

PEERS TO PEACE

How has SCI impacted your life?

It introduced me to the "European project planning" world. I participated to a SCI seminar on the topic and it really interested me. It taught me a lot and I liked the way the organization works. The course was really well organized and the "teachers" were really good.



Marija de Marinis : SCI Italy
Role at SCI: volunteer

I have known the SCI since my childhood through my sister who has been an active member of the organization for many years. I have participated in many projects of the SVI Mauritius and it contributed to my personal development. I have learnt values, principles and acquire knowledge on many aspects of social work and social workers through the people I met in SCI around the world.



Prema Kanakiah : SVI Mauritius
Role at SCI: Member

The impact of SCI volunteer work is dramatic. Volunteering increases self-confidence learned new skills, build the strength to take on challenges and create opportunity to meet different kinds of people & make new friends. Volunteering with SCI is not only impact on the greater community but also put impacts to my family and friends too. I am having a positive view of my life and future goals. Volunteering gives me the opportunity to practice and develop my social skills, since I am meeting regularly with a group of people with common interests and it's easier to branch out and make more friends and contacts.



Manuzzaman Sachch : SCI Bangladesh
Role at SCI: National Secretary



Mateja Medlob : VZJ Croatia
Role at SCI: project manager

Cooperation with SQ has given me an invaluable insight into the meaning and effect that civil sector and international organizations have on young people, their future as well as current status and overall on society as a whole. The international cooperation channels that opened through the work with and in SQ give an unprecedented value to our organization, processes and values we work and live by, as well as share with our target groups and beneficiaries.



Mayrina Tobing : IVP Indonesia
Role at SCI: Incoming Interim Coordinator

I just realized there's a lot of communities, organization and various volunteer jobs all over the world through SCI. I learn that we could contribute in many ways and it will impact the environment, people and the society as a whole. Each project is unique and it brings tolerance and intercultural understanding among participants.



Lasantha Pethiyagoda : SCI Sri Lanka
Role at SCI: Editor and Volunteer

It gave me the opportunity to participate in a space where all the opinions are welcomed and we all work for social transformation from the inside of the organization towards the world.



Barbara Casas Barrachina : SCI Catalunya
Role at SCI: Board member

More sustainable living. More actively engaged in civil society. Thinking globally. Socially connecting and networking with networks & actors.



Nicolai : SCI Germany
Role at SCI: Volunteer, Camp coordinator

SCI has shown me the importance of caring for the most disadvantaged people in any country who become victims of war, large private enterprise, multi-national corporations and political arrangements that favour the wealthy at the cost of the poor. Therefore now I contribute my time and energy to differently-abled children's welfare, orphans and the rural poor



Aniké Veres : Útlapu Hálozat
Role at SCI: Incoming Placement Officer

In many cases, Thank to the SCI I could meet a lot of people who were a great impact on me. By this I could change my outlook and approach towards people.



Agnieszka Szczepaniak : OWA Poland
Role at SCI: volunteer, long-term volunteering projects coordinator, president

I quit my job in a corporation and started doing things I have kept adoring by now, found friends, love, family, opened my eyes to different issues I would never thought about working in a corp, keeps me close to the people. World changes, to young generation, gives hope for a better world for us.



Atanaska Terzyska : CVS-Bulgaria
Role at SCI: Communication officer

The impact of volunteering with SCI is huge. I have learned and develop my skilled to make new contact, learn different culture & values. This experience boost me to go abroad to take higher studies. Now I am capable to work in any situation and can work individually or in a group. This learning is helping me in my professional life also.



