

## Center on Religion, Culture and Conflict (CRCC) Summer Program 2016

### Personal Statement and Reflection for the Drew Institute Participation

I understand that the Drew Institute on Religion and Conflict Resolution is a live-in study and training program which aims to equip young religious leaders so they can offer “positive alternative influence” to their respective communities in response to radicalism. This is done not only in theory but in praxis. It also has international partnerships with other countries which includes Indonesia, where I came from.

Coming from a country where there is religious pluralism, I understand the importance of open-mindedness and respect. I feel the urgency of interfaith dialogue now more than ever as we continue to witness devastations in the world brought by religious conflicts. As a Good Shepherd Sister, we help women and children in difficulties regardless of religion. In Hong Kong, where I was missioned for six years, I worked in a shelter that cares for any Indonesian migrant worker in need. We have Muslim migrants working with Buddhist employers and finding refuge in Catholic institutions. It was a big challenge but at the same time an opportunity to see our shared values like compassion, justice, peace and harmony with nature.

As Good Shepherd Sisters, our mission is reconciliation. Our congregational thrust of justice and peace continue to ask of us growth in mutual understanding and move from prejudices. I hold these values strongly in my life as a religious and I hope that this opportunity for development will help me contribute more to our congregation and to our mission in our country and in the world.

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