

Committee: **Community Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Sheila Amri**

Address:

51 Thunderbird Crescent

Occupation: **Student at Western University**

Work experience: - **Research Assistant, Ivey Business School - Fund Development Assistant, Kidney Foundation of Canada, Ontario Branch - Annual Fund Assistant, Ivey Business School - Alumni Contact Representative, Ivey Business School - Mcdonald's National Scholarship Recipient (for ON) - Student Trustee for the City of London, TVDSB**

Education: **BHSc - Western University - Western Scholar (2012-2016) OSSD - Saunders Secondary School (2008-2012)**

Skills: **I am currently the CLM (Community Liaison Manager) of the International and Exchange Peer Guide Program at Huron University College. Responsible for the International Peer Guide Program, I work with diverse groups of students new to Canada. Aside from mentorship, the Peer Guide helps build English grammar and conversational communication. As the CLM, I am able to plan events in London and the broader community, including trips to Grand Bend, and Canada's Wonderland. Aside from event planning, I have vast experience with community building. I started the Junior Youth Empowerment Program last summer and worked with 15 youth between 12-15. I held the program at the Stronach Arena and Community Centre. The purpose of the program is to develop: their powers of expression, capacity for moral reasoning, and an ethic of service to others to contribute to the well-being of their communities. Combining study with social action which ranged from environmental (including park clean-ups) to small-acts-of-kindness, building community is essential to empower youth to lead positive and healthy lives.**

Interest reason: **The social determinants of health are major barriers to the health of Londoners. I am a strong advocate of building safe communities so individuals are not predisposed to disease. Aside from ensuring the health of citizens, building safer communities is necessary to provide the opportunity to be active within the community in which youth reside. I hope to get involved in order to learn more about the problems being faced by Londoners and work to increase the safety of and prevent crime. By learning about the problems, it provides a medium to work collectively to implement better solutions. Safety is very much a domino effect for individuals, and without a safe environment, individuals not only become predisposed to illness, but also decrease social support and lack a cohesive community and social support network. A lack of social support now leads to the domino effect increasing the vulnerability to mental health problems. and self-esteem issues amongst youth.**

Contributions: **As a very driven student, I am one to really get involved with organizations I am passionate about. If selected to join, I will come ready to learn from the individuals on the Committee, continue collaborating with diverse groups within the community, and take action to foster opportunities, and build on areas of deficiency. Therefore, I believe I am a great resource as a liaison with the Western Student body.**

Past contributions: **As a previous Co-Chair of the South London Youth Council, I contributed to planning events and after-school programs within the South London region. A lot of after-school programs were implemented to decrease crime rates and increasing health amongst young individuals. For example, one program called Youth Chefs was initiated in order to increase healthier eating practices. Another program known as Girls Club provided a program to connect with other females in the community and make new friends while participating in activities of arts and crafts. With many activities available, youth within the community avoid getting involved with negative behaviours. Another example is as a previous Student Trustee for London, issues about Cyber safety were apparent during a public board meeting after the viewing of borderline pornographic advertisements on smart boards. Hearing the concerns, it was made apparent that better screening was necessary to ensure the safety of students.**

Interpersonal: **As the University Health Sciences Councillor at UWO, there are on-going debates and discussions. It is important to respect all opinions, and build off the knowledge of each other. As a collaborative unit, all opinions are listened to and respected with open**

ears. Respect is critical for building consensus. Although debate can be healthy, it is also important to come to consensus on certain discussions in order to serve the Western community best. As an aspiring doctor, I have also volunteered with individuals with a wide array of backgrounds, some with disabilities, or mental health problems. Specifically in the field of mental health, I have worked on two national projects to better facilitate mental health information and reduce the stigma.

Interview interest: **Yes**