Tanzid Hasan : SCI Bangladesh
Role at SCI: Volunteer co-ordinator

My experience with the SQ permit me to meet a bunch of amazing persons, even during the formation before my volunteering in Tunisia that when I participated in the Peers to Peace seminar in Malaysia, this summer. All of those things permit me to realize the importance of traveling, and meeting people who come from places and cultures than me. About the volunteering, it was one of the first time that I acted with people in that way. Just to enjoy the realization of a common goal by sharing and enjoying. It permit me to realize that I want to work in another country than mine, to experience a multicultural context in my everyday life



Olivier Marinou : SCI France
Role at SCI: Volunteer

My SCI experience started 2 years ago when I was approved for an EVS in SCI Italy office. I should mention that I have economy and finance educational and professional background, but back at that time I was feeling that this is not for me. So I decided to try something new and make a change in my life and I left my job and went for a voluntary service. It was for real a life-changing experience, as everyday in an SCI environment is teaching you hundred of lessons and you need to follow the pace. When I returned back to Bulgaria I decided that I am going to change my professional direction and stress on the non-formal education as a means of development and working for the better of the society, so I started volunteering as a Communication Officer together with CVS-Bulgaria. So here I am now on my ongoing educational path feeling more confident and prepared for my changing life challenges.



Marco Rondoni : SCI Italy
Role at SCI: Activist and camp coordinator

My first SQ experience was in 2014, I joined for an environmental protection camp in Ireland. In the following years, I participated in other socio-environmental minicamps near my city until last summer when I coordinated a camp in the forest along the path of the Sacra di San Michele. After that, I joined the local SQ group where I had the opportunity to participate in training, deal with new environmental projects, meet fantastic people from over the world and travel really a lot.

Mészáros Bréta : Útlapu Hálozat
Role at SCI: vice president and volunteer



Volunteering makes life healthy and happier - being an active volunteer, I have participated in different work camps and other voluntary work. I got the opportunity to join SQ as an EVS volunteer. It is an awesome program which has really changed me as a person. Through the time I am volunteering, I have met new people, learn new skills, new language while making an important contribution to a change. Being part of SQ family I have made memories that I will never forget. Perhaps, being part of SQ family has impact me personally and professionally



Zahra Iarook : SCI International
Role at SCI: EVS Volunteer - P2P

I joined SQ, Sri Lanka March 2017, it's almost one year now. I have been in to humanitarian field since I was schooling and in 2014 I joined as a National UN volunteer in Sri Lanka. I also have many years of thoroughly enjoyable experience in working closely with community service organizations at the local level but all these experience gained as an administrative level not in the field. Through SQ Sri Lanka I found the opportunity to work in the field and I learned to adapt myself under different circumstances most of all, unlike other organizations where I worked before SQ was completely different I came across with people with different ages, holding different positions in their respective countries standing together at one level and which I admire is there is no hierarchy among us, we all feel like one big family working towards one goal where ever we meet.

Ishara Azeev : SCI Sri Lanka
Role at SCI: Volunteer



For 7 years now volunteering has been continuously part of my life as a way of non-formal learning, connecting with people and helping me to find my path. I joined Útlapu last year and got involved in workcamps as a coordinator while I also travelled to participate in two camps as a volunteer. I find it very special and unique that people from all over the world are willing to bring their energies to one place and make some actual change despite the political atmosphere and so much mistrust within and among our communities. Becoming part of SCI in a way straightened my belief and my commitment for civil society.



Ho Chih Ming : SCI Malaysia
Role at SCI: Secretary & Camp leader

SCI made me understand that putting yourself first will not help others and the situation. SCI workcamp taught me to understand others and to tolerate with one another. Lastly, peace start from us and only we can seek that.

Femi Aganran : VWAN Nigeria
Role at SCI: Activist, Project coordinator



I was a volunteer in my early twenties and did work camps in France, Denmark and in Scotland - meeting people of different cultures. Working in collaborative ways, prepared me for valuing different ideas and more viewpoints in work. My approach as a head teacher was to value differences in families, colleagues and children and to value a more holistic approach to education. Now in retirement I got continuing inspiration at the energy and vitality that can come from participation with people of difference.



