



**WorldYWCA**

**STATEMENTS OF  
POLICY**

**Adopted at Legislative Meetings  
1894 - 2019**

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# INTRODUCTION

The first edition of the “World’s YWCA Statements of Policy” appeared in 1947, covering the period from 1898, and in 1963 was reorganised and brought up to date. A second volume began with the World Council of 1971, and extended to the Council Meeting of 1975. In 1991 these two volumes were amalgamated into the World YWCA Statements of Policy Centenary Edition thus including all policy statements adopted in the first century of the World YWCA’s existence.

As of the World YWCA Constitution of 1936 the legislative body of the World YWCA was the World Council, prior to that the legislative function was divided between the World’s Conferences and the World’s Committee. As of the revised Constitution adopted at the Extraordinary World Council in 2007, “the World Council is the supreme authority of the World YWCA” (article 19), but “between World Council meetings, the World Board is the main decision making body for the World YWCA” (article 35).

Since the publication of the 100 Years forward with Vision edition of the Statements of Policy covering the years 1894 -1994, there have been seven World Councils. This volume also includes all the policy statements adopted from 1995 - 2019, and has continued the policy of including only official statements made at World YWCA Councils.

Under the revised Constitution adopted in 2007, the World Executive Committee was renamed World Board, and national associations are referred to as member associations.

# FOREWORD

## EDITION 1894 - 2019

The World YWCA is committed to working in partnership with member YWCAs in the development of our global advocacy and priorities and policies. The World YWCA Board invites member associations to send their proposed resolutions in advance of World Council so that they can be circulated to all other member associations. The sharing of proposed resolutions creates opportunities for international education and dialogue on issues of importance to member associations. This process also informs the movement about key issues during the drafting and development of the next strategy towards [Goal 2035](#).

Resolutions have broad-based support within the global YWCA movement; are consistent with the World YWCA vision, purpose and priorities; and propose concrete actions that can be taken by YWCAs toward improving the lives of women, young women and girls and [achieving Goal 2035](#).

The World Council is an space for member associations to discuss international advocacy and policy priorities as part of the strategic planning and consultation process in order to ensure that the programme and advocacy work of the World YWCA is reflective of and relevant to the realities of women, young women and girls in communities.

A World Council Resolution is long-term commitment that gives the YWCA movement direction about how to address policy priorities. In other words, a resolution tells the movement what to do to create positive changes in women's lives around a particular priority. A resolution becomes a major statement of policy, requires implementation by the whole YWCA movement, and may have financial implications.

At last World Council in 2019 and in recognition of the fact that issues critical to women, young women and girls may emerge between the resolutions deadline submission and/during World Council, the World YWCA accepted proposed Statements. A Statement is a focused document intended for widespread public release. It shall describe a particular issue or concern and the position of the World YWCA on that issue. It must be in line with the World YWCA 2035 Goal and the World Council theme.

July 2020

# FOREWORD TO THE CENTENARY EDITION 1894 -1994

“Quoted without comment or interpretation, these statements give a cumulative impression of the consistent development of the movement in these various aspects of its life and work. Viewed as a whole, this body of affirmations made by the World’s YWCA is convincing evidence of the relevance of the Christian purpose of the Association to every area of life and of the genius of the Association to move forward and to apply that purpose to the vital issues of each new day.” General Secretary Ruth Woodsmall in the Foreword to the 1947 edition.

The first edition of the “World’s YWCA Statements of Policy” appeared in 1947. It covered the period from 1898. In 1963 that volume was reorganised and brought up to date. The second volume began with the World Council of 1971, and extended to the Council Meeting of 1975. This present document is a compendium of those two volumes, and goes forward through the World Council of 1991, thus including all Policy Statements adopted in the first century of the World YWCA’s existence.

A footnote to the 1963 document points out that, “The official Legislative Body of the World YWCA is the World Council, as of the Constitution of 1936. Previous to that date the legislative function was divided between World’s Conferences and the World’s Committee. The name of the Association was changed from World’s YWCA to World YWCA under the Constitution adopted by the World Council in London, 1955.”

The present compendium has continued the policy of including only official statements made by World YWCA legislative gatherings. It has organised the statements into a slightly different format, putting together in one chapter the policy statements having to do with Purpose and Mission, in another those dealing with Structure and Organisational Strategies, and in a third, statements on Social and International Responsibility. Within these categories, they are presented in chronological order. There are two indexes.

Index I classifies the statements by subject. Where a single resolution includes several subject areas, each has been identified for the purposes of the Subject Index. Index II classifies statements by Council Meetings. The aim of this index is to make it easier to discover the areas in which the World YWCA has taken action at different points in its history.

The Executive Committee acknowledges with appreciation the work Jewel Graham, past President of the World YWCA, who arranged the statements and the indexes, and Executive members Hoda Gindi and Elizabeth Sharpies who assisted in this work. What they discovered was that these Statements of Policy offer a fascinating reading of the history of the World YWCA as it responded to the crucial issues of the day in which it existed.

As Elizabeth Palmer, General Secretary, wrote in the 1963 edition: These statements are exciting reading for all who will use their imagination, for through them they will be able to see reflected the changing social, political and economic life of the last almost 100 years and the subsequent changes in the life of women as they endeavour to meet the new opportunities and responsibilities brought to them. They are humbling reading also, for we are reminded how few of our ideas are new, and how much courage and vision each new YWCA generation will need if we are to be true to the heritage which the statements reveal.”

Thus our commitment through our special Centenary publications is to provide the tools for members and leaders throughout the World YWCA Movement to know the challenges of 100 Years of Forward with Vision as we look to our second century of implementing our Christian imperative to action.

June 1995

# CHAPTER I

## PURPOSE AND MISSION

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- A. Development of the Aim and Basis of the World YWCA
- B. Christian Task of the YWCA as a Lay Ecumenical Movement
- C. The YWCA as a Women's Movement
- D. The YWCA as a Youth Movement

# CHAPTER I

## A. Development of the Aim and Basis of the World YWCA

**1898, World's Conference, London, England**

*Adopted*

### **Basis**

*Adopted as the World's YWCA Basis:*

The World's Young Women's Christian Association seeks to unite those young women who, regarding the Lord Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, are vitally united to him through the love of God shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit and desire to associate their efforts for the extension of his Kingdom among all young women by such means as are in accordance with the Word of God.

**1914, World's Committee, Stockholm, Sweden**

*Adopted*

### **Basis, Aim and Principles**

*Adopted as the World's YWCA:*

**Basis:** Faith in God the Father as Creator, and in Jesus Christ His only Son as Lord and Saviour, and in the Holy Spirit as Revealer of Truth and Source of Power for life and service, according to the teaching of Holy Scripture.

**Aim:** The World's Young Women's Christian Association seeks to organise, develop and unite national associations, which, accepting its basis, or one in conformity with it, endeavour to extend the Kingdom of God according to its principles, and to bring young women to such knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour as shall manifest itself in character and conduct.

**Principle:** The World's Young Women's Christian Association desires to be representative of all sections of the Christian Church in so far as they accept the basis. It includes in the field of its activities young women without distinction of creed, and desires to enlist the service of young women for young women in their spiritual, intellectual, social and physical advancement, and to encourage their fellowship and activities in the Christian Church. The World's Young Women's Christian Association also pledges itself to assign a primary position to Bible Study and Prayer.

**1922, World's Committee, St. Wolfgang, Austria**

*Approves*

**Aim**

*The following addition to the Aim of the World's YWCA was approved:*

It also calls all national associations to promote Christian principles of social and international conduct by encouraging the development of a right public conscience such as shall strengthen all those forces which are working for the promotion of peace and better understanding between classes, nations, and races; believing that the world social order can only be made Christian through individuals devoted to the single purpose of doing God's will, and that through obedience to the law of Christ there shall follow the extension of His Kingdom in which the principles of justice, love and the equal value of every human life shall apply to national and international as well as to personal relations.

**1955, World Council, London, England**

*Adopted*

**Preamble, Basis, Aim and Functions**

*Adopted as the Preamble, Basis, Aim, and Functions of the World YWCA in the revised Constitution:*

**Preamble**

The World Young Women's Christian Association,  
having been founded and subsequently developed by women from many lands who regarded knowledge of the Bible and of the traditions of the Christian Church, prayer, and service to others as essential elements in Christian living,  
sharing their convictions and being resolved to apply them in its continuing work,  
endeavouring to build a world-wide fellowship through which women and girls may come to know more of the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ for themselves and for all people, and may learn to express that love in responsible action,  
believing that unity among Christians is the will of God, and desiring as a lay movement to make a contribution towards that unity,  
recognising the equal value in God's sight of all human beings, without distinction of race, nationality, class or religion, and seeking to promote understanding and cooperation between people of different nations, races and groups,  
hereby reaffirms these principles

**Basis**

Faith in God the Father Almighty, and in Jesus Christ His only Son and Lord and Saviour, and in the Holy Spirit.

**Aim**

The World YWCA unites associations which are working in accordance with its basis and principles and meet the requirements for affiliation; it seeks to coordinate them into a world movement; it acts on their behalf in matters for which it has received authority.

## Functions

The World YWCA provides a channel for the sharing of resources and the exchange of experience among its affiliated associations.

It helps its affiliated associations with the development of their leadership and programme.

It surveys new fields and promotes work to meet the needs therein.

It acts in cooperation with world voluntary movements and with intergovernmental organisations in matters of common concern.

It works for international understanding, for improved social and economic conditions and for basic human rights for all people.

In times of emergency it undertakes and sponsors international humanitarian, welfare, and relief work, in accordance with Christian principles, irrespective of religious, social, political, national or racial differences.

It brings women and girls of different Christian traditions into a world-wide fellowship through which they may grow as Christians, participating in the life and worship of their church and expressing their faith by word and deed. It includes within its fellowship all women and girls who desire to participate in its programme.

## 1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada

### *Resolution*

### **Aim, Basis and Ways of Work**

*World YWCA Aim, Basis and Ways of Work - The Life and Ways of Work of the YWCA as a World Movement*

## **Affiliation**

Convinced that the World YWCA must retain its identity as a Women's Christian Membership Movement, and that it is important that a way be found to ensure that the criteria for maintaining this identity are fully understood;

Aware that failure to clarify the meaning of these criteria for affiliation may lead to events controlling decisions rather than the decision-makers controlling events;

Aware also that current practices regarding affiliation are based on a variety of assumptions and interpretations;

Recognising the need for a study of what is currently understood and acted upon by each national association, and for clarification of both the intent of the criteria of affiliation and variations possible within them;

*The World YWCA Council resolves-*

- that the 1975 World YWCA Council reaffirms that the World YWCA remain a Women's Christian, Membership, Movement;
- that the criteria for affiliation be re-examined and clarified both in terms of intent and range of acceptable interpretation;
- that the current practices regarding affiliation be studied in terms of both assumptions and interpretations of existing criteria;
- that interpretation of 'members' as used in determining voting strength in World YWCA

Councils and in setting national quotas to the World YWCA, be further examined along with other possible factors, and more detailed guidelines developed;

- that the voting rights of delegates, Executive Committee members and the Secretariat in the Council Meeting be re-examined;
- that on the basis of these studies, the background data and recommendations for appropriate action be submitted to the World Council in 1979.

### Council Meetings

The meeting of the World YWCA is the event at which we most clearly experience the YWCA as a World Movement. Here, issues are discussed in their global perspective. Here, understanding of various cultures and the life situations of members around the world is enhanced. Those who participate in the World Council, as they return to their countries and localities, become the vehicle to help relate the YWCA members there to the World Movement.

Some national associations have numerous local associations spread over a wide geographic area. The practice of inviting accredited visitors to the World Council Meeting enables wider interpretation and sharing of the World Council's objectives and concerns with a larger segment of national associations' members and supporters.

The intent of the 1975 Bye-Laws change on World Council Visitors is to discontinue the practice of including accredited visitors in delegations in future World Council Meetings. We believe the consequences of this decision need to be carefully examined in the light of the considerations raised above.

#### *Therefore, the World YWCA Council resolves*

that this World Council direct the Executive Committee to study ways, apart from increasing the number of voting delegates, to provide for more adequate involvement of member-leaders of large associations.

#### *The World YWCA Council resolves*

that the Executive Committee be asked to find new and imaginative ways of identifying for the Council members those who are standing for office, and assisting Council members to find opportunities to meet and talk with the nominees.

### **1979, World Council, Athens, Greece**

#### *Resolution*

### **Affiliation and Changing Society**

Recognising that the rapid changes in the world today have brought changes in the situation of women in all parts of the world, and considering the role of the YWCA in assisting women to fulfil their total task in society, we recognise the need for constantly reassessing the needs of women;

Recognising also that in order to answer the needs of a changing society the YWCAs in different countries must constantly reassess their ways of work, planning and programme, and that this reassessment may lead to new programmes, new cooperative relationships, and in some cases to new membership policies and new structures;

Realising that the World YWCA links together movements in societies of a widely ranging character, and that member associations therefore, by necessity, must choose different ways to reach the aims of a Women's Christian and Ecumenical Movement and that this variety is both a challenge and an enrichment of the whole world organisation;

*The World YWCA Council resolves*

- that a study be made in all regions of the world of the new needs of a changing society and its implications for the work of the national YWCA movements as a women's movement with a Christian basis;
- that in accordance with the findings of this study a reassessment be made of the principles and criteria for affiliation, with special regard to the different situations of associations now affiliated in Group X;
- that the report of the study be circulated to all associations at least 18 months before the next World Council Meeting and reported at the next Council for action.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Recommendation*

### **Christian Basis**

As an open women's Christian movement, concerned both to preserve our Christian basis, and to be relevant to the world in which we work, the 1987 World YWCA Council Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, resolves that:

There is a need to ensure that the Christian Basis is expressed in a way that helps us to achieve our purpose as a world movement for women.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Recommendation*

### **Study of Credal Basis**

Recalling the resolution passed at the World Council 1987 which states:

"As an open women's Christian movement, concerned both to preserve our Christian basis and to be relevant to the world in which we work, the 1987 World YWCA Council Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, resolves that there is a need to ensure that the Christian Basis is expressed in a way that helps us to achieve our purpose as a world movement for women."

Recalling the 1991 World Council meeting in which the following recommendation was carried:

"Recalling the amendment to the Constitution suggested by the YWCA of New Zealand at World Council, Phoenix, Arizona 1987 that the wording of the credal basis of the World YWCA be changed;

Recognising that:

- working for the transformation for a just society is an imperative for the World YWCA movement,
- the World YWCA movement can act on this imperative based on the Christian principles of liberation and justice,
- the World YWCA movement seeks to move from “service” (charity) to self-declaration and self-determination by individual members and their YWCA institutions;

We therefore recommend that the World Executive Committee devise ways for national and local associations to continue the discussions already begun during the past quadrennium;

- i) to ensure that the wording of the credal basis remains a priority for discussion, and
- ii) undertake a study - with a view to possible amendments to the Constitution at World Council 1995.”

Be it recommended that a task force be set up by the World Executive to study and propose to the 1999 World Council an alternative wording for the credal basis in addition to the present one. The alternative wording shall reflect the Trinitarian creed and be in inclusive language in order to enable national associations to express the Christian basis in terms which are most acceptable to them. The task force shall consist of representatives from different geographical areas in the YWCA and use modern methods of communication in order to reduce costs.

## **B. Christian Task of the YWCA as a Lay Ecumenical Movement**

**1898, World's Conference, London, England**

*Adopted*

### **Week of Prayer**

The second Sunday in October and the week following shall be considered as the International Week of Prayer for the World's Young Women's Christian Association, to be everywhere observed by special meetings and contributions for the World's work.

**1902, World's Conference, Geneva, Switzerland**

*Recommendation*

### **Christian Task**

We recommend that the national associations, while remembering that the ultimate aim and end of all association work is for the spiritual welfare of all the members, do seek to meet the needs of mind and body as well, and to recognise their opportunities to secure influence among all young women by providing cheerful and wholesome opportunities for intellectual and social entertainments.

We would further commend that association work be undertaken only in those countries to which we have been called by the resident missionaries, recognising that such work may serve as a valuable link to unite all national associations, and to create a centre of interdenominational work in the field. As at home, we strive to supplement, not supplant, Church work, so our desire in the mission fields is only to supplement, in no wise to supplant or encroach upon, the scope of the Missionary Societies.

**1906, World's Conference, Paris, France**

*Agreed*

**Christian Task**

*It was agreed:*

To remember that the supreme aim of all association work is to bring the claims of Christ and His service before all young women.

**1908, World's Committee, London, England**

*Impress upon*

**Bible Reading and Study**

The World's Committee having heard the reports from various countries upon the recommendation of the World's Committee in Paris, upon the subject of uniform Bible reading, desire to impress upon all national committees the great importance of systematic Bible study.

**1910, World's Conference, Berlin, Germany**

*Recommendation*

**Methods of Work**

That the association should keep in such close touch with all classes of women that it may be able to give religious training to all those who will accept it, and interpret the mind of Christ in such fashion that a spirit of obligation and common sisterhood may be developed among all women. Moreover, it should endeavour to bring those women who are alienated from, or indifferent, to the Church of Christ back into vital relationship with it.

...

Recognising that the spiritual needs of the young women of today have never been exceeded--not only those needs common to the human race in all ages, but also those due to the peculiar conditions of our time--we call upon our fellow delegates at this Conference, and upon our fellow-members throughout the world, to seek such a baptism of God's Holy Spirit that our Young Women's Christian Association may be mightily used of Him in bringing young women everywhere to know His salvation and enter His service. Without this all our methods will be in vain; therefore let us unitedly seek this baptism and enduement from God as the all-important qualification for extending the Kingdom of our Lord.

...

As to methods of work, we would recommend:

The importance of a more thorough understanding of the needs and attitude of the young women of our day, and a deeper and wider sympathy with them, so that we may be able to present the Gospel in such a real and vital way that they may be won for God.

While each separate organisation must find for itself the best ways of thus presenting the Gospel, we should like to urge upon all the advisability of varied methods in the religious work of the Association, as, for instance, personal work with individuals, evangelistic meetings for the different, meetings for prayer and intercession, Bible classes and Bible circles to meet the needs of those who are in perplexity or doubt, as well as to build up our Christian members and to train them in Christian service, that we may oppose unbelief by a powerful testimony to the truth of Christianity, both by

## CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE AND MISSION

word and deed. All these and many other methods maybe used, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in meeting the spiritual needs of young women.

...

In view of the difficulty of getting in touch with young women, whom neither the Church nor the Association is reaching, we would recommend:

That an earnest endeavour be made to enlist more fully the help of our Christian members in this work of evangelisation, making them realise their grave responsibility for bringing to Christ the young women whom they touch in their daily life far more closely than do the secretaries.

The circulation of a more extensive and satisfactory Christian literature and the publication of Association magazines and papers better suited to the needs of young women, as we have already proved in some degree that the use of good literature is a very satisfactory method of reaching girls with whom the Association cannot come in direct and close touch.

...

That the Association everywhere further whatever tends to supply the conditions of physical well-being and all-round development of mind and character that make young women receptive to higher influences.

Whereas in the past the Missionary Societies and Boards have been often obliged to demonstrate their right to bring Christianity into a country, while today they are confronted by open doors and earnest invitations to enter these same countries, this Conference urges upon each national committee of the Young Women's Christian Association the importance of the responsibility thus laid upon them to enable these Societies to seize the opportunities of the hour.

We would, therefore, strongly recommend the national committees to formulate policies in regard to the arousing of missionary interest by such means as are best suited to varying local needs and that will promote comprehensive mission study, systematic giving, intercessory prayer and personal service.

...

Your Committee, recognising that the Association stands for the furtherance of knowledge of the facts and truths of our Christian faith, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, recommends that Bible Study should be encouraged along two lines:

- Devotional daily Bible reading.
- Systematic Bible study.

In respect of Bible study, they recommend the formation of National Bible Study Departments, which might undertake the circulation or publication of text books, and would in every possible way promote the systematic study of the Bible among the members of the several national associations.

**1914, World's Committee, Stockholm, Sweden**

*Recommendation*

**Christian Task**

Whereas a greater share in the work of the Church is devolving upon women, this Conference recommends to national and local communities the careful and intelligent preparation of their members for the responsibilities and privileges of Church life, in order that as Christian women they may make their peculiar contribution to the Church and serve it efficiently.

**1920, World's Committee, Champéry, Switzerland**

*Recommendation*

**Ecumenism**

*It is recommended:*

To secure that no one is excluded from membership on the ground of Church affiliation: and to encourage fraternal cooperation in membership and leadership on the part of individual members of various Christian Churches represented in the country.

**1922, World's Committee, St. Wolfgang, Austria**

*Belief*

**Christian Task**

We believe that...one of our aims is to demonstrate that unity of all Christians in Christ which rises above all national differences.

...

Compelled by the example and teaching of Christ, we affirm it as an obligation of the YWCA to have a programme of service for young women, the fundamental principles of which are as follows:

- To share life in all its richness and beauty, freedom and joy as we find it in Christ, the Lord of every side of human life.
- To afford young women opportunities for all-round development, self-expression and training in service and citizenship.
- To be a tangible expression of the love of Christ, and by revealing Him as He is, to lead to a personal allegiance to Him.
- To enlarge the sphere and influence of the Association by meeting the needs of all types of young women.

In face of the serious problems confronting womanhood in all the countries of the world, arising out of the world's negation of the principles which Christ proclaimed, we believe that:

The message of the YWCA in presenting the claims of Christ is already implicit in the World's YWCA Basis, and is the same which the whole Christian Church should insistently proclaim—namely the message of the love of God, giving through Jesus Christ deliverance both from individual and corporate sin, in social, national and international relationships, and leading into newness of life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acknowledging the responsibility of our distinctive opportunities, we challenge all the associations:

- To interpret Christ to the individual as the One Who meets her insufficiency and gives power to be free and strong; Who is a real and ever understanding Friend, showing infinite love in everyday life; Who desires for her joy and the fullest development of her personality; Who calls her to explore His teaching and in personal allegiance to Him to follow the guidance of His Spirit in the pursuit of beauty, truth and righteousness; Who asks of her a constant translation into life of her growing understanding and experience of Him.
- To express in the language of today and on the plane of the individual's experience truths that are unchanging and universal.
- To present the Scriptures so vividly and simply that they are seen to be full of reality and interest.
- To be fearless and open-minded in facing new ideals.
- To be humble, sympathetic and imaginative in our dealings with all groups, nations and creeds.
- To relate the work of the Association with other movements for social reconstruction.
- To recognise fearlessly corporate sin and to proclaim the necessity for corporate righteousness; showing that the present social, industrial and international conditions are far from being in accordance with the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ; and calling upon Christians in these three relationships to live a life consistent with their faith.

### **1928, World's Committee, Budapest, Hungary**

#### *Urge*

## **Ecumenism**

As it is very important that all affiliated countries should understand clearly the inter-confessional position of the World's YWCA, the World's Committee urges that those associations who feel that they have not fully studied this question should endeavour to investigate it carefully.

### **1930, World's Committee, St. Cergue, Switzerland**

#### *Approve*

## **Ecumenism**

The establishment of a Standing Commission on Oecumenism and Church Relations, consisting of a few members at headquarters working in association with representatives or groups of representatives of the YWCA in the various countries is approved.

### **1934, World's Council, Grande Boissiere, Geneva, Switzerland**

#### *Statement*

## **Christian Task**

While realising the values of the diverse forms of expression inherent in the four-fold programme of the Association, we recognise the necessity of concentration on certain specific emphases to meet present world needs. This Council has therefore emphasised as its primary responsibility the affirmation of the Christian faith, and seeks as its central objective to deepen the religious life of the individual through a vital Christian experience and to strengthen the spiritual force of the Young Women's Christian Association as a Christian movement concerned with the crucial issues of modern life. This unity of a personal and social gospel demands renewed consecration to Christ and courage to face the consequences of applying His principles to the whole of life. Moreover the Association and all Christian movements today are impelled to a more vital expression of Christianity by such powerful forces as nationalism and communism, for these, in a vigorous idealism akin to a religious

faith, have called forth a passion of sacrificial loyalty for the common good.

**1938, World's Council, Muskoka, Canada**

*Recommendation*

## Christian Task

We call the attention of national associations to the need for:

- Greater reality in the church relationships of their members.
- Preparing their members more adequately for positions in the church.
- Securing a fuller share for women in the Councils and policy-making of the Church.

We ask the World's Executive Committee, in cooperation with church groups, to make a study of the place of women in the life and work of the church.

...

The Theme of this Council Meeting "Jesus Christ, the Centre of Life" must be the determining note of all our work during the coming quadrennium. This entails giving prayerful thought to the best ways of making our Christian message clear and arresting. No list of suggestions can cover the many different kinds of approach needed for so diverse a membership as ours, but we would recommend for the consideration of national associations, two or three of the recent methods which have been tried and tested:

- Bible Schools, Prayer Schools, Quiet Days and Retreats for leaders.
- The use of teams of people who would present the Christian challenge to groups of members.
- Members' camps and conferences, with a definite religious study programme.

In this connection we would also suggest to the World's Executive Committee the choice of an Annual Bible Study Theme to be worked out with the different national associations.

As we look forward, we realise that the next few years will be a testing time for Christian movements and that our strength will depend on the depth and reality of our individual and corporate experience. We know that it is only as we strengthen our Christian foundations that we can hope to achieve the task before us.

...

We affirm our faith that only insofar as we make Jesus Christ the centre of our life and work shall we be a truly ecumenical Movement in thought and practice.

We draw attention to the meaning of ecumenism as the wholeness of Christian faith and witness within the Church universal. The conception of the Church as one is fundamental, "One Lord, One Faith". We are thankful for the general awakening of Christendom to the value of the ecumenical position and to a new awareness of the scandal of our divisions and their hindrance to the witness of the Church.

We recommend to the national associations the study of the position and policy of the World's YWCA in relation to the ecumenical question.

There are two stages in the development of ecumenism:

- The consciousness of fellowship with little realisation of difference.
- The awareness of differences and of the necessity for facing them in order to gain the richness of the whole.

We believe that the World's Council and the national associations need ceaseless perseverance and must make ceaseless experiment in this realm, in order that they may realise the full richness of our ecumenical fellowship.

We recognise that where associations have a membership drawn from many different Churches, this very variety makes definite religious work more difficult. But we should continuously think out ways of study and worship, by which we can serve all our membership.

In starting new associations it is important that there should be nothing in basis or method which would prevent the development of an ecumenical spirit.

We call the attention of the World's Executive Committee and national associations to:

- The importance of the example set by Association leaders in their own church life.
- The need to help our members to see the significance of the Church universal while they themselves remain faithful to their own Church.
- The need to become conscious that we often have no truly ecumenical practice even in regard to the different Protestant groups within the Association.
- The importance of the World's Young Women's Christian Association keeping the whole movement informed of situations, experiences, and progress in ecumenism.
- The necessity for simple studies in Church history and in the official position of the different Churches.
- The importance of using the World's Week of Prayer for education in ecumenism.
- The value of the use of varied worship services in order to share in the riches of the various Christian traditions.

We call attention to the different problems and contributions of national associations in the ecumenical field, due to different situations:

- National associations which are predominantly confessional and tend to be an exclusively church fellowship.
- National associations which include in their membership members of many or even all sections of the Christian Church.

We wish to stress the important contribution which we believe the Young Women's Christian Association, as a whole, can bring to the general ecumenical movement because we have a world-wide person-to-person relationship and because of our attitude and practice in race and class relationships.

**1947, World's Council, Hangchow, China**  
*Statement*

### **Christian Task**

The YWCA as a Christian movement of women and girls affirms its belief that God is Father of all and that He has created man in His own image. We believe that this is God's world and that He is concerned with the ordering of it.

## CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE AND MISSION

The fact that Jesus Christ, the son of God, became man and lived human life assures us that the physical is at every point interwoven with and inseparable from the spiritual.

All life is one. There can be no distinction in the areas of life in which we must work for the will of God.

In our human confusion and inadequacy we need knowledge of our Christian faith and insight into its meaning for us, the ability to be explicit in its expression, and the conviction that God is working through us. We are confronted by a world that has forgotten God amid the strifes and tensions of social rebirth.

Therefore, we must take every means available to strengthen and deepen our spiritual power and to equip ourselves for effective and intelligent participation in the life of the community in order that we may show our faith in action.

**Personal Commitment:** If the YWCA is to be a strong Christian movement, the leaders--both volunteer and staff--must be genuinely committed to its enduring Christian purpose so that they can make its message compelling, both through their personal lives and through their community contacts. We believe that a growing relationship with God is essential and that we must therefore find ways to increase our knowledge of the Bible and of the history of our Faith, and find time to pray.

We think that the World's YWCA might give help to national associations in planning for the development of the spiritual side of the Association's Christian life and through arranging periodical training courses for Christian leadership.

As Christians concerned with the total needs of women and girls, we should feel responsible for helping people to find in their work--be it in the home or outside--and in their leisure:

- Increasing opportunities for personal freedom and dignity.
- The power of Christian faith in their own lives.
- Their own place and responsibility in the community.

The YWCA has a responsibility to interpret the meaning of the church to its members, so that they can be lead towards responsible membership in the church.

The YWCA has a special opportunity to bring together members of different Christian churches. Some associations where the membership includes both Roman Catholics and Protestants have found that it is possible for them to experience an enlarging sense of God's presence by sharing together in periods of meditation, independent of any particular ecclesiastical form.

