



EUROPEAN YOUTH NETWORK ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

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Hilversum, 2 November 2005

To whom this may concern,

Since August 2004 I have had the personal and professional pleasure of learning from and working with Craig Bowman. In a Summerschool on HIV/AIDS in Serbia & Montenegro I had a first acquaintance with his work style and personality. He gave several workshops on youth empowerment and organizational development for volunteer organization. The way he conducted these workshops was very inspiring and professional, and was an excellent example of his capability to motivate, enthuse and empower young people. The tools that were provided during the training were useful to me and my organization long after and still are. Furthermore, his personality and professionalism stayed with me for a long time, as a person who is a good team builder in very short amount of time, someone who is trustworthy and reliable, and capable of coaching discussions in a strategic, productive and positive way.

The second time I had the opportunity to work with him, was in a strategical training and advocacy meeting in Brussels, October 2005. I invited Craig on behalf of YouAct to conduct the strategical training in preparation of the meeting. The meeting was an advocacy opportunity for youth activist on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights within the European Union to communicate their wishes and needs to the Permanent Representatives¹ of the European Union, who work on development and health. For young people this can be a very stressful and impressive event, as they often feel unsure and less confident when meeting adults in high positions. Considering this, I immediately thought of Craig Bowman and invited him as a trainer to help build confidence in their own capabilities and how to communicate their message in an effective way. And again, he gave an outstanding demonstration of his capabilities in which flexibility, hard working, creativity and trust were the key words. The youth activist, who had never met before, were able to give their message without hesitation and full of self-confidence and made this advocacy opportunity into a productive and useful meeting for all parties attending.

¹ Permanent Representatives negotiate on behalf of their countries the policies that are made within the European Union. They have working groups on all the different subjects such as agriculture, education, development etc. They are essential for policy making within the EU.

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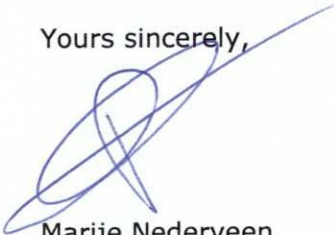
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Moreover, I want to mention his dedication to his work. Our organization works with a small budget and was unable to hire Craig Bowman as a consultant. We were only able to provide travel and accommodation cost. When I explained the situation to him, however, he immediately waived the cost for the training. His personal drive to share knowledge and skills, to empower other people and personal commitment to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights exceeds his wish for financial reward. Instead he finds gratification in working with people and giving them the right tools, with enormous energy, to increase in their professional capabilities, but also personal commitments.

I highly recommend Craig Bowman as consultant and colleague,

Yours sincerely,



Marije Nederveen
Executive Director

YouAct, European Youth Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights