

2014 Global Citizen Award Winner



STOP UR DEPORTATIONS worked hard to rally against the unjust deportation of two University of Regina students who were studying in Canada on scholarships from Nigeria. Among their activities, the group organized rallies at Wal-Mart (the students' employer), a large public awareness campaign, and a hugely successful Twitter campaign (#honestmistake). Although the two young women were deported following over a year in asylum, the group didn't give up - they immediately planned a fundraiser to return the young women to Canada.

Stop UR Deportations successfully rallied opposition to an unjust deportation that could have otherwise happened quietly and without discussion in the public sphere. It grew

to be a national news story that the media sympathized with. Beyond the case of Victoria Ordu & Favour Amadi, the campaign brought awareness to the growing impunity of large corporations like Wal-Mart. It highlighted the unjust policies of racism and prejudice at the federal level, and successfully forced the government to ultimately change these policies. In these divisive times, Stop UR Deportations successfully created a multi-partisan effort to challenge the status quo.

Where do you find your inspiration?

This campaign was borne out a collective sense of injustice. As we take our inspiration from Victoria and Favour, we will share Victoria's insights about the campaign and award:

"We started this journey to put things right, not to treat injustice and other global issues in the community with kid gloves! We identify ourselves as global citizens the moment we begin to see the world as a whole and not a self-compactment— that moment when world peace, irrespective of diversity, becomes our objective.

Our connections, concern about each other's welfare, and engagements to the world community towards sustainable development gives us a great sense of belonging, setting a pace that younger generations can emulate. We are each other's mentors and inspiration. Our hard work has been recognised and this will be our motivation to do more. I am proud to be among this great family."

What advice would you give to today's high-school graduates?

Collective action can sometimes be frustrating but it is often the best way to bring about change in our communities. Learn how to work effectively in groups and to mobilize people around an issue. Avoid sacrificing your ethics even when your opponent shows contempt for telling the truth. Perhaps most challenging: do not be afraid to challenge authority if you feel an injustice is occurring.

What does global citizenship mean to you?

Global citizenship means being mindful of rights and responsibilities associated with being a citizen of a community, country and also an international network. As global citizens we have a responsibility to take action on issues in our community. Frequently, these issues connect to global issues.