



Sareana Kimia



Silver Spring,
Maryland



CHARACTER STRENGTHS RESPONSIBILITY

SOCIAL ISSUE:

Lack of Youth Voice

Causes and Research

For the most part, adults are the ones who make important government decisions. Many of these decisions affect young people whose voices are not always heard. Many of these young people don't even know about these decisions being made for them. Sareana wants to change all that. Sareana wants to strengthen **youth advocacy**.

Sareana had to research issues that were affecting young people. Some of the issues she cared about were schools, sports programs, and the food we eat. Knowing about these issues would help her talk to the adult decision makers. On top of that, she had to learn about the **legislative process** so she could find a way in.

Goals and Obstacles

Sareana's mission is to help youth learn about issues that directly affect them. Once students know more, she wants them to be a part of the process and even **petition** the government. Her biggest obstacle would be getting more adults to listen.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>



THE FACTS



- › Received the Young Heroes Award in 2014 when she was 16 years old
- › She and her mother have had to live homeless
- › She likes to Bollywood dance



VOCABULARY

- Youth advocacy** › the ability for young people to share their opinion and be a part of change
- Legislative process** › how laws are made
- Petition** › asking the government or a leader to change something
- Bill** › a draft of a law before it is passed



SOURCES

- › Recommendation Letter by Shefali Gupta



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Actions

Sareana Kimia founded an organization called Youth for National Change (YNC). The students who join her team are able to speak up about **bills** in their own state. Sareana used her 1st Amendment Rights by going to the state capital in Annapolis, Maryland to give the youth opinion herself. She has petitioned for many changes. She has made sure kids with disabilities can be included in sports programs. She has also worked to change tests and teaching styles to make sure all students get a well-rounded education. She has even worked with colleges to show the dangers of energy drinks.

Impact

Sareana has helped to create twelve state chapters of her group and has fought to get a student member on every Board of Education across the nation! She is still the president and CEO of her organization, YNC.

"More of us are asking
the right questions, and
it all starts there."

— Sareana Kimia