### **1951, World's Council, Beirut, Lebanon**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Christian Task**

In the present world situation, the World's YWCA should help national associations to face the fact that an explicit and implemented Christian purpose, and the participation of committed Christians in the YWCA, is a matter of life and death to the movement. It is recommended:

- that members be helped to become deeply rooted in their own church;
- that help be given, especially through Bible study and also in other ways, to stress the aspects of the Christian message which speak to the sense of the helplessness and futility of life, and to show the relevance of that message to current problems, e.g. work, family relationships, our Association practices, etc.;

## CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE AND MISSION

- that, undergirding the programme of social and international action, there should be constant seeking for an understanding and clear expression of the relevance of the Christian faith;
- that the World's YWCA call its members both to continuing intercessory prayer and to positive action, in order that our Christian fellowship may be deepened and strengthened and that our movement may be truly an instrument of reconciliation and unity in the face of conflict and an instrument of social and economic justice without which there can be no peace;
- that we recognise that one of the most urgent and vital ways of witnessing to our Christian purpose is to examine (and change if necessary) our constitution, structure, policy administration and membership practices at local, national, and world level, in the light of our Christian basis.

Although, in some countries, the YWCA is, and may remain, a Protestant movement, the World's YWCA cannot be a Protestant movement, and be recognised as such. It is recommended:

- that members be brought to realise the tension that is involved in maintaining loyalty to a church in which one is deeply rooted while, at the same time, following a vision of Christian unity;
- that the World's YWCA initiate a consultative process with national associations regarding the implications of belonging to an ecumenical movement, and that consideration be given to the provision of material and the planning of world conferences to give ecumenical experience at membership level.

In view of the need to help national associations who, while recognising the importance of strengthening their Christian basis, are faced with a demand for the inclusion of non-Christians in policy making groups, it is recommended:

- that the World's YWCA proceed immediately to collect information regarding membership practices in countries where non-Christians predominate.

### 1955, World Council, London, England

#### *Suggest*

### Christian Task

Discussion on the Constitution, our work together as we have tried to see more clearly the task of a world Christian movement, our family prayers together, have made a real contribution towards increased understanding of the unity in Christ which we seek. We are committed to explore further the meaning of this unity.

We suggest to national associations:

- That they recognise their responsibility to help members to deepen their personal life within their own Church, and to grow in the knowledge and understanding of different Christian confessions and denominations.
  - That they keep constantly before them their task in helping non-churchgoing members to find their place in the fellowship of a church.
  - We all need to become better informed about various concepts of unity, recognising that others--Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic--are working on this question.
  - We must seek at least an interim definition of ecumenism, as the YWCA conceives it, and of the special responsibility of a lay association in contributing towards the unity we long for.
- 
- We must pray more consistently and intelligently for unity, as individuals and as

confessional and inter-confessional groups, and seek common experiences of prayer on whatever basis may be acceptable to all.

- All our attitudes and behaviour in human affairs, personal, social and international should reflect more clearly the common insights derived from our oneness in Christ.
- We must look for opportunities of expressing our witness to Christ in ways that may manifest this oneness.
- We must provide occasions for personal encounters which may open us to one another and weld us together.
- We must enquire what our Association is in different places and among different kinds of groups, and see how far it is inter-confessional and where it may be ecumenical.
- According to the situations in which we find ourselves, we must seek to extend our cooperation with churches.

**1963, World Council, Nyborg Strand, Denmark**

*Statement*

### Cooperation Christian Org.

One of the pressing tasks before the World YWCA is to help Associations find new, creative and more relevant ways of speaking to and attracting the vast group of young people outside the churches, both non-Christian and post-Christian, as well as those under the nurture of the churches. We must help them see how the Christian faith is related to the personal problem, the social concerns and political issues before them in the setting in which they live.

...

Within a comparatively brief period the YWCA has moved toward clearer understanding of what it means to be a movement which brings women of different confessions together on a basis of equal and full membership. However, we know the search for more complete acceptance of each other and for more significant ways of sharing our common life of prayer and study of the Bible, as well as work, must go on. We must face the issues involved with the utmost frankness and be willing to share our fears and doubts as well as our yearning for understanding and unity.

...

Opportunity should be given for ecumenical education at every World YWCA gathering. Where the group is to participate in worship which is unfamiliar to any of them, preparatory help in understanding the different ways of worship should be included. Special attention should be given to helping delegates get acquainted with the traditions of the churches in the country in which they are meeting.

...

Because we are convinced that the World YWCA cannot be wholly or truly ecumenical as long as we are separated from groups of Christian women in any part of the world, and because we are aware that new doors are being opened to contact with Christian women from whom we have been separated in any part of the world, the Executive Committee should seek with imagination and sensitivity to use every opportunity available to make contact with the women in these countries. This may be done sometimes in cooperation with churches or other Christian bodies, sometimes by one national movement, sometimes by individual members, sometimes at secular meetings, or

in ways not now seen. The exact nature of the contact will be determined by the situation, but high priority should be given to seeking to find these openings. Our world body is broken, our fellowship incomplete and our witness partial, and we must see, to restore it by using every sensitive effort for ecumenical contact and dialogue.

### *Message to National Associations*

The World YWCA Council meeting in Denmark expresses its deep thankfulness to God for the growing unity among Christians, evidenced in so many ways and in so many places in this moment of history. We are humbly grateful that within the World YWCA this unity is found in such abundance. We have been given deeper understanding of our task as an ecumenical Christian lay movement, both through the Consultation on Ecumenical Policy and Practices held in the summer of 1962, and again through the rich experience we have shared here, as we have prayed and worked together--one company of Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant women.

We are convinced that at this moment the World YWCA is facing a tremendous challenge and opportunity, but this also lays upon us a heavy responsibility and burden. We must become true to our ecumenical character at every level of our Association life--world, national and local--and in every aspect of membership, leadership, structure, and programme, otherwise we may miss the call of God to us in this day.

We urge each Association, whatever its setting, to examine honestly its own life and practices to see what changes--no matter how drastic--may be required of it, and to seek for renewal and strength that it may become willing and ready to be made a true ecumenical community, and a clear channel for the healing power of God and his reconciliation in this world.

### **1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

#### *Statement*

## **Christian Task**

The task of a lay Christian Movement in an ecumenical age

We are acutely aware of the need now for the YWCA to see its way clearly in what must be a new role ecumenically, as between the Churches and within our own movement. We need to be open to all Opportunities of entering into dialogue, of cooperating with those who are seeking unity, of accepting the pressure of youth that we work actively towards the unity of all Christians in our own situation.

#### *As an open Christian Movement*

In considering the intensity of a growing dialogue we feel the need to realise that partnership means readiness of each partner to give up some position, customs or activities. We are concerned about the fact that we have to learn and think what this attitude of giving up means in institutional terms, for us and our Movement. We ask each association to find out what has to be given up, revised or changed within our Association, so that YWCA members may enter into a full dialogue with those of other faiths, or no faith, and of differing ideologies, and so that there may be a full dialogue between the generations.

#### *Being a World Community*

Recalling the Statement of the World Council Meeting in Denmark that “our world body is broken, our fellowship incomplete and our witness partial, and that we must seek to restore it by using every sensitive effort for ecumenical contact and dialogue”, and that “high priority should be given to this question”,

Realising that in this Council where we have been discussing the demands of a world community, we are still cut off from more than one third of the world community,

We urge that the World YWCA and national associations, as a part of a world lay Christian movement,

- give most serious attention to this situation,
- explore new ways of contact amongst individuals, peoples and countries of differing political systems and philosophies,
- keep this concern before them in intercession, discussion and thought and at conferences, and take what action is possible.

**1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**  
*Recommendation*

### Christian Task

The Council recommends that the World YWCA should encourage and assist national associations during the next four years to study anew what is involved in being a Christian movement in today's world, and what implications this has for programme, membership policies, purpose statements and leadership within the association...All national associations should be involved in this study and not only those who wish.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Resolution*

### Ordination of Women

Whereas the World YWCA is a Christian membership movement advocating leadership by women, We call upon the World Council 1995 to accept the following resolution:  
YWCA women will positively lobby their denomination for the ordination and leadership of women.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**  
*Resolution*

### Interfaith Dialogue

Affirming the work of the YWCAs of the Middle East with Christian and Muslim women, and

Reaffirming the 1999-2004 Strategic Plan for the World YWCA, objective 1.2, to provide a broader vision in Christian and interfaith understanding, and

Acknowledging that mutual respect and understanding between different religions contributes to peace and development, and

Encouraging interfaith dialogue between women of all faiths,

Encouraging interfaith dialogue between women of all faiths,

The World YWCA Council resolves:

- To support national associations in inclusive ways of working with women of all faiths;
- To encourage national associations to commence and continue education on interfaith issues;
- To work for the eradication of all forms of discrimination and stereotypes based on religion.

## C. The YWCA as a Women's Movement

**1910, World's Conference, Berlin, Germany**

*Exhortation*

### Women- Social Development

The Association should seek to bestow, as far as possible, its benefit not only on its members but also on all young women in the community, seeking to adapt itself to the peculiar needs of particular groups, such as factory workers, waitresses, saleswomen, clerks, laundresses, domestic servants, telephone operators, actresses and other professional women, students, girls in rural districts, and so forth.

The Association should consider more seriously the social and intellectual development of its members:

- By making a particular study of the subject of recreation, endeavouring to make adequate provision for it, and seeking, among other things, to offer opportunity, under proper supervision, for the acquaintance and social intercourse of young men and young women.
- By furthering physiological teaching concerning questions of girlhood and motherhood, and including in its classes courses which will particularly benefit girls in home-making.
- By arranging courses, where necessary, which shall increase the greater efficiency of commercial and industrial workers, and give them wise teaching in the social measures and protective legislation enacted on their behalf.

**1914, World's Conference, Stockholm, Sweden**

*Urge*

### Women - Home Life

This Conference desires to record its conviction that, although the economic pressure of the present day has forced so large a number of women out of the home sphere, home life is of vital importance for the extension of the Kingdom of God, and for the well-being of the Nation.

This Conference urges national and local associations:

- To make a comprehensive study of the subject.
- To help their members in every possible way to realise the value of the home; to encourage them to maintain all natural home ties, and to consider home-making a vocation worthy of the highest powers of modern womanhood.
- To make suitable provision for preparation and training for motherhood
- To provide for some social intercourse between men and women.

**1920, World's Committee, Champéry, Switzerland**

*Statement*

### **Women - Foreigners**

Since the women and girls among the foreign residents of each country are an important field, in view of their special need for friendship and help of various kinds and the opportunity which the Association has of bringing them into touch with the best life of the country to which they have come, the national committees should be urged to develop Association work among them.

**1922, World's Committee, St. Wolfgang, Austria**

*Statement*

### **Women - All Nations**

We have distinctive opportunities:

Our world-wide scope, which includes an appeal to all groups in the community, and to women of all nations and of all faiths.

Our wide range and trained leadership, which gives us in this new age for women, a special fitness enabling them to meet the demands and responsibilities with which they are faced.

**1934, World's Council, Grande Boissiere, Geneva, Switzerland**

*Statement*

### **Women - Internationalism**

We are also called to vindicate our title to be a truly international Christian movement of women by ensuring that each member and each association become consciously part of our world-wide fellowship. We would further emphasise the necessity of understanding more clearly the place of women and the service the Association can give in the building of a new social order.

**1947, World's Council, Hangchow, China**

*Statement*

### **Women – Rural Work**

*Rural work*

In view of the fact that the great majority of women in many of the countries where there are national YWCAs are rural women, and that in many of them very little rural work has been undertaken, the Council would like to call attention to the importance of further development of this type of work. There is general need of a new approach to rural work. This might include special help to national associations in working out experimental projects, the result of which could then be shared through the World's office with other countries.

Certain national associations have had much experience in this field and could be of great assistance to countries whose rural work is in its initial stage. There are opportunities in the exchange of secretaries and of techniques in rural work and in the development of projects, especially those which may aid in helping the economic life of rural women.

**1951, World's Council, Beirut, Lebanon**

*Recommendation*

**Women- Rural Work**

Recognising that the World's YWCA has a responsibility in relation to rural women and girls, # is recommended:

- that the World's YWCA urge groups who are wishing to start YWCAs in their countries to consider, from the outset, the place of rural women and of their needs and contribution in relation to a YWCA;
- that the World's YWCA urge national associations who wish to evaluate their work in the face of contemporary opportunities to consider the place of rural women and their needs and contribution in relation to the YWCA;
- that the World's YWCA should urge national associations to use their knowledge of the needs of rural women and girls to stimulate, through their governments, agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, to appropriate funds for a programme which will include rural welfare, and especially help in the problems of home and family life;
- that the World's YWCA discover where significant rural work is being carried on in national YWCAs, so as to put national associations in touch with one another for exchange of experience and for the guidance of associations wishing to begin rural work.

**1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

*Recommendation*

**Women- Cooperation YMCA**

It is recommended that the World YWCA Executive Committee should:

study carefully the new situations where the responsible women leaders have a deep conviction that they can best fulfil their task as a women's movement and best "help the World YWCA to achieve its purpose as a world movement" by working within a structure which involves both men and women in policy-making decisions.

It is further recommended:

- that national associations be encouraged to cooperate in any project which will help clarify our position as a "Women's movement" and also develop more effective methods of cooperation with the YMCA.
- that special help be given to "amalgamated" associations-- especially at the point of finding an appropriate balance between the joint and separate responsibilities.
- that special help be given to those countries in which new YWCAs and YMCAs are being organised.

**1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**

*Recommendation*

**Women - Training**

Recognising the complexity of the problems facing today's world, which need the cooperative efforts of both men and women if they are to be solved;

Aware, however, that the situations in which women find themselves differ, that in many parts of

the world women still are not able, or are not prepared, to take their place as persons on an equal footing with men, and that cultural patterns and traditional concepts have often limited women's opportunity and achievement to a stereotyped role;

Convinced that the YWCA has a special task as a women's movement to free women from these stereotypes and to help them learn how to fulfil their potentiality as persons;

The Council recommends that during the next four years priority be given by national associations to programmes which are aimed at training women for full participation in society, and which help them acquire the necessary skills and experience to enable them to take their place as responsible citizens both as individuals and alongside men.

### D. The YWCA as a Youth Movement

**1908, World's Committee, London, England**

*Urge*

#### Youth Work

National Committees are urged to keep before them the desirability of gaining influence over young girls at as early an age as possible and to consider practical steps to that end.

**1910, World's Conference, Berlin, Germany**

We would urge the importance of placing greater emphasis upon work among girls in the adolescent period.

**1922, World's Committee, St. Wolfgang, Austria**

Arising out of our growing understanding of the adolescent period of life and of its vital importance, we recognise the responsibility and special fitness of the YWCA for the fuller development of girls' work.

Furthermore we believe that the adolescent girl has an indispensable contribution to make to the Association through her vision, enthusiasm and youth, through her demand for a joyous and living Christianity and for an unyielding standard of sincerity, her open-mindedness, her readiness in applying principles, her potential leadership and her democratic spirit.

We believe that the objective of the girls' work programme of the YWCA should be to strengthen the life of the adolescent, and within a Christian atmosphere to afford her:

A preparation for life which shall emphasise the essential oneness of body, mind and spirit and give opportunity for its expression in her home relationships, community service and church life.

Outlet for the group instinct, the spirit of play, the creative impulse and leadership.

Activities which teach the joy of labour and its essential dignity.

Nurture of her growing religious consciousness, and help in realising the claims of Jesus Christ and in the shaping of her life's purpose.

Guidance towards ideals of fellowship between nations and of world peace, for the extension of the Kingdom of God.

In order to carry out this objective we recommend:

- That the girls' work department be looked upon not as an end in itself, but as an integral part of the whole Association, in order to meet the difficulties of transition to senior membership.
- That the girls' work programme be worked out in cooperation as far as possible with parents, schools and church.
- That an international Conference of Association workers among younger girls be held within the next few years, and that in the interim national conferences for a similar purpose be encouraged.

### **1938, World's Council, Muskoka, Canada**

#### *Statement*

## **Youth – Inclusion of**

We note the seriousness of youth problems in these days, e.g. unemployment, lack of educational opportunities (cultural, technical and vocational), the heavy demands made on youth and the growth of mass movements for youth. The World's Council desires therefore to put special emphasis in the coming quadrennium on work with young adults, while continuing to give attention to the problems of adolescents.

We recognise the appeal of other youth movements to the loyalties of young people and we urge that the Young Women's Christian Association present to youth, with supreme emphasis, the claims of Jesus Christ on their lives as individuals and as citizens, and call its members as Christians to bear their share in responsibility for achieving justice in society.

We believe that youth should share creatively in the Young Women's Christian Association locally, nationally and internationally. Toward that end we recommend to national associations the necessity for including young women on boards and committees so that they may take their full share in the policy and programme of the Association.

### **1947, World's Council, Hangchow, China**

#### *Recommendation*

## **Youth Work**

Recognising the growing desire of young people to take an active share in our world organisation, we recommend:

- the promotion of international conferences, inter-country visitations and exchange of material for youth membership;
- cooperation with other world Christian youth movements.

We ask the Executive Committee to consider making a study of the values and problems inherent

## CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE AND MISSION

in both separate girls' work and in mixed work with boys and girls. We feel it would be valuable if the question were brought to the attention of the World Christian Youth Commission.

Since there is a growing number of girls and women with whom the YWCA comes into contact only through hostels, we would urge that special attention be given to ways whereby this contact shall be in terms of our full purpose as a Christian Association.

In view of the growing interest of young people in political and social action we ask the World's YWCA Executive Committee to give:

- guidance as to possible projects for social action for younger girls;
- help in interpreting conflicting ideologies in the light of our Christian faith.

We recommend that the younger membership be given a fuller share in planning and policy-making in associations throughout the movement.

### **1955, World Council, London, England**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Youth - Students**

#### *We recommend:*

That the World YWCA urge national associations to give greater recognition to the importance of student work, either within the YWCA or in cooperation with other Christian student organisations, to meet adequately the needs of students by such means as:

- provision of adequately trained leadership, including university trained workers for student hostels;
- fuller integration of students, including those from other countries, into the movement and provision for their representation on policy-making bodies in the Association;
- interpreting the YWCA to women students and informing them about the needs and opportunities for professional service in the YWCA.

That the World YWCA facilitate the exchange of ideas on programme among national associations which carry on specific work for students.

### **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Youth - Coeducation**

We recommend that the World YWCA make a study of the educational value of co-education, showing the types of programmes most effective and the special characteristics of leadership preparation. The study should cover work with teen-agers, and work with young adults. The experience of ecumenical organisations and co-educational youth organisations should be drawn upon as well as YWCA experience.

## Socially Maladjusted Youth

In spite of the great difficulties of such work, we stress the importance of increasing and improving YWCA work with socially maladjusted young people. There is need for further study on types of programmes and leadership training. It is suggested that selected national associations be encouraged to organise meetings of youth leaders in the field, if possible inviting leaders from abroad.

**1963, World Council, Nyborg Stand, Denmark**

*Exhortation*

### Youth- Students

The World YWCA should give increasing attention to the concerns for students and in particular undertake the following action:

- provide more information on the YWCA concern for students through acting as a clearing house of information on programmes and problems of work with students and spreading information through the World YWCA publications;
- provide, upon request from national associations, leaders to assist in the development of work with students, plans to be worked out in consultation with other world Christian organisations concerned about students.

**1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

*Recommendation*

### Youth - Participation

The YWCA is not touching the special needs of some young people. The challenge of the present situation lies in the sharp increase in the proportion of youth under twenty in the population of most countries and the tragic lostness of the young in the midst of social revolution. Our concern is not to build the YWCA but to live out our faith with the young. Are we willing to consider the issues which drive young people to despair? Can the YWCA drop its structural images quickly enough to try new ideas which may make an impact upon this tremendous need in our time?

The World Council recommends:

A. To National Associations

- That every effort be made to increase the participation of young people in the life of the local associations through new and dynamic programme, and as leaders in every part of the local associations' work.
- That younger leaders at regional and national levels be trained and brought into policy making committees and boards as quickly as possible.
- That younger leaders be included in World Council delegations.

B. To the World YWCA

- That meetings of young people, such as the young adult and membership conferences, be continued;
- That help be given national associations in leadership training for youth work;
- That the exchange of young leaders among national associations be facilitated and accelerated.

*The World YWCA Council, meeting in Melbourne*

Convinced of the important role youth is called to play in the national and world community;

Recognising that governments and voluntary youth organisations must give far greater attention to the effects of the fast changing situation in which young people find themselves today;

Strongly urges that the YWCA launch a massive, dynamic youth programme and action with high priority in terms of time, finance and leadership.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Urge*

### Youth -Representation

The World YWCA Council urges national associations to continue their efforts to include and involve youth in their local and national boards, and further, to ensure that their World Council delegates are representative of the membership.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Recommendation*

### Youth - Participation

Recalling the resolutions of 1922,1938,1947,1955 and especially 1967, Australia, that “strongly urges that the YWCA launch a massive dynamic youth programme and action with high priority in terms of time, finance and leadership”, concerned over the lack of progress toward these stated goals:

The World YWCA Council Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, 1987 resolves

To reaffirm these statements and to explore ways to modify existing structures and attitudes, and when necessary, create new structures which will insure participation of young women.

**1991, World Council, Stavanger, Norway**

*Resolution*

### Youth- Young women

## Representation of Young Women on World Council Business Committees

Whereas, the procedure of designating two voting seats for young women on the Finance Committee was considered by the Young Women’s Pre-Council participants to be an exemplary model for the participation of young women on World Council business committees,

Be it resolved that the World Council business committees of Finance and Steering each reserve a minimum of two voting seats for young women and consideration be given to young women’s representation on all other World Council business committees.

## Integration of Young Women into Decision-Making at all Levels

Whereas, the World Council meeting in Vancouver in 1975 urged national associations to continue their efforts to include and involve youth in their local and national boards and, further, to ensure their World Council delegates are representative of their membership;

Whereas, the World Council meeting at Phoenix in 1987 called for consideration that at least 25 percent of the World YWCA Executive Committee members are young women;

Be it resolved that:

the majority of training events at associations and world level comprise an equal number of women aged 30 years and under and women over the age of 30 who will work together, learning from each other, on issues and tasks of vital importance to YWCA work at all levels;

all national associations give serious consideration to nominating, in advance of World Council, a young woman of 30 years and under for election to the World Executive Committee;

the education of all members, including young women, as to the issues and priorities of the world movement, be included as a key objective in all national associations' quadrennial programmes.

### 1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea

#### *Recommendation*

## Development of Young Women's Leadership

Whereas the 1991 World Council meeting in Stavanger, Norway, strongly recommended at least 25% young women's participation in all decision-making bodies of all national associations, and urged that young women comprise at least 25% of the World YWCA Executive Committee membership; Whereas these recommendations have not yet been carried out by the YWCAs in many areas due to a lack of organised support;

Whereas the YWCA now faces its second century, in which we must realise our vision and tasks for the development of young women's leadership for the future movement;

The World YWCA Council 1995 therefore **recommends** that:

- all national YWCAs make efforts to organise young women's groups, including students, through the formation of regional networks to foster young leadership
- all national associations should provide resources to organise young women's groups institutionally during the next quadrennium
- national associations share and exchange young international leadership members which will lead to a better world in the 21st Century.

The World YWCA makes every effort to employ a Programme Secretary in the World YWCA Offices for leadership development including young women's issues.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**  
*Resolution*

### **Young Women's Leadership**

Affirming the commitment of the YWCA to young women's leadership and representation, and

Recalling the resolution of the World Council of the YWCA at Stavanger, Norway in 1991 on young women's representation on World Council business committees, and

Recalling the spirit and intent of Article VII of the World YWCA Constitution in relation to young women's leadership and representation,

The World YWCA Council resolves:

that all World Council committees shall be composed of at least 25% young women of the age of 30 years and under when appointed.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**  
*Resolution*

### **Regional Representation and Young Women's Representation**

Noting the practice in some geographical areas to nominate only the number of candidates which can be elected to represent the geographical area, and

Stating that such practice is contrary to the principle of strong and open democratic processes with a choice of qualified candidates, and

Noting that a wide choice of diverse candidates is in the best interest of the World movement as a whole,

The World YWCA Council *resolves*:

1. That national associations in each geographical area avoid the practice of nominating only that number of candidates which can be elected to the World Executive Committee.
2. That national associations in geographical areas employ democratic processes in the selection of candidates for the World Executive Committee and standing committees.
3. That national associations in all geographical areas shall nominate candidates who will serve the interests of the World movement as a whole, not exclusively the interests of a national association.

That national associations in geographical areas shall, as far as practical, ensure that 25% of candidates for the World Executive Committee for each geographical area are young women of the age of 30 years or under at the time of nomination.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**

*Recommendation*

**Young Women's Leadership**

Affirming the commitment of the YWCA to young women's leadership and representation, and

Recalling the spirit and intent of Article VII of the World YWCA Constitution in relation to young women's leadership and representation,

The World YWCA Council recommends:

1. That the Executive Committee prepare an amendment to Bye-Law, Article VI, Section1, by World Council 2003 calling for the Nominating Committee to be composed of at least 25% of young women of the age of 30 and under at the time of election.
2. That the Executive Committee prepare an amendment to Bye-Law, Article IV, Section6, by World Council 2003 calling for all sub-committees to be composed of at least 25% young women of the age of 30 or under at the time of appointment.

**2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

*Resolution*

**Participation of Young Women in the World YWCA**

Whereas we believe that the YWCA should now act to emphasise the "Y" in the YWCA and young women are the future leaders in the association and through their training and support will be the leaders in their own communities, associations and the movement as a whole, and

Whereas the 1999 Cairo World Council recommended that participation and representation of young women at World Council level should be 25%. We have achieved this and now must not become complacent for the future. This is the time to push forward and upward in order to keep the young women's movement growing, and

Therefore be it resolved that:

Young women of age 30 years and under at the time of nomination should comprise no less than 25% of participants of all decision making processes within the structural organisation of the World YWCA at the local, national, regional and world levels.

**2007, World Council. Nairobi, Kenya**

*Recommendation*

**Building Capacity in National Associations to Develop and Sustain  
Young Women's Leadership**

Sixteen years ago, the YWCA movement committed to the principle that a minimum of 25% of those in decision making positions shall be young women. At World Council 2007 we have adopted a Constitution that further supports the active engagement of young women.

“The association shall be led by women...of whom as least 25% must be aged 30 or under.” (Section 10.C)”

The young women of the YWCA commit to assisting the World Board and member associations to grow young women’s participation in leadership at local, national, regional and international levels.”

The World Council recommends that:

1. the World YWCA facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources about the recruitment of young women among all member associations to support all national associations to meet the requirement of a minimum of 25% young women in leadership roles, as one way of increasing equality in the YWCA.
2. the World Council recommends a review of the Standards of Good Management and Accountability to include more indicators on the effective engagement of young women. Reporting on the Standards of Good Management and Accountability should include a section, written by young women if possible, describing young women’s participation.
3. the World YWCA and member associations commit to investing and sharing resources for supporting and developing young women’s leadership”

**2015, World Council, Bangkok, Thailand**  
Call to Action

### **Young Women’s Leadership policy**

Whereas young women’s leadership and shared, intergenerational, transformative leadership are critical priorities of the global YWCA movement, the 2015 World Council calls upon the World YWCA and all Member Associations to adopt and fully implement the World YWCA Young Women’s Leadership Policy with amendments.

Recognising that leadership is a collective practice of both leading and following, not just the practice of individual leaders, and that women of all ages play a role in strengthening young women’s leadership in the YWCA as young women leaders, as champions of young women’s leadership, and as followers of young women leaders;

Strategies and concrete actions: The World YWCA and its Member Associations commit to support, promote, respect and realise young women’s leadership within the movement by:

- a. Implementing a rights-based approach to young women’s leadership that sees the YWCA as a safe space for young women where their skills and expertise are recognised and their voices are respected in decision making;
- b. Ensuring full participation of young women in all their diversity and intersectionality at all levels and in all aspects of the YWCA, including by implementing existing policies on young women’s leadership;

- c. Building capacity for young women's leadership through activities including but not limited to: budgets, policies, programmes, partnerships, networks, structured orientation for young women new to the organisation, goal-setting by young women, and ongoing support for training and professional development;
- d. Sharing power with young women in all their diversity and intersectionality so that young and older women are able to participate in the organisation as equals;
- e. Ensuring and resourcing regular monitoring and evaluation of young women's leadership within the YWCA (through a global standardized framework);
- f. Holding each other accountable to ensure that 10c of the World YWCA Constitution is met, with an emphasis on regional-level collaboration and Member Association-to-Member Association support to implement this condition.

**Expected outcomes and results of the motion:**

The World YWCA will establish, appoint and resource a Council of Young Women Leaders. This will be a group of young women and girls, representative of all regions, to advise and drive the programme with direct connections with the World YWCA Board and the World Council.

The World YWCA's Strategic Framework and Operational Plan will be focused on key actions to achieve the 2035 goal such as bringing together and creating a young women's taskforce and a sustainability experts group. There will also be a Young Women's Coordinator appointed at the staff level.

# CHAPTER II STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGIES

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A. Affiliation and Good Governance

B. Leadership Development

C. Assistance to National Associations

D. Structure

E. Membership Practices

F. Education

G. Cooperation With Other Organisations

H. Communications, Financial Development

## CHAPTER II

### A. Affiliation and Good Governance

#### National Associations

Note: Most of the policies concerning Affiliations are incorporated in the successive Constitutions of the World YWCA.

#### **1947, World's Council, Hangchow, China**

*Statement*

#### Affiliation – Pioneer Associations

Groups working in accordance with YWCA principles and towards the requirements for affiliation in active or corresponding membership are recognised as Pioneer Associations. In the initial stages of development, such groups find a place within the movement, as Extension work.

#### **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

*Recommendation*

#### Affiliation - With Men on Board

It is recommended that the Executive Committee should:

define in more detail what is legally permissible in terms of its present Constitution in regard to the affiliation of associations whose national structure and policy-making board includes both men and women;

study carefully the new situations where the responsible women have a deep conviction that they can best fulfil their task as a women's movement and best "help the World YWCA to achieve its purpose as a world movement" by working within a structure which involves both men and women in policy-making decisions.

