



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Mauritius

Port-Louis, 9th June 2025

To Whom It May Concern

About the English-Speaking Union (ESU)

The English-Speaking Union (ESU) is an international education charity founded in London in 1918. It is governed by a Royal Charter, granted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Headquarters of the English-Speaking Union are based in Mayfair, London. To date, ESU has established a presence in over 50 countries. Our mission is to create global understanding and to promote human achievement through the worldwide use of the English language.

In Mauritius, the ESU was first established in 1993. One of our flagship activities is the "Public Speaking Competition" which focuses on the learning of effective communication skills in English and giving young people practical experience in the fundamental skills of public speaking as well as developing their critical thinking skills.

Many of the thousands of students who had been initiated to the art of public speaking competition had their lives radically transformed. The experience and the confidence acquired helped them in their career choice and professional advancement. One clear example of success in Mauritius is Mr Shaun Payen who took part in ESU's Public Speaking Competition in 2011 and bagged the first prize at the national level. As the Ambassador for Mauritius, he participated in the International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) organized by ESU Headquarters in London. The IPSC is the largest public speaking tournament worldwide attracting over one million young people from all countries where ESU is established. Shaun received extensive training from Public Speaking experts and acquired communication skills that have contributed to his success in the career path that he has chosen - that of being a Public Speaking expert himself.

About Mr Shaun Payen

We first met Mr Shaun Payen when he participated in our Public Speaking Competition in 2011. He was declared the National Winner and represented Mauritius at the International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) where he competed against the best and brightest people of his generation.

Shaun has been an inspiring ambassador for the ESU and was a guest of honour at our Annual Dinner in 2011 when he was invited to, once again, deliver his winning speech to an important audience including the President of the Republic of Mauritius and several dignitaries. Everyone present was impressed by Shaun's pleasant personality.

Shaun joined ESU as a Member in 2012. Subsequently, he pursued his studies in the United Kingdom and is now a Barrister. However, his passion for the English language and for Public Speaking has led him to become a professional public speaking coach.

Since 2020, Shaun has been an active Member of the English-Speaking Union. He volunteered to be on the adjudicating panel of our Public Speaking competition, a task which he undertook with great professionalism, demonstrating a good sense of judgement and fairness.

In 2023, ESU solicited Shaun to conduct workshops to students (aged 16 to 20) who take part in our Public Speaking Competition. Shaun readily accepted and has since been our official Trainer, providing coaching on the art of public speaking for both prepared and impromptu speeches. Given that ESU is an education charity with limited funds, Shaun conducts the workshops on a benevolent basis, thus showing his strong commitment in serving the community in a selfless manner. We are very grateful to him for his unflinching support.

His collaboration with the English-Speaking Union led him to also work with our Partner, the Embassy of the United States of America, where he conducts workshops on oracy skills to a larger number of students, as a way to promote the English language.

In 2022, Shaun launched his 'Shaun Payen Public Speaking Summit' for his most advanced Speakers. ESU was proudly represented by the undersigned on the adjudicating panel on that occasion.

Shaun has now built a reputable career in public speaking and conducts workshops for adults and corporates. He is an ambitious young man, with multiple abilities and talent. He is very sociable and is well liked by all those who interact with him.

We wish him continued success in the art of public eloquence and in all his future endeavours.

We remain at your entire disposal for any additional information you may require pertaining to Shaun.

Best regards



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