Nelson Mandela once said that “education is the most powerful weapon which [we] can use to change the world”. There are many ways with which we can live up with this quote and for someone who intends to specialize on sociological studies, studying the society in order to address its many ills is one way to make a meaningful change. One of the pressing social issues affecting both developed and developing societies is juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency not only puts pressure on our justice system; it also affects the economy as it depletes human capital unless appropriate measures that would restore the humanity of the offender is in place. Growing up in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where there are no codified rules on how to deal with child and youth offenders, I have observed that something must be done to ensure that the society becomes a place for the flourishing of children, rather than a place for degradation. I intend to pursue an advanced degree in sociology in order to formulate theoretically grounded concrete proposals on how to properly deal with youth offenders.

After finishing my undergraduate degree in Sociology in 2015, I worked as an administrative clerk at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. From this work, I furthered my self-discipline and resiliency. I learned the importance of adapting to a particular organizational culture and contributing positively to it. I also developed my communication skill which will be instrumental in my pursuit of post-graduation studies. I also attended several seminars that include discussion on the specificity of the secretarial profession, the art of dealing with different people and leadership style, and achieving success to name a few. My work experience is valuable to my post-graduate studies as it gave me the skill to be attentive to details and be capable of relating with others.

My interest in juvenile delinquency started when I heard the news about the flogging of a 14-year old for allegedly stealing money. I also learned that the child comes from a poor family and was merely trying to help his ailing mother. This motivated me to pursue advanced studies in sociology, particularly to learn more about juvenile delinquency. Psychological disorders such as kleptomania and more importantly, personal experiences such as adverse childhood experience, parental neglect, and impoverishment can contribute in the tendency to commit crimes. If the response of the authorities to youth offenders is punitive, the risk factors as to why the youth commits crimes would only worsen. This is particularly true in the case of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where the treatment of cases is left to the discretion of the judges. Without an enabling framework, violations of the rights of children are commonplace. It is for this reason that I intend to pursue a masters’ degree in sociology and conduct a study on juvenile delinquency in order to improve the juvenile justice system in our country.

The MA Sociology program of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ University (\_\_\_\_) looms large in my mind because of its outstanding roster of faculty, availability of part-time and full-time internships, and most importantly, its emphasis on diversity and global education. The small class size in the university would also be helpful as it will allow greater student-instructor interaction which is crucial for establishing rapport for graduate work. The university also provides an ideal climate for me to develop my cross-disciplinary interests. In particular, I plan to also study the intersectionality of gender, class and race as it relates to the issue of juvenile delinquency.

I look forward to learning from the best minds at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The resources available and the skill that can be developed in this academic institution will help me achieve my aspiration of becoming a productive member of the society.