#### Integration of the International Federation of the Amies de la Jeune Fille

#### **1955, World Council, London, England**

*Recommendation*

#### Affiliation - AJF

It is recommended:

- that the World YWCA Executive Committee set up an ad hoc commission to form, with

a similar commission elected by the AJF, an ad hoc international joint commission, which would work on the following lines:

The Commission should study further the means whereby the activities of the AJF could be incorporated within the administration of the World YWCA,

Because the World YWCA can affiliate only one movement from a given country, the commission would urge the national associations of the YWCA and the AJF in countries where both exist, to work towards the formation of a national liaison committee, or find some satisfactory alternative method through which relationships of the AJF could be established with the World YWCA;

The Commission would give guidance to the national movements in the field of their cooperation, and be kept in touch with developments by receiving regular reports.

The World YWCA Executive Committee is authorised by the Council to take action towards integration of the Federation Internationale des Amies de la Jeune Fille into the World YWCA and, if a plan satisfactory to both movements can be devised, preparatory work on these lines should be started.

### **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

#### *Resolution*

### **Affiliation - AJF**

The World Young Women's Christian Association,

Expresses its warm appreciation of the valuable work done over a long period of years by the Federation internationale des Amies de la Jeune Fille (the International Federation of Friends of Young Girls).

Resolves

- that the FIAJF become an integral part of the World YWCA;
- that all funds and legal assets of the FIAJF be assimilated by the World YWCA
- that the World YWCA take responsibility for the continuation of the work previously undertaken by the FIAJF.

### **1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Affiliation Groups**

The Council recommends that the Executive Committee be asked to study how many affiliation groups are needed and what should be the requirements, obligations and privileges of affiliation in each group. This study should include the question of voting rights and representation of all national associations at World Council meetings.

Policy regarding local associations cut off from their national association

The Council understood the importance of the principle of maintaining mutual trust between the World YWCA and any national association which might, because of special circumstances such as

war, political changes, etc., find itself unable to communicate either with the World YWCA or with one or more of its local associations. Local associations cut off from their national movements should continue to have direct contact with the World YWCA.

The Council reaffirms the present World YWCA practice that no action regarding the affiliation status of such local associations be taken without prior contact with the national association concerned. The Executive Committee is requested to examine each case individually as and when it occurs.

### **1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Good Management (1)**

Recognising the need for standards of good management and accountability in the YWCA movement,

The World YWCA Council recommends:

1. The setting up of a Task Force of the World Executive Committee to formulate standards for good management and accountability for ratification at World Council 2003;
2. That the Council give its mandate to the World Executive Committee for the quadrennium 1999-2003 to take any action it deems necessary under Article IV of the Bye-Laws, Section 1(i) for serious infringements of Article V, Section 3 (d).

### **1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Good Management (2)**

Having regard to the constitutional obligation to safeguard the reputation of the World YWCA through the practice of good management and accountability, and

Noting that there is currently no requirement of disaffiliated associations to cease using the YWCA name or to transfer their assets to the World YWCA and that the absence of such a requirement is contrary to good management and accountability,

The World YWCA Council recommends that:

1. In the event that an association is disaffiliated under Article V, Section 5 of the Constitution, the World Executive shall direct that the disaffiliated association immediately cease using the names "YWCA" and "Young Women's Christian Association";
2. The World Executive Committee study and present to World YWCA Council 2003 a report on changes to the World Constitution and national constitutions addressing the transfer of property of disaffiliated associations;
3. That a constitutional amendment shall be prepared before World YWCA Council 2003 to add paragraph 1 above to Article V, section 5 of the Constitution.

In the discussion that followed the YWCA of Taiwan suggested that where possible each World-affiliated association should register or patent the YWCA name and logo with each respective government, so that it would be possible for the World YWCA Executive Committee to carry out the above recommendation.

**2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

*Resolution*

**Implementation of the Standards of Good Management and Accountability**

Whereas section 3(d) of the Constitution speaks to the obligations and responsibilities of affiliation: “to safeguard the reputation of the World YWCA, through the practice of good management and accountability” and

Whereas the World YWCA now has Standards of Good Management and Accountability, and

Whereas the sustainability of our national associations, in a world environment of intense competition for funds, depends on the quality and efficiency of good management, and

Whereas the name YWCA can enhance its reputation by meeting the recognised principles of good management as described in our present Standards,

Therefore be it resolved that:

The World YWCA monitor and ensure that national associations meet the standards of good management and accountability by the next World Council and if the national associations do not meet the standards the World YWCA will advise how the national association can improve its standards.

**2007, World Council. Nairobi, Kenya**

*Recommendation*

**Implementing the Standards of Good Management and Accountability**

Official reports to the World YWCA are generated every four years for World Council reports, often concerns or areas of need require attention during interim periods.

An early indication of concern or need may mean that strategies could be implemented to prevent movement to a crisis situation, preventive strategies could be identified from both internal and external sources.

Unless there are direct communications among member organisations, assistance may only be provided when a crisis has been reached and the association recognises that it does not have the internal resources to successfully manage the situation.

The intent of this recommendation is to support practical steps to ensure that potential problems are identified and addressed at the early stages.

Therefore it is recommended that:

the World YWCA and member associations regularly review performance against the Standards of Good Management and Accountability (SGMA) to ensure healthy associations and to identify to the World YWCA areas of potential concern and need.

### **2007, World Council. Nairobi, Kenya**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Governance and Management Accountability**

At the Pre-Council Capacity Building Meetings, a common concern was articulated about the blurred boundaries between governance and management, between paid staff and volunteers, it was identified by participants that resource materials would aid in continuity of systems and processes.

Further, this would provide a self-paced learning tool to enhance individual leadership performance and accountability.”

Recognising that the World YWCA wishes to build and strengthen capacity of individual member associations, it is recommended that:

- the World YWCA Office facilitate a process for development of both a governance (President and Board) and management (General Secretary) template describing within Human Resource Management (HRM) best practice, job descriptions, duties, boundaries, and performance review processes aligned against the Standards of Good Management and Accountability.

## **B. Leadership Development**

### **1910, World's Conference, Berlin Germany**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Leadership - Staff**

Since the great need of working women today constitutes a call of God to women of leisure and education to specialised service in the Young Women's Christian Association, the fourth Conference recommends

- that the Association seek to develop among women of leisure such a sense of individual responsibility for the community life, that they will be led to study the conditions of working women, and to embrace this opportunity to serve them, for the sake of Him Who came not to be ministered unto but to minister.

It is recommended:

- that national committees endeavour to secure for the work of their branches a larger number of thoroughly trained secretaries, possessing a deep knowledge of the Bible, and acquainted with modern thought and conditions, who will promote Bible study and evangelistic work throughout the country.

Insistent appeals for leaders for the Young Women's Christian Association in non-Christian lands should cause more emphasis to be placed upon the secretaryship as a vocation for educated Christian women. We would recommend national committees to furnish such training for the secretaryship, and give the office such dignity and responsibility that those from among their number who are sent to non-Christian lands be women of spiritual power, able to occupy strategic positions and commend the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all sections of the community.

**1922, World's Committee, St. Wolfgang Austria**

*Statement*

### Leadership - Staff

In order that our programme of practical service may fully exemplify (our) fundamental principles and be an expression of the Christian message and spirit of the Association, we emphasise the following points as essential:

- That all heads of departments and secretaries, including specialists, e.g. physical directors, industrial secretaries, etc., would have the definite spiritual qualification of a personal Christian experience and a sense of vocation in their work.
- That the service programme should provide scope for helpers who have not yet reached full Christian conviction, but are in sympathy with the purpose of the Association, the choice of such workers being the responsibility of the leaders.
- That the highest standards of technical efficiency should be maintained.

**1938, World's Council, Muskoka, Canada**

*Urge*

### Leadership - Staff

We urge the World's Council and the national associations to emphasise the finding and training of leadership:

- by recruiting from our own membership groups;
- by recruiting from movements working with adolescents, from student movements and from other organisations of young women;
- by working closely with the World's Student Christian Federation to present the opportunity of Association work to ex-student leadership.

**1947, World's Council, Hangchow, China**

*Statement*

### Leadership - Training

It is quite clear that our movement as a whole recognises the value of the need for training in all fields of association life. We would ask the Executive Committee to consider two specific suggestions:

1. To explore the possibility of setting up central training courses (or "Institutes") with particular emphasis on ecumenical and international questions. We feel that the World's YWCA, as distinct from the national associations, has a particular responsibility here, and we believe that such courses

would be of particular value to experienced workers moving into key positions in their national associations. It is suggested that such “institutes” might be held in different areas in different years, the length of the course being normally about three months.

2. To consider planning a consultative conference of people concerned with and responsible for leadership training in different national associations.

Members of the staff of the YWCA should be able to express the basic principles of their Christian faith with clarity and fearlessness. They should be equipped for this task by training in the field of religious education. They should be able to sense and meet, not only the expressed but also the unexpressed, and sometimes unrecognised, needs of girls and women who are struggling with the inner conflicts, as well as with the outward insecurities, of life in this chaotic time.

We hope that Geneva and the World's Headquarters will continue to be looked upon as a centre for international training.

The value of international conferences for the training of the young adult membership is emphasised. It would seem useful for the World's YWCA to collect as much written information and material as possible about training plans in national associations. The direct sharing of such material by the associations and through the World's Office may be a valuable auxiliary to our other plans.

### **1951, World's Council, Beirut, Lebanon**

#### *Statement*

### **Leadership – In Associations**

The building up of a membership movement, with all that this entails of interpretation at every level of its life, is a major responsibility of the leadership of the Association, both volunteer and staff.

Leaders are inevitably affected by the insecurities and tensions of our day. It is therefore of paramount importance that they be helped to grow in the knowledge of, and in personal commitment to, our Christian faith. Only so can the programme of the YWCA give clear expression to the relevance of Christianity for life today, and enable the movement to make a distinctive Christian contribution in the realm of home and working life, in citizenship education and in pioneer work in rural areas.

### **1955, World Council, London, England**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Leadership**

We suggest to national associations:

- that in view of the urgency of developing leadership, especially in YWCAs receiving help through Mutual Service, all national associations should be urged to keep the World YWCA informed about training opportunities in their own countries which could be made available to leaders from other countries, and the names of leaders in their own movements who are felt to be ready for training experience abroad;
- that they recognise that an effective way of building leadership is by short-term advisory help from other countries. In view of the urgent need for staff to fill the existing vacancies in a number of

countries, neighbouring associations might be asked if they would lend experienced people for such short-term assignments;

- that national associations cooperating in Mutual Service projects use staff who have worked outside their own countries to help in the recruitment of new staff for similar posts; that attention be given to the problem of recruiting and training staff for work in hostels, particularly in countries where the YWCA has not previously run hostels;
- that recognition be given to the urgent need to draw on the help of an increasing number of volunteers from among people living in areas where associations are being developed, and to give them suitable training and opportunities of service. This recommendation applies also to people living in refugee camps where the YWCA is at work;
- that, wherever co-educational programmes are undertaken, the leadership should be qualified to meet the interests and the demands of both boys and girls, men and women.

*We recommend:*

- that the Report of the Leadership Consultation, held at Cret-Berard, be sent to national movements for their study and use. The statement on the task of the YWCA contained in this Report is commended to national associations as a clear description of the major programme groupings within the YWCA, our programme emphases and methods of work.

**1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

*Recommendation*

### Leadership – Personnel Policies

Opportunities for growth and advancement in YWCA jobs are vitally important for both staff and volunteers. Volunteers have to be provided with opportunities for taking responsibility and for taking part, together with staff, in training projects organised both by the YWCA and by other organisations. Time for refreshment is also needed and this does not mean only further training, but time for relaxation, fellowship in creation and spiritual growth.

*The Council recommends:*

- that refresher courses for staff and volunteers of a duration up to six weeks be initiated and planned, either by the World YWCA or by national associations, to be held in different areas of the world;
- that, when national associations take the responsibility for such enterprises, the World YWCA be informed and those national associations interested be invited to participate.

The conclusion of the report of the World YWCA pre-Council Consultation on Leadership Development is accepted as a guiding line for further developing knowledge and skill in the art of supervision within the YWCA. Provision should be made for the unfinished questions to be studied.

## Standards of Personnel Policies

No personnel policy is so good that it replaces thoughtful concern for the individual, in her development on the job and her adjustment in the community. The YWCA is deeply concerned with the well-being of working women and girls wherever they may be. As an Association we give emphasis to personnel policies as an expression of our Christian purpose...

Personnel policies are not static and must be reviewed objectively from time to time. We are aware of the difficulties in putting them into practice, yet, standards for sound personnel policies are necessary if we are to ensure the well-being of our own employed personnel, as well as the effective carrying out of the YWCA programme.

Setting standards for personnel policies is important, but it is equally important they are put into practice in a spirit of warm, loving concern for the staff as individuals, so that working in the YWCA may give them a feeling of joy, economic security, opportunities for growth and development, and a sense of direction and purpose in life.

**1983, World Council, Singapore**  
*Resolution*

### Leadership – By Women

#### Study on Leadership

Whereas the 1959 World Council meeting held in Mexico recommended that the Executive Committee should:

- define in more detail what is legally permissible in terms of its present Constitution in regard to the affiliation of associations whose national structure and policy-making board includes both men and women;
- study carefully the new situations where the responsible women have a deep conviction that they can best fulfil their task as a women's movement and best "help the World YWCA to achieve its purposes as a World movement" by working within a structure which involves both men and women in policy-making decisions.

Whereas the 1971 World Council meeting held in Ghana recommended:

- that the World YWCA should encourage and assist national associations during the next four years to study anew what is involved in being a Christian movement in today's world, and what implications this has for programme, membership, policies, purpose, statements and leadership within the association...All national associations should be involved in this study and not only those who wish.

Whereas the 1975 World Council meeting held in Canada resolved:

that the 1975 World YWCA Council reaffirms that the World YWCA remain a Women's Christian

**Membership Movement;**

- that the criteria for affiliation be re-examined and clarified both in terms of intent and range of acceptable interpretation;
- that the current practices regarding affiliation be studied in terms of both assumptions and interpretation of existing criteria
- whereas the 1979 World Council meeting held in Greece resolved:
  - that a study be made in all regions of the world of the new needs of a changing society and its implications for the work of the national YWCA movements as a women's movement with a Christian basis;
  - that in accordance with the findings of this study a reassessment be made of the principles and criteria for affiliation, with special regard to the different situations of associations now affiliated in Group X;
  - that the report of the study be circulated to all associations at least 18 months before the next World Council meeting and reported at the next Council for action.

Whereas it is recognised that some work has been done in response to previous resolutions, there is a need for a specific study.

Be it resolved that the World YWCA Executive Committee give priority to a study which:

- examines the implications for a world women's Christian movement of membership and leadership open to all women.
- defines "leadership by women" as referred to in Article V on Affiliations, Section 2 on Conditions of Affiliation, sub-section b) of the World YWCA Constitution;
- clarifies the principles and criteria for affiliation;
- develops a consistent method by which member associations are affiliated.

The study should involve all national associations with a view to clarification of these urgent issues.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Recommendation*

**Leadership – By Women**

Whereas the World Councils in Mexico, Canada, Greece and Singapore passed resolutions which sought for new directions with regard to the conditions of affiliation, the definition of leadership by women, and the methods by which associations are affiliated;

Whereas we strongly affirm our shared commitment to leadership by women and the vital role of the YWCA in promoting such leadership at the local, national and international level;

Whereas we believe that the question of leadership in our organisations is inextricably tied to and evolves from membership development and that membership development is linked to both visionary and current issues such as "What we believe in" and "What are our aims";

Whereas we believe that the goals of the World YWCA will best be achieved if they relate closely to the development of society and the status of women in their respective countries;  
In the spirit of shared vision, cooperation and a moving forward of the "leadership by women" issue and of the YWCA itself;

*Be it resolved that:*

This World Council establish a work group, accountable to the World YWCA Council through the Executive Committee to study these issues, to consult with all national associations, and to prepare a discussion paper which would bring forth a new definition of “leadership by women” which more accurately reflects the patterns of leadership in our movement and the implications thereof as to affiliation and voting rights at the World YWCA Council meeting.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Recommendation*

**Leadership - Training**

Recognising the value of leadership training that qualified all members for full and able participation at Council meetings,

Affirming the value of bilateral financial support that enables such training,

Acknowledging the Norway YWCA Empowerment Fund that made it possible for the Middle East Regional young women to hold a “Mini Council” that provided them with a better understanding of working procedures and paved the way to better participation in this meeting,

The World YWCA recommends and calls for:

1. National associations to take the initiative in designing and implementing relevant training programmes for World Council for all their members with a focus on young women;
2. The establishment of reserve funds at national levels that would be devoted to such training events;
3. Accessing of bilateral funding support for similar local and regional training events.

**2007, World Council. Nairobi, Kenya**

*Recommendation*

**Leadership - Succession Planning and Sustained**

A significant number of member associations struggle with the participation of young women in the movement. Women between 31 and 40 years old can stand beside young women they also need their own space for leadership and empowerment. The YWCA needs more diversity in its membership and stronger continuity.

One mechanism for young women’s engagement is a demonstrated commitment to their leadership development and recognition of their contributions. By valuing and supporting the leadership of women aged 31 to 40 years, the YWCA communicates to young women that joining the YWCA movement means a lifetime of leadership. Women aged 31 to 40 build bridges between young women and more experienced women and effectively recruit young women into the movement.

The YWCA values the contributions made by young women and is committed to investing in their potential as young women accept positions of increasing responsibility. As young women age, succession planning requires that the YWCA continue to prioritise the growth and development of leadership.

The World Council strongly recommends that:

- the World YWCA and all member associations will encourage and give voice to women between the ages of 31 and 40 by ensuring they are represented on all decision-making bodies in order to build the bridge between the generations and also to ensure that the YWCA meets the needs of these women.

## C. Assistance to National Associations

### **1902, World's Conference, Geneva, Switzerland**

*Recommendation*

#### **Mutual Service**

We recommend an increased recognition and development of the responsibilities of the young women of Christian lands, towards those in non-Christian lands by those methods which in the careful consideration of the National Committees may be deemed best in furtherance of the cause of our Master, whether it be by the support of missionaries working under Missionary Secretaries, or by direct connection with the support of secretaries sent out to do Association work in foreign countries.

We would further recommend that Association work be undertaken only in those countries to which we have been called by the resident missionaries, recognising that such work may serve as a valuable link to unite all national associations, and to create a centre of interdenominational work in the field.

### **1906, World's Conference, Paris, France**

*Statement*

#### **Mutual Service**

Some Association work has been begun in the mission field, and much more is planned, as a result of the recommendation adopted by the Conference in 1902.

This aggressive work brings about new relationships, and necessitates the formation of policy heretofore unnecessary.

### **1910, World's Conference, Berlin, Germany**

*Recommendation*

#### **Mutual Service**

In as much as the call from Mission lands now comes not only to Missionary Boards and Societies, but also to the Young Women's Christian Association, to extend its special work, we would impress upon all national committees their special responsibility in this matter. To this end, we recommend each country to form, as part of their national movement, a Foreign Department, where none at present exists, or at least to make some contribution to this extension of Association work.

**1914, World's Conference, Stockholm, Sweden**

*Urge*

**Mutual Service - Extension**

In view of the fact that countries in South-West Europe and Latin America have hitherto been almost untouched by the Young Women's Christian Association, the Executive Committee would urge the World's Committee to consider carefully the great needs of those countries and their peculiar conditions.

**1947, World's Conference, Hangchow, China**

*Statement*

**Mutual Service – Cooperation**

This fellowship of giving and receiving has been a vivid and deep spiritual experience for all who have had a part in it. The Committee would therefore urge that mutual service between the national associations be interpreted in every variety of way possible. We recognise that it is not possible for all countries, for reasons of lack of finance and personnel, to consider big projects of mutual service such as the support of secretaries working with other associations, but a variety of ways have already been found by which help can be given and whereby the national associations can feel that they are making their contribution.

We are agreed that the World's office should be kept informed of all such mutual service undertakings and that, in the case of major schemes, both giving and receiving countries should develop their plans in consultation with the World's YWCA headquarters.

The World's Executive Committee is the co-ordinating body responsible for surveying new fields, discovering needs and deciding how best they may be met. The carrying out of this responsibility is entrusted by the Executive Committee to the Standing Sub-Committee on Strategy for Mutual Service and Extension.

**1951, World's Council, Beirut, Lebanon**

*Recommendation*

**Mutual Service- Extension**

*It is recommended*

that, in starting YWCAs, a plan for the progressive achievement of self-support and indigenous leadership be made, and the habit of giving be early established.

In view of increasing requests for extension of the YWCA into new areas, and the limited resources available, it is recommended:

- that the potential strength and vitality of the groups in question whether new or old, should be the basis for deciding when to use funds to strengthen an already existing movement and when to give help for the establishment of a new association;
- that priorities among alternative projects, especially in relation to Extension work, be established by using the following questions as criteria:

- Are the unmet needs of women and girls in the countries those which could be well served by a

movement like the YWCA, which is essentially Christian in its basis and primarily concerned with the Christian message and the interpretation of contemporary life?

- Is there the possibility of building up a substantial group of indigenous members, including a nucleus of full members?
- Is there the possibility of indigenous leadership, both volunteer and professional?
- Is there reasonable expectation of permanence in the work, and the possibility of growth toward self-support?
- Is the country, viewed from a world standpoint, a strategic area for the development and expansion of Christianity?
- Having regard to the existence and activities of churches and other Christian movements, is there an important function for the YWCA?
- Has an invitation to help a struggling group to become a strong association been received from a body of Christians who are willing to carry part of the responsibility?

It is recommended that action by the World's YWCA in support of extension work should not be limited to responding to requests, but that the World's YWCA should be free to take the initiative in raising with countries the question of their need for a YWCA, and in interpreting to them what a YWCA might do, in their particular situation.

### **1955, World Council, London, England**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Mutual Service**

The following points should be considered in establishing priorities for the development of YWCA work in countries where it has not previously existed:

Evidence of a real need, at this particular point in time, for the development of YWCA work in the country, in addition to the work being done by churches and other Christian movements.

Good possibilities of building up a nucleus of full members; finding YWCA leaders from among the professional and volunteer women of the country; permanence, and growth in self-support.

It is further recommended that, whereas the World YWCA would normally act in response to a request from a group of Christians willing to take responsibility in relation to starting a YWCA in their country, the Executive Committee should not be limited to meeting such requests, but be free to take initiative in surveying needs.

### **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Mutual Service**

It is recommended that, as requests for help come to the World YWCA we recognise our primary responsibility to be to work with national associations and with groups in which there seems to be an opportunity to organise YWCAs, but that we shall not close the door to appeals from other groups and shall respond imaginatively wherever and whenever resources for assistance are available.

**1963, World Council, Nyborg Strand, Denmark**

*Statement*

### **Mutual Service**

The YWCA has a primary concern for the welfare of women and girls in all countries of the world, and seeks to demonstrate this concern through programme and services to meet specific needs.

Limitations of human and economic resources have led the World Movement to grant prior attention to established YWCAs and potential YWCAs; however, it is recognised that a world Christian movement must remain alert to the demands and needs of changing community and world situations, and must maintain sufficient flexibility to adapt its methods of work accordingly.

It is foreseen that the World YWCA might see a possibility of serving women and girls in areas where the development of traditional YWCAs would not be possible due to the size of the Christian community or to a political situation. Groups in such situations might receive help from World YWCA staff or volunteers, from international teams of staff and volunteers, or from a national association.

The World YWCA should continue to respond imaginatively to requests for service whenever resources are available, and the Executive Committee should be asked to study the position of such extension groups with regard to their constitutional position with the World YWCA.

### **Function of the World YWCA in regard to International Voluntary Service**

The World YWCA should continue to serve as a clearing house to inform national associations of opportunities for International Voluntary Service.

The World YWCA should continue to be open to possibilities for cooperation with national associations and other international organisations in the sponsorship of joint projects.

**1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

*Recommendation*

### **Mutual Service – Development Projects**

#### **International Voluntary Service**

In view of the requests from countries for volunteers experienced in youth work, and in the light of the comments made by YWCA volunteers regarding the value of this experience, the Council recognises the need to make greater efforts to encourage young women of 25 to 35 with youth leadership experience to volunteer to serve abroad.

#### **Development Projects**

In the consideration of development projects by national associations, the importance of careful planning is stressed. Such planning includes an assessment of the need and its relation to existing local and national development plans, exploration of available resources, both financial and leadership, and clear and accurate documentation giving size and scope of projects and plans for

continued financing leading to eventual self-support.

Since funds are obtained from a variety of sources, such as governments, churches, foundations, other agencies, or individual donors, the terms of reference vary. Therefore, it is imperative to study the conditions under which grants and loans are available.

It is recommended that appeals for funds outside one's own country can most effectively be made by national movements through or in consultation with the World YWCA.

### **1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Mutual Service – Cooperation of Development**

It is recommended that:

- the part of the World YWCA's work concerned with the sharing of resources--financial, material and human--which is currently dealt with under the two titles of Mutual Service and Development Projects be known in future as "Cooperation for Development";
- as part of the reassessment process, national YWCAs together with local associations undertake to study their projects and programmes in the context of national and local situations, to ensure that these are related to the overall development plans of their countries.

### **Sharing Financial Resources**

Requests for financial assistance from sources outside the YWCA should be made only when:

- the YWCA in the country from which the funds are made available, and
- the YWCA in the country where the funds are to be spent are both in agreement that the funds be accepted.

In considering funds from outside sources, the World YWCA, together with national associations, should ensure that the YWCA is able to use such funds in accordance with the objectives for which the funds are requested.

Recognising the value of undesignated contributions from YWCAs as an expression of solidarity with the Movement as a whole and as a means of responding in the most effective way to YWCA needs in all parts of the world,

*The World YWCA Council recommends that:*

- all national associations should increasingly aim at giving their contribution to the World YWCA Programme of Cooperation for Development as undesignated funds;
- the World YWCA Executive Committee study in depth the principles and practical implication of such a proposal.

The World Council affirmed that the World YWCA should continue to be the channel for requests from national associations for assistance from sources outside their countries.

**1983, World Council, Singapore**

*Resolution*

**Mutual Service - Cooperation for Development**

Whereas the Cooperation for Development Programme is a focus through which the World YWCA expresses its Christian commitment to justice and development;

Whereas there is a need for a clear direction towards economic, social and personal self-reliance for women through World YWCA programmes and projects; the World YWCA Council, meeting in Singapore,

Resolves that

A sub-committee of the World YWCA Executive Committee be constituted to act as a support group for World YWCA staff working on Cooperation for Development. It should consist of Executive Committee members and other resource people who are specialists appointed to it by the Executive Committee. Its task should include the promotion of the development process and action for social change within a Christian and woman-oriented movement and incorporate the present exploration of innovative approaches to programme funding.

**1991, World Council, Stavanger, Norway**

*Resolution*

**Eastern and Central Europe**

Whereas, due to the political situation, YWCA work was forbidden and voluntary work had to be done secretly and informally, and existing YWCA associations had to stop their work and those who had property had to hand it over to the Communist administration;

Whereas, with the new political situation YWCA work has started again and old as well as new YWCA leaders recognise the needs for YWCA activities for women, children and youth; and

Whereas, new possibilities for YWCA work now exist in Eastern and Central Europe;

Whereas, the World Council 1951 in Beirut, Lebanon recommended:

- that in starting YWCAs a plan for the progressive achievement of self-support and indigenous leadership be made and the habit of giving be early established
- that action by World YWCA in support of extension work should not be limited to responding to requests but that the World YWCA should be free to take initiative in raising with countries the question of their need for a YWCA and in interpreting to them what a YWCA might do in their particular situation,

Be it resolved that World Council 1991, Stavanger, Norway, re-affirms this statement of policy and calls upon national associations to support YWCA work in Eastern and Central Europe:

- this support should include various forms of partnership,
- in this support, advantage should be taken of the possibilities of cooperation with already existing work done by similar organisations.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Recommendation*

### Central and Eastern Europe

Whereas there is a time for reconciliation in Europe, a time for healing the wounds after World War II and 50 years of “cold war”;

Whereas, there is a time for building new relationships and establishing new democratic states in Europe;

Whereas many national governments in Europe, European institutions and European funding agencies allocate funds earmarked for development of new democratic organisations in Central and Eastern Europe;

Whereas the World YWCA Council 1991 resolved to call upon national associations to support YWCA work in Eastern and Central Europe;

- and this support should include various forms of partnership  
- and in this support, advantage should be taken of the possibilities of cooperating with already existing work done by similar organisations.

Whereas there is already existing among national YWCA associations in Europe, various forms of partnership to support YWCA work in Central and Eastern Europe;

Whereas many of the new national associations in Central and Eastern Europe already participate actively in the European YWCAs.

*It is recommended:*

- that the World YWCA Council 1995 call upon national associations to support YWCA work in Central and Eastern Europe,
- that the World YWCA in cooperation with the European YWCAs and national associations make a plan of action, including financial commitment, for further development of YWCA work in Central and Eastern Europe. The plan of action must be made in close cooperation with already existing work in Central and Eastern Europe,
- that the establishing of partnership groups should be used as a tool for starting and strengthening YWCA work in Central and Eastern Europe,
- that in this support, advantage should be taken of the possibilities of cooperating with already existing work done by similar organisations.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**

*Recommendation*

### Development Cooperation

Recalling the resolution on development cooperation at the World Council in Seoul in 1995, and

Reaffirming that YWCA development work is an expression of solidarity with women worldwide and

Recognising that there are unexplored funding possibilities with potential donors such as the

European Union,

*The World YWCA recommends:*

- That national associations having access to such potential funding sources make serious efforts, consistent with World YWCA guidelines, to access these resources, both for YWCAs in other countries and development education in their own country.