Euan Mackie : IVS GB
Role at SCI: Board member, Peace Educator and Mentor

I've been involve in volunteering activities since 2009 and I still like to do it. Volunteering makes me more grateful with my life and everything I have. Because several time I led workcamps in slum areas or working with street children or orphan. The volunteering activities also bring me to meet a lot of people with different background and experiences so I can learn so many things from them.



Ika Istiana : SCI Helias
Role at SCI: EVS Volunteer

Since I came in contact with SCI in 2011 I have been impacted in various positive and empowering ramifications. The novel and refreshing experience for me at the beginning was to discover SCI's vast history and enduring values. To counter wars through peaceful voluntary actions, to promote practical ideas for the rapprochement of cultures and restlessly working to instilling peace in the minds of many through peace education. That was over so more striking coming from a country so fragile in terms of conflicts and security like Nigeria.

I have been shaped in tangible and intangible ways by the learning experiences I made through SQ to not only believe but also embody the vision that a peaceful and just society can be attained and to lend myself to working towards this vision in my sphere while involving others. My involvement in SQ down the line also enabled me to sharpen my existing capacities and develop new abilities.

I will not end without mentioning how positively inclined are the encounters I made within SQ; I found friends, colleagues and mentors in SQ, without doubt I have garnered and shared lots of inspiration through these encounters.



Alpina : SCI India
Role at SCI: President

I have been associated with SQ since 1997, but took a break due to family and other responsibility. But the platform that SQ provided me gave me bigger and better exposure and inclination towards Social Work. Later I majored in Masters of Social Work (MSW).

It also helped me to interact and accept people from different walks of life very easily. Along with that work camps equally gave a different experience how you can be humble and helpful to others. Weekend camps had a respect and dedication towards each task. Now when I am handling my position with SQ as a President, I know what is expected and how well I can contribute towards the growth of SQ, which I am already doing and helping the projects. It's my turn to give back to the society, that's the impact of SQ on me.

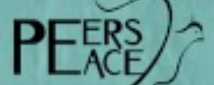
SCI taught me to step out of comfort zone and widen my view horizon. Through SCI, I have the opportunity to be exposed to various environments to interact with people of different background, culture, religion and yet still can live together peacefully with mutual understanding.



Sherlock Liew Shan Kun : SCI Malaysia
Role at SCI: Executive Committee



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Peers Wall

What do you think of volunteering in 21st century?



Monika Czerwinski (DWA - SO Poland)
Role at SCI: Organising workshops, training and working with the Camp-Coordiators.

Today, more than ever, volunteers are essential to every organization. However the profile of the volunteer has changed, as well as the expectations. I think it is more and more difficult to keep engaged volunteers for a longer period. People are busy and have tight schedules for the whole week, are more oriented for the task to be done, need flexibility. They often want to have a clear instructions and fast result. Volunteering became a way of getting new skills/knowledge which may be used in professional careers.

It is the way to open up your self to another world, another situation, another human beings. In this 21st century our brain is messed up with all those media-news about what is going in the world, by volunteering we simply "dive" to directly understand, inspire, and contribute to anything we are concern and want to know about.



Teresina Pereira (DWA/ST Indonesia)
Role at SCI: Activist/Teacher

I had my dissertation study about volunteering, this is a really interesting topic. In 21st century, technology advance bring people to be more isolated, volunteering now like a different background step out from the tech world to the real world to create a more communicable and harmonious community and even the world. Although the form of volunteer has been changing decade after decade, the spirit of volunteering is being unchanged - contributing with kindness.

I'm glad to realize volunteering is becoming more and more common among young people. I often meet or hear about youngsters who spent some time abroad (usually in global youth countries) with different volunteering programs. I'm only worried about the fact that volunteering can become some mainstream trend and that people won't face the experience with a proper open and generous spirit.

I think volunteering has immense social importance. It is an activity which provides a therapeutic value, and can give a sense of meaning and purpose. In particular when we work together with others in a team, we learn more about ourselves, and how we can accommodate difference in culture, ethnicity, and nationality.

