Bio: Ivory Donella Duncan

Age: 24

I am Ms. Ivory Donella Duncan and I was on October 3rd, 1991 in Georgetown, Guyana. I have recently completed my Bachelor’s of Social Sciences Degree in Communication Studies at the University of Guyana. I am currently employed by the Ministry of Agriculture as a Public Relations Officer, attached to the Guyana Marketing Corporation.

As a young professional, I agree with Winston Churchill when he said that ''We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” In 2006, I was involved in a motor vehicular accident which resulted in the amputation of my right leg. This life changing experience led me to develop an undying passion for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, due to the negative treatment meted out to these persons.

Being an advocate for youths with disabilities for the past six years, I have worked in the capacity of the President of the Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD), Young Voices Guyana for two consecutive years. I have also played an integral role in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities as I have functioned in many other leadership capacities at the above mentioned organization. I have had the opportunity of representing LCD at both national and international conferences where I was able to interact with key stakeholders and other youths with disabilities to discuss the disability development framework and protocols.

I have also served at the National Commission on Disability (NCD) as the Advocacy and Communications Officer, which allowed me the opportunity to attend high level meetings and conduct presentations on the seven key rights areas of the Persons with Disabilities Act in Guyana to Non-Governmental Organisations, Government Ministries, Churches and Schools.

In 2013, I wrote an essay entitled “Perspective: Open the doors to education – and employment” which was published in the UNICEF State of the World’s Children 2013 Report. Additionally, I am a member of the Global Partnership on children with Disabilities, Youth Council, UNICEF, New York. I have also been awarded as a highly commended runner up for the Queen’s Young Leaders Award 2015, whereby I was afforded the opportunity of participating in the Leadership Programme that is coordinated by the University of Cambridge.

As I continue to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities, my desire is to assiduously work towards the development and inclusion of youths and persons with disabilities. I am also aspiring to pursue my Masters in Global Studies, which will provide me with the necessary knowledge and skills to better aid in the development of these persons.