



According to its mission, the Student Global Ambassador Project (SGAP) strives to create “positive change agents” through “experiential learning opportunities” and through fostering “increased global awareness among our youth.” As I read this mission on the SGAP website the night before the program on modern slavery, I acknowledged that SGAP appeared to be a positive organization. Nevertheless, I have learned to be skeptical of such organizations.

As a student social justice activist, I have reached out to several student organizations that claim to support student involvement in social reform, activism, and ethical leadership. From my experience, these organizations have been unreliable, misled, and even costly. SGAP proved to be just the opposite. As its mission suggests, SGAP attracts students that have visions of a better future and ideas about how to reach this ideal. We were able to utilize our unique perspectives and ideas to bring this mission to life during the program.

The program began as Michele Joseph, the founder of SGAP, introduced speakers who, in varied ways, work towards the abolition of modern slavery. Based on their individual methods of action, the speakers were able to offer different perspectives that ultimately enriched our understanding of the issue. After listening to and engaging with the speakers, we broke into small groups. As we shared our ideas about the issue, many students in my group, including myself, decided that they were going to start abolitionist clubs in their schools. We inspired each other and gave each other the strength to engender change in our own communities.

We then headed to the United Nations to gain a better understanding of how government organizations work towards the elimination of human rights offenses such as modern slavery. As we toured the headquarters, I came to the realization that we *are* the next generation and, therefore, the next global leaders. SGAP exposed me to a network of students and professionals that have inspired me to strive towards becoming a “positive change agent.” Moreover, this network has inspired to become a leader.

My SGAP Experience

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