an international partner of IGLYO, and had previously supported their 25th anniversary conference. The General Assembly hosted approximately 50 young people from around Europe, and included three main workshop sessions (on membership reform, and education policy paper, and statutory discussions), a panel discussion on LGBTQ Youth Rights, and the appointment of IGLYO’s new Board of Directors. Joe Hammoud represented the YC in this meeting. The YC was keen to participate in this event in order to strengthen our partnership with IGLYO, to discover new opportunities for linking SRR to SOGI issues, and to ensure that the Youth Coalition is engaged in the emerging and increasingly active field of LGBTI rights.

Youth Incentives Brainstorming Workshop
December 12-13, 2009 - Utrecht, the Netherlands
The international programme on Youth and Sexuality of the Rutgers Nisso Groep, Youth Incentives, decided to form a coalition with international youth organizations in order to carry out an international conference in 2010: “Sexuality under 18: How the Social Environment Influences Sexual Development.” To begin planning for this event, Youth Incentives organized a two day brainstorming weekend with 30 young people - 15 from Dutch youth organizations and 15 from international youth organizations. The Youth Coalition was invited to attend the workshop through one of our partners in the Netherlands (CHOICE), and YC member Stephen Chukwumah attended on our behalf. The information gathered during the brainstorming sessions was to form the basis of the upcoming conference and to create a lobby product, which will be used to not only gather support from other young people, but also as a tool to express the core advocacy messages of the event to (donor) governments and policy makers.
III. TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

It is the Youth Coalition’s goal that young people working in the field of SRR have a full understanding of their sexual and reproductive rights 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 SRR. 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.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Workshop
January 12 - 15, 2009 – Accra, Ghana
The Youth Coalition worked with the Ghana-based organization, Young and Wise (a project of the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana) to deliver this national-level training to 12 participants from across the country. The training was facilitated by YC members Victor Bernhardtz and Samuel Kissi, and it was designed to increase young SRR advocates’ understanding of how PRSPs affect their sexual and reproductive rights. The sessions included: an analysis of poverty and its effects on young people’s SRH in Ghana; how to look at a budget from an advocacy perspective; how RH supplies relate to PRSPs; Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II; and several discussions on young people as actors in the PRSP process. YC conducted intensive follow up with workshop participants through the year, and another skills building workshop is planned in the following year.

Advocacy Training, Public Health Institute - Initiatives on Public Health
January 29 – February 3, 2009 - Antigua, Guatemala
YC member Ricardo Baruch was invited by IHP (International Health Programs) to prepare and facilitate a training for young Central American activists with on behalf of the YC. The training participants were young fellows of the Youth Leadership in Sexual and Reproductive Health Program (GoJoven), and the workshop focused on sexual and reproductive rights issues particular to Latin America, including the Iberoamerican Convention on Youth, the MDGs and the LAC Ministerial Declaration on Sex Education, among others.

ICPD MENA Training
June 18 – 27, 2009 - Cairo, Egypt
In June 2009, the Youth Coalition organized a training in Cairo, Egypt which brought together sixteen youth activists from the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region. The training was held in anticipation of the ICPD 15-year review and its associated regional meetings. The workshop was facilitated by YC members Maria Eugenia Miranda and Wesam Tohlob, as well as the YC’s Executive Coordinator, Lynda Saleh. 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.

World Outgames 2nd International Conference on LGBT Human Rights
July 25 – August 2, 2009 - Copenhagen, Denmark
The 2nd International Conference on LGBT Human Rights was held alongside the
2009 World Outgames, and hosted approximately 800 delegates from 85 countries over three days. The main theme of the conference was “Love of Freedom – Freedom to Love”, which was indicative of the overall goal of the conference: to reaffirm and defend the human right of every LGBT person in the world to participate fully, equally and openly in every part of life. YC members Daniel Townsend and Nino Susanto attended the conference, and facilitated a workshop exploring the intersections between sexual and reproductive rights (SRR) and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) issues.

Adolescent Girls Advocacy Initiative (AGALI) Training - Public Health International
September 30 - October 1, 2009 - Antigua, Guatemala
YC member Ricardo Baruch was invited by Public Health International (PHI), a US based non-profit humanitarian organization working on public health issues including sexual and reproductive rights, to co-facilitate an advocacy training in Guatemala. The title of the workshop was “Adolescent Girls Advocacy and Leadership Initiative (AGALI) for people working on SRR issues from civil society, governments and UN agencies in 4 countries in Central America: Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico”, and this was the third time the YC has collaborated with PHI on a training. The goal of this 5-day workshop was to give advocacy tools to those working on sexual and reproductive health and rights issues as they relate to adolescent-girls. The workshop participants came from many different backgrounds including youth-led organizations, international organizations, federal ministries of women and youth, and UN agencies.
IV. 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.