## D. Structure

### Schemes of Relationships

**1914, World's Conference, Stockholm, Sweden**

*Statement*

#### Part I: Sphere and Scope of the World's Committee

The function of the World's Committee as representing the World's Young Women's Christian Association shall be to promote a well-balanced development of the Young Women's Christian Association throughout the world. As the World's Committee only meets biennially, all its functions are deputed to an Executive Committee, meeting at least monthly, the said Executive Committee to keep the other members of the World's Committee fully and regularly informed as to all important decisions made by it in the interim of the World's Committee meetings.

#### Section 1-Functions of the World's Committee in Unorganised Lands

The World's Committee when requested to do so shall organise national associations in lands where as yet the Young Women's Christian Association is not on a national basis, such requests coming from a responsible body of workers.

For the accomplishment of this end:

The World's Committee shall encourage the formation of isolated associations in countries having no national committees. Such local associations shall be in communication with the Executive Committee of the World's Young Women's Christian Association. Appeals for secretaries shall be made to the Executive Committee, and then through that Committee to the Foreign Departments of the national associations.

When several such associations existing in a country are not yet strong enough to form a national association, they shall be grouped together in a Corresponding Association, with a representative as corresponding member on the World's Committee.

When the work has made such progress that a Corresponding Association can be organised into a national association, the World's Committee shall, through its Executive Committee, ratify the constitution of such national association when found satisfactory, and accept as active member the representative nominated by the same, until the next World's Young Women's Christian Association Conference.

## Section 2-Functions of the World Committee in Countries having National Associations

### In All Countries

The World's Committee shall guide as far as possible national committees in the development of their work on lines in harmony with the general policy of the World's Young Women's Christian Association, as well as appropriate to the needs of the countries in which they exist.

In order that it may the more effectually do this, the World's Executive Committee shall be kept informed of all important developments of the work in their respective countries by the national committees.

The active members of the World's Committee shall be members of their respective national committees, such members to be nominated by the national committees and elected by the World's Conference, or, in the interim between such conferences, accepted by the World's Executive Committee until the next World's Conference.

Their duties shall be as follows:

- To attend as far as possible World's Committee Meetings and Conferences.
- To represent the World's Committee and promote its interest in their respective countries.
- To become, when possible, members of the committees of foreign departments of their respective countries.
- To act as special advisers to the World's Executive Committee in any matter where their help is needed.

### In Countries where the National Association is not self-supporting

The World's Executive Committee shall be consulted by the national committee in regard to the appointment of National General Secretaries with a view to ratification. These National General Secretaries shall be in direct communication, not only with the national committees under which they are working and the national committees which have sent them out, but also with the World's Committee, who shall advise them in regard to the development of their national work.

The World's Executive Committee shall receive from countries not self-supporting, appeals for secretaries and for building funds, and after investigation shall forward such appeals as are approved to the Foreign Departments of the national committees, or to national committees where no Foreign Departments exist.

The World's Committee shall also advise in regard to the furloughs of National General Secretaries, in order that any deputation work which they may undertake be so arranged that all countries helping to support their associations may receive, as far as possible, fresh inspiration and impetus.

## Section 3- Functions of the World's Committee in Countries where two or more National Committees are concerned.

The World's Executive Committee shall promote harmonious and mutually helpful relationships between the various national committees affiliated with the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

In furtherance of this object:

- The World's Committee shall act as a final court of appeal for national committees.
- The World's Executive Committee, with a view to ratification, shall be notified by the Foreign Departments of the appointment and recall of Foreign Secretaries sent from one country to another.

## Part II - Sphere and Scope of National Committees

The function of a National Committee shall be to serve the national association by organising and developing in accordance with the principles of the Young Women's Christian Association, a strong association movement in its country suitable to existing needs and conditions. It shall study the problems connected with the life of young women, and seek to meet them effectively.

In furtherance of this purpose the National Committee shall consider and lay before the National (Business) Conference all questions of national import. It shall also formulate a policy for the development of the work as a whole, and shall organise and guide local associations towards carrying out such policy in the development of their work.

### Section 1- Function of National Committees in Countries not Self-Supporting

The National Committee in countries not self-supporting shall be responsible for the assignment, change in location, specialised training in view of their future sphere, and general welfare of the secretaries sent to them from the various Foreign Departments\*.

Information in regard to assignment and changes in location of secretaries with full reasons thereof shall be notified to the Foreign Department committees of the country from which the secretary comes, as early as possible, and by it to the World's Committee.

The National Secretary (that is, General Executive Secretary of a National Committee) shall not be changed, except in consultation with the World's Committee, who will consult the committees concerned.

A National Committee must authorise all local appeals made by committees for building funds. In the event of an appeal for building funds being sent to other national committees, it shall be forwarded through the World's Committee with the sanction of the National Committee of the country from which it comes, with information in regard to it.

### Section 2 -Function of National Committees having Foreign Departments

It shall be a function of a National Committee having a Foreign Department to aid the work in lands not self-supporting:

By selecting, training and equipping secretaries, and securing their salary and secretarial expenses if necessary. In order to secure as far as possible uniform action and a high standard of efficiency, each Foreign Department shall consult with the World's Committee with reference to their regulations for foreign secretaries \*

By meeting, so far as the Foreign Department is able, during the initial stages of the work, necessary local expenses. \*\*

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*\*The Foreign Department is that Standing Committee of the National Committee which is responsible for sending secretaries to non-self-supporting countries. Where such Foreign Departments do not exist, the whole National Committee shall be understood to be responsible for the work*

*\*Secretarial expenses are the cost incurred over and above the secretaries' salaries for other requirements, such as share of rent, language study, etc.*

*\*\*Local expenses are those connected with the work apart from the salary and personal expenses of the secretaries*

Applications for such expenditure must be sanctioned and sent by the Finance Committee, through the National Committee of the country, to the Foreign Departments concerned for their consideration. Foreign Departments shall have power to ask the World's Committee to issue an appeal to those countries having no Foreign Department to help in necessary expenditure.

### **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

#### *Statement*

The World YWCA Constitution includes in Article IV Functions the following provisions:

“The World YWCA provides a channel for the sharing of resources and the exchange of experience among its affiliated associations.

It helps its affiliated associations with the development of their leadership and programme.

It surveys new fields and promotes work to meet the needs therein.”

In accordance with Bye-Laws, Article V, Section 6, the Executive Committee of the World YWCA shall appoint a standing subcommittee for Mutual Service and Extension.

The membership of the sub-committee shall be constituted as follows:

- The Executive Committee of the World YWCA shall designate those national associations from which nominations shall be made because they are bearing major responsibility for supplying funds and leadership for Mutual Service. Members nominated by their national movement must be empowered to take action on its behalf in fulfilling the functions of the sub-committee so that decisions need not be delayed. They need not be members of the World YWCA Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee of the World YWCA shall appoint other members of the sub-committee, having in mind their direct experience of different aspects of YWCA work in various geographical areas.
- The President and General Secretary of the World YWCA and the Secretary for Mutual Service and Extension shall be ex-officio members.

The Chairman and Vice-chairman are selected from amongst those of its members who are members of the Executive Committee.

The Sub-Committee meets at least once a year, usually in connection with the Executive Committee meetings, and reports at each meeting of the Executive Committee.

Functions of the Sub-Committees for Mutual Service and Extension

The functions of the sub-committee shall be:

- To consider requests received from national associations for
  - the provision of staff,
  - financial help,
  - help with development of leadership or programme.
- To assess the requests and select those projects which should be given priority.
- To consider which affiliated association or associations can best provide the staff, money, or help required for each project.
- To formulate a scheme for the project in consultation with the association or associations supplying the help and the association requesting aid, and to define the responsibilities of each association involved. Alterations to the project can only be made in consultation with the Mutual - Service sub-committee.
- To make recommendations to the Executive Committee on the above and carry out their decisions.
- To present to the Executive Committee the list of names of YWCA secretaries working abroad under the Mutual Service Programme whose appointments should be given official recognition by the World YWCA.
- To make recommendations to the Executive Committee on cooperation with other voluntary movements or intergovernmental organisations on matters related to Mutual Service and Extension.
- To make recommendations to the Executive Committee as to new fields to be surveyed.
- To make recommendations to the Executive Committee for travel plans related to Mutual Service and Extension.

*Relations between the World YWCA, National Associations, and Secretaries Working Abroad in the carrying out of the Mutual Service Programme.*

Associations needing assistance, especially with personnel or finance, shall apply in the first instance to the World YWCA.

*The Association to which a staff member is supplied shall be responsible for:*

- the detailed carrying out of the scheme formulated under Item 4 of the Functions of the Mutual Service Committee;
- sending adequate reports and the minutes of relevant meetings to the Secretary of the Mutual Service Committee and to the country which holds the staff member's contract. The Secretary of the Mutual Service Committee shall be responsible for sending reports to other countries supporting the project;
- carrying out the terms of the staff member's contract, with special reference to her conditions of employment and general welfare.

Unless otherwise designated in the scheme prepared for a project, as outlined in Item 4 under Functions of Mutual Service Committee, the association which recruited the staff member shall undertake to advise her on the carrying out of her work within the scheme.

The association providing staff for work abroad through Mutual Service shall undertake recruitment, in consultation with the Secretary of the Mutual Service Committee and with the association in which the secretary will be working. Associations sending staff members acting on behalf of the World YWCA shall also be responsible for the welfare of such staff members, and for the preparation

of their contracts, which will include their conditions of service.

#### Secretary 'Working Abroad

The secretary working abroad is responsible to the association in the country in which she is working for carrying out the functions described in her contract.

She shall send reports to the World YWCA and to the associations supporting the projects.

#### National associations providing help

The work of national associations providing help through Mutual Service includes:

- interpretation of the World YWCA Mutual Service programme;
- raising financial support;
- recruiting and training secretaries for service in other countries;
- ensuring that personnel policies are satisfactory, and that, as each secretary is appointed for service in another country, her function is carefully defined.

### **1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Structure: Regional Meetings**

During the World Council Meeting, and for some during the Pre-Council Meetings, national associations met in their regional groups several times to consider regional concerns, the implications of issues raised in the Development Seminar and the regional impact of Council resolutions and recommendations. The following resolutions and recommendations were presented to the Council as a result of these sessions.

### **Resolution from the Pacific Region**

We recall the 1975 World YWCA Council Resolution on Armaments/Peace Zones and on Demilitarisation which supports decolonisation and the self-determination of people.

The Pacific Regional Meeting in the 1987 World YWCA Council expressed its deep concern at the intensification of nuclear testing buildup of nuclear weapons sites, storage and dumping of nuclear wastes and its effects on Pacific Peoples. We recognise that the increasing military presence of nuclear powers poses not only a direct threat to peace within the region but also violates the rights of Pacific Peoples to self-determination and independence.

We are deeply concerned at the urgent situation that the Pacific finds itself in today. We therefore resolve that:

- This 1987 World YWCA Council Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, urge national and local associations to recognise and support the efforts of the Pacific Nations to establish a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Zone;
- National and local associations be urged to emphasise to their respective governments, YWCA membership and the wider community, the critical situation of the indigenous peoples' struggles for independence and self-determination;

- National associations urge their governments to support the United Nations' Special Committee on Decolonisation (General Assembly Res. 41/41A) by which the Status of the Kanak People of Kanaky (New Caledonia) was reinstated in 1987;
- National and local associations actively support our efforts to stop nuclear weapons testing, the build-up of nuclear weapons and sites, and the storage and dumping of nuclear wastes in the Pacific region.

### Resolution from the European Region

In view of the difficulties which have arisen regarding the procedures of the Business Sessions of the World YWCA Council Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, be it resolved that:

- The World YWCA Executive Committee formulate during the next quadrennium a new and simpler model for the Council's business which can be more easily understood by all the participants, and so free time for discussion of major issues.

### Resolution on Regional Representation of the Executive Committee

Whereas the 1983 World YWCA Council Meeting held in Singapore recommended that the Executive Committee shall ensure that regional representation on the Executive Committee be fairly distributed;

Whereas it is recognised that the Executive Committee has difficulty in implementing the recommendation;

The 1987 World YWCA Council Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona hereby resolves that:

- The World YWCA Executive Committee give priority in the next quadrennium to a study which considers distribution of places between regions and the number of places on the World YWCA Executive Committee to include:
  - consideration of an increase in the places being allocated to the Pacific region;
  - consideration of at least 25% of the World YWCA Executive Committee members being young women;
  - any other issues arising during the process of the study.

### 2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia

#### *Resolution*

### Extraordinary World Council 2007

Whereas the number of national associations is growing, and recognising the vitality of our movement, and Whereas the world today is rapidly changing and we recognise our need to act more responsively, and

Whereas the Executive Committee proposes that by means of a task force, the World YWCA review the structure and present this review at an Extraordinary World Council meeting in 2007

Be it resolved that:

1. A task force be appointed to:

- Evaluate the current values, identity and structure of the World YWCA;
- Develop a process that involves the national associations in these discussions;
- Propose a new structure at an Extraordinary World Council, which would provide for revised decision-making processes, including the possibility of a revised constitution.

The President will appoint a Task Force that will report to the Executive Committee on a timely basis.

- The Task Force shall consider, at a minimum:
- Number of seats in the Executive Committee;
- A regional structure that allows regional election of Executive Committee candidates with exception of the President and the Treasurer to be elected at World Council;
- Necessary constitutional changes;
- Financial implications;
- A more relevant and timely decision-making process;
- Frequency of World Council meetings.

2. In order to adopt and implement without delay the findings of the taskforce, an extraordinary World Council meeting lasting one day be convened in the year 2007 prior to the beginning of the Scheduled meeting of the Council 2007. The extraordinary Council will discuss, vote and recommend for use in the scheduled Council of 2007 the proposed changes.

## E. Membership Practices

### 1920, World's Committee, Champéry, Switzerland

*Recommendation*

#### Membership : Working Women

Whereas there are in every country great groups of industrial women with whom the Association has not yet established contact,

We recommend that the Young Women's Christian Association make every effort to get in touch with workers in far larger numbers through such means as foyers, clubs, camps, canteens and hostels; that in all such centres self-government shall be developed to the fullest possible extent, and that social and economic education and training for citizenship shall form part of the programme, so that members may recognise their responsibilities and take their part in developing Christian ideals in their trade organisations and the life of the community.

### 1922, World's Committee, St. Wolfgang, Austria

*Statement*

#### Membership

Every group of members, including younger members, should be given opportunity to pronounce on all important questions, taking part in all policy-forming committees, both local and national, and sharing the responsibility for raising and administering funds.

## 1951, World's Council, Beirut, Lebanon

### *Recommendation*

### Membership : Christian Values

In all the deliberation on Membership, the following convictions were kept in mind:

- That is part of God's plan that people need to be associated together in communities;
- That the quality of the relationship of members to each other is part of the YWCA's Christian witness.

In view of the great variety among national associations as to the ways by which a person may become a member of the YWCA, it is recommended:

- that national associations encourage local associations to interpret carefully the Christian purpose of the movement to each member before her acceptance into full membership in the YWCA;
- that the following qualities be recognised as essential characteristics of a responsible Christian membership;
  - An attitude of trust in each other;
  - Insights into oneself to avoid mistaking prejudice for conviction;
  - Appreciation of other communities and persons;
  - Ability to witness without self-complacency to God's gift to all people;
  - Willingness to search for truth on international and social problems and to act upon the basis of the truth;
  - Clarity in seeing the connection between the Christian faith and responsible citizenship.

If the YWCA is to be truly Christian, it must hold within its fellowship members from all sections of society. It is recommended:

- that the World's YWCA urge national associations to make possible the participation of all sections of their membership in the policymaking of the association;
- that the World's YWCA consider how to help national associations in extending membership opportunities to the following groups of women and girls:
  - those in rural areas
  - those in industrial occupations
  - the underprivileged
  - the newcomers to a country.

## 1955, World Council, London, England

### *Statement*

### Membership: Definition of

We suggest to national associations the following working definition of adult members in the YWCA:

*An Electoral (Full) Member* is any woman or girl who makes a personal commitment to the Christian purpose of her association, which is in accordance with the Basis and Principles of the

World YWCA, and is prepared to carry out this purpose to the best of her ability. She shall have voting rights and shall share in responsibility for the movement.

An Associate Member is any woman and girl who associates herself with the YWCA or participates in its programme.

### *Interpretation to Electoral Members*

Following the directive from Beirut regarding the need for careful interpretation of the Christian purpose of the movement to each member before she accepts electoral responsibility, we consider that each person preparing to be an electoral member should be helped to understand the Christian basis of the Association, its purpose, principles and history, and the relationship of the local association to the national and the World YWCA. This learning is a continuing process, and membership is a growing experience.

### *Participation by Members*

In the spirit of the recommendation from the Council at Beirut and from the Membership Conference in Australia, we would reaffirm the importance of urging national movements to examine the administrative structure and procedures of their association, in order that these may be consciously shaped to develop a committed and informed electoral membership and to provide an effective training of members for responsible citizenship in the wider community.

## **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

### *Statement*

## **Membership: Participation**

### **Developing intelligent participating membership**

In countries with a Christian minority there are still a large number of Christians that have yet to be reached in various communities. In some countries these may be the underprivileged. The YWCA must seek ways and means of reaching them through its programme. In most countries all who accept the YWCA purpose are admitted into full or voting membership and most non-Christians are associate or participating members. Voting members are expected to be sensitive to the needs of the non-voting members, to discuss with them their ideas, and help to provide means of growth for them as well as helping them to feel a sense of fellowship. The YWCA programme should provide for growth of all its members at various levels of their development. The necessity of keeping clear about the Christian basis of the Association is emphasised.

## **1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

### *Statement*

## **Membership: Structure**

Many associations are reporting more participants and fewer active voting members.

The reasons for this include:

- a resistance on the part of many young people to formal membership and structured groups;
- the structure of the YWCA which often makes it difficult for young people to assume

- policy-making positions;
- a desire of many to be involved only on a short-term basis around specific issues;
- a reluctance to subscribe to the purpose of the Association.

It is emphasised that individuals and their needs are our concern and not primarily membership in the YWCA. If this is kept in mind, we might find new ways of work and ultimately ways to change our structure where it needs changing.

**2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

*Recommendation*

**Membership: Indigenous Meetings**

Whereas an Indigenous Women's Pre-Council meeting was held at the World Council in Brisbane 2003, and

Whereas all attendees unanimously embraced the idea of an Indigenous Women's Pre-Council,

The World YWCA recommends that:

At all subsequent World Councils there be an Indigenous Pre-Council meeting. This meeting to be for Indigenous Peoples with additional time allowed for "Indigenous Peoples and allies" to discuss strategies for partnership.

**2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

*Recommendation*

**Membership: Indigenous Food**

Whereas an Indigenous Women's Pre-Council meeting was held at the World Council in Brisbane 2003, and

Whereas all attendees unanimously embraced the idea of an Indigenous Women's Pre-Council,

The World YWCA recommends that:

At each World Council, one lunchtime be designated as an International Food Exposition whereby traditional and indigenous foods will be provided for delegates, wherever possible.

**2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

*Recommendation*

**Membership: Round-the-World Breakfast**

Whereas the Round-the-world YWCA breakfast has been a huge success throughout the world,

The World YWCA recommends that:

The Round-the-World YWCA breakfast be continued annually on April 24th, World YWCA Day, to create awareness of the YWCA and the Global Campaign.

## F. Education

### 1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico

#### Recommendation

### Education: Development of

It is recommended that:

in view of the widespread YWCA interest in education, from pre school and primary school to out-school and university education, and in view of the increasing opportunities throughout the world for cooperation with educational, governmental and ecumenical circles for the development of education, the Executive Committee consider calling a meeting, perhaps a pre-Council Consultation, on the 'Responsibility of the YWCA as a Christian Organisation in the Field of Education';

- *in education for international understanding and responsibility*, emphasis be given education for peace, education on the United Nations and the Specialised Agencies- including our responsibility for consultative status-and education on the mutual appreciation of Oriental and Occidental cultural values, and that the YWCA take steps to extend and improve international travel for YWCA members. To this end national associations should evaluate their services for receiving people from abroad and increase their language and orientation programmes for those going abroad. The World YWCA should continue
  - to disseminate information on opportunities for travel abroad and on types of travel and orientation programmes;
  - to assist in the planning of study tours by arranging contacts with the United Nations and other international organisations.
- *in citizenship education*, attention be focused on the special characteristics of such education for women and girls, and, in particular, on the education of YWCA members regarding the status and responsibilities of women and girls;
- *in vocational education*, national associations continue to pioneer in organising training facilities and vocational counselling, and that the World YWCA gather and disseminate information on recent YWCA programmes;
- *in fundamental education*, the World YWCA aid national associations in the fight against illiteracy and ignorance, for example, by spreading information on YWCA action in this field and by the study of problems such as providing special textbooks for adult learners;
- *in education for home economics*, in view of the great problem of hunger, more attention be given to the development of nutrition education, whenever helpful in cooperation with other organisations, governments and the Food and Agriculture Organisation;
- *in art education*, the World YWCA promote the development of artistic activities by such means as spreading information about past YWCA experience and encouraging experimentation with various art forms, particularly in religious education and in education for the appreciation of other peoples and cultures;

- since the YWCA cooperates increasingly with other organisations in the above fields, the World YWCA should spread information on how national and local associations cooperate with other voluntary and governmental bodies in the development of their educational programmes.

### *Questions for Study*

*It is recommended that:*

Because of the wide-spread puzzlement and sometimes even fear in the face of modern scientific discoveries, the YWCA encourage the development of educational methods and programmes

- giving knowledge about recent scientific development,
- showing the contribution of science to social welfare and world unity;
- studying the spiritual and moral problems raised by new discoveries.

In view of increasing leisure time for more people, the YWCA should study the philosophical basis for the wise use of leisure time, giving attention to both Christian insight into leisure, and the psychological need of different age groups. YWCAs should be encouraged to make long-range plans in order to:

- provide education for the creative use of leisure time,
- set up activities and services for counselling for leisure, both within the YWCA and in other places, such as factories.

In view of the need for more experimentation with educational methods and programmes in all the fields listed above, the Executive Committee consider the ways and means of establishing educational pilot projects, such as those made possible within the UNESCO System of Associated Youth Enterprises.

The YWCA give increasing attention to the problems of adult education, and that a World YWCA Consultation be held on this subject in the next four years in order to clarify the particular contribution of the YWCA in this field.

### **1963, World Council, Nyborg Strand, Denmark**

*Statement*

## **Education: YWCA Responsibility**

### **Co-education**

The World YWCA should make a study of the educational and social importance of co-education in the YWCA. Attention should be given to the special characteristics of preparing leadership for co-educational activities and of the circumstances in which co-education is particularly effective, e.g. for countries where schools are not coeducational, for certain age groups.

### **YWCA responsibility in the field of education**

In addition to strengthening its own educational institutions, departments and activities, the YWCA has a responsibility to work for the extension of educational opportunities for all, particularly women and girls, and to bring Christian insight to bear on educational problems. The World YWCA should continue "to be present" where international educational planning is carried out, e.g. in cooperation with UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Labour Organisation.

YWCAs should establish, where appropriate, a Committee on Education which would

examine the aims of education, study educational questions pertinent to national and local situations and see how the World YWCA can best stir world public opinion to constructive action;

YWCA's should re-evaluate, in the light of long-term educational needs, our own programmes and act with imagination in setting up YWCA pilot projects in those fields of education not adequately met by government provision;

YWCA's should keep in close touch with plans for social and economic development in each country in order to influence educational policy. The importance of educational opportunities for girls at all levels should be closely watched.

The YWCA has a responsibility for the growing number of women students, and a concern not just for women's access to education but for the very nature of the higher education to be offered to young women. The basic dignity of the individual should be safeguarded in national planning for education and thought should be given to the relation between tertiary education and continuing education.

### **1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

#### *Statement*

## **Education: World Policy**

### **World YWCA Policy on the Responsibility of the YWCA in Education**

We are living in a time when there is a great upsurge in educational opportunities. All over the world nations have recognised that the dynamics of social change lie in education. Increased educational opportunities are being given to citizens, and the broadening of the access to education is changing the very structure of many societies. We need to see more clearly our responsibility in affecting the direction of this change.

In the midst of widespread differences of opinion about the aims and nature of education, it is important to reflect on what is the best kind of education. It is necessary to consider what education is needed for living in a society increasingly shaped by the developments of science and technology. As education becomes more and more an instrument of government policy, it is important for citizens to ensure that it becomes an instrument for the welfare of all, rather than power to be used by a few, that it becomes a force for world community rather than a tool of limited national interests.

Because of the uneven development of education in different parts of the world and the lack of resources for quick development in some areas, there is increasing planning for regional and world-wide sharing of knowledge and the pooling of resources. A world association concerned with education needs to play its role in such planning, recognising that improvements in educational policy in any particular situation may have a world-wide impact.

#### *The Aim and Content of Education*

Education should increase knowledge, give skills, develop sound judgment and enrich the whole of life. Our respect for the person involves responsibility for the education of the whole person.

Education should help people to gain a sense of the history of mankind in order to understand the present, and to gain a right sense of values to make responsible choices in the face of conflicting claims.

Education should prepare people for life and not just for earning a living, for service and not for privilege, for leisure and not only for work. Education should prepare people for vocations in tomorrow's world of work and not for obsolete occupations.

Education should aid in national development, not only developing skills and leadership, but by preparing for social change. It should lead toward the fulfilment of God's purpose on earth in all spheres: political, economic, social and cultural.

### *Taking a Stand*

We believe that all people are equally the children of God and have the right to education which should be assured to all. There should be free and compulsory primary education for all. There should be free and compulsory secondary education for all, in educational institutions of diversified types suitable for the individual pupils. Higher education should be equally available to all on the basis of ability.

Opportunities in out-of-school education should be extended to all, and to that end institutions and services should be provided, and provisions made for educational leave from work.

We believe that women and girls should have equal access to education with men and boys, and equal academic standards should characterise their education. There should be no discrimination in education on racial, ethnic or religious grounds.

We stand for the guarantee of the legal right to religious education in any society.

We are convinced that the preparation of teachers and their continuing education should receive high priority in the educational systems of each country. Efforts should be made to gain greater recognition of the contribution of the teaching profession to the community.

### *Plan for Action*

The YWCA should seek to influence the development of education. It should work for the establishment of institutions and the elimination of discrimination so that the right of all to education may be achieved. It should aim to improve education so that it may meet more effectively the needs of society and persons and carry on the search for truth.

*Influencing Governments*-To be better able to act, the YWCA should give more intensive study to the aims and policies of education, to actual situations and problems and to plans for the future. It should aid in the formation of public opinion and take action at strategic points of governmental decision-making.

*Work with Parents*-So that existing opportunities may be used to the fullest extent possible, the YWCA should work with parents to encourage them to take an interest in their children's education, enrol them in school and develop sound vocational aspirations, and to see more clearly the relation between education and employment and the value of specialised training for a job.

*Establishing Institutions*-Until governmental education systems are built up, the YWCA may have to organise education institutions and services such as primary schools, pre-school education, vocational schools, and work with early school leavers. It is important that this educational work should be of high quality and meet government standards.

### Developing Out-of-School Education

The main contribution of the YWCA lies in out-of-school education. In view of the rapid accumulation of knowledge, education has to be a life-long process. Beyond formal education, out-of-school education is necessary to help people

- to meet the new demands of daily life,
- to keep up with advancing frontiers in their professions or occupations,
- to readjust to and retrain for new situations,
- to use their free time constructively.

It is in this field that the YWCA has a special duty to explore the boundaries of education, and to discover the meaning of Christian illumination of all its educational efforts. By originality and competence and readiness to serve groups whose educational needs are not being met, it can assure the acceptance of the work of the voluntary organisations.

The YWCA, as well as the churches, has a role to play in education for Christian unity and in making efforts to relate our religious faith in spiritual values to the world of technology, scientific thoughts and social attitudes.

The YWCA has an opportunity to invent new ways of preparing citizens to make a contribution to national life and the world order. Such education should lead to an appreciation of the cultural values of other peoples. It should help in developing the courage, patience and ability to approach, with an attitude of openness and reconciliation, those who hold opposing opinions.

#### *Educators in the YWCA*

Educators in the YWCA should use up to-date teaching skills, including informal and active methods and learning in small groups. They should allow freedom for initiative and encourage personal growth.

#### *Cooperation with Others to Improve Education*

As members of a world-wide Christian movement we shall need to pray for education and for educators. We shall need an abiding certainty that God is at work in education if we are to recognise the truly common cause we have with others in public education, as we work in that field with people of widely differing faiths and ideologies. We shall need a newness of vision if our planning for the education of the future is to be filled with discernment.

The YWCA should take steps, where necessary, to work with other organisations on particular interests. In addition to making its own views known on specific issues and on over-all planning, the YWCA often has opportunities to encourage others to see their own responsibilities, in the field of out-of-school education, it should work for the establishment of structures for cooperation or for the coordination of the work of various agencies, and for trying to influence governmental policy in this field.

A special effort should be made to work with other organisations, in particular world Christian organisations, UNESCO and other competent agencies of the United Nations, in developing education.

We shall need power beyond ourselves if our convictions are to be reflected in all our educational work.

**1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**

*Recommendation*

**Education: Social Change**

Recognising

- The fact that we live in a time of unprecedented and rapid change;
- The need for social change in the YWCA, communities and countries directed towards the achievement of basic human rights for all;
- The importance of creating awareness of the possibilities and the means of bringing about community self-improvement;
- The vital part played by communication and leadership development in this process;

The Council recommends that there should be a unified approach to programme with major emphasis on Education for Social Change.

In order to help national associations to be involved in education for social change, the World YWCA should urge and assist them to:

- study power structures, political, economic and social;
- develop leadership to work out strategies for changing structures;
- develop new programmes in the light of necessary changes, being prepared to take risks in programme and work with other groups which share common concerns, even though they may not share common ideologies.

