**Kathryn Morris McHarry Personal Statement**

I am a driven and motivated third year Drama and Theatre student at York St John university, currently on track to receive a first class degree. My degree has brough into focus my interest in the study of Gender, which has been a topic which I have explored in many of my modules and assessed writings, including two which have since been published by my university, this includes a piece about a module in my second year in which I created a piece of arts activism raising awareness of sexual violence in the UK, in which I liaised with charities to gain their insight and expertise. Over the past year I have also had the amazing opportunity to volunteer at a York based women charity, KYRA, helping with their drop in meetings. Working with and supporting the women at KYRA helped me develop my communication skills and I enjoyed building bonds with the women. It also showed me the benefits support systems can have for women going through troubling times. This was further emphasised by my experience with the ‘Shakespeare on screen Prison Partnership Project’ which I was lucky enough to experience on my course, working with industry professionals delivering drama workshops in HMP New Hall. These opportunities fuelled my passion for working towards supporting women, which is why I hope to pursue a career as a support worker. In doing so I hope that my work can positively impact the lives of those I work with.