In-Person Board of Directors Meeting
February 7 – 10, 2009 - Montreal, Canada

In February, the Youth Coalition’s Board of Directors held their in-person meeting in Montreal, Canada. Board members Claudia Ahumada (Chair), Tanya Baker (Vice-Chair), Nino Susanto (Treasurer), Liping Mian (Secretary), Laura Villa Torres, Nadia Ribadeneira, Neha Sood, Ricardo Baruch as well as Executive Coordinator Lynda Saleh were in attendance. The Board began the meeting with a series of internal evaluations, and discussions about membership activity and growth, and later discussed plans for the coming year and the Youth Coalition’s long-term vision. The Board also examined the work of the YC’s taskforces, and reviewed the 2008 and 2009 budgets in preparation for the annual audit.

Annual General Meeting and YC@10 Reflection Day
August 17 – 21, 2009 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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. This year’s AGM was especially exciting as we celebrated the YC’s ten year anniversary with a day of reflection. Two of our alumni, Nadia Van der Linde and Maiden Manzanal led the membership and staff through a brief, but informative history of the Youth Coalition. Later, we went on to examine our past successes, challenges and lessons learned, and then looked forward to discuss key sexual and reproductive rights issues for the future and how to apply the lessons we have learned. The rest of the AGM focused largely on task-force project planning, principles and values clarification, and also on members’ ownership and accountability to both the organization and to each other.

Post-AGM Board of Directors Meeting
August 22 – 23, 2009 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A new Board of Directors (BD) was elected at the 2009 AGM and at this in-person meeting, the Executive Committee was selected. The following members sit on the 2009-2010 BD: Neha Sood (Chair), Ariel Gonzalez (Vice-Chair), Samuel Kissi (interim Vice-Chair), Katie Chau (Treasurer), Wieke Vink (Secretary), Liping Mian, Nida Mushtaq, and Ricardo Baruch. Highlights of the BD meeting included: discussing how to build on the YC’s country-level work and strengthen relationships with national-level organizations; considering new follow-up strategies for YC activities; planning for the February in-person meeting; reviewing task force Action Plans; reviewing AGM recommendations; and planning for the next 6 months.

Pre-AGM Board of Directors Meeting
August 15 – 16, 2009 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 2008-2009 Board of Directors (BD) held their last in-person meeting before elections at the 2009 Annual General Meeting - at which a new BD was elected. Board members Nino Susanto, Nadia Ribadeneira, Neha Sood, Ricardo Baruch, Liping Mian, Tanya Baker, as well as Executive Coordinator Lynda Saleh were in attendance. The focus of the meeting was on final preparations for the AGM, and on handover - including making recommendations for the next Board of Directors.
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 SRR. 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.

BOOKLETS

Youth-led Organizations and SRHR: a step by step guide to creating sustainable youth-led organizations working on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
Published 2009 (in partnership with CHOICE)
Youth-led Organizations and SRHR is a useful resource for young people interested in developing sustainable organizational structures. The publication draws on the experiences of two independent youth-led SRHR organizations, the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and CHOICE for youth and sexuality, and provides a flexible blueprint for the creation of youth-led organizations. The guide helpfully outlines strategic planning, governance structures, fundraising, communications, making an impact with organizational activities, decision-making models, best practices and lessons learned. This resource has been developed with youth SRHR organizations in mind, but is a useful tool for anyone interested in developing sustainable organizations, including individuals, youth groups and networks.

Learning to Speak MDGs, 2nd Edition
Published 2009
The Youth Coalition’s popular publication Learning to Speak MDGs was revised in time for the ten year review of the Millennium Development Goals. The second edition of LTSMDG provides background on the origins of the MDGs and what they mean, and analyzes four goals (universal education; gender equality; maternal health; and HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases) from a youth, sexual and reproductive health and rights perspective. This comprehensive guide is a useful tool for young activists to understand the MDGs in a broad development framework, and also for individuals and organizations who work already within the MDG context and want to incorporate a youth perspective.

10 Years On! A story of successful youth leadership
Published 2009
For the Youth Coalition’s ten year anniversary, we published our reflections on what we have accomplished over the past decade, and considered our successes and lessons learned as we prepare for the next 10 years of advocacy, training, information sharing and organizational development. This booklet is a case study of sustainable youth leadership, and provides readers with an overview of the Youth Coalition’s history and main activities; shows the impact of our work; and explores the YC’s next steps and opportunities for collaboration.