**G. Cooperation with other Organisations**

**1906, World's Conference, Paris, France**

*Recommendation*

**Cooperation: WSCF**

In view of the fact that student work in some lands is affiliated with the World's Student Christian Federation, as well as with the World's Young Women's Christian Association, the World's Committee recommends that all national Committees cooperate heartily with the World's Student Christian Federation.

**1908, World's Committee, London, England**

*Statement*

**Cooperation**

It is very desirable that the YWCA should be represented, nationally and locally, on Associations of and for women which have as their object the moral and social uplift of womanhood. The reason for such connection is that the leaders of the YWCA may come to fuller understanding of the conditions of women and of work carried on for their benefit and to bring the Christian ideals and influence of the YWCA to bear on all women's work.

**1912, World's Committee, Swanwick, England**

*Statement*

**Cooperation: AJF**

National committees shall as far as possible be in communication with existing societies for the help of girl travellers, such as Les Amies de la Jeune Fille, Travellers' Aid, etc., and where possible arrange for mutual representation on committees.

**1920, World's Committee, Champéry, Switzerland**

*Recommendation*

**Cooperation: International Organisations**

Whereas we believe that the great hope for the civilisation of the future lies in the permeation of the democratic movements and political bodies in every country with Christian ideals, and that this can only be achieved through an increase of mutual understanding and fellowship between groups who have in common the desire for social righteousness, although their methods may be diverse,

We recommend that the Young Women's Christian Association seek every occasion to understand the ideals of, and so far as possible to cooperate with, other bodies who are striving to improve the conditions of the world in which we live.

In order to coordinate all efforts to meet this problem (emigration) in the best possible way, the World's Committee should cooperate with existing international organisations, such as the Amies de la Jeune Fille, the International Council of Women, the International Red Cross, the World's Young Men's Christian Associations and the International Bureau for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic.

Since emigration involves problems of public health, the World's Committee should appoint a deputation to confer with the International Red Cross as soon as possible regarding their plans in connection with the question of the transportation of emigrants.

Where such protective work is already being done by the Amies de la Jeune Fille, Travellers' Aid and other societies, the Association in each country should secure close touch with these societies, both nationally and locally, as well as with the Government departments concerned, with a view to cooperation and help, especially at the present time when frequent emergencies are likely to arise.

The national associations should combine with other societies to secure that women who approach this problem from the standpoint of disinterested service are invited to help the Governments to carry out the existing laws, and to frame additional legislation where it is needed. The national associations should do all in their power to bring this work before Christian women as a definite form of Christian service.

**Relationships in non-Christian Lands**

To Church and Community on the Field

Reaffirming our conviction that the Christian Church is the fundamental divine institution for the establishment of the Kingdom of God and that the life and strength of the Association are inseparably bound up with it, we wish to emphasise the following points:

- That we should strive towards the strengthening of the Church rather than the building up of the Association as an end in itself.

- That in order to ensure this, all programme and policies be framed in close cooperation with the Churches in accordance with their needs.
- That we continue our present policy of undertaking work only where the Association is desired by the Churches.

To Missionary Societies and other Organisations working in the same countries

Recognising with approval that the Association is coming more and more into close cooperation with the Christian Church in various countries, and believing that by such cooperation our work will be strengthened both at home and abroad,

We recommend that the Association at the home base promote increasingly close cooperation with the Church Boards and Societies working in the same countries.

### **1924, World's Committee, Washington, USA**

*Recommendation*

## **Cooperation: WSCF**

Whereas the World's YWCA has been invited to give its opinion on international questions, or to cooperate with other societies in regard to such matters, we recommend that the Executive Committee be authorised to give such expression of opinion, or to take such action on behalf of the World's YWCA, if they believe themselves to be in accord with the mind of the World's Association, it being understood that in no case is any national association committed by such action and that where it seems possible that action contemplated by the Executive Committee might embarrass a national association, that association should first be consulted.

The YWCA should press forward a request to those planning the Institute Pan Pacific Conference that women be a part of this gathering, having a share in the planning of the programme and an opportunity to present the women's side of problems under discussion.

The World's Student Christian Federation should be invited to cooperate with the World's YWCA in seeking to bring about some definite form of cooperation and consultation between the Student Christian Movement and the Young Women's Christian Association in every land.

*It is recommended:*

- that all student secretaries being sent from countries where the Student Christian Movement is an independent organisation to do student work as a part of the YWCA, have a sympathetic understanding of the work of the YWCA of their country; that student secretaries from Great Britain be enabled to spend some time in the United States of America, before taking up such work; and that American secretaries be given similar opportunities of understanding the background of British and European secretaries;
- that since the World's Student Christian Federation looks to the YWCA as a sending society for pioneer work, the appointment of secretaries sent out for student work be ratified by the WSCF as well as the World's YWCA, it being understood that the World's Student Christian Federation shall be consulted equally with the World's YWCA as to the

suitability and preparation of such secretaries;

- that while the work is in a pioneer stage, i.e. before a National Student Movement has been affiliated to the World's Student Christian Federation, and several groups of students may be working side by side, the World's Student Christian Federation be urged to keep in touch with any group which may be organised by the YWCA.

### **1928, World's Conference, Budapest, Hungary**

*Statement*

#### **Cooperation: YWCA, WSCF**

The World's Conference notes with pleasure the increasing cooperation between the World's Committee and other international organisations, notably with the World's YMCA and the WSCF and would heartily approve;

- a joint endeavour in engaging their membership in a fresh study of the life of Christ, the combined conference of High School workers at Dassel, -
- the cooperative attitude towards the Stockholm Continuation Committee on Life and Work;

and hopes that wherever possible members of the Executive Committee, as well as of the staff, may share in meetings to promote this work of cooperation.

### **1930, World's Committee, St. Cergue, Switzerland**

*Recommendation*

#### **Cooperation: Pan Pacific Organisation**

The increasing opportunities for the extension of the influence of the YWCA around the Pacific, in the cooperation of its members with the Institute of Pacific Relations and the Pan-Pacific Women's Conference, are recognised with deep satisfaction.

It is recommended:

- that the steps already taken to carry out the desires of the World's YWCA for cooperation with certain other international organisations, especially with the kindred societies and the women's international organisations be ratified with satisfaction.
- that the details as to lines of cooperation with and appointment of representatives of the Joint Standing Committee of international women's organisations be referred to the Executive Committee with power to act.

### **1934, World's Council, Grande Boissiere, Geneva, Switzerland**

*Statement*

#### **Cooperation: International Organisations**

We appreciate the vital importance of maintaining close contacts with other international Christian movements in Geneva, with the League of Nations, the International Labour Office, with women's international organisations and with the World Bureau of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

**1938, World's Council, Muskoka, Canada**

*Recommendation*

### Cooperation: International Organisations

We know that cooperation with other groups and organisations is an inherent part of the world of the World's Executive Committee and staff, and we urge the careful planning of time to allow adequate opportunity for this work which is so necessary on behalf of the total movement.

We recommend that the World's Executive Committee and the national associations, in undertaking such cooperation, give consideration to the following principles:

- Persons representing the Association in cooperative relationships should be committed to the purpose and conversant with the policies of the Association.
- Cooperation both in general and on specific issues should depend upon its being in harmony with the purpose and methods of work of the YWCA.
- The Christian principles for which we stand should be made more articulate, that they may be expressed by our representatives and also in order to give our representatives the security of a body of opinion behind them.

We wish to re-emphasise the importance of close cooperation with the Student Christian Movement in all countries so that students may be drawn naturally into the membership and leadership of the Young Women's Christian Association.

We recognise that cooperation with youth movements is both necessary and desirable and that we should seek opportunities for consultation with youth leaders of other groups.

We wish to place on record our sense of close cooperation with other women's movements.

**1947, World's Council, Hangchow, China**

*Statement*

### Cooperation: Ecumenical Organisations

We would stress here the value of the training opportunities provided by the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches at Bossey. We hope that the World's YWCA will continue to make use of this unique centre, and will cooperate especially in the planning of courses concerned with the interests of women and youth.

The World's YWCA cooperates with a wide variety of world organisations. Beyond the motives of goodwill, increased effectiveness, and conservation of effort, lies the conviction that a world's Christian movement has something distinctive to bring to a cooperative effort. We endorse the following principles of cooperation:

- All cooperation should be decided in terms of its relevance to the basic Christian purpose of the World's YWCA.
- In making a choice of priorities, the World's YWCA must consider its responsibility to national associations and also its obligation to movements in related areas of thought and work, recognising that it is part of the task of the World's YWCA to share its Christian dynamic with movements not specifically Christian.

## Cooperation with Ecumenical Organisations

Cooperation between Christian organisations has steadily increased both on a national and world level. We are deeply aware of the importance of this close inter-relationship of Christian groups in an increasingly secularised world.

World's YMCA. The close relationship that has always been maintained between our two movements has been extended during this period into new areas of common concern.

The World Council of Churches is a significant development since the last Council Meeting. There are numerous points at which we cooperate with the work of the Council, e.g., the Youth Department, the Study Department, the Ecumenical Institute, the Commission on International Affairs, etc.

The World Christian Youth Commission is a new enterprise in which we are cooperating with the World's YMCA, the World's Student Christian Federation and the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches. We recommend that national associations study the question of cooperating along similar lines and the setting up of consultative groups of Christian youth organisations in a similar pattern to that introduced by the World Christian Youth Commission.

World's Student Christian Federation. We recognise the importance of this relationship and the need of a continuing study of the problems arising out of it.

We would emphasise the importance of even closer cooperation than has existed in the past with the World's Student Christian Federation and, through our national associations, with the Student Christian Movement, with special reference to:

- Leadership questions.
- The mutual and complementary contributions of each movement to the needs of youth.
- the growth of SCM work with young people of high school age.

We urge that the World YWCA maintain active contact with the World Bureau of Girl Guides for the study of common fields of action.

## Youth Organisations

World Federation of Democratic Youth. We recognise the increased activity of this organisation internationally and the undoubted attraction of its programme for young people. We wish, therefore, to endorse the action of the World's YWCA Executive Committee in keeping observer relationship with the WFDY. We feel the World's YWCA can perform a useful function in keeping national associations informed about developments in the WFDY. At the same time, national associations should advise the World's YWCA of developments in their countries. Since the World Federation of Democratic Youth is still in process of formation, there is a possibility for the expression of many different points of view. National associations can take the opportunity of sending representatives to World Federation meetings as delegates or observers or can explore other terms of relationships.

## 1951, World's Council, Beirut, Lebanon

### *Recommendation*

### Cooperation: UN

During the past four years, the World's YWCA has maintained consultative relationships with various agencies of the United Nations. These have been of value, both to associations whose governments are member nations and to those not represented at present in the United Nations. The fact of a certain loss of confidence in the United Nations is a challenge to the World's YWCA and to the national associations to try, through constructive criticism and interpretation, to strengthen the United Nations in its task, with a desire to emphasise its value as an instrument for peace. It is recommended:

- that the consultative relationship with intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations be continued, and that special attention be given, in cooperation with national associations, to the development of a team of volunteer consultants to share responsibility with the World's YWCA staff;

- that more information be furnished by the World's YWCA regarding experimental projects of the United Nations, and its specialised agencies in the field of social welfare, when such projects have a possible relation to YWCA programme.

In order to implement our obligations as a world movement, having concern for women and girls in all parts of the world, it is recommended:

- that our relations with other world organisations be constantly re-examined in the light of the changing circumstances of the world situation. This examination requires mutual consultation between national and world movements.

## 1955, World Council, London, England

### *Recommendation*

### Cooperation: Christian Organisation

Having considered the statement and questions submitted by the Youth Secretaries of the World Christian Youth Commission, which brings together the following World Christian Youth Organisations:

- the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations,
- the World Young Women's Christian Association,
- the World's Student Christian Federation
- the World Council of Christian Education and Sunday School Association
- the World Council of Churches' Youth Department,

and believing that each of the organisations concerned brings its own distinctive gifts and field of service, we recommend:

- that we recognise the following aims as common to all of the organisations:
- our recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,
- our common task of witnessing to the Christian faith,
- our common striving for Christian unity,
- our common constituency--youth;

-that the World Council recognise the responsibility of participating in the WCYC, not only for the World YWCA but for national and local associations, and urge national associations, wherever possible, to make use of every opportunity to promote similar cooperative Christian action among the parallel Christian Youth Organisations;

-that the World YWCA give special thought to the specific contribution which the YWCA should bring to the WCYC.

### Action in Times of Emergency

We recommend that provision be made for close consultation with the World YMCA so as to facilitate planning and the taking of immediate decisions, should the world situation call for it.

**1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

*Recommendation*

### Cooperation: Christian Organisations

It is recommended that:

We continue to attempt to have world-wide contacts with Christian women and youth, working with other Christian organisations or alone, as seems most appropriate.

In some areas of the world there is no YWCA work as such, but there are groups of Christian women for whom an organisation such as ours has a deep concern and responsibility. Our integrity as a world movement demands our constant effort to have continuing relationships with all member movements and to have contacts with women, especially Christians, in all parts of the world.

### Cooperation with Other Organisations for the Development of Youth Education

Cooperation with other organisations at the world level should be maintained and improved in spite of the difficulties of interpreting and applying results at the national and regional level. Local and national YWCAs often receive indirect and subsequent benefits from the cooperation at world level.

**UNESCO**

The Council noted the many possibilities for cooperation with UNESCO, the UNESCO Youth Institute and the UNESCO Education Institute in promoting particular YWCA projects, in shaping the UNESCO Youth policy and in developing youth work in general.

**Other Organisations**

Information was given on contacts between the World YWCA and youth of differing ideologies. The Council urged the continuance of such contacts when appropriate.

## 1963, World Council, Nyborg Stand, Denmark

### Statement

### Cooperation: Christian Organisation

It is hoped that the Executive Committee will seek opportunity for the World YWCA to have itself direct contact with other Christian women's and youth world movements including those which are Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant.

The implications of the World YWCA membership in the Christian Committee for Service in Algeria and possible similar cooperative efforts were considered. The importance of the World YWCA sharing in such cooperative groups was recognised, especially the responsibility of the YWCA as a women's movement to be present in situations where the concerns of women and girls might not otherwise be represented. There are also situations where the YWCA can serve more effectively in cooperation with others than it can alone, and where a more effective Christian witness can be made by a joint effort.

World YWCA membership in the International Council of Voluntary Agencies and its Commissions on Refugees and on Migration: While recognising the importance of the World YWCA maintaining its identity, particularly in relation to contacts with the United Nations, the opportunity for contacts and cooperation through the International Council of Voluntary Agencies was felt to be valuable.

The World YWCA should give increasing attention to the concern for students and in particular undertake the following action:

- continue cooperation with other voluntary organisations and UNESCO in work for increasing opportunities for higher education for women;
- cooperate with the World Student Christian Federation in the current study of an ecumenical strategy for work with students and encourage national YWCAs to discuss with other Christian organisations national plans for meeting student needs and making a united Christian witness within the university and other institutions of higher learning;
- encourage and cooperate with the World Student Christian Federation and other world Christian bodies such as Pax Romana, the World Council of Churches and the World Alliance of YMCAs, in giving more attention to the particular problems of women students: for example, the need for women students to exercise leadership, the problems of women students who support their husbands and are thus not able to continue their own studies, and the great importance of informing WSCF members about possibilities for Christian service through the YWCA.

It was recognised that the idea of Mutual Service, which is a living, growing force, has undergone profound change in the past few years. Help to the ongoing work of national movements has expanded, along with the growing number of projects serving specific community needs and largely financed by grants secured from outside the YWCA.

Cooperation between government departments and voluntary agencies is essential. The magnitude of the tasks calls for massive aid for which state funds may be available... The full implications for the national YWCA and its capacity to carry the additional load must be assessed and a clear-cut understanding with the grant-giving body worked out before grant aid is accepted. This agreement should safeguard the identity of the movement and its independence as a voluntary Christian organisation. In the face of the total needs and the urgency of meeting them, it is imperative that the YWCA should take and use effectively the wisdom, experience and funds available from all parts of the world movement and from sources outside of it.

**1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

*Statements*

### **Cooperation: Governments**

Cooperation with governments in projects of leadership training may raise for the YWCA questions of personnel policy and practices, lest better opportunities attract our trained staff to other agencies.

The YWCA must face the risk of loss of identity in terms of goals and control of methods and in relationships in development projects.

### **The Role of NGOs in the World Community and Especially of the World YWCA**

The work of the World YWCA with the United Nations may not make a tremendous impact on the local associations. However, it does form a basis for what they do and stand for, in their efforts to develop greater understanding of international questions. National associations need the information material provided by the World YWCA as much for information as for the thinking which underlies trends and action taken by the United Nations.

The time given and efforts made by the World YWCA to the relationship with the United Nations and Specialised Agencies are most beneficial to national associations even if they are not always aware of the ways their work and thinking are affected by these relationships. As in any relations, there is always two-way traffic and the quality of the work of national associations, their venturing spirit in undertaking pilot projects and the stand they take in human rights or social and economic questions, are an indispensable contribution to the witness of the World YWCA as a Christian organisation in the world community, in the United Nations, and among other NGOs.

Because of the tremendous increase in the numbers of international meetings both regional and world, we must find new ways of carrying out our consultative relationship with Intergovernmental Organisations by cooperating with other voluntary groups, such as the World Council of Churches, the World Alliance of YMCAs and the World Student Christian Federation. There are also regional political and economic groupings with which the World YWCA does not have direct working relationships, but the work of which we need to understand such as the Organisation of American States, the Organisation of African States, the European Community, the Common Market, etc.

## **H. Communications, Financial Development**

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

### **Comm / Finance: Strategic Planning**

The 1995 World YWCA Council recognises the work of the Executive Committee 1991-1995 in evolving a four-year plan of work for the Association.

Council further recognises the difficulty for the incoming Executive Committee and the World staff in maintaining the flow of work at the end of the four-year period while being unable to plan ahead until after the next Council Meeting.

The World YWCA Council 1995 therefore resolves that:

based on the vision and values of this Council the World Executive Committee 1995-1999 evolves a strategic five-year plan for the Association and that the subsequent four-year plans be approved by Council in the year preceding implementation.

Council further resolve that national associations be invited to contribute to a dynamic and interactive planning process including submission of written reports and strategic priorities for consideration by the World Executive Committee.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

**Comm / Finance: French Language**

Whereas World YWCA development in future years could be enhanced by attention to the language requirements of the YWCA Francophone countries,

Whereas many delegates did not attend World Council in Seoul because of being informed that there would be no simultaneous translation into French due to a lack of financial resources.

Whereas Phoenix recommendation in 1987 indicated that French speaking delegates should get at least the previous and main texts of Council, and that Common Concern should include some texts in French and Spanish,

Whereas, French is the official language of the United Nations, translation into French should be taken seriously.

Therefore, be it resolved that the World YWCA encourage and support networks that enable translation into French and distribution of principal documents to YWCAs in Francophone countries.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

**Comm / Finance: Participation**

The World YWCA Council in 1995 recognises that while English remains the language of Council, many delegates are not working in their own first language.

In order to assure equality of opportunity of participation by delegates at the 1999 World Council and subsequent meetings, the World YWCA Council resolves that;

during the 1995-1999 quadrennium, the World YWCA Executive Committee undertake a review of Council procedures and ways of working, with particular reference to ease of communication, including circulation of material, tabled papers, transparencies, translation and interpretation and participation in debate and discussion.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

**Comm / Finance: Volunteers**

Whereas, volunteers are crucial to the fulfillment of our objectives as a World YWCA movement,

Whereas, it is necessary to recognise and stimulate volunteers all over the world,

Be it resolved that the World YWCA request the United Nations to declare one year in the next quadrennium the International Year of Volunteers.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Recommendation*

**Comm / Finance: New Technology**

*Recognising the importance of sharing and learning from one another in order to further discuss and strengthen the drive of the YWCA movement,*

*The World YWCA recommends that national associations who are able to do so use new technology to exchange information on programmes and projects (especially via the internet) and use such technology to serve as a catalyst to facilitate dialogue between YWCAs worldwide, to create cooperation and collaboration on projects and issues that are important to women.*

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**

*Resolutions*

**Comm / Finance: Young Women**

Reaffirming the 1999-2004 Strategic Plan for the World YWCA Objective 3.5 to increase organisational capacity to effectively utilise information technology, and

Recognising that limitations exist in current communication and information-sharing systems within the world movement and

Recognising that matters of interest to young women may not be reaching their intended audience in time for effective response and utilisation, and

Realising that achievement of Objective 2.3 in 1999-2004 Strategic Plan for the World YWCA is possible only when effective communication systems are established within the World Movement,

The World YWCA Council resolves:

1. To commit to equitable information sharing within the movement by the establishment of regional and national Youth Coordinators with the explicit responsibility to liaise with the World Office on matters of interest to young women.
2. That all communication from the World Office's Young Women's Leadership Development Department as well as any other matters of interest to young women shall be forwarded directly to National General Secretaries and National Youth Coordinators.

That Regional and National Youth Coordinators be trained together with Presidents and General Secretaries at future International Training Institutes.

It was clarified that where the word regional is used, this refers to areas within a country, geographical areas refers to a collection of national associations.



# CHAPTER III

## Social and International Responsibility

### 1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea

#### *Resolution*

### Advocacy: Values and Priorities

Whereas the World YWCA Council 1995 Seoul Korea recognises the importance of moving forward with vision and is engaged in a process of setting priorities for the next four years.

Be it resolved that World Council 1995 reaffirm people-centred development led by women and the values of:

- respect for the integrity and dignity of every human
- equality and equity
- development with justice
- self-determination and self-reliance

identified in the Policy Statement on Development and adopted at World Council 1991, Stavanger, Norway, accept these values as the foundation for creating a dynamic and fully interactive strategic plan to be brought to World Council 1999 which will develop our vision and mission, determine priorities for available resources, define expected outcomes and explore new ways of work.

### 1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt

#### *Resolution*

### Advocacy: Priorities

Noting that this Council has adopted “Focus for the Future”, the Strategic Plan for the World YWCA, and

Noting that Goal 1, objective 1.1 of the Strategic Plan is “to impact the outcome of local, national and international policies through participation and effective advocacy work”, and

Recommending that to focus the World YWCA advocacy work, World Council select four priority advocacy issues for the World YWCA to focus upon during the coming quadrennium, and

Affirming that this new approach strengthens our YWCA voice in local, national and international decision making arenas, and

Noting that the Executive Committee has reviewed the Strategic Plan questionnaire results and has selected the most commonly suggested issues for advocacy highlighted by the movement during the strategic planning process,

The World YWCA resolves that:

The World Council adopt the following four issues as World YWCA priority areas for the next four years:

1. world peace with justice;
2. human rights of children and women;
3. women's health and the environment;
4. women's economic justice.

### **2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

#### *Resolution*

### **Advocacy: Indigenous Women**

Whereas we affirm the resolutions of World Councils held in Phoenix, 1987, Seoul, 1995, and Cairo, 1999 where it was resolved that the World YWCA acknowledges the unique status of Indigenous People with their own homelands, supports the calls by Indigenous people for the right to governance and self-determination, and works to redress the injustice against Indigenous peoples, especially in regard to their land, language and their economic and political situation,

Therefore be it resolved that:

The World YWCA identify appropriate policies that will protect Indigenous intellectual and cultural property; and preserve customary and administrative systems and practices,

Support Indigenous women who struggle with intra-cultural oppression brought about through patriarchy and other forms of hegemony,

Identify those YWCA practices and policies that may maintain colonial and patriarchal hegemony and may be contrary to the YWCA mission,

Explore partnerships with Indigenous women and ways of work that facilitate, empower, preserve and enhance the culture and sovereignty of Indigenous People whilst ensuring recognition of the individuals' basic human rights,

Establish ways of work which will ensure full and equitable participation by Indigenous women.

### **2007, World Council, Nairobi, Kenya**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Advocacy: Education**

Education gives women power, knowledge and skills. Education is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Education is a goal of the Lisbon Strategy of the European Union.

Recognising that education is one of the most important tools in empowering women and changing lives and communities, it is recommend that:

the World YWCA be a leading advocate for education and education issues.”

**2015, World Council, Bangkok, Thailand**

*Resolution*

**Advocacy: Training and Plan**

**Development of a World YWCA Advocacy and Training Plan**

We want to ensure our presence remains strong and the YWCA is known as a player with a key role. So the objective of this resolution is to strengthen the local advocacy voice and assist YWCAs around the world to advocate locally, regionally, and internationally.

Whereas YWCAs everywhere achieve community change through their advocacy work;

And whereas the World YWCA, based on approved policy statements, grounds its work in international forums in the work of YWCAs around the world, and brings the voices of women to the UN and other bodies;

And whereas a four-year advocacy plan would strengthen this work by:

- Identifying key advocacy outcomes for each quadrennium;
- Identifying the key global forums and building our expertise in these mechanisms;
- Building a formal network of World YWCA Member Associations (MAs) working on the global advocacy agenda;
- Deepening the expertise and participation of MAs in global advocacy work and; incorporating global priorities into local advocacy plans;
- Enabling MAs to budget and fundraise for their participation in this work;

Be it resolved that the World YWCA develop a four-year advocacy and training plan as an implementation tool for the advocacy work in each Strategic Framework, which identifies the key advocacy outcomes for the quadrennium, through targeted international and regional meetings, and the training activities that will support the outcomes. Further, that YWCAs adopt this approach as an ongoing way of working across the movement.

**1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

*Statement*

**Development: Technical Cooperation**

Concepts of national development and world development have changed over the last years. At the national and regional level, YWCAs are learning to see their work within the context of long-term national plans for development. Further, the whole idea of Technical Aid and Cooperation has taken another meaning and is to be seen in the framework of national and world development based on economic and social justice.

Therefore:

1. The YWCA needs to be involved in planning at the national and international level. NGOs may bring positive critical insight in the planning, trying to ensure that adequate consideration be given to social and cultural factors and their effects on the economic development.
2. The cooperation and coordination of NGOs in regard to national development planning are essential for undergirding their recommendations for policy and action by government.
3. The concept of multilateral aid for economic and social development through the United Nations Development Programme and other UN agencies needs to be supported and developed as a sounder basis for good international relations than bilateral aid programmes which tend to create zones of economic and political influence.

## Priorities

Emphasis is given to the need for women to be much better informed about economic problems and the economic factors which affect everyday life at the national and international level. In view of the growing involvement of the YWCAs in national development planning and national development schemes and in recognition of their desire to be responsible and competent, the World YWCA should give help and guidance on economic problems through relevant materials and expert advice.

### 1991, World Council, Stavanger, Norway

#### Statement

## Development: Policy

Recognising that the World YWCA includes among its constitutional functions the tasks of:

- providing a channel for the sharing of resources and exchange of experience among national associations, and
- working for international understanding, improved social and economic conditions and basic human rights for all people, (World YWCA Constitution, Article IV, Sections 2 and 5)

and re-affirming the principles stated in the Preamble of the Constitution and in the Policy Statements which have been consistently expressed by the World movement through a Christian commitment to Development with Justice.

Given that we live in an interdependent world and that gender and women's issues are at the core of a holistic development approach and,

Given that all societies irrespective of the stage of their development are struggling with various developmental issues such as oppression, sexism, racism, violations of human rights and equality, socio-economic deprivation, injustice and lack of sustainability of our environment and,

Given that YWCA development work is central to our Christian imperative and is an expression of our solidarity with women worldwide,

We call upon the World YWCA movement to:

1. accept as a primary responsibility to take action for development led by women, inspired by a Christian philosophy and guided by an attitude and practices which acknowledge that development is a participatory process of empowerment and a fundamental human right for all;
2. aim to secure the dignity of every human being, the building of a just society and respect for the integrity of creation;
3. adopt people-centred development led by women as a main priority; and
4. work towards development by:
  - emphasising the necessity for increasing and strengthening worldwide development education programmes promoting public awareness characterised by mutuality, solidarity and a fundamental respect for the integrity of all people,
  - addressing the urgent economic, social, cultural and spiritual needs defined by women themselves in their communities,
  - challenging oppressive power structures and attempting to bring about change that transforms society from an hierarchical and patriarchal model to one of equality and participation,

- increasing the sharing of knowledge, technology, time and funds to attempt to achieve equity both within and outside the YWCA movement,
- ensuring participation of women in all aspects of development leading to empowerment, self-determination and self-reliance,
- adopting strategies for the implementation of environmentally sound projects and programmes, using technologies that protect and preserve the eco-system rather than destroy or degrade it.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Resolution*

### Development: Cooperation

Whereas YWCA development work is central to our Christian imperative and is an expression of solidarity with women worldwide, and

Whereas the Resource Sharing Programme is the major instrument for intra-movement sharing amongst YWCA associations in the world movement and

Whereas some national associations participate in the Resource Sharing Programme through bilateral arrangements.

Be it resolved that the World YWCA develop a mechanism to recognise the contribution of all national associations to the Resource Sharing Programme, including bilateral arrangements and other means and that this work be recognised within the official reporting infra-structure of the World YWCA as well as the development of a mechanism for coordination and resource sharing among partners in the world movement

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**  
*Recommendation*

### Development: Indigenous People

Recalling the resolutions of the 1987 and 1995 World Councils, including the commitment that the World YWCA “will work to review the injustices towards Indigenous People, especially in regard to their land, their languages and their economical and political situation”, and

Recognising that the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous People includes groups from 110 countries, and

Recognising that indigenous women and children are amongst the poorest of the poor,

The World YWCA Council recommends:

1. The World YWCA convene a meeting of Indigenous Women prior to World Council 2003;
2. The World YWCA initiate a task-force to develop a leadership programme for Indigenous Women;
3. National associations include Indigenous Women in delegations.

