



**Jonas Freist-Held, 23**

**Country: Germany**

**Region: Europe**

Jonas studies Political Science at the Free University in Berlin and the University of California, Berkeley. He specializes in international relations, developmental politics, democracy and global governance. After graduating from high school in 2011, he moved to Nicaragua and volunteered for an environmental education organization in the city of León. During the year, he participated in a project that sought to create a green town district in León in cooperation with the municipality, local schools and youth groups. Together they constructed a recycling park and designed murals out of recycling materials.

Since 2013, he is the representative of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) of the child rights organization Plan International Germany. The board carried out successful campaigns on gender equality and universal birth registration and currently launched a campaign on climate change. In November 2014, he presented the “Make Me Visible” Campaign on birth registration at an UN ESCAP-conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Bangkok. The campaign is an example how youth advocacy can have an impact in decision-making processes. During his time in the USA (8/2014 – 5/2015), he was part of the YAB of Plan USA and helped to launch a university chapter of Plan at UC Berkeley.

Besides his studies, he works as a student assistant in corporate communication at the research institute Fraunhofer FOKUS that aims to develop smart city concepts. The applied research aims to facilitate life in growing cities with the help of innovative IT solutions.