A BUSY START TO THE YEAR!


We welcomed our fabulous new members, and between the fun and bonding, finalized our strategic plan, and charted a course for the year ahead. Crucially, members had the chance to see each other face-to-face, and concretize plans and strategies for realizing the work of their respective teams, focusing on issues such as: advocating for SRHR, LGBTQI rights, young people living with HIV/AIDS, the realization of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA), utilizing the platform presented by the International Year of Youth, and eliminating gender-based violence.

One thing was readily apparent at this year’s AGM: our first year of independence has been an incredible period of growth and possibility for YouAct. Despite the uncertainties posed by the current economic climate, uncertainties felt by the whole sector, YouAct members have proven we are vital leaders and partners in advancing the SRHR of young people. Our growing list of activities and undertakings is telling of the organization’s building momentum.

There’s no doubt in our minds that—through our participation in advocacy efforts that seek to ensure that young people’s sexual and reproductive rights are realised in national, regional and international policy; by sharing knowledge and experience with other young people in the region and internationally through training and presentations; and by supporting the participation of young people who aren’t given the platform and ensuring that their voice is heard, YouAct members have marked the organization’s first year of independence with the dedication and passion that we have come to be known for. We look forward to working with all of our partners in the year ahead!

YouAct Steering Committee

YOUACTers Anja Kruse (Norway), Fredrik Kullbert (Sweden) and Cliff Shelton (UK) at the vigil for David Kato, in front of the Ugandan High Commission
THE 55th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The priority theme of this year’s 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), that took place 22nd February – 4th March, was ‘access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s full employment and decent work’. Progressive youth representatives present at the session joined forces to advocate for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people. A joint statement was submitted by youth organisations including YouAct, calling for the right of young women and girls to participate and make free, informed decisions in all aspects of life; to have access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services; and to participate in decision-making and policy formulation at all levels.

CSW55 was accompanied by the official launch of UN Women, the newly established United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women headed by previous president of Chile – Ms Michelle Bachelet. Young people’s visibility was also achieved through participation of young representatives in various panels at parallel events. YouAct member, Rada Elenkova, spoke at the panel organised by International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere (IPPF WHR) on the importance of gender and rights-based comprehensive sexuality education. The launch of a publication that places gender issues and human rights at the heart of sex and HIV education called “It’s All One Curriculum” proved to be very successful and this new tool was in the center of the discussion.

Blog by Magda Pochec, YouAct member Poland

Keep an eye on the YouAct website blog page for the Video Diary from the CSW coming soon!

A YEAR FOR ALL OF US

In partnership with other youth led Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights organisations and supported by UNFPA, YouAct are part of the International Year of Youth (IYY) Strategy. The strategy aims to support and mobilise young people in advocacy efforts towards increasing youth participation, integrating young people’s rights and needs in policies and development frameworks and increasing commitment, both political and financial, towards young people.

To keep up to date with the activities of the IYY partners, follow them on Twitter: @YPEER
@youth_coalition @AmplifyTweets @IPPF_WHR @_GYCA_ @ippf #IYY

Join the conversation and blog alongside IYY partners here.

You can also follow the UN International Year of Youth Tweets at:
@unyouthyear

DUREX’S 2010 FOGS

In 2010, Durex published its Face of Global Sex report 2010, which YouAct provided the overview for. You can find a copy here.

FPA UK TRAINING

On February 2011, YouAct provided the UK FPA’s new Youth Advisory Committee an induction training on youth participation in decision making.

IPPF PUBLICATION

IPPF launched their “Girls Decide: Choices on Sex and Pregnancy” publication following a consultative meeting in 2010, in which YouAct took part. Click here for a copy the publication.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH

AUGUST 2010–2011 OUR YEAR OUR VOICE

THE 55th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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MAKE WOMEN MATTER

YouAct was invited by the Marie Stopes International Make Women Matter Campaign to provide a vodcast to talk about Peer Education as part of a series of programmes for the campaign. Our very own Mari-

Claire Price represented YouAct in this project!

For more information about the campaign, please click here.

To watch the video, please click here.

THE 44th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

This event took place in New York City, U.S.A, on April 11th-15th and YouAct had the opportunity to be part of it!

YouAct worked with the IYY Strategy partners on a number of activities:
- Youth Caucus hosted with Youth Coalition, Advocates for Youth, CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality and GYCA,
- Development of the Youth Oral Statements on: Young Women’s Health, Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Meaningful Youth Participation by participants of the Youth Caucus
- Oral Statements delivered by members of Youth Coalition, GYCA and Advocates for Youth
- Video produced by IYY partners, YouAct and RESURJ asking young people participating in the 44th CPD- What would you say to policy makers, given the opportunity? Can be seen on the YouAct blog page
- YouAct and European Parliamentary Forum hosted meeting between young people and European parliamentarians,
- #CFD44 and #IYY updates on Twitter
- Launch of the RESURJ ten point action agenda

For more information, please visit our website.

YOUACT RECOMMENDS!

- The “I have Sex Campaign”
- The Yogyakarta Principles Comic
- AWID Forum 2012

BLOGS
- Advocates for Youth
- IPPF WHR
- Conversations for a Better World

YOUACT MEMBER PROFILE

FULL NAME: Nicole Polycarpou
COUNTRY: Cyprus
LOCAL ORGANIZATION: Cyprus Family Planning Association
WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN YOUR LOCAL ORG?
- Youth Steering Committee Member, Counsellor (HelpLine 1455), Sex Educator

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH YOUACT AND HOW?
- Since August 2009

WHAT YOUACT-RELATED ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH THIS YEAR?
- Organisational Development Task Force, presenting at the UNFPA Investing in Youth Conference in Istanbul in May and in the Youth Research into motivations and experiences in youth volunteering SRHR.

IN 3 WORDS, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT YOUACT MEANS TO YOU?
- Hope, future, ambition

WHAT DOES THE IYY MEAN TO YOU?
- Another opportunity for young people to express their anxieties on contemporary youth issues in hopes of being heard by people who have the ears to listen and the courage to make the rightful implementations that are needed.

You can follow YouAct by checking out our website, following us on @YouAct_Europe or liking us on Facebook! You can even donate by clicking here!