**1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**

*Recommendation*

**Environment**

Noting that

- The price paid by society for progress, especially in the industrialised countries, may be too great if the side effects damage man's environment;
- Some individual rights and privileges may have to be given up in order to protect the majority;
- The social aspect of environment must not be forgotten; issues such as poverty or population are part of the problem;

The Council recommends that national YWCAs should:

- concern themselves with the plans of governments and industrial concerns and raise objections to plans that will destroy or permanently damage the environment;
- influence their governments to pass laws against pollution, so that industrial companies and others may not be allowed to use or damage natural resources in any other country when they are prevented by law from acting in that way in one country. Laws protecting environment should be common to all countries;
- urge governments and private concerns (as technological advance has now made possible development without harmful side effects) to take the necessary technological measures to make processes safe and reduce harmful side effects, even if extra expense is involved;
- study methods by which they can draw the attention of governments to harmful proposals and make them aware of women's concern in this field;
- use their influence against pollution and destruction of the environment especially against the testing of atomic devices.

**2019, World Council, Johannesburg, South Africa**

*Statement*

**Environment: on the Protection of Natural Resources**

“ A call is made for the YWCA movement to propitiate alongside other local, national and international institutions the respect, preservation and adequate use of all natural resources, be these forests, fauna and all the biodiversity that represents and guarantees the support of the inhabitants of the towns, their life and economy, vigorously protecting these public goods as a civil society and pressuring our governments and the United Nations to act immediately and correctly in the face of these disasters.”

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Resolutions*

**Energy/ Environment: New Ways of Living**

Recognising that there cannot be an infinite increase in the standard of living in a finite world, and that adjustments of an historic magnitude must be made by the elite in both rich and poor countries,

The World YWCA resolves

that all members of the YWCA challenge women everywhere:

- to search for new ways of living which demonstrate their concern for the equitable distribution and responsible use of resources;
- to promote policies directed to the constructive use of national resources and agreements which enable producer countries to engage in the first processing stages of their raw materials.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement / Urge*

**Energy / Environment: Solar Energy**

Recognising that there is a world-wide search for new sources of energy and mindful of the disastrous potential for waste and destruction in the use of nuclear energy, even for peaceful purposes,

The World Council urges that:

National associations use all means within their power to persuade not only the public but those in power that efforts should be made to promote research into new sources of energy, e.g. solar energy.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Resolution*

**Energy / Environment: Nuclear Energy**

Recalling previous statements on the peaceful uses of atomic energy and in view of recent experience and new knowledge, the World YWCA Council meeting in Vancouver, Canada, July 1975;

Recognising the potential destructiveness of radio-active materials to humankind and the environment;

Recognising that in the present stage of scientific and technological development the problem of safe disposal of nuclear waste is still unsolved;

Recognising the increasing high possibility of accidental explosion of nuclear weapons, leaks from nuclear equipment and illegal access to radioactive and fissionable materials;

Recognising that further research is required to establish the extent to which nuclear energy may be used safely;

Recognising that the production and sale of nuclear materials is becoming increasingly widespread;

Resolves

- that the World YWCA compile information relating to the development and use of nuclear technology and power and inform national associations of its findings;
- that national associations use all means within their power to persuade, not only the public, but those in governments that efforts should be made to develop and share new and alternative sources of energy with the intention of developing a more equitable distribution of the world's energy resources, thereby reducing the dependence of energy-poor nations;
- that national associations urge their governments to work internally and internationally for the transfer of resources now devoted to the further development of nuclear technology, to the search for new sources of energy.

**1983, World Council, Singapore**

*Resolution*

**Energy / Environment: New Technology**

Whereas new technologies that have brought us into the Micro-Electronic Age will have a global impact which will need creative global thinking and action to meet the variety of changes for women in every country of the world (e.g. in employment, education and way of life);

Whereas the World YWCA must give leadership in recognising the implications of new technologies for women,

Be it resolved that the World YWCA Council, meeting in Singapore in 1983,

- assists national associations to become aware of and familiar with the influence of new technologies;
- in consultation with national associations devise and implement more effective information sharing and networking processes, using new technology where appropriate.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Resolution*

**Energy / Environment: Use of Resources**

The 1987 World Council meeting in Phoenix, Arizona

Reaffirming the resolution of the 1975 World YWCA Council meeting in Canada calling for responsible uses of resources and the development of alternative sources of energy,

Recognising the continuing adverse effects of energy shortage and environmental degradation, especially on women:

Therefore resolves that:

The World YWCA manifest its commitment by providing to Energy and Environment issues and programmes, through education, training, research, networking and the raising of political awareness.

It recommends that:

The World YWCA manifest its commitment by providing the necessary infrastructure for this programme.

**1991, World Council, Stavanger, Norway**

*Resolution*

**Energy / Environment: Nuclear**

**Transportation and Disposal of Chemical Waste and Nuclear Weapons in the Pacific**

Whereas, recalling the 1987 World Council resolution that national and local associations be urged to recognise and support the Pacific nations in the establishment of a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Zone; that they be urged to emphasise to their respective governments, the YWCA membership and the wider community the critical situation of the indigenous peoples' struggle for independence and

self-determination; that they urge their governments to support the UN Special Committee on Decolonisation which reinstated the status of the Kanak people in 1987; and that they actively support Pacific efforts to stop nuclear testing, the build-up of nuclear weapons and sites and the storage and dumping of nuclear wastes in the Pacific region, and

Whereas, recognising new threats posed to the Pacific region by the transportation and dumping of chemical weapons;

Be it resolved that the World Council meeting in Stavanger, 1991, deplores the adverse environmental impact on the Pacific area of nuclear testing and the transportation and dumping of biological, chemical or toxic waste, supports action including political lobbying and encourage and provide, wherever possible, environmental education programmes, to keep the Pacific nuclear free and to prevent the dumping of biological, chemical or toxic waste and the transportation of chemical weapons to the Pacific area for disposal.

**1991, World Council, Stavanger, Norway**  
*Resolution*

### Energy / Environment: Waste Recycling

Whereas, in view of the growing respect for the integrity of creation, the increasing interest in the problems of environment and development, and the current world-wide problems of intractable waste and the production of unsustainable materials,

Be it resolved that the World YWCA and its affiliated associations set examples of non-polluting consumption and behaviour, implement the appropriate measures to achieve a sustainable society and actively work towards raising political awareness on these issues.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Resolution*

### Energy / Environment: Nuclear Testing

Whereas, recalling the 1987 World Council resolution that national and local associations be urged to recognise and support the Pacific nations in the establishment of a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Zone; that they be urged to emphasise to the respective governments, the YWCA membership and wider community the critical situation of the indigenous peoples' struggle for independence and self-determination; that they urge their governments to support the UN Special Committee on Decolonisation which re-instated the status of the Kanak people in 1987 and that they actively support Pacific efforts to stop nuclear testing, the build-up of nuclear weapons and sites and the storage and dumping of nuclear wastes in the Pacific region, and

Whereas, recognising new threats posed to the Pacific region by the transportation and dumping of chemical weapons, recalling the 1991 World Council resolution, which deplores the adverse environmental impact on the Pacific area of nuclear testing and the transportation and dumping of biological chemical or toxic waste, supports action including political lobbying and encourage and provide wherever possible environmental and education programmes to keep the Pacific nuclear free and to prevent the dumping of biological chemical toxic waste and the transportation of chemical weapons to the Pacific area for disposal,

Be it resolved that the World Council, deplore the announcement of the French Government that it will resume underground nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll and further that a nuclear non-proliferation treaty will only be signed after completion of the tests. We call upon the French Government to negotiate and sign the comprehensive Test Ban Treaty without delay and make a commitment that nuclear testing in the Pacific will not take place in the interim or ever again.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Recommendation*

### **Energy / Environment: Women**

The global environment crisis is an inevitable outcome of economic structures which threatens humankind resulting in both women and nature being seen as exploitable resources. The relationship between nature and human beings should be harmonious, balanced and equal. In political and economic struggle social equality and ecological sustainability should be linked goals.

The rights of women to define their own development must be recognised and therefore efforts must continue for their integration into decision-making at all levels. The right of ecological viability must be added to development thinking.

We recommend the World YWCA develop a policy framework to guide national associations in the development of alternative strategies and programmes which includes solutions on the environmental problem from a women's perspective.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Recommendation*

### **Energy / Environment: Protection**

With environmental destruction becoming a global issue, the international community is strengthening measures to protect the environment and moving to impose global restraints. In accordance with the recognition that preserving nature is the only way for humanity to survive,

The YWCA World Council recommends that the World YWCA and national associations;

- campaign for a reduction of the number and size of vehicles, and for the installation of auto exhaust controls, which will curtail a major source of pollution in our ecological system;
- lead a consumers' movement to curb the use of polluting materials and to cut back on excess consumption;
- participate actively in local environmental evaluation work and initiate civil movements to counter policies and local development programmes that destroy life;
- recognise the importance of recycling and reduction of waste, will support concrete programmes for this, and will use recycled goods and those designed with the environment mark.

**2007, World Council, Nairobi, Kenya**

*Recommendation*

### **Energy / Environment: Women Leading Role**

#### **Promotion of the leading role of women and girls in caring for the environment**

Women around the world ensure food production and water supplies. At the same time, global warming and the destruction of our environment is a fact. Women will be the first persons affected by these problems and changing circumstances. It will lead to more poverty, lack of education, lack of access to health services, etc. Women, making up over half of the world's population, can have a strong impact and play a leading role in saving the environment and changing communities to do so.

Recognising that in the proposed Strategic Framework 2008-2012, care for the environment is mentioned as one of the guiding values, it is recommend that:

the World YWCA adds an objective in the "Advocacy and Services" section of its "Programme Focus" 2008-2012, namely: 'To promote a leading role of women and girls in caring for the environment, in respect of and responsibility to future generations.'

**2007, World Council, Nairobi, Kenya**

*Recommendation*

### **Energy / Environment: Nuclear**

#### **Dangers of Depleted Uranium**

1. "Depleted Uranium (DU), which is a kind of nuclear waste and contains radioactive substances, causes damages to genes and ill effects on foetuses, babies and children.
2. "The number of miscarriages, still births and congenital disorders among women exposed to radiation is much larger than among those who are not exposed.
3. "There are high risks of leukaemia, thyroid disorders and cancer among women and children exposed to radiation.
4. "The radioactive damage of DU violates justice, peace, human dignity, freedom and sustainable environment for all people, especially women and children."

Whereas Depleted Uranium (DU) radiation results in the violation of the reproductive health and rights of women and damage to the health of children, it is recommended that:

the World YWCA and its member associations commit to raise awareness of the threat of DU weapons and take action towards abolition of DU bombs in order to protect the rights of women and children.

**2011, World Council, Zurich, Switzerland**

*Statement*

### **Energy / Environment: Women and Girls' Right to a Nuclear Free World**

Since March 12, 2011 the right to health, the right to environmental sustainability, and reproductive health rights of Japanese people, in particular in Fukushima, are being violated by the level 7 accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant and resulting consequences. YWCA of Japan strongly

recommends that the global YWCA movement raise awareness on the pervasive threat to the health and lives of women and girls that nuclear power plants pose around the world. Further, the YWCA of Japan recommends that YWCAs take action to advocate for the deactivation and elimination of nuclear power plants, which pose a threat to the human rights of women and girls.

We have witnessed the results of Fukushima's nuclear plant accident and conceive that radioactive substances constantly threaten women, young women and girls as long as nuclear power plants exist. There are more than 531 power plants worldwide and yet not one effective solution exists to stop nuclear pollution caused by accidents. Women and girls face violations of their reproductive health and rights such as gene damage, cancer and birth defects.

Mere activation of nuclear power plants engenders a system of economic injustice against women, young women and girls through systematic discrimination against labourers and people living in rural and remote areas. Remote areas are most often chosen by the government and energy industry to locate nuclear power stations and to store nuclear waste.

Nuclear power plant accidents produce thousands of refugees and contribute to increased risk of violence against women and girls. Further, nuclear power plant waste, in the form, of plutonium can easily be converted to nuclear weapons.

Young women and girls exposed to radiation face discrimination and violation of their reproductive health rights because they are marginalised due to beliefs that they are infertile or contagious.

Realising that a nuclear free world is vital to the fulfilment of women, young women and girls' human rights, the YWCA of Japan recommends that a call for an end to nuclear plants is part of the World YWCA vision to 2035. The YWCA of Japan further recommends that YWCAs gather evidence on the impact of nuclear plants and educate the public about risks. The YWCA of Japan recommends that YWCAs lead change by advocating for alternative energy sources and technologies.

### **The World YWCA movement resolves to:**

- Network with other grassroots women in communities to lead change for a safer and more sustainable world
- Pressure national governments to change energy policies to reflect the realities of women, young women and girls
- Ensure women's involvement in national and international decision-making processes, including UN Conferences on peace
- Provide education to those not directly affected as part of public education to remove stigma and discrimination against survivors.

### **1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

#### *Resolution*

## **Health: AIDS**

Whereas the incidence of AIDS is an increasing health problem throughout the world; Whereas ignorance as to, and lack of awareness of its causes and the ways by which the disease is transmitted and contracted could be a deterrent to the prevention of its spread; Whereas there is widespread rejection and isolation of those who have been affected;

Be it resolved that: The World YWCA Council urge national YWCAs to establish programmes providing preventive health education on the subject of AIDS.

**1991, World Council, Stavanger, Norway**

*Resolution*

**Health: HIV and AIDS**

Whereas, recalling the AIDS resolution passed at the World Council in Phoenix in 1987;

Whereas, the incidence of HIV /AIDS has become one of the most devastating health problems throughout the world, thereby impacting on the lives of women and their families;

Whereas, there still remains a great need to inform and educate women and their families as to the prevention and transmission of this disease;

Whereas, there exists a need to provide support and assistance to women and their families who are victims of this disease;

Be it resolved that the World YWCA Council strongly encourage the World YWCA to continue its efforts to develop programmes and strategies for helping national associations become actively involved in providing the education and information needed on HIV /AIDS

Be it further resolved that assistance be provided to help national associations develop support systems necessary for the women and their families who become victims of HIV/ AIDS.

**2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

*Resolution*

**Health: Sexual Reproduction**

Whereas perpetrators of terrorism and war are targeting women and girls and their bodies, using acts of violence, rape, and sexual humiliation as a primary form of combat, and

Whereas actions that violate the rights of women and girls regarding their reproductive health and sexuality, including genital mutilation, are still widely practised, and

Whereas the short and long term economic and social impacts of these acts are devastating to both women and girls, and their communities, and

Whereas women and girls are suffering physical, emotional, spiritual, psychological, cultural and economic distress because they do not have access to quality education, discussion and counselling that empowers women and girls to safeguard their reproductive rights and sexuality, and

Whereas young women around the world have strongly expressed a shared concern about the lack of access to quality information, discussion and counselling for girls and women regarding reproductive health and sexuality, and

Whereas women and girls must be empowered to make informed choices regarding their reproductive health and sexuality;

Therefore be it resolved that:

The World YWCA promote and work towards the provision of extensive access to quality education, resources, information, discussion and counselling for women and girls regarding their reproductive health rights and sexuality.

Be it further resolved that:

- This education, discussion, resources, information and counselling address:
  - Care of reproductive health, including prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and other health threats,
  - Rights of girls and women to make choices and have control over their own bodies,
  - Rights of girls and women to value their sexuality,
  - Accurate information about the physical act of sex,
  - The emotional and psychological aspects of sexuality,
- Healing for girls and women whose reproductive rights and sexuality have been violated.

**2007, World Council, Nairobi, Kenya**

*Call to Action*

## Health: Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS

**Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS - The Nairobi 2007 Call to Action**

Declaration and suggested strategies for implementation made at the World YWCA international women's summit, July 2007

We affirm the human rights of women and girls and recognise that the realisation of these rights is critical to an effective response to the global AIDS pandemic and the future of our world. We commit to lead change in our communities to transform the lives of women and girls everywhere, especially those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. We believe that women's leadership is essential in changing the course of this pandemic.

The Nairobi 2007 Call to Action builds on the commitments made by others before us and key strategies identified by members of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. Central to these are promoting the leadership of women and girls, securing their human rights, ensuring women's equitable representation in decision making and expanding resources for women.

By taking leadership into our hands and uniting in strength as a movement of women, we can lead the change we wish to see in the world. We unite in solidarity regardless of HIV status, age, creed, race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or ethnicity. We do this because we care about ourselves, our families and our communities.

We commit to create and sustain change for women and girls, particularly those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. We will achieve change individually through our thoughts, words and actions, and collectively with our families, friends, colleagues, faith groups and communities as part of the global women's movement.

We seek to create change in ten key areas for action that are based on existing knowledge and evidence about the life experiences of women and girls around our world, particularly those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

The ten critical actions for change are:

1. Developing the leadership of women and girls to respond to HIV and AIDS, overcome stigma and discrimination and offer solidarity and support to all women and girls and particularly those infected and affected by HIV
2. Ensuring the meaningful involvement of women infected and affected by HIV in relevant decision making, respecting their right to self-determination and enabling their participation in the development of AIDS strategies, programming and decision making bodies
3. Promoting gender equality and the human rights of women and girls including laws that protect these rights, education of those who must uphold them and services that enable women to claim our rights
4. Working to ensure the physical, sexual and psychological safety and security of women and girls in all aspects of their lives
5. Promoting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women and girls, including healthy and safe practices that minimise the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and expansion of female initiated HIV prevention methods
6. Ensuring education, economic security and access to resources for women and girls including the right to own and inherit property
7. Expanding access to services for women infected and affected by HIV, including safe voluntary testing, care, treatment and support as well as expanded services for wider voluntary community testing
8. Preventing new HIV infections among young women and children by protecting their human rights and revising existing AIDS strategies to respond to the reality of their lives
9. Advocating for increased resources to support the capacity of women to lead change on HIV and AIDS and recognising the valuable assets that women and girls bring to the response
10. Promoting the participation, empowerment and leadership of women at all levels of society including equitable representation of women at the highest levels of national political, executive, legislative and judicial structures around the world

### **Women's leadership on HIV and AIDS**

Our leadership can change our world. We commit to advance these ten critical actions to create change in the lives of women and girls around the world and particularly those infected or affected by HIV and AIDS. We pledge to turn these words into action. (World YWCA International Women's Summit: Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS Nairobi, July 7, 2007)

### **1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

#### **Statement**

### **Human Rights: Discrimination against Racial and Ethnic Groups**

The World YWCA in its constitution recognises the equal value in God's sight of all human beings, without distinction of race, nationality, class or religion, and seeks to promote understanding and cooperation between people of different nations, races and groups.

As a Christian movement committed to act in the love and compassion of Jesus Christ we deplore all forms of suppression of racial and ethnic groups. Sustained by the Holy Spirit, we are impelled to join with those who are struggling to establish human rights for all everywhere.

Discrimination against racial and ethnic groups shows itself in different forms in different places. No country escapes. It is a universal manifestation of man's inhumanity to man, leaving its heavy

mark on both victim and offender. In some places prejudice is so well hidden that few are aware of it. In others it is a fire that sears the life of the whole community leaving scars which are a constant reminder of tragic encounter. Prejudice may be revealed in the subtleties of personal reaction, or it may be woven into the complex pattern of an entire society. Powerful economic structures in many nations are built upon discriminatory practices of infinite variety, some a part of history, some the results of self-interest, but all tainting the relationships between man and man. Vested interests make use of discrimination in their struggle to maintain their economic and social position. False values placed upon status, pitting one group against another, create distrust and insecurity. All these present serious threats to the development of international institutions and to peace.

The Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have quickened the minds of many and heightened their awareness of the evils they have seemingly condoned both by their acts and by their failure to act. The oppressed, long held in a bondage of spirit and weighed down by a sense of futility, have released a mighty surge of effort to find their long-denied just place and to achieve human dignity. Certain individuals and groups resist with hostility and situations deteriorate, often to the point of open violence

The YWCA must take its stand against all wrongs which tend to deny the unity which God would create within the richness of human diversity. A sense of justice and depth of compassion for all those who suffer from tensions and conflicts in either public or private life, must move us from any position of apathy to action based on a full recognition of our shared responsibility. As we come to know and respect each other as persons, and together seek justice for all, the power to remove barriers is increased. Each must identify with all and seek together new concepts of community. The task is far from simple. The courage required to face reality cannot be measured.

We call upon all national associations

- To work to eliminate all discriminatory practices in their own associations, and in their communities and countries;
- To give their support to attempts to ensure equal civil and political, social and economic, religious and cultural rights for all racial and ethnic groups; to stimulate and assist public authorities to guarantee human rights; and to help support as effectively as possible those who are suffering from racial conflict;
- To reach for a deeper understanding of the task of reconciliation in the field of racial and ethnic tensions; -To seek ways of changing attitudes and to stimulate people to study and to constructive action;
- To remember consistently in prayer:
  - those who suffer from discrimination and racial conflict;
  - leaders of state and society in the countries where racial and ethnic tensions exists;
  - those who are unaware of these tensions and those who perpetuate them;
  - those within our membership who are involved in attempts to ensure civil, political, so cial, economic, religious, and cultural rights for all;
  - those who work for the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of just policies and practices in all areas of life.

By God's grace we will all be strengthened in moments of despair, supported in moments of hope, united in our common efforts

**1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**  
*Resolution*

## Human Rights: Racism

In the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination we reaffirm the World YWCA Statement of Policy on discrimination against Racial and Ethnic Groups, adopted by the World YWCA Council Meeting in Melbourne in 1967, and realise the need for more vigorous action to implement the principles embodied in it and in the UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We share the alarm expressed by the United Nations in the “manifestations of racial discrimination still in evidence in some areas of the world, some of which are imposed by certain Governments by means of legislative, administrative or other measures, in the form, inter alia, of apartheid, segregation and separation, as well as by the promotion and dissemination of doctrines of racial superiority and expansionism in certain areas.” (UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination).

We are aware that we are both the oppressor and the oppressed, the offender and the victim. This reaffirmation and realisation calls for action for change.

We know the power of women to effect change and urge the use of this power to combat racism. We recognise situations when the most effective action is direct action that demonstrates our convictions or protests.

We call upon national associations:

- to examine themselves to find the extent to which racism and racial discrimination exists within the association;
- to face the reality of the situation in their own country, and outside; this calls for work not only in problem-solving in matters of racial discrimination but for combatting racism in its institutionalised form that underlies and causes the problems in the first place;
- to take action by any means to combat racism and racial discrimination.

We recommend among the means and methods that could effect change:

1. Support of efforts to eliminate discrimination, especially in the field of civil and human rights, access to citizenship, law and justice, education, employment, housing and access to cultural activities.
2. Conscious and deliberate use of our resources in selective buying and other economic measures in support of those whose policies assure equal opportunity and are clearly non-discriminatory.
3. Alertness to evidence of racism in mass media and the effective use of mass media in education against racism.
4. Increased responsibility for working in national settings to affect foreign policies and trade policies, including sales of arms, as these may be used to combat racism.
5. Continued effort to overcome the miseducation about the contribution of all peoples in world history.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement/ Call*

**Human Rights: Racism**

The World YWCA calls on all national associations to continue to concern themselves with issues which violate Human Rights and especially those rights relating to land, employment and educational opportunities.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement / Urge*

**Human Rights: Discrimination**

While reaffirming the Statement of Policy adopted at the World YWCA Council Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, 1967 on Discrimination against Racial and Ethnic Groups; and in Ghana, 1971 on Racism and Racial Discrimination;

The World YWCA Council urges national associations to concentrate their efforts in the next four-year period on:

the identification and the elimination of all legalised forms of discrimination based on colour, race, religion and language;

the implementation of anti-discrimination laws which have been passed but are not yet effective.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement / Call*

**Human Rights: Racism**

Recalling the 1971 World YWCA Resolution on Racism and Racial Discrimination adopted in Ghana and the World YWCA Statement of Policy on Discrimination against Racial and Ethnic Groups adopted in Australia in 1967;

Recalling the numerous UN resolutions urging the use of economic weapons against governments which deny human rights to citizens on the basis of race;

Recognising that inhuman racist policies continue in some countries constituting gross violation of human rights and an outrage against human dignity;

Taking into account the World YWCA Council's 1971 call on "YWCA's working in national settings to affect foreign policies and trade policies" to bring about change;

Recognising that such measures can be effective only if nations cooperate in applying them:

The World YWCA Council therefore

calls upon national associations to urge their governments to apply the strongest economic measures against nations which as a matter of national policy flagrantly violate, on the basis of race, the economic, political and social rights of a large segment of their population.

**1975, World YWCA Council, Vancouver, Canada**  
*Statement / Call*

### Human Rights: the Child

Aware of the increasing threats to the physical and psychological security of children in many countries today, as expressed in the maltreatment and violence towards children by parents, by other family members, and by members of the community,

Aware also of the danger of child labour and other exploitation of children, by the educational system, by mass media, by commercial interests, especially those of drug dealers,

Recognising and fully subscribing to the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child,

Realising the importance that individual nations make covenants with the United Nations toward implementation of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child,

The World YWCA Council calls on

- the World YWCA to collect information and ideas for national implementation of programmes for the protection of Children's Rights, and make available these resources to national associations;

all national associations

- to study this situation in their respective countries and, if necessary, take appropriate action toward protecting the Rights of Children;
- to provide programmes for parents and the community at large in order that we may sensitize ourselves, as parents, and as members of the human community, to the responsibilities of protecting the Rights of Children;
- to make available information on the procedures for reacting to maltreatment of children and other situations in which their rights are violated.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**  
*Statement / Call*

### Human Rights: Privacy

Aware that the right to privacy is constantly being violated everywhere, the World YWCA Council calls on the World YWCA and all national associations to give careful attention to, and work towards the elimination of:

- unrestricted scientific experimentation including some biological and medical discoveries which may be a threat to physical and intellectual integrity;
- unrestricted use of chemical and/or non-nutritious substances in the growth and preparation of food;
- unrestricted promotion of such foods;
- unrestricted arbitrary interference in one's privacy through mass media, wire-taps, microphones, tape-recorders, micro-films and the collation and storing of information so obtained for use by unspecified persons or groups.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement / Call*

**Human Rights: Torture**

The World YWCA Council calls on the World YWCA and all national associations

- to promote public alertness about the use of torture and its implications;
- to give active support to efforts for the abolition of torture in any form and under any circumstances;
- to work for judicial systems which allow access to legal defence and free choice of legal assistance at all times; and the prohibition of detention without fair trial;
- to work for the adoption and application of national and international instruments that implicitly or explicitly prohibit the practice of torture.

**1983, World Council, Singapore**

*Statement / Call*

**Human Rights: South Africa**

The South African Government's policy of Separate Development (Apartheid) has resulted in the forced removal of Blacks from the so-called "black spots" (urban areas) to the Bantustans.

These people have been pushed outside the benefits of common society to resettlement camps-waterless wastes with no prospects for life and livelihood. There are no schools, no health facilities and no employment opportunities. The situation has been aggravated by a severe drought which has affected mostly women and children.

To date over 3 million people have been forcibly moved and about 2 million are due to be uprooted.

Furthermore the new Constitution Bill of the Republic of South Africa perpetuates the domination of white minority rule and is a threat to Development and Peace. The Bill gives limited power to people of mixed descent ("coloureds") and Indians but excludes indigenous Africans who make up 80 percent of the population of South Africa.

Therefore, reaffirming the Statement of Policy adopted at the World YWCA Council meeting in Melbourne, Australia, in 1967 on Discrimination against Racial and Ethnic Groups, in Ghana in 1971 on Racism and Racial Discrimination and in Canada in 1975 on Discrimination and the many recommendations emanating from them;

The World YWCA Council meeting in Singapore,

Calls on

- National associations to be aware of and work towards preventing the passage of, and the elimination of existing laws which discriminate against people on the basis of colour, race, religion or language;

Urges

- the World YWCA Executive Committee and staff to continue to bring to the attention of national associations the oppressive implications of the forced removals by disseminating information on the situation in South Africa;
- national associations whose governments have diplomatic links with South Africa to make representations to them that they should bring pressure to bear on the South African Government for the

repeal of the Group Areas Act 1950 and against the passage of the Republic of South Africa Bill 1983;

- the World YWCA to continue to give moral and material support to the YWCA of South Africa in its struggle for peace.

### **1983, World Council, Singapore**

#### *Resolution*

### **Human Rights: Social Justice**

Whereas human rights violations have become more flagrant and widespread in recent years and deeply affect women and children in both developing and in developed countries and

Whereas we recognise the many sources of power for women and the inherent collective power of women working in YWCAs around the world, therefore

Be it resolved that the World YWCA Council, meeting in Singapore in 1983,

Urges

- each national association to choose at least one priority from among four basic areas of human rights work (viz. racism, political oppression, sexism or economic injustice) to become their focus of concern for programme development and action for social justice;
- the World YWCA, as an expression of international solidarity, to develop with national associations a system for receiving and disseminating information on specific human rights violations and issues, as well as mechanisms to enable the World YWCA and national associations to respond with timely action.

### **1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

#### *Resolution*

### **Human Rights: Southern Africa**

Recognising the explosive situation in Southern Africa as caused by the apartheid regime, and wishing to highlight the plight of Front Line States, namely, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola,

the 1987 World YWCA Council meeting in Phoenix, Arizona resolves to:

- Draw the attention of national associations and call for their solidarity with the peoples of South Africa and Namibia;
- Urge all YWCAs to continue to press their governments for implementation of mandatory economic sanctions and other forms of pressure on the South Africa government as the only peaceful means towards eradication of apartheid;
- Encourage that Southern African associations compile information to be distributed to all YWCAs, educating them on the inter-relationship of security, political and economic issues facing the peoples of Southern Africa;
- Call upon YWCAs in all regions to:
  - help in creating awareness among their members and communities on the aggressive activities of South Africa and their destabilising effects on the human and economic resources of the Front Line States;
  - encourage their governments and private companies to disinvest in South Africa and invest in the Front Line States to strengthen the economies of these states;

- Urge YWCAs whose governments are withdrawing bilateral aid from some Front Lines States (because of their role in supporting the liberation struggle) to pressure their governments to stop this move;
- Lobby support for utilisation of Frontline States Airlinks instead of South African Airlines and South Africa Airport facilities; and for South-South endeavours to lessen dependency on South Africa by promoting sub-regional and regional cooperation, such as Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) and Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA);
- Reject the government of South Africa's attempt to polarise the black communities through the creation of vigilante groups (black on black violence) which terrorise political activists, in particular young people. We further urge that this kind of violence be put into perspective as another act of aggression on progressive forces in South Africa;
- Call for the World YWCA and other YWCAs to share their experience on peace education to help resocialise particularly children and youth in South Africa and Namibia who are growing up in a violent environment.

