



FRANKFURT, 28.09.2009

**Attachment to the Statement by *Universal Peace Federation Deutschland*
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
*Warsaw, 29. September 2009***

*On occasion of
Working Session 2: Fundamental freedoms*

Clarification concerning Youth Service Initiative

Dear Sir / Madam,

As the founder of Youth Service Initiative (YSI), I would like to clarify some points regarding YSI. Recently many social organizations that we have worked with have approached us about a supposed hidden religious motivation and affiliation, specifically with the Unification Church. Many with whom we have been working with well together have chosen to terminate relations with us based on an email sent out by you, warning them of YSI being a cover organization of the Unification Church and connected to that having a hidden agenda to promote religious values rather than being sincere in it's efforts to do social work.

We respect that it is each social organizations right to choose for themselves who they'd like to work with on social projects, but we believe it's only fair that judgment is based on correct information. In the email it is said, that YSI is a youth organization of the UPF (An organization that is part of the unification movement). This is in fact, not true.

Youth Service Initiative was in fact founded as a private organization, the founding members being Unification Church members. YSI was created to give international young people the chance to devote one year to social work. The aim of the program is to build up understanding in young people of being proactive members of society and particularly encourage them to be service project Initiators. The values YSI promotes are Initiative, Creativity, social responsibility and service to the community. Each year we work with various organizations in each city to support their projects as well as create our own. At the end of the year each participant must use their knowledge and experience gained from

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previous projects to plan, organize, and execute their own project. This is independent from their personal religious beliefs.

YSI is open to anyone from any country and any religion. It is not exclusive and has no religious motive or purpose. We have worked on and also organized some inter-religious projects and are open to work with religious or non religious people and organizations. But we do not in any way promote any single religious belief. Surely those people who have worked with us will be able to confirm that we have been completely open with them concerning our ideas for projects and have never tried to use any projects to promote anybody's personal religious beliefs. There is also no intention to do so in the future. This is a false assumption.

In terms of our connection to the UPF, it is true that we organized a service project in Berlin, together with several other partners, including the UPF. We were recently notified that on the UPF website, there is an article about this project that incorrectly names YSI as their youth organization. We have contacted the web master to have this changed because we in fact are not the youth organization of the UPF. We are a privately run NGO that is not dependant on or accountable to UPF.

The YSI volunteers have genuine motivation to serve the community and do not in any way do mission work for the unification movement. This has worked well in the past. We are grateful for the many organizations that have chosen to continue working with us, despite the personal religious beliefs of some volunteers, as they recognize and experience, that the personal beliefs are not an obstacle to their sincere efforts to serve. Anybody is welcome to participate in our projects and see for themselves, that they are not about presenting religious beliefs, but that they are sincere in promoting the stated values that YSI represents.

We kindly ask that you follow up your previous email with one containing the correct information to avoid any further confusion and unnecessary conflict. We thank you and appreciate your cooperation in advance.

If you have any more questions or concerns please feel free to contact us directly. Thank you for your cooperation,

In the name of YSI;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geros Kunkel", written in a cursive style.

Geros Kunkel