

## **Application to APU Alumni Association Achievement Award**

### **General Information**

Name: Ekaterina Porrás Sivolobova  
Year of Graduation: 2009 (Bachelor) 2011 (Master IMAT Program)  
College: APS – IMAT Program

### **Reasons for applying**

To shed light on human rights issues pertaining domestic workers and to further recognize its importance, particularly among APU students and alumni, are my reasons for applying. There are hundred thousands of domestic workers through out the world experiencing constant abuse by their employer. Most of these workers come from Philippines, Sri Lanka and India, just as many of the students from APU. It is an issue that cannot be disregarded.

To gain recognition is vital to gain credibility for my work. Working from the Middle East on such issues is not an easy task, many risks are involved and thus, being recognized for these work, endeavours and dreams is to recognize that there must be, and can be a change.

### **An introduction to my achievements**

For the last four years I have been working towards the promotion of human rights, so people can live in freedom, free from fear, violence and abuse.

Throughout this time I have made small achievements that have led me to start my own organization to promote human rights for domestic workers in the Middle East. But to get to this, I had to first have more experience and achieve small successes.

I first worked on cases before the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights in Latin America and wrote articles for a leading US university on important legal issues. With the support of APU, I later conducted research in a Refugee Camp in Thailand and a workshop for the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma.

After graduating from APU in 2009 with a bachelor I moved to Argentina, where I joined a leading non-governmental organization promoting human rights in the region. Here, I worked for more than 12 months on issues pertaining indigenous rights, gender equality and military justice, among others. Also, I contributed to the research and editing of the book “Summaries of jurisprudence: gender based violence” addressing principles of protection of women against violence. The book can be electronically downloaded at the following link:

<http://cejil.org/en/publicaciones/tools-protection-human-rights-summaries-jurisprudence-gender-based-violence>

Simultaneously, I started publishing articles with the online legal journal JURIST from the University of Pittsburgh. The objective of writing these articles was and still is to diffuse local information pertaining human rights issues into a more global scale.

These articles can be found at the following links:

- [Uruguay: failure of the Uruguayan Reparations Law to provide victims with redress](#)
- [Uruguay: approaches to the expiry Law](#)
- [Chile: Military justice and International standards](#)
- [Costa Rica: illegitimate restrictions on freedom of expression](#)

After finishing my masters under the IMAT Program at APU, my husband and I moved to the Middle East. This is where I have taken the opportunity to address the grave situation of human rights violation against domestic workers. It is an urgent situation needing global attention and which involves personal risks. To contribute to this cause, I have founded an organization to promote human rights for domestic workers in the Middle East.

The organization is named "Project 189", after the international Convention concerning decent work for domestic workers. Project 189 is currently on the process of becoming a Community Interest Company registered in the United Kingdom.

Project 189's vision is to work on the promotion of the rights of domestic workers in the Middle East so all their rights are respected. The objectives are to respond to human rights violations committed, or tolerated against domestic workers; contribute to reducing the inequality and exclusion that prevails in this work sector, to guaranty the right to equality and respect for human dignity; contribute to the protection of domestic workers, with a focus on the sponsorship (Kafeel) system and justice mechanisms; provide up to date information and resources for domestic workers, advocates, citizens, employers, media professionals and other key actors and promote the ratification of Convention 189 in the Middle Eastern countries.

You can find Project's 189 website here:

[www.project189.wordpress.com](http://www.project189.wordpress.com)

### **Why I should be chosen**

The above mentioned little successes have been a compass to know where I am and where I should go in this journey. To receive the achievement award from APU would mean personal recognition towards my work and global support towards an idea.

Furthermore, the success of Project 189 is not only determined by its hard work and its persistence. The success of Project 189 in the Middle East involves working with the support of various embassies and different social actors and organizations, it would be an honour to have the recognition and support from an academic institution whose principles are the umbrella of the foundations of Project 189.