Esan Mackie (V/S GB)
Your role at SCI: Mentor and Board member V/S GB



Sky SO (SO - International Secretary)
Role at SCI: EVS

Cristina (David) Volontaria - SO Slovenia
Your role at SCI: Placement Officer



Volunteering in 21st century is a challenge in term of successor and involvement. We need youth to actively involve in volunteering as well as carry up and maintain the organisation.



Lim Xiang Yat (SO Malaysia)
Your role at SCI: Member

Volunteering is alive and well in the 21st century! I am new to this 'giving and sharing way of seeing the world' and surprised at how much people enjoy to give in this context. It seems that parallel with the exposure of how much people are becoming isolated, self-centred and greedy today, there is equally many generous souls in the world who enjoy the rewards of bridging between cultures towards the realisation of an inclusive one world harmony.



There has not changed: Peace, Conflict, Revolution, Intercultural issues, gender issues, race, etc. 21st century brought technology which has changed the way things are done.

Pascal (WVAN Nigeria)

Nowadays, many issues in the world has become the causes of the world's disunity. If the issues are vanes like politics, economics, religion, etc. If we choose to ignore about all that happened, the world will collapse. I think the world now needs many volunteers who care and want to do something beneficial for our beloved world either for its environments or its people, to make peace and make the world a better place to live in.



Linda Farcy (SO Hong Kong)
Your role at SCI: Volunteer Trainer

I believe that volunteering should be encouraged and supported in today's world because despite everything that has been accomplished in the voluntary sector, we should continuously promote peace, justice and democracy around the world to end up the different existing social scourges.



Prema (SVI Mauritius)
Your role at SCI: Treasurer



Melati Pratavi (V/P Indonesia)
Your role at SCI: Active volunteer

I think that volunteering is a way to personally develop and grow as a person. In this meaning, the one who should benefit from volunteering, are mainly the volunteers themselves. Fortunately the 21st century gives us many opportunities to take such challenges.



Nataka (SO Poland)
Your role at SCI: Coordinator of international youth projects / Co-volunteer

Volunteering throughout the years happens to have moved through transitions, which may be explain with the events of the contemporary time. Volunteering in the 21st century is so rich in its ways, its opportunities, places, people, things to learn that one barely has the chance to even teach all of them. When an volunteering as a personal step was difficult to get involved in, I think nowadays it is difficult NOT to... get involved in.



Vera (CVS Bulgaria)
Your role at SCI: Co-ordinator

Volunteering is one of the best ways to initiate discussion and to create a bridge between groups burdened with conflicts, through promoting solidarity and understanding. This is specifically important nowadays, when the misunderstanding and tension is increasing worldwide. It should be taught as a lifelong learning process, with promoting the several possibilities at home and abroad.



Dora Torocik (SO Hungary)

And You?



Edward Chiah (SO KL - Malaysia)
Your role at SCI: President

More difficult because of the heavy demands on young people, be it students or professionals. As an organization, we have to be very sure of our mission & vision, be well organized but not bureaucratic/hierarchical, be more visible in social media (prominent online presence). In this 21st century, NGOs have to provide more opportunities and levels of involvement using personal approach to welcome people in (future volunteers).



Edward Chiah (SO KL - Malaysia)
Your role at SCI: President

I think that volunteering allows for exposure to people, cultures and mindsets that are normally not within the immediate community people tend to find themselves in. I think through this multi-cultural, multi-perspective approach greater understanding can be reached and perhaps long held tensions can start to ease.



Chantal Doran (SO IS)
Your role at SCI: Communication and Volunteer Coordinator



Liang Jia Ling (SO Malaysia)
Your role at SCI: Member

Volunteering is an activity which able to widen our mind and knowledge as we may go to different places to have volunteering works. Learning multi cultures from different places enable us to be tolerant and respect each other. Volunteering also is one kind of love for others. People may feel there are hope and love from other side when we care and volunteer ourselves to give.



