



**29TH WORLD
YWCA COUNCIL**
YOUNG WOMEN TRANSFORMING POWER
STRUCTURES FOR GENDER EQUALITY
17 - 22 NOVEMBER, 2019

ACTION FORUMS

A limited number of action forums will be held to offer space for a forum to discuss action on a particular topic that a number of Member Associations are working on. Action Forums will convene interested and involved Member Associations to discuss positions and concrete actions, and create a strong network between the associations working on the issue.

Action Forums take place on Thursday 21 November from 16:30 to 17:30.

PROSTITUTION, TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEX WORK

At the 28th World Council in Bangkok, Thailand, Member Associations adopted a Call to Action to clarify the World YWCA position on prostitution, trafficking, sexual exploitation and "sex work". This Action Forum invites Member Associations working on these questions to share their different approaches, how they work with governments, sex workers and survivors of human trafficking, as well as the challenges they face in this work. The session will convene Member Associations to bring together the various perspectives on the topic, share best practices, and identify positions across our global movement.

BUILDING A YWCA PEACE WITH JUSTICE COALITION WITHIN OUR MOVEMENT

The World YWCA and YWCA member associations have worked in crisis, war, conflict and post conflict situations since the founding of the organisation in 1855, and more recently have contributed increasingly to creating spaces for the participation of women and young women in conflict and post conflict countries, as well as in countries in transition or living under foreign occupations, by building women's leadership, and enabling women to demand their rights and actively engage in forming and promoting the sustainable solutions for peace, justice, equality. The World YWCA was an active participant in the negotiations for a UN resolution on women's participation in peace processes, and in 2007 the YWCA movement adopted the World Council resolution on the implementation of UNSCR1325. Today, as we look at results from the 2018 Member Association survey and reports across past programmes and communication platforms, a number of YWCAs and YWCA members (individuals) across the globe continue to actively work on issues of peace, conflict resolution and anti-violence along with working on leadership and running active projects in communities on a diversity of themes (SRHR, economic empowerment, political participation, human rights, etc.). Therefore, we would like to invite interested associations and interested young women and women leaders to discuss the next steps in forming a coalition as well as find ways to engage with each other on Peace with Justice and the realisation of UNSCR1325 and 2250. We would like to offer the opportunity to discuss how we position ourselves nationally and internationally as YWCAs and advocate collectively, and how we help sustain the collaboration between YWCA entities working and/or committed to support Peace with Justice initiatives.

CLIMATE AND GENDER JUSTICE

Climate change is irrefutably one of the greatest struggles of the early 21st century. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognizes that, *"Climate change has a greater impact on those sections of the population, in all countries, that are most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods and/or who have the least capacity to respond to natural hazards, such as droughts, landslides, floods and hurricanes. Women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty, and the majority of the world's poor are women. Women's unequal participation in decision-making processes and labour markets compound inequalities and often prevent women from fully contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation. Yet, women can (and do) play a critical role in response to climate change due to their local knowledge of and leadership in e.g. sustainable resource management and/or leading sustainable practices at the household and community level. Women's participation at the political level has resulted in greater responsiveness to citizen's needs, often increasing cooperation across party and ethnic lines and delivering more sustainable peace. At the local level, women's inclusion at the leadership level has led to improved outcomes of climate related projects and policies. On the contrary, if policies or projects are implemented without women's meaningful participation it can increase existing inequalities and decrease effectiveness"*. The effects of climate change directly impact on the lives of many YWCA members, their families and friends. Women and girls from marginalised communities are particularly exposed, and are often the ones driving change in their communities. We want to host a discussion forum on different Member Association's activities around climate change, what different YWCAs are and can be doing, and where we as a movement stand on climate change.

This session will also allow Member Associations to come together and discuss a World YWCA position on climate change, and what we as a movement can do at local, national and international levels. Activities in different Member Associations include:

- Mitigation (reducing carbon footprint, i.e. planting trees, using renewable energies)
- Advocacy (at local, national, regional or international level)
- Relief from natural disasters