

**Rachel Petit**  
**The Advocacy Project Peace Fellowship/ Care Women Nepal**  
**Dhankuta & Kathmandu, Nepal**  
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Dear JJCF Board Members,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your contribution to my fellowship in Nepal this summer with the Advocacy Project. As I sit in Geneva at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, I feel immense gratitude to have been able to see and understand first hand the suffering that I now read about every day as part of my internship. It would be a lie to say that Nepal wasn't a challenge personally and professionally. I found myself in an environment unlike anything I had ever been exposed to before. I had to learn to work in the face of extreme adversity and unexpected upheavals, and how to feel okay with being alone and unable to communicate with anyone. Having now had the time to reflect on my experiences and work in Nepal, I realize that the growth that has occurred within me cannot be equated to a monetary sum. For me, said growth is truly invaluable, and would not have been possible without your support.

Before embarking on my journey to serve as a peace fellow and work with Care Women Nepal, while I had strong convictions about a desire to work towards the realizations of women's reproductive and sexual health rights in developing countries, these convictions stemmed only from the things that I had read in textbooks, articles etc. While my drive was sincere, it wasn't backed by a first-hand understanding of the lives of women in low income countries. Having now worked with women suffering from largely unacknowledged and unaddressed reproductive health issues such as uterine prolapse in Nepal I feel more equipped to advocate authentically for women whose voices often go unheard. I understand that a day in the life of a woman in Nepal looks very different from yours or mine. When you and I are peacefully slumbering at 5am, dreaming of the latte that we will pick up on our way to work, or a deadline that is fast approaching, a woman in Nepal has already risen before sunrise to begin her daily tasks...and for many, these tasks are complicated by reproductive health issues such as uterine prolapse that are both painful and stigmatized. This fellowship has solidified any doubts that I ever had about my desire to spend my life working to enable women everywhere to realize their right to health and increase the happiness that they are able to experience in their lives. I feel grateful for this realization, for the human rights work/advocacy I was able to carry out in Nepal and for the contribution that you have made towards making it possible.

If you are ever in Paris, please let me know. I would love to thank you in person.

Kind regards,

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