I think it is the same in any context - "Be the change you want to see in the world".

Lea Oskies (SO IS)
Your role at SCI: Africa International Coordinator

Volunteering should be encouraged among youth to promote peace and understanding in the growing conflicting world. I believe, through volunteering it is easy to initiate dialogue to create bridge of understanding and solidarity.



ME Mohamadzaman Miler - SO Bangladesh
Your role at SCI: National Executive Committee Member as a Branch Delegate.

Nowdays, just as after the WW2, many people all over the world need help and support for their needs of peace, love, health, prosperity, after-disaster community support and all these needs are same as last century... Here the volunteering comes again as the very natural form of humanity and support. The big difference for me is the mobility and the information access - now is much more easy to gain information about worth causes in own country and abroad, and much more easy to reach some parts of the world. And young people are really thrilled to experience the freedom of travel in different societies and to offer their support for important issues as: the problems of the refugees, ecological and conservation project, children and youth in need, educational and health initiatives, etc. In 21st century many governments as well as the corporate sector are trying to recognise, legalise and incorporate volunteering as important civil activity that improves the society and educates basic skills of communication and empathy.

Maneta Tsvetanova Radkova: CVS-BG
Your role at SCI: Full member of CVS-BG and volunteer, have been twice Board member



Olivier Maréchal - SO France
Your role at SCI: Volunteer

Volunteering in 21st century is the possibly to anyone to acquire an amazing experience about sharing, discovering more about him/herself and others. For me it represent the system of meritocracy where the more you invest the more you receive even if that's not what you searching for at the beginning. It permit to diffuse the idea that there is not only consumerism and money in this world and that the real treasures lie in others.

I do believe that Volunteering teach us a very different dimension: to become a better human, let's say "Attitude" (aside from the knowledge and the skills that used to be emphasized more). Volunteering allows us to develop and practice compassion, mutual understanding as well as respect the diversity, etc which somehow is a very important thing in this 21st century of our global changing context.



Yong Yue Yan: SO Malaysia
Your role at SCI: Member

I believe that volunteering promotes personal growth and self-esteem. It allows volunteers to discover hidden talents that may change their view on self-worth and most importantly, it brings people TOGETHER.

Volunteering in 21st century - Volunteers today are highly skilled and they expect respect and flexibility in discharging their voluntary service arrangement. Volunteers nowadays prefer to volunteer in a field that they have interest in. I've been witnessing increasing trend among teenagers and young adults take interest in volunteering activities. This actually shows people are interested in making the world a better place. In my perspective, more people volunteer because they want to make an impact and also obtain useful skills (leadership, public speaking, problem solving & etc.) while volunteering. My confidence has spiraled up since joining SCI and I feel volunteering does not only make others' life better but your own too.



Priyanka: SO Malaysia
Your role at SCI: Member



Le Minh Anh Thu (Wendy) -STEP Forward Exchange Vietnam
Role: Program Manager

I believe that through volunteering, we are able to improve ourselves both spiritually and mentally whilst providing us with a new outlook towards people from all walks of life from various parts of the world.



Aneka Afandi: SO MY
Your role at SCI: Member



Simone Sky: International Volunteers for Peace
Your role at SCI: Volunteer - Work Camp

I think volunteers will become more needed in the near future. I think those willing to lend a hand and help communities will be in higher demand. Organizations such as SCI will be vital in matching volunteer skills to situations that arise. It is now easy for volunteers to travel any location in the world needing assistance, and there are many forms of communication available to share experiences.



Reka Dancsics: SO Hungary
Your role at SCI: Member

People come to volunteer to help others, get practical experience and spend time in a good company. In SCI the possibility to practice English and the international opportunities come as a bonus to these. Volunteering in the 21st century gives us a bigger understanding of cultural and political issues, possibility to do what and where for we are enthusiastic about. We can counter issues we are upset about, develop personally in skills and we will be a part of a supporting (international) network of friends.