DEAR ASIAN YOUTH STATEMENT ON THE 2022 WORLD CUP POST AND ETHICAL WRITING

December 4th, 2022: On November 21st, 2022, the Dear Asian Youth (DAY) Instagram account published a post titled Why is the 2022 FIFA World Cup so problematic?, discussing the controversy around the FIFA World Cup in Qatar to bring attention to the human rights issues surrounding the event and FIFA’s problematic history. In this post, we used problematic phrasing that utilized a heavily eurocentric and neoliberal perspective failing to adhere to a journalistic style of writing. Shortly after the post was published, we received criticism from our audience and decided to take down and rewrite parts of the post to better align with our values. We greatly value our audience’s feedback in our content to help us provide more objective and accurate reporting, holding us accountable to our commitment in creating content that is for and by Asian perspectives.

We acknowledge Qatar has received considerably higher criticism for the humanitarian issues within the country, largely due to Islamophobia and western bias in mainstream media. In rewriting the post, we made it a point to emphasize that Qatar is not the only country responsible for issues surrounding the World Cup; adding the human rights violations that have also occurred in 2014 in Brazil and 2018 in Russia, and noting FIFA’s lack of accountability towards these allegations. We worked to bring further context and clarify that Qatar is not the only country accused of human rights violations. As an organization, we continually strive to create content that uplifts historically excluded and persecuted communities, and in this case we want to highlight migrant workers whose lives and livelihoods have been impacted by the Kafala system while raising awareness to the Qatari LGBTQ+ community.

DAY takes full responsibility for the issues in our first edition of the post and we are truly sorry to the communities that were negatively impacted. As a young organization run for and by Asian youth, we are continually learning and growing each day. In this moment, we are taking this opportunity to reflect and improve on our practices and processes, including implementing new post-writing systems, reinforcing protocols for more ethical writing, and enacting more DEI training from our Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. We hope through these initiatives we can avoid future errors and continue upholding our mission. Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we better ourselves as an organization.