Recognising that South Africa is already in a state of turmoil, such that there is a need to prepare now for the post-apartheid era;

Believing that education is vital to the struggle for liberation, this World Council supports the actions of the South Africa Council of World Affiliated YWCA in developing its education programme to make aware, politicise and mobilise women, so that they can play a major role in the transformation of the economic, social and political systems to sense the needs of all who are presently oppressed and exploited.

Be it resolved that:

- The World YWCA, in conjunction with associations in areas of conflict, develop material to be used by all national associations to educate their members and the community about apartheid, and to promote action against it;
- The World YWCA continue to pressure the South African government over the detention of women and children through the South African National Council of Child and Family Welfare, the World Council of Social Workers and national organisations of social workers, and offer all possible support to the South African Council of World Affiliated YWCA in its work against such detentions;
- The World YWCA and national associations protest against escalation of military expansion in South Africa and urge that greater priority be given to education, health, housing for those in need in South Africa.

### **1991, World Council, Stavanger, Norway**

#### *Resolution*

### **Human rights: Child Prostitution**

Whereas, recognising the relationship between tourism and the growth of child prostitution in developing countries;

Be it resolved that the World Council meeting in Stavanger, Norway, urge national associations to work towards the end of child prostitution through:

- arousing public opinion on the nature and consequences of tourism-related paedophile activities;
- supporting initiatives to recognise the rights of children; and
- undertaking whatever political and social activities are necessary to reduce the abuse of children.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

**Human Rights: in YWCA Work**

Whereas, everyone is entitled to all rights, freedoms, and protections set forth in various international declarations, including the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination Of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex and gender, religions or political beliefs, culture or language, age, disability, sexual orientation, class or caste, or national or social origin;

Be it resolved, that the World YWCA Council assembled in Seoul, Korea in July 1995, affirm that all forms of human rights are indivisible and interdependent, and shall be embodied in all areas of YWCA work.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

**Human Rights: Indigenous Peoples**

Recalling the resolution to the World YWCA Council in Phoenix, Arizona in 1987 that:

- the World YWCA as an organisation with a Christian purpose, has a responsibility to work with indigenous women in redressing the unjust situation in which they find themselves;
- Recognising that indigenous peoples are still oppressed;

Be it resolved that the World YWCA:

- call on the UN, other international authorities, national governments and non-governmental organisations to acknowledge the unique status of indigenous people;
- support the calls by indigenous peoples for sovereignty and self-determination;
- work to redress the injustices against indigenous peoples, especially in regard to their land, their languages and their economic and political situations.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

**Human Rights: Indigenous Peoples**

**Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Recalling the resolution to the World YWCA Council in 1987 that the World YWCA as an organisation with a Christian purpose has a responsibility to work with indigenous women in redressing the unjust situation in which they find themselves;

Recognising the undertaking of UN member states to “adopt and strengthen appropriate policies and/or legal instruments that will protect indigenous intellectual and cultural property and the right to preserve customary and administrative systems and practices” (UNCED Agenda 21- 26.4b).

Endorsing the Mataatua Declaration on the Cultural and Intellectual Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Be it resolved that the World YWCA:

that right must be recognised as the exclusive owners of their cultural and intellectual property;

Acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples have a commonality of experience relating to the exploitation of their cultural and intellectual property;

Affirm that the knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples of the world is of benefit to all humanity;

Recognise that Indigenous Peoples are capable of managing their traditional knowledge themselves, but are willing to offer it to all humanity provided their fundamental rights to define and control this knowledge are protected by the international community;

Insist that the first beneficiaries of indigenous knowledge (cultural and intellectual property rights) must be the direct indigenous descendants of such knowledge;

Declare that all forms of discrimination and exploitation of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous knowledge and indigenous cultural and intellectual property rights must cease.”

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Resolution*

### Human Rights: Child Labour

Whereas, millions of children under the age of 15 worldwide spend most of the time while they are awake working,

Whereas, many of them labour under extremely harsh conditions, injuring them mentally and physically,

Whereas, this prevents them from getting an education for a better future,

Whereas, their families are dependent on their income,

Whereas, we recognise our common responsibility for securing the welfare of children.

Be it resolved, that we call upon the World YWCA and all national associations to actively support measures for the education of children and for creating income generating possibilities for their families to be assured of a stable financial situation, through YWCA's own programmes and by urging their national authorities to develop these possibilities for the inhabitants of their countries,

and be it further resolved, that the World YWCA support an international campaign against child labour and work to ensure implementation of the Convention of The Right of the Child.

**2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**  
*Resolution*

### Human Rights: Education for Young Women

Whereas the Strategic Plan adopted at World Council 1999 seeks to impact the outcome of local, national and international policies through participation and effective advocacy work, and

Whereas the young women of the European YWCAs, recalling the UN Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), share a strong belief in the importance of the distribution of human rights information gained from meetings and from associations' experiences, and

Whereas human rights education, training and public information are essential for the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among communities and for fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace, and

Whereas the World YWCA has a unique opportunity to implement and improve the education of young women on human rights issues throughout the world,

Be it resolved that:

The World YWCA promote education of human rights issues and focus on the full development of women's humanity, dignity and enhancing respect for women's human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Be it further resolved that:

All YWCAs include education and training on human rights.

### **2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

#### *Resolution*

### **Human Rights: North Korea**

Whereas several international organisations have recognised the plight of North Korean women and children following the actions of the 59th United Nations Committee on Human Rights (UNCHR) to improve the human rights of the people of North Korea, and

Whereas the World Council meeting in Cairo recognised the great suffering of the North Korean people, and

Whereas we reiterate our appeal and seek to draw the attention of all women to support our demand for peace and justice for North Korean women and children, who continue to suffer due to lack of food and health care,

Therefore be it resolved that:

The World YWCA will seek to raise awareness throughout the world of the human rights of North Korean women and children, including their right to food and health care and will promote their human rights at related international organisations and national associations.

The World YWCA will advocate for the granting of refugee status by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the displaced women and children of North Korea.

**2003, World Council, Brisbane Australia**

*Resolution*

**Human Rights: Discrimination**

**Religious Discrimination Against South Asian Women and Girls**

Whereas women and girls in most countries, especially in the South Asian subcontinent, are discriminated against on the basis of their religion, caste, race and culture and are at great risk due to emerging trends in violence against women and girls, both social and domestic, and

Whereas there are gender based conflicts and atrocities against women and girls belonging to minority communities resulting out of political promotion of policies and laws that are anti- women, and

Whereas women and girls are increasingly becoming marginalised, discriminated against and denied their fundamental right to practise their faith and religion,

Therefore be it resolved that:

the World YWCA advocate for

- the identification and the elimination of discrimination based on caste.
- to promote the fundamental right of religious freedom.

**2007 World Council Nairobi, Kenya**

*Resolution*

**Human Rights: CEDAW**

**CEDAW and Its Optional Protocol**

Whereas the World YWCA focuses on women leaders to promote justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment;

And whereas the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, is an international bill of rights for all women that provides the basis for achieving equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life – including the right to vote and to stand for election – as well as education, health and employment;

And whereas CEDAW is the only human rights treaty which affirms the reproductive rights of women and targets culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations;

And whereas the countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice and to submit national reports, at least once every four years on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations;

And whereas monitoring implementation of the convention by YWCAs in the countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention is to assist women's human rights and to assist other groups to assess the status of women and determine the extent of Convention implementation;

And whereas in those countries where CEDAW has been acceded to or ratified, YWCAs can assist

the government in preparing the periodic reports to the UN CEDAW Committee, required by article 18 of the Convention by commenting on or criticising the official report or preparing an independent alternative or “shadow” report;

And whereas an Optional Protocol adopted in the year 2000 provides, in countries which have both ratified CEDAW and the Protocol, a communications procedure that allows individual women, or groups of women, to submit to the Committee claims of violations of rights protected under the Convention and creates an inquiry procedure enabling the Committee to minute inquiries into situations of grave or systematic violations of women’s rights.”

Be it resolved that:

- the World YWCA affirms its support of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol.
- the World YWCA urges member associations to lobby for ratification of this international treaty in those countries where it is not ratified and to press for adherence to the principles of the treaty in those countries where ratification has taken place but its principles are not carried out.
- the World YWCA further calls on YWCAs to take part in monitoring implementation of CEDAW in their countries and in preparation of periodic reports including NGO alternative or shadow reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (UN CEDAW Committee).

## 2011 World Council Zurich, Switzerland

### *Resolution*

## Human Rights: Climate Justice

### **Women Creating a Safe World through Climate Justice**

Climate change is a women’s rights issue. Women, young women and girls disproportionately experience the effects of climate change. Drought, flooding, uncertain rainfall and deforestation make it increasingly difficult for women, young women and girls to secure water, food and energy for heating and cooking. The additional time and money dedicated to securing food and water often translates into reduced access to education, training and community leadership for women, young women and girls. In communities impacted by extreme weather, women, young women and girls experience increased vulnerability to violence and HIV. Gender equality, economic justice, women’s access to public and community leadership, and women’s safety and security are all negatively impacted by climate change. Climate change is an issue critical to the achievement of the World YWCA vision and purpose.

Climate justice advocates equitable sharing of the benefits and burdens of climate change and incorporates a women’s rights approach. Climate justice approaches recognise the right to development implicit in the MDGs and demand that those most affected be genuine partners in all efforts to address climate change. Women and young women leaders, in particular women from the global South, are vastly under-represented in national and global decision-making on climate change. The YWCA has a key role to play. Women’s leadership is needed to effectively link climate justice efforts with achievement of the MDGs, and to ensure transparency, accountability and participation of civil society.

The YWCA has always considered access to education, health, dignity and economic security the right of women, young women and girls. The eight Millennium Development Goals touch every aspect

of the YWCA's work. Climate justice is inextricably linked with achievement of the MDGs as climate change threatens rights to health, food, water, decent work, and sometimes life itself. Climate justice also touches every aspect of the YWCA's work.

It is time for the YWCA to integrate advocacy for climate justice into all aspects of our work, aiming to make the world a better place now and for the future through environmental sustainability.

### **Resolution:**

We call on the global YWCA movement, led by the World YWCA, to:

- Participate in the global climate justice movement by integrating advocacy and action on climate justice, and its link to achievement of the MDGs, in all aspects of YWCA work including:
  - Adopting the principles of climate justice
  - Using an international human rights framework
  - Supporting effective and meaningful participation of communities affected by climate change
- Work with partners and networks to pressure governments and global decision-makers to make all necessary commitments to achieve climate justice
- Highlight the importance of the protection and promotion of women's rights and women's and young women's leadership for the achievement of both climate justice and the MDG.

### **2011 World Council Zurich, Switzerland**

#### ***Resolution***

## **Human Rights: North Korea Women and Children**

### **Calling for Peace: Strengthening North Korean Women and Children's Human Rights**

Women and girls in North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea; DPRK for official) are living under political and military tension that denies their human rights. As in many countries experiencing conflict or post conflict, in North Korea women and girls are experiencing high rates of poverty, hunger and food insecurity, violence, and lack of access to medical treatment and supplies. In addition, North Korean refugees face exploitation, torture, and lack of access to education in retaliation for attempting to escape to a free country. It is critical that timely and accurate information about the situation of women and girls in North Korea is shared with the international community.

The situation in North Korea, and in many countries experiencing conflict or post conflict, violates the agreements in MDG 1 on the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, MDG 2 on universal primary education and MDG 3 on gender equality and women's empowerment, UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as well as CEDAW Article 3 which guarantees basic human rights and fundamental freedoms for women. It is critical to integrate community perspective and human rights approach into the peace agenda, investing in women and girls so that they have access to basic services and safe spaces where they can work together to demand their human rights.

We call on YWCAs around the world to demand an end to human rights violations in North Korea and to take the following actions:

1. Work together to promote women's human rights, including implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889, and to influence policies that would ensure safety and security for all women and girls
2. Advocate for increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making in times of peace, conflict and post conflict

3. Support and mobilise women, young women and girls to advocate for peace
4. Raise awareness about the situation of women and girls in North Korea and North Korean refugees, and call for immediate action by the international community
5. Support North Korean refugees throughout the Diaspora
6. Lobby for and participate in humanitarian aid to North Korean women and girls
7. Organise, through the Peace with Justice Task Force, a witness visit to the Korean peninsula DMZ

## 2011 World Council Zurich, Switzerland Resolution

### Human Rights: Participation and Freedom of Movement

#### Women's Human Rights to Participation and Freedom of Movement

The 27th World Council of the World YWCA is saddened that some YWCA Member Associations are unable to participate due to visa restrictions which affected mostly young women from Africa.

The World Council affirms the commitment of the World YWCA and the YWCA-YMCA Switzerland staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to support visa applications. The World Council further records that laws that structurally discriminate against women and young women with the strict requirements for proof of income or proof of family ties are unacceptable.

Therefore, the World Council resolves that:

1. The World YWCA movement strongly considers for various global events the ease of travel and entry in countries when considering the location for various global events so that women from its Member Associations do not experience related human rights violations and are not prevented from full participation in the process of shared, transformative, intergenerational YWCA leadership.
2. The individual Member Associations take greater responsibility for preparing their delegates and ensuring timely and correct submission of visa applications for any regional or global event hosted by the World YWCA.
3. The World YWCA integrates the human right to freedom of movement into its ongoing work on women's human rights.
4. With recognition that there are numerous governments around the world with visa restrictions that are structurally discriminatory, the World YWCA submits a formal letter to the Swiss government on the issue, calling for reform of the visa requirement that discriminates especially against financially challenged women and young women, and limits their right to freedom of movement and full participation.
5. The World YWCA expresses its deepest appreciation to the YWCA-YMCA of Switzerland and the World YWCA for the extra-ordinary efforts to support the Member Associations and individual women in this difficult visa application process.

The YWCA movement remains fully committed to the principles of non-discrimination and equality, ensuring that all women enjoy their full human rights including the rights to participation and freedom of movement.

**2015 World Council Bangkok, Thailand**

*Resolution*

**Human Rights: Non Discrimination and Inclusion**

**Non-Discrimination**

This resolution brings together previous resolutions, racial and ethnic groups (1967) Human Rights and Racism (1975). Health: HIV and Aids (1991) Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples (1994) Discrimination (2003) CEDAW (2007). It explicitly includes a gender equality resolution. Spoke about the elimination of discriminatory attitudes, laws and practices and to work with all women in our communities

Whereas the pages of history have shown us, minority women, including: women living with disabilities, women living with HIV, women from racial and ethnic and religious groups, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender and queer (LBTQ) women, all continue to suffer discrimination and are at higher risk of experiencing human rights violations. Around the world minority groups such as the Dalit women in India, LBTQ women in Russia and Uganda, indigenous women in rural Rwanda and Costa Rica and many more are denied their basic human rights;

And whereas we know that some young women face greater marginalisation and exclusion. Sexual orientation and gender identities, race, ethnicity and HIV status are too frequently causes of discrimination and prejudice. Young women migrants and those living in rural and remote communities, with disabilities or literacy difficulties, all tend to experience deeper levels of marginalisation and discrimination;

And whereas we must promote inclusive societies and reach the most vulnerable if we are to achieve sustainable human development;

Be it resolved that the World YWCA and its Member Associations work to eliminate all discrimination, including but not limited to that based on race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, status, age, class, caste, nationality, (dis)ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression, condition of servitude, and against Indigenous peoples including practices, attitudes, policies and laws in their communities and counties. This work must include solidarity with and support for all women, young women and girls; lobbying and advocacy for the full realization of all human rights; and a rights-based approach to mobilizing and engaging communities.

**1920, World's Committee, Champery, Switzerland**

*Statement*

**Peace: World**

The World's YWCA, including as it does women of all nations, shall give itself to the development of public opinion on international questions such as shall strengthen all those forces which are working for the avoidance of war and the promotion of peace and better understanding among the nations.

**1924, World's Committee, Washington, USA**

*Statement*

**Peace: Internationalism**

In order to carry out our aim to create a true spirit of internationalism, we pledge ourselves, as members of the World's Committee of the YWCA, to work steadily for the removal of barriers between nations, races and creeds by studying carefully, on the ground of reliable information only, the conditions of social, economic, racial and national life; to use all the resources we have, alike as citizens and as members of the Association, for influencing public opinion; and to promote these endeavours among the members of our national associations.

1938, World's Council, Muskoka, Canada

*Statement*

### Peace: Education

We recognise that our very existence as a World Christian Movement is an evidence of the unity of Christ, which transcends all barriers of race and nation. This lays upon us an inescapable responsibility to work for the creation of an international order which may more nearly exemplify the fundamental basis of the World Christian Community, the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Our belief in the supremacy of God--sovereign above all human claims of sovereignty--is challenged by the anarchy among the nations.

Both our Christian conviction and our membership in the Church Universal impel us to build for peace.

It is our Christian fellowship which has enabled us throughout our history to maintain and deepen a sense of underlying unity alike in times of peace and of war.

### The General World Community

We are -as citizens- continually challenged to work for the realisation of the World Community. We deny that war can ever be the means of furthering this end, and we believe, as Christians and as world citizens, in the use of all possible methods of international consultation and conciliation, in order to avoid international conflict. We believe that this involves some world organisation to which sovereign nations will be content to delegate sufficient authority to provide for the peaceful adjudication of disputes and a progressive amelioration of inequalities.

Since it is one of the aims of the World's Young Women's Christian Association "to promote Christian principles of conduct," we would express our sense of the guilt that lies on all nations whose actions in the past have led, or in the present are leading, to war. We challenge national associations to face the guilt of their nations, or their nations, insofar as they foment or sustain war, more particularly for reasons of financial gain.

### Long Range Education and Planning for Peace

No international crisis must be allowed to deflect us from the continuous education of our members through the practice of international fellowship and the study of international problems, especially the causes and cure of war. Many years of such education are needed to counteract the wrong education of centuries. Such education must express itself in action, and, as an Association committed to the principle of a World Christian Community, we shall work with those who are trying to remove the economic, political and racial barriers to peace.

### The Present Crisis

The World's Council believes that the member associations would wish the Executive Committee to be free to express an opinion in critical situations whether in peace or war, wherever, in its judgment, the integrity of our Christian fellowship demands it.

In deciding to express such opinion, we should consider:

Whether we have in our possession accurate and impartial information.

Whether we have done everything possible to consult the member associations involved.

Such opinions should be voiced wherever possible in cooperation with other Christian bodies. In times of international strife the World's Young Women's Christian Association should seek every means of assuring associations in the areas of conflict that they are, and will remain, part of our fellowship and should give all possible assistance to the associations in the solution of their particular problems. This might involve the sending of a special representative of the World's Association to the countries concerned.

We cannot over-emphasise the deep underlying value of sustaining each other through prayer and intercession.

### **1955, World Council, London, England**

#### **Statement**

#### **Peace: Policy**

Peace is given by God's forgiveness and reconciliation. Because Christians know the power of that peace given through their Lord Jesus Christ, it is in obedience to Him that they love their fellow-men and must struggle for peace and international relationships.

As a world Christian movement uniting YWCAs in all continents, we accept the commitment to work for peace and for the realisation of a just world order.

There can be no peace in the world unless the nations are willing to respect their basic principles of international law. As long as they fail to accept a common foundation of moral values for international conduct as superseding the will of individual nations, there will be no basis for universal security.

We support all international efforts to settle dispute by peaceful means and to put into effect progressive disarmament, including the establishment of reliable measures for the elimination and prohibition of weapons of mass destruction under adequate inspection and control.

Because the discovery of the use of atomic energy has brought to the world both fear and hope, and because its development can bring incalculable destruction and benefits, it demands serious study.

We consider that the pooling of all resources in atomic energy is a condition essential for the benefit of all and that it is a measure which will contribute to the development of a partner-relationship between the nations of the world. We have welcomed the first Conference on the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy and we support all efforts of the United Nations "to promote energetically the use of atomic energy to the end that it will serve the peaceful pursuits of mankind!"

World order and a climate of peace cannot be established without the growing desire to develop an international public conscience as sensitive to the existence of world disorder as to that of national disorder.

YWCAs with other groups of people within the nations must accept their responsibility to support and stimulate governments in their efforts to promote peace, especially through the United Nations.

Peace is not only the absence of war. Fear, want or lack of freedom for the individual or the nation, are all threats to peace.

We will therefore continue our work towards removing these threats by taking an ever-growing share

in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, of the respect of the right of peoples and nations to self-determination, of better standards of living for all, and of a freer flow of goods, persons and ideas.

Ignorance is a factor causing suspicion and mistrust between peoples. Education for day-to-day living as well as for international understanding is indispensable for achieving conditions which will contribute to peace.

We will help in the creation of these conditions by supporting the right to education for all, by developing constructive attitudes between individuals, by the continuous education of our members, the deepening of international fellowship and the study of problems affecting the life of people in other countries, especially in places of tension.

Peace is not only a question of material life and death, but includes deeper issues for which there are in this world no ready answers. Whatever policy decision is taken by governments in regard to international tensions, there remains the agonising personal decision for the individual. Many of our members have been or may be involved in personal decision, and bear in a special way the suffering of our time.

We cannot over-emphasise the deep underlying value of sustaining each other through prayer and intercession. It is God's will we are seeking and if we are faithful, we may come to know in ourselves and release for others God's healing power of peace and reconciliation.

The hope of the world lies in Jesus Christ. "For this end we toil and strive because we have our hopes set on the living God who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those who believe." (I Tim. 4:10).

### **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

*Statement / Urge*

### **Peace: Nuclear Tests**

The World Young Women's Christian Association Council, meeting in Cuernavaca, 1959,

Reaffirming the Statement on World Peace adopted by the Council in 1955 and the resolution of the Executive Committee of May 1957 which called upon national associations for its implementation,

Keenly aware that the discovery of atomic energy offers dynamic new possibilities for the amelioration of human suffering and the attainment of human hopes.

Supporting therefore the continued development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, under the best possible safeguards against the dangers involved, so that the resources given by God may be made available for the well-being of mankind,

Deeply concerned however by the continuing threat of destruction to the world by atomic and hydrogen weapons,

Notes with anxiety the differing opinions of scientists about the possible genetic effects of the increasingly high levels of radiation in the atmosphere;

Urges national associations to become informed about the problem of fall-out and to support continued research into the possible effects so that reliable information may be available;

Urges national associations to bring to bear whatever pressures they can on their Governments in the direction of concluding enforceable permanent agreements on the suspension of nuclear tests by any nation anywhere in the world.

**1963, World Council, Nyborg Strand, Denmark**  
*Statement / Urge*

### Peace: United Nations

In view of the YWCA's long record of support of the United Nations, we should like to express our gratitude for its achievements and its continuing efforts for peace, and also to express our concern for the problems surrounding it today, arising from its own limitations and from threats to its very existence.

These include:

- conflicting conceptions of the international rule of law and of respect for human rights,
- lack of universality of membership,
- inadequate financial support.

We therefore urge our national associations to assist their membership to become informed on these issues. To this end we urge the development and strengthening of the appropriate Committees in the YWCA,

### The United Nations Development Decade

Recalling the 1959 World YWCA Statement of Policy on Technical Assistance and Aid to Economic and Social Development, the World YWCA Council meeting in Denmark, 1963, records its full support of the United Nations Development Decade.

The World YWCA Council urges national associations:

- To create opportunities for basic economic education for their members so that they will understand the need for this world-wide programme of development
- To make every effort to cooperate with the overall plans for the Development Decade of their Governments, to see that these plans include possibilities for the active participation of women and youth, as well as provision for the welfare, and to relate their programme to this end.
- To be alert to the beneficial effects that economic and social development will have on the life of young people and on the advancement of women, and to be ready to take social action to protect human values which may be threatened by such development.

**1963, World Council, Nyborg Strand, Denmark**  
*Statement*

### Peace: Criteria for

(The paragraph in italics indicate the amendments adopted in 1963 to the 1955 text of the World YWCA Peace Statement, repeated here in full.)

Peace is given by God's forgiveness and reconciliation. Because Christians know the power of that peace given through their Lord Jesus Christ, it is in obedience to Him that they love their fellow-men and must struggle for peace and international relationships.

As a world Christian movement uniting YWCAs in all continents, we accept the commitment to work for peace and for the realisation of a just world order.

There can be no peace in the world unless the nations are willing to respect basic principles of international law. As long as they fail to accept a common foundation of moral values for international conduct as superseding the will of individual nations, there will be no basis for universal security.

We support all international efforts to settle dispute by peaceful means and to put into effect progressive disarmament, including the establishment of reliable measures for the elimination and prohibition of weapons of mass destruction under adequate inspection and control.

*Discoveries and new developments in the use of nuclear energy bring to the world both fear and hope, and hold potentialities of incalculable destruction and benefit.*

*We consider that international cooperation, especially under the United Nations, in the pooling of resources for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and efforts in nuclear research and in the control of radiation, is essential for the survival of mankind.*

*The penetration of outer space offers revolutionary possibilities which raise awe and appreciation, as well as high hopes for humanity.*

*We support all efforts of the United Nations to establish principles for international cooperation under international law in order that the free exploration and uses of outer space and celestial bodies and atomic energy serve peaceful purposes only.*

World order and a climate of peace cannot be established without the growing desire to develop an international public conscience as sensitive to the existence of world disorder as to that of national disorder.

YWCAs with other groups of people within the nations must accept their responsibility to support and stimulate governments in their efforts to promote peace, especially through the United Nations.

Peace is not only the absence of war. Fear, want or lack of freedom for the individual or the nation, are all threats to peace.

We will therefore continue our work towards removing these threats by taking an ever-growing share in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, of the respect of the right of peoples and nations to self-determination, of better standards of living for all, and of a freer flow of goods, persons and ideas.

Ignorance is a factor causing suspicion and mistrust between peoples. Education for day-to-day living as well as for international understanding is indispensable for achieving conditions which will contribute to peace.

We will help in the creation of these conditions by supporting the right to education for all, by developing constructive attitudes between individuals, by the continuous education of our members, the deepening of international fellowship and the study of problems affecting the life of people in other countries, especially in places of tension.

Peace is not only a question of material life and death, but includes deeper issues for which there are in this world no ready answers. Whatever policy decision is taken by governments in regard to international tensions, there remains the agonising personal decision for the individual. Many of our members have been or may be involved in personal decision, and bear in a special way the suffering of our time.

We cannot over-emphasise the deep underlying value of sustaining each other through prayer and intercession. It is God's will we are seeking and if we are faithful, we may come to know in ourselves and release for others God's healing power of peace and reconciliation.

The hope of the world lies in Jesus Christ. "For this end we toil and strive because we have our hopes set on the living God who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those who believe." (I Tim. 4:10).

### **1963, World Council, Nyborg Stand, Denmark**

#### *Statement*

### **Peace: Nuclear**

(Resolution adopted in principle by the World Council meeting and worded in this final form by the Executive Committee in October 1963, at the request of the World Council.)

Recalling the World YWCA Statement on World Peace, and the 1959 Council resolution on the use of atomic energy and the suspension of nuclear tests,

We as a world movement are grateful for the patient and continuing efforts for peace by men and women of good will of different nations and faiths, and for the negotiations taking place on disarmament, the cessation of nuclear tests and the signing of the 1963 treaty. We are, however, conscious that these are only steps and that many causes of war still remain.

#### *Therefore*

We pledge ourselves, and urge national associations, to re-examine the conditions necessary for peace, and to study the effects of new discoveries in the uses of nuclear energy and of outer space.

We commit ourselves to work for the lessening of international tensions, and for the creation of a climate of mutual trust between nations and peoples, believing that these are essential conditions for general disarmament and world peace.

#### *Taking a Stand*

Resolutions and statements issued by the World YWCA on burning issues have proved of great support in guiding associations in taking stands at the national level.

The World YWCA is not in a position to take action quickly on a particular issue before the General Assembly of the United Nations, nor can the World YWCA support the action of a particular government.

According to Article 71 of the UN Charter, the World YWCA could apply for and has been granted Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council and its sub-bodies. This provides for intervention and expression of opinion on questions under consideration by these bodies, related to economic and social matters and human rights.

As non-governmental organisations do not have the privilege of expressing views before the General Assembly, the World YWCA therefore relies on its national associations for voicing an opinion based on agreed basic principles on some pressing issues at the level of their governments, in order that those governments may be informed of the concerns of the YWCA on measures under consideration by the General Assembly.

The World YWCA has been and must remain non-political and as a policy it does not support explicitly motions presented by any particular government or governments. It may however support the spirit and content of resolutions in line with its basic principles.

In time of international crisis, the World YWCA will remind national associations of positions taken by the World movement, relevant to the situation.

### **1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

#### *Recommendation*

#### **Peace: Reduction of Warfare**

The building of the world community makes demands on every available positive force. However, at this time, the instruments of organised international cooperation and of those for the maintenance of international security are still imperfect. Nations continue to resort to war as a means to assert their claims, defend their interests, promote their ideologies and exert power. War is a form of anarchy within the world. Its demonic force dehumanises man and is an offense against God.

