

Utrecht, 3 November 2005

To Whom It May Concern

In the summer of 2004, I met Craig Bowman during a Summer School 'STOP AIDS' in Serbia and Montenegro. Craig was attending the Summer School as consultant and trainer. He struck me as a very committed and active individual who has the capability to immediately capture the full attention of the young people he works with and motivate them even more for the issues of their concern. Craig is the kind of person who can quickly build trust and can transfer his own passion to other people.

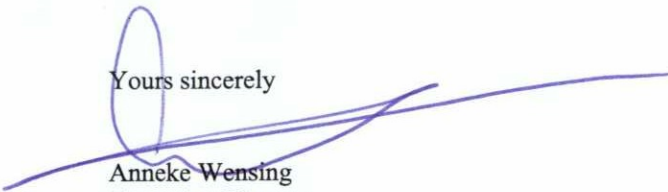
In the days after the Summer School, I had organized the first General Meeting of members of the European Youth Network YouAct, which I was coordinating at the time. After seeing Craig's way of working, I asked him to facilitate part of the General Meeting of YouAct. Even though, this was all very short-term, Craig immediately agreed to do this. Working after hours, I briefed him on the history of the Network and the goals of the Meeting and he prepared a few workshops that were completely in-line with the needs of the members. This shows that Craig is a quick and flexible worker who has a great understanding of how organizations work and what is needed to move organizations forward.

In the fall of 2005, I asked Craig again to facilitate a General Meeting of my youth organization, CHOICE. CHOICE had just recently gained legal status and even more recently received a large grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both events led to a serious amount of change within the organization, on the project as well as organizational level. The General Meeting was organized to discuss new roles and responsibilities and develop a strategic plan. I asked Craig to support the organization through all these changes because of his relationship building skills and experience in guiding strategic planning.

Even though, again, this was all very much on a short notice, Craig did an excellent job. All presentations and activities were prepared very well, including having materials ready, and they were motivating and inspiring to the group. Apart from that, Craig took the time—in the evenings—to discuss roles, responsibilities and expectations with all the different groups in the organization (board members, staff and volunteers), which was extremely helpful to increase the internal functioning of the organization. After two days, all important aspects of the strategic plan were worked out, all participants were clear (and satisfied) on their roles and the whole group felt ready for action. I am sure that if Craig hadn't been there to facilitate and guide the process, with everlasting patience and energy, the group would not have gotten so far. Moreover, Craig is still supporting the group by answering questions through email and sharing helpful documents.

I would strongly recommend Craig as a consultant and trainer.

Yours sincerely



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CHOICE, for youth and sexuality
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