FACTSHEETS

Glossary of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Terms
Published 2009
The terminology in and around sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) can be difficult to follow. This glossary of SOGI terms was designed to help young advocates better navigate the identity-based language used within the field of sexual and reproductive rights, whether or not they are specifically working with LGBTQI communities. This resource also encourages readers to understand that the terms defined in the glossary are not necessarily static, and to respect the right of individuals to self-determine the language used to describe their own identities.

Meaningful Youth Participation: what it actually means for you, your work and your organization
Published 2009
15 years ago, one of the key promises articulated in the ICPD Programme of Action was to increase youth participation in the planning, implementation and
evaluation of development activities that directly affect our daily lives. Now more than ever, it is important for us to evaluate youth participation, and determine how we can move forward to achieve meaningful youth participation. This Youth Coalition factsheet examines the significance and benefits of meaningful youth participation, and the detrimental effects of tokenism and exclusivity. The factsheet also looks at how international declarations and conventions address youth participation, and offers some recommendations for Funders, Civil Society and Governments.

Youth Leadership: Recommendations for Sustainability
Published 2009 (in partnership with AFY, aids2031, CHOICE, GYCA, WAC and Youth R.I.S.E.)
In partnership with Advocates for Youth, aids2031, CHOICE for youth and sexuality, Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), World AIDS Campaign and Youth R.I.S.E., the Youth Coalition developed an original resource on youth leadership: Youth Leadership: Recommendations for Sustainability. The factsheet, available in both English and Spanish, provides insights into the unique challenges facing youth-led organizations, followed by concrete recommendations on how all actors can best support and facilitate youth leadership.

Young People and Universal Access to Reproductive Health
Published 2009
This Youth Coalition factsheet addresses access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) as a human right for all people, including young people, and discusses the indicators for MDG Target 5.B (“Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health”). The factsheet also deals with what is required to achieve universal access to reproductive health for young people, and its other central aspects, such as: access to youth friendly SRH services; comprehensive sexuality education; access to safe abortion care; integration of HIV, STI and reproductive health services; harmful practices and gender-based violence; and meaningful youth participation. The factsheet is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The Global Fund to…what? A youth friendly factsheet to understanding the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis
Published 2009
Young people are very important stakeholders in the response to HIV and AIDS, nevertheless only a handful of young activists have participated at the highest levels of decision making, particularly in relation to funding and disbursement of money for the response to the epidemic. This factsheet from the Youth Coalition (published in both English and Spanish) aims to give readers the basic information about one of the most important funders in the worldwide response to the HIV pandemic: the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

Towards the Finish Line: Youth and Universal Access 2010
Published 2009 (in partnership with GYCA, UNFPA and WAC)
In partnership with the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA), UNFPA and the World AIDS Campaign, the Youth Coalition developed a resource on universal access and youth called, Towards the Finish Line: Youth and Universal Access 2010. Universal access is the global commitment to make HIV prevention, testing, treatment, care and support services available to all those in need. The Towards the Finish Line factsheet is a helpful tool for those who wish to learn more about universal access, what commitments have been made, and what remains to be done. The Youth and Universal Access 2010 factsheet was published in 8 languages, including English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi and Russian.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Youth Coalition Website and YC NEWS listserv
For the period of August 2009 to January 2010, the Youth Coalition website had 633,947 hits, up an impressive 33.4% from the previous six months (475,102). The YC’s listserv, the YC NEWS is holding strong at close to 500 subscribers. The listserv services an array of youth advocates, organizations and allies, and is a means of disseminating relevant SRR-related information, opportunities and resources.
As we close the door on 2009, the Youth Coalition has unquestionably accomplished a great deal. The year saw new collaborations, great advocacy work, and capacity building for many young people. We have been fortunate to work with incredible youth advocates who have helped us in all of these endeavours. We thank you for your invaluable efforts in promoting a progressive youth SRR agenda at international meetings and events, and create meaningful change.

Since our inception in 1999, the Youth Coalition has been building on the success of our activities, our partnerships, and perhaps most importantly – the dedication of our members.

We are extremely proud to be a successful example of sustainable youth leadership, and we pledge to continue to ensure that the sexual and reproductive rights of all young people are respected, guaranteed and promoted, and strive to secure the meaningful participation of young people in decision-making that affects their lives.

YC members, staff and alumni celebrating the Youth Coalition’s 10th anniversary.