With this conviction, the World YWCA has steadily supported intergovernmental action to establish a rule of international law and order as well as international conventions aiming at reducing armaments and preventing the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Reaffirming the 1955 policy statement on World Peace,  
Recalling the 1959 Council resolution on atomic energy and the suspension of nuclear tests and the 1963 Executive Committee resolution on the conditions necessary for disarmament and peace,  
Deeply concerned by the slow progress in disarmament and the present armed conflicts,  
Convinced that certain steps should be taken immediately,

The World YWCA Council, meeting in Melbourne, 1967

- calls on member associations to urge their government to press for negotiations to end the armed conflicts and to create conditions for the permanent settlement of disputes and the safeguarding of peace,
- feels compelled to protest against the use of indiscriminate bombing and chemical warfare, such as napalm, in armed conflicts,
- pleads that any use of armed forces be severely limited and escalation prevented,
- asks member associations to express their concern to their respective governments and to urge them to honour the regulations laid down in the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the other conventions on the protection of the victims of war, as part of customary international law,

- supports the initiative of the International Committee of the Red Cross in urging governments to seek agreement on more comprehensive instruments aimed at mitigating the suffering of the victims of war by prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and of more recently developed weapons which produce new horrors of human suffering.

*Furthermore, the World YWCA*

- strongly believes that continuous efforts must be made to achieve social and economic development,
- urges member associations to intensify their efforts to strengthen the United Nations and its peace-making efforts, its disarmament negotiations, including the control and reduction of nuclear and similar weapons, and the promotion of social, economic and humanitarian programmes so that the conditions for peace may be achieved.

*It is further recommended that:*

the World YWCA and its national associations give increased attention to the question of disarmament, including the question of military aid both in giving and receiving countries, recognising that a decrease in the availability of armaments in areas of tensions might make it easier for governments involved to use negotiations instead of force.

### **1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**

#### *Resolution*

### **Peace: Human Suffering**

In 1967 the World YWCA Council accepted an expression of special concern for human suffering caused by unresolved hostilities in the Middle East and indicated a desire to work towards removing situations that caused tensions.

We now reiterate that statement and call on national associations to intensify their efforts to urge their governments to act through the United Nations to bring peace and justice to this area.

The 1971 Council is also aware that there are many other areas of tension and conflict which cause human suffering in the world today, and we call on National Associations to urge their governments to act through the United Nations to resolve all these tensions and conflicts and to relieve human suffering in all such situations.

### **1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**

#### *Resolutions*

### **Peace: Nuclear Tests**

Deeply concerned by the continuation of nuclear testing by major world powers despite repeated protests from various governments and organisations, we, the members of the World YWCA Council Meeting in Ghana, 1971, reaffirm the 1959 World YWCA Council Resolution on the Use of Atomic Energy and the Suspension of Nuclear Tests.

In addition, we urge national associations to continue to express to their respective governments their support of the suspension of nuclear tests and their immediate concern about the persistent nuclear testing in the Pacific Area.

We further urge that the World YWCA again bring to the attention of the appropriate organs in the United Nations the continuing and increasing concern of the World YWCA Council for the suspension of nuclear tests by any nation anywhere in the world.

**1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**

*Recommendation*

**Peace: Disarmament**

The Council reaffirms the World Council's previous statements on World Peace (1955, 1963), on the Use of Atomic Energy and the Suspension of Nuclear Tests (1959), and on Peace and the Progressive Reduction of Warfare (1967). In the context of the YWCA's continuing concern for peace, the Council recommends that the World YWCA should:

- Urge national associations to work for the acceptance by their governments of the principles laid down in the above statements for national as well as international policy;
- Urge national associations to take seriously the task of educating members to understand the complex, interdependent network of arms producing and arms selling systems which influence national decisions related to disarmament;
- Urge national associations to support a reordering of national budget priorities so that a greater share of the world's resources may be used for human development (rather than for the means of destruction);
- Urge the World YWCA and national associations to promote and support United Nations' efforts toward disarmament and actions called for in the declaration of the 1970s as the Disarmament Decade.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement*

**Peace: Middle East**

The explosive situation in the Middle East is increasing in gravity as every day goes by. It is the most serious threat to world peace facing us today and has gone beyond the control of the region. It affects not only the people who live there but people throughout the world. At the heart of this explosive situation is the question of Palestine which has become a major concern on the agenda of the United Nations. It is a question of a people uprooted from their homeland, living under occupation, living in camps and scattered throughout the world. The United Nations has recognised that the problem of Palestinian refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights as a people under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The implementation of these rights is crucial to the establishment of a lasting peace.

As if the complexity and the degree of suffering were not enough, the situation in this area of the world has been further aggravated by the Cyprus crisis. Turkish troops occupy 40% of the territory of the island and this has led to about 20,000 Greek Cypriot refugees living in camps or in other distressing conditions, while waiting for the day when they will be able to return to their homes and lands. The conflict has also led to the displacement (voluntary and involuntary) of numerous Turkish Cypriots.

As with the Palestinian refugees, the longer people are forced to live in these conditions, the more bitterness inevitably increases, and the greater becomes the difficulty of finding any solution. Despite the mounting number of United Nations Resolutions, no progress has been made.

Both these situations are an affront to the value of human rights and represent a major threat to the peace and security of the whole world community.

We urge national associations to make the widest possible use of this Statement,

- with their own members, encouraging them to become informed on the issues from the wide variety of materials now available,
- with their governments, especially those governmental powers most closely identified with the issues, and
- with any other organisations at any level--national or international --which shares this concern and which may by its influence contribute to a just solution.

### **1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

#### *Statement*

### **Peace: Radioactive Fallout**

*Concerned* over the bitterness left with victims of weapons testing and atomic warfare, and seeking to play the reconciling role of the Christian in the world,

*Concerned* over the plight of all sufferers from radio-active fallout and the violation of human rights in exposing people to radio-active fallout,

The World YWCA Council

- calls the attention of the international community--the United Nations, its specialised agencies, and other non-governmental organisations to the necessity of urging the governments responsible to make provision for:
- adequate information and medical care, and improved related health facilities for the victims of radio-active fallout in several Pacific Islands and in other affected areas; --adequate financial compensation for the effects of radiation on persons and food supplies;
- the international monitoring of nuclear activities and the study of radio-active contamination of food and other substances in the affected areas.

### **1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

#### *Resolution*

### **Peace: Armaments**

The World YWCA Council Meeting reaffirms the Recommendations of the Ghana World Council that national associations should:

- take seriously the task of educating members to understand the complex interdependent network of arms producing and arms selling systems which influence national decisions related to disarmament,
- support a reordering of national budget priorities so that a greater share of the world's resources may be used for human development rather than for the means of destruction, and

*resolves* that where possible all national YWCAs actively participate at the political level in implementing the above statement,

- that the World YWCA give strong support and backing to all national associations by providing them with all relevant information and by means of its international relationships.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement / Call*

### Peace: Zones and Demilitarisation

*Recognising* that two prerequisites for world peace are general and complete disarmament, and self-determination, the World YWCA Council

- supports all efforts for the creation of zones of peace, as indicated by the United Nations, in various areas of the world as a step towards world disarmament,
- supports efforts to hasten the process of decolonisation and self-determination of peoples,
- opposes the violation of human rights manifested by the acquisition of territory for military bases and nuclear test sites,
- calls upon national associations to inform themselves on these issues and to urge their governments to work for the implementation of UN resolutions and existing treaties which would accelerate demilitarisation, economic and political decolonisation.

**1983, World Council, Singapore**

*Resolution*

### Peace: Middle East

In 1975 the World YWCA Council meeting adopted a statement on Middle East tensions.

This statement read in part:

The explosive situation in the Middle East is increasing in gravity as every day goes by. It is the most serious threat to world peace facing us today and has gone beyond the control of the region. It affects not only the people who live there but people throughout the world. At the heart of this explosive situation is the question of Palestine which has become a major concern on the agenda of the United Nations. It is a question of a people uprooted from their homeland, living under occupation, living in camps and scattered throughout the world. The United Nations has recognised that the problem of Palestinian refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights as a people under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The implementation of these rights is crucial to the establishment of a lasting peace...

“[We recognise that] the longer a people are forced to live in these conditions, the more bitterness inevitably increases, and the greater becomes the difficulty of finding any solution. Despite the mounting number of United Nations Resolutions, no progress has been made.

“We urge national associations to make the widest possible use of this statement.”

Since 1975 the crisis in the Middle East has become more critical. Not only has there been no solution to the fate of the Palestinian refugees and to the whole question of Palestine, but the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and the continued presence there of all occupying foreign forces has brought great loss of life and has displaced half a million Lebanese citizens.

Action by the YWCA World Movement in support of the resolve of the Lebanese people to retain their national sovereignty is vital and urgent.

Furthermore the continuous threat to the security of refugees in the camps and vulnerability of all refugees and displaced people also demand special action by the world movement.

Be it, therefore, resolved that the World YWCA Council meeting in Singapore urges the adoption of the following first steps to a just peace recognising that no solution can be found for one people at the expense of another:

- For the Lebanese people
  - the withdrawal of all occupying foreign forces from Lebanon
  - the assurance of the sovereignty of Lebanon.
- For the Palestinian people the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people
  - the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as their legitimate representative
  - a halt to the building of Israeli settlements in the West Bank
  - the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.
- For the Israeli people
  - the recognition of the State of Israel by the Arab states and the PLO
  - the recognition of the rights of the Israeli people.

For the peace of the world, and not only for the Middle East countries involved, we, as a women's world movement, urge all national associations to take whatever action may be possible in their situation and report their actions to each other through the World Executive Committee.

**1983, World Council, Singapore**  
*Statement / Urge*

### Peace: and Development

Recognising that the participants of the 1983 Pre-Council Youth Meeting on Peace and Development held in Singapore,

- acknowledged and supported the stand and progressive outlook of the World YWCA in relation to Peace and Development but believed this beginning must be built upon with support from all levels of the YWCA;
- believed peace and development were inhibited by things such as political repression and public apathy and that the YWCA, as a Christian movement, could not isolate itself from political issues when social action was required;
- believed armaments could only destroy the earth's resources, property and inhabitants; that millions of people were already dying out of need for those same resources; that some governments and multinational corporations had perpetuated the escalation of the arms race and economic exploitation.

Therefore the World YWCA Council, meeting in Singapore, resolves that the World YWCA urge its affiliated national associations:

- to continue to call attention the root causes of war, such as injustice, oppression, exploitation and other restrictions and infringements of human rights;
- to continue to educate their membership and communities about the unjust world economic order and initiate and support actions leading to a new international economic order to bring true development for all ;

- to promote and actively work towards the creation of nuclear-free zones (including the acceptance of the principle of peaceful uses of outer space) which would be the first step towards the establishment of a nuclear-free world;
- to encourage peace education in the Association and community as well as educational programmes on peace with justice, throughout the affiliated associations;
- to continue discussions about the Christian identity of the YWCA and to emphasise the importance of analysing the relationship of lifestyles to justice;
- to continue to encourage and give support to individual members actively working for peace.

### **1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Peace: Promotion of**

In reaffirming the 1975 and 1983 resolutions towards a peaceful and just world, the 1987 World YWCA Council meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, hereby resolves that:

- The World YWCA movement uphold and pursue its special mandate to raise women's voices for peace in the forums to which it has access at international, national and local levels, and through its own programmes to promote and work for development with justice;
- Wherever feasible national associations work to influence their own governments regarding the role of their government in perpetuating conflict both at home and abroad. And further that national associations share such information with other YWCAs as appropriate;

The World YWCA and national associations actively cooperate with religious organisations working for peace, such as the World Council of Churches.

Also that

- YWCAs reach out to other religious organisations and institutions to develop forums for the expression and promotion of peace issues and concerns.

Further, in recognising that stereotyping and the act of defining and categorising people into superior and inferior types, therefore reflecting a prejudicial attitude devoid of rational thinking and which consequently leads to the false justification of exploitation, violation of human rights and violence, we resolve that:

- YWCAs actively counteract stereotyping wherever it exists;
- We inform ourselves and raise our awareness in order to recognise stereotypes and the ways in which they are perpetuated;
- We protest against films, television, books and news releases which portray another people in a stereotypic manner;
- We encourage study groups, workshops and the preparation of literature and videotapes directed at breaking down stereotypes;
- We urge the World YWCA to intensify East-West dialogue through increasing contacts with women in the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries while continuing to intensify North/South and South/South dialogue.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Recommendation*

**Peace: Education**

Recognising that peace still eludes our planet, and mindful of the need for continued effort by all nations and communities to strive for a world where development with justice is an achievable and sustainable reality, the 1987 World YWCA Council, meeting at Phoenix, Arizona, firmly believes that education, advocacy and action for peace must remain a global and national priority for our movement.

Reaffirming the World YWCA initiative on peace education and its continuing strength, but concerned that the YWCA must increasingly be known by its acts, we therefore recommend that:

- This priority be renamed “Peace Action and Education”, to encourage fuller and more active participation in peace work, moving the YWCA into the front-line of the world peace effort.

*Realizing* that militarisation and aggressive marketing of armaments is a continuing and mounting threat to both national development and world peace, we recommend that:

- Forums for learning and discussion be developed and used at international, national and local YWCAs to make women and communities knowledgeable about: -- the cost of armaments vis-a-vis the economic and social benefits of peace; ~ issues concerning the Middle East and South Africa, and all other liberation movements, and the ulterior motives for arms sales.

Sharing in the mounting concern at the dangers posed by continued testing of nuclear and dumping of toxic wastes being carried out by powerful nations at the risk of other countries we recommend that:

- The movement globally and nationally continue to pressure governments to establish and maintain policies ensuring the peaceful use of the planet and of outer space.

*Recognising* the importance of peace education, we recommend that:

- The World YWCA develop a comprehensive handbook on Peace Education. This may include topics such as conflict resolution and management, peace exercises such as visioning and imagining techniques and the relevant information pertaining to the arms race and nuclear disarmament and liberation movements. This handbook should be available to all national associations.

We *recognise* that the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. We draw attention to the psychological damage of war toys and games. We therefore recommend that:

- The YWCA implement awareness-raising programmes regarding their manufacture, advertisement and sales and mandate for suitable legislation to ban their sale.

*Recognising* the need to integrate peace education with all other development programmes, we recommend that:

- Practical peace models be introduced in all development projects.
- To enable peace action and education to become a vital priority of the YWCA movement, we recommend that:
- A specific staff post be created to coordinate and implement all peace priority programmes.

Furthermore, we call upon the World YWCA to promote and organise further Middle East Encounters in support of peace and justice in order to build up awareness and understanding and contribute towards bringing healing and peace to this troubled area.

*Recognising* that the World YWCA has a special mandate to raise the women's voices for peace in every forum where policies are formulated, laws enacted and decisions made, the 1987 World YWCA Council, meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, resolves that:

- This voice for peace education and action be clearly raised by active advocacy and coordination with other national, regional and international organisations and NGOs working for nuclear disarmament and peace. Some of these organisations are:
  - The United Nations Conference on Development and Disarmament - Non-aligned Movement
  - South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation
  - Five Continent Peace Initiative
  - Beyond War Organisation Movement
  - International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War
  - Green Peace Movement
  - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
  - Christian Peace Conference
  - World Council of Churches.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Resolution*

**Peace: Central America**

1987 World YWCA Council meeting in Phoenix, Arizona resolves that:

- National associations put appropriate pressure on their governments and other relevant bodies to recognise, support and encourage the work of the Cantadora Group to bring about a regionally developed peace and development plan for Central America, particularly for Nicaragua;
- National associations put appropriate pressure on their governments to recognise that "third party actions" destabilize and increase suffering in the Central American region, consequently to support the withdrawal of all kinds of foreign aid to the Contras from Nicaragua and other such groups in the region.

**1987 World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Resolution*

**Peace: Areas of Conflict**

In order to continue and develop the YWCA's work with women in areas of conflict, be it resolved that:

- All such work be based in liaison with the appropriate national associations and the World YWCA;
- National and local associations take specific actions to increase their members' awareness of the causes and nature of particular conflicts;
- National and local associations adopt as a priority for themselves constructive involvement in the problems of women in areas of conflict.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Resolution*

**Peace: Middle East**

The 1987 World YWCA Council meeting in Phoenix, Arizona

Concerned about the continuing state of war, violence, military expansionism, occupation and violation of human rights in the Middle East; and

Concerned that this situation if unresolved poses a very serious threat to world peace;

*Reaffirms* the 1983 World YWCA Council resolution on the Middle East and renews its commitment to a just solution to this conflict.

It therefore resolves that:

- Local and national associations, in cooperation with other NGOs press their respective governments to intensify their efforts for peace with justice in the Middle East.
- Furthermore it urges governments to:
- Stop the world-wide arms race and the sale of arms to the area;
  - Promote the convening of the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East as called for by the United Nations and the World YWCA;
  - Work for a nuclear free Middle East;
  - Bring an end to the war in Lebanon and press for the withdrawal of Israeli and all other intervening armed forces from the country;
  - Press for the withdrawal of Israel from all territories occupied since 1967;
  - Support the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza.

Bearing in mind the Christian commitment of the YWCA to peace with justice and the right of all peoples to self-determination, freedom and dignity,

The 1987 World YWCA Council further urges:

- National associations to continue to educate their membership and their communities about the root causes of the conflict in the Middle East:
- The World YWCA to promote and organise further “Middle East Encounters” in support of peace and justice in order to build awareness and understanding contributing towards bringing healing and peace to this troubled area.

**1991, World Council, Stavanger, Norway**

*Resolution*

**Peace: Palestine**

Whereas, affirming the urgent need for peace and justice in the Middle East,

Whereas, recognising that the 24-year old Israeli occupation and the increasing violations of human rights and the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources are in contradiction to the Fourth Geneva Convention and International Law, and are an obstacle to peace,

Whereas, recalling past Council resolutions on the Middle East and the recognition of the YWCA of Palestine and its affiliation to the World movement at the 1991 World YWCA Council meeting in Stavanger, Norway,

Whereas, recognising the inalienable rights of the Palestinians to self-determination, to return and establish their own State on Palestinian soil in accordance with the UN Charter,

Therefore, be it *resolved* that all national associations, in cooperation with other NGOs, press their governments to mobilise an alliance to ensure implementation of all UN resolutions regarding the Palestine question, to put an end to the Israeli occupation and a halt to the illegal settlements in the occupied territories, in order to guarantee justice and peace for all peoples in the region.

### Peace: Lebanon

Be it resolved that the 1991 World Council held in Stavanger, reaffirms the 1983 resolution on the Middle East taken at Singapore which calls for the right of the Lebanese people to self-sovereignty and self-rule;

Be it further resolved that the Council opposes to have any regional conflict settled at the expense of Lebanon's national freedom and independence;

Be it further resolved that we call on the UN to implement all its resolutions taken with regard to all forms of aggression against Lebanon and to press for the withdrawal of all foreign forces; and

Be it further resolved that all national associations urge their governments to convene the peace conference on the Middle East. Any delay in the above measures shall delay the realisation of world peace.

#### **1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea** *Resolution*

### Peace: Reunification of Korea

Whereas, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of the national liberation of Korea and the Korean people are celebrating it with special meaning and significance and the South and North Korean churches have declared this year as the Year of Jubilee for Peace and Reunification.

Be it resolved that members of the World YWCA support the resumption of dialogue between North and South Korean Governments and support the effort of the Korean YWCA for the peaceful reunification through prayers and the mobilisation of opinion and

Be it further resolved that the World YWCA recognise and endorse the fundraising efforts of the Korean YWCA for the purpose of re-establishing the YWCA in North Korea.

#### **1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea** *Resolution*

### Peace: East Timor

Whereas, affirming the urgent need for peace and justice worldwide,

Whereas, recognising that the 20-year old Indonesian occupation and the horrendous systematic

violations of human rights in East Timor are in contradiction of the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and are an obstacle to international peace,

Whereas, recognising the inalienable rights of East Timorese people to self-determination,

Be it resolved, that all national associations, in cooperative partnership with other non-governmental organisations, mobilise to advocate for an immediate prohibition on arms sales to Indonesia, the immediate withdrawal of Indonesia from East Timor, and the participation of East Timorese leaders in the current UN-sponsored talks between the Indonesian and Portuguese governments.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**  
*Recommendation*

### Peace: East Timor

Recalling the resolution to World Council 1995 recognising the inalienable rights of the people of East Timor to self-determination;

Recognising that almost 24 years after Indonesia invaded East Timor, analysts estimate that up to 200,000 people have been killed, and

Recognising that this violence has escalated since Indonesia agreed to hold a ballot for East Timorese to determine their political future, and

Expressing grave concern that a free and fair election may not be possible due to the risk of violence, and

Condemning all human rights violations in East Timor, especially those against women,

The World YWCA recommends that:

The World YWCA and national associations write to the United Nations and the government of Indonesia urging:

- that Indonesia immediately disarm and control the pro-Indonesian militia;
- that the United Nations peacekeepers stay in East Timor before, during and after the elections until the lives of the East Timorese people are safe.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Resolution*

### Peace: Munitions Trade

The Council reaffirms the World Council's previous statements on World Peace (1955, 1963) on the Use of Atomic Energy and the Suspension of Nuclear Tests (1959), on Peace and Progressive Reduction of Warfare (1967), Peace and Disarmament (1971) and on the Use of Nuclear Energy (1975).

Be it *resolved*, that the World Council condemn the continuation of the trade in conventional

munitions and chemical weapons and that all national associations work with their governments to ensure change in government policies, practices and public opinion so that the munitions trade will be discontinued globally.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Recommendation*

**Peace: Disarmament**

Whereas the Council reaffirms the World Council's previous statements of World Peace (1955, 1963) on the Use of Atomic Energy and the Suspension of Nuclear Tests (1959), and on Peace and the Progressive Reduction of Warfare (1967), and Peace and Disarmament (1971), there appears to be no end to the military confrontations in almost every region of the world. It is impossible for nuclear weapons, to co-exist with humanity when a world of peace is ideally sought. Those nations which are continuing with nuclear testing (simulated and proposed) fail to listen to the voices of women.

Be it recommended that the World YWCA investigate an appeal to the International Court of Justice regarding illegality of nuclear weapons according to international law.

**2007, World Council. Nairobi, Kenya**

*Resolution*

**Peace: UNSC Resolution 1325**

**Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325**

Women, girls and children account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflicts around the world.

The vital role of women and girls in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building and the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need for increased roles in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, are upheld in United National Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000).

Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls particularly as they relate to state constitutions, electoral systems, police and judiciary are crucial. Women and girls, particularly in many African countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Angola, are struggling to cope with armed conflicts or post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction as well as lacking democratic systems."

It is resolved that:

- the World YWCA promotes the participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace processes in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
- that YWCAs are encouraged to provide civic education programmes for women and girls' involvement in peace building and reconciliation as well as the promotion of women's equitable participation in democracy and monitoring of electoral processes."

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

**Peace: Middle East**

Whereas, due to the extraordinary developments in the Middle East, the YWCA of the USA deems it important to bring forward to the World Council a resolution showing support for those willing to take risks for peace, and

Whereas the position adopted at the World YWCA Council meeting in Singapore 1983 and reaffirmed in the 1987 World Council Meeting supports a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Be it resolved, that the World YWCA and national associations encourage and support community programmes which permit all women, across the world, to learn about the concerns of the Middle East, to work together for peace and to better their lives of women in the Middle East.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Resolution*

**Peace: Middle East**

Whereas, the YWCA based on a resolution passed at World Council, Stavanger, Norway 1991, which called for peace in the Middle East, reiterates its support for all peace efforts based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the implementation of UN resolutions calling for the following:

- a) an end to military occupation of Lebanon, Syria and Palestine
- b) the preservation of the territorial integrity of Lebanon, Syria and Palestine
- c) the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to return to their land and to self-determination and sovereignty on their land
- d) an end to confiscation of land and illegal settlements.

Be it resolved, that all affiliated associations bring pressure on their governments to implement all United Nations resolutions pertaining to the Middle East and furthermore call for the immediate release of all political prisoners in Israeli jails.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**

*Resolution*

**Peace: Middle East**

Recognising that the front line Arab States have all suffered grievous losses, both human and economic, in their continued struggle against war and injustice, and in striving for peace in the Middle East, and

Further recognising that continuing military aggression is detrimental to the full development of people of all faiths in the area and is a threat to world peace; and

Reaffirming previous World YWCA Council Resolutions of 1967, 1975, 1983, 1987, 1991 and 1995 referring to the Middle East,

The World YWCA Council resolves that:

the World YWCA call for

6. the implementation of all United Nations resolutions on the Middle East especially those referring to the sovereignty of Palestine and aggression against Lebanon;
7. an immediate end to all aggression in the region;
8. an immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from all occupied countries in the region and the preservation of their territorial integrity;
9. an immediate end to confiscation and misuse of water resources by Israel;
10. an immediate end to the confiscation of land and the establishment of settlements on confiscated land;
11. the affirmation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians in Jerusalem;
12. the right of return of Palestinian refugees and Palestinians in exile;
13. the release of all Palestinian, Jordanian and Lebanese and all political prisoners in the region, men, women and children.

The World YWCA further calls on

All national associations and through them, civil society to continue to raise awareness regarding the violations of human rights in the region, support the peace efforts in the region and urge their respective governments and the United Nations to promote peace with justice.

## **2003, World Council, Brisbane, Australia**

### *Resolution*

### **Peace: Middle East**

Whereas the explosive situation in the Middle East is increasing in gravity as every day goes by and it is the most serious threat to world peace facing us today and has gone beyond the control of the region. It affects not only the people who live there but people throughout the world, and

Whereas the World YWCA reaffirms its commitment to peace in the Middle East and reaffirms the 1999 World Council Resolution.

Be it resolved that:

- The World YWCA calls for and will continue to actively advocate for:

14. An end to Israeli military aggression, and occupation of Palestine, Lebanon and Syria;
15. The immediate withdrawal of occupation forces from Iraq, and the recognition and restoration of the right of the Iraqi people to self-determination, sovereignty and territorial integrity;
16. A halt to the ongoing illegal actions of Israeli forces in the Palestinian territories in: erecting the separation wall, infringing on and appropriating water and land resources, and imposing restrictions on access and movement which threaten the civil liberties of the people;
17. Urgent measures to halt the forced settlement of Palestinian refugees in South Lebanon;
18. The immediate provision of international protection through UN Peace Keeping Forces, to defend the people of Palestine against the violations of their human and civil rights;
19. Implementation of all UN resolutions pertaining to the Middle East.

Be it further resolved that:

The World YWCA Council of 2003 further calls on its member national associations to:

- Educate their memberships about the root causes of the conflict in the Middle East;
- Endorse the “Free Palestine Campaign” initiated by the Palestinian YWCA/YMCA;
- Demonstrate its support to Peace in Palestine by celebrating 29 November, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinians, and hosting special events to promote Peace and Justice in Palestine.

**2007, World Council, Nairobi, Kenya**  
*Resolution*

### Peace: Middle East

War, escalating military aggression, intensified acts of violence and the continued Israeli occupation since 1948 of Palestine, Lebanon and the Golan Heights and its effects on the Israeli and Arab Peoples, are leading to further territorial fragmentation and displacement and are having detrimental effects on women and children. As a result, the physical survival of women, their basic rights and needs, and their mere existence with dignity and self-respect are greatly threatened. Women are becoming increasingly marginalised and poor: they continue to suffer all kinds of physical aggression, rape and murder by external military forces in the region, imprisonment, loss of jobs, or they are unable to access employment. Moreover, due to mobility restrictions and the continued imposition of military checkpoints, the number of women-headed households in this region will continue to grow. Children are left to suffer the psychological and traumatic effects as victims of terror.

Recognising that the escalating military aggression and intensified acts of violence in the Middle East are adversely affecting the Israeli and Arab Peoples, especially women and children,

be it *resolved* that:

- the World YWCA and all member associations support the empowerment of women in the Middle East region by contributing to the development of programmes that enhance the dignity and security of women, promote women’s human rights, as well as promise a sustainable future for children. the World YWCA and its member associations call for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325 that calls for the engagement and empowerment of women at all levels in decision making and conflict resolution.”

**1999, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Recommendation*

### Peace: Conflict in Iraq

Recognising that the people of Iraq have endured and suffered serious loss and deprivation as a result of nine years of economic sanctions and trade embargos imposed on their country since 1990, and are facing an alarming rise in mortality and morbidity and a serious decline in education and social services,

Affirming our commitment to negotiation, dialogue, and non-violent action as the means of resolving conflicts and disagreements,

The World Council recommends the condemnation of ongoing use of economic sanctions and trade embargos against Iraq.

- The condemnation of ongoing use of economic sanctions and trade embargoes against Iraq;
- The lifting of sanctions against Iraq.

2015, World Council, Bangkok, Thailand

*Call to Action*

## Peace: HR Standards and UNSCR 1325 Middle East

### **Taking Action on Instituting Human Rights Standards and Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Middle East Region**

The World YWCA's vision is of a fully inclusive world with justice, peace and human dignity. The World YWCA's 2016-2019 Strategic Framework prioritises YWCA Member Associations effectively influencing the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and implementing a campaign on peace and justice. The Envisioning 2035 Proposal recognises the importance of ending all wars and foreign aggressions and illegal occupations. The World YWCA human rights-based approach is grounded in the principles of participation, equality and non-discrimination and accountability, including the human rights of all women, young women and girls in the Middle East region. Whereas we, the largest global women's ecumenical movement in the world, having consultative status with the UN, re-affirm Envision 2035 which commits to achieving human rights and re-affirm the World YWCA's commitment to UNSCR 1325, which emphasises women's rights to protection, safety and leadership on sustainable peace building based on justice;

And whereas the external and escalating military aggression and expanding foreign occupation of the different countries in the Middle East of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria, continues to threaten world peace and produces growing numbers of refugees, war crimes, murders, confