

27 April 2017

**Re: Law Foundation Scholarships – Human Rights Internship Programme**

Dear Ms Apps,

I am writing to thank the Law Foundation of South Australia for kindly granting me a scholarship of \$3600 to undertake the Adelaide Law School's Human Rights Internship Programme in 2016.

From December 2016 til February 2017, I undertook an internship at Human Rights Now (HRN), an international human rights NGO, based in Tokyo, which works towards the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly in Asia. HRN was established in 2007, as the first international human rights NGO based in Japan, by a group of lawyers, scholars and journalists interested in human rights. I undertook the internship at the organisation's headquarters in Tokyo, however, HRN also has offices in Geneva, New York, and Yangon, Myanmar.

My main responsibilities as an intern consisted of legal research, contributing to the writing and editing of reports to be published by HRN, and drafting statements to be publicly released by HRN. Under the guidance of HRN's secretary general, an experienced attorney and well-renowned human rights advocate in Japan, I received constructive feedback and was able to develop working habits appropriate to a professional legal environment.

The main legal research task that I was assigned was looking at the current status of human trafficking in Nepal and Myanmar, particularly looking to the causes and current legal protections in place, or lack thereof. I also assisted with researching and editing a women's rights report, which detailed the status of women's rights in seventeen countries, where the legal rights of women are inadequate against human rights

standards. Lastly, I contributed to draft statements on the current surge of persecution against the Rohingya Muslims by Myanmar state authorities, and the rise in impunity in the Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs.

This internship was an invaluable experience that allowed me to develop the ability to research legal issues thoroughly while still being able to summarise findings in a succinct, accurate and unambiguous manner. I also developed stronger skills in ensuring the validity of sources through this research, as well as stronger professional communication skills in relaying findings to my supervisors. I was further able to enjoy opportunities that deepened my understanding of how an international NGO functions, such as volunteering at an event discussing the legal rights of LGBTIQ in Japan, and sitting in on meetings with key stakeholders of HRN. This experience has deepened my passion for pursuing a career that contributes to the development of human rights.

I am very thankful for the Law Foundation of South Australia's generosity in granting me a scholarship to undertake this internship. The funds I received allowed me to be less concerned with finances and instead dedicate my mental energy to the internship.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Thomas', written in a cursive style.

Kate Thomas

Photo taken on the last day of the internship (I am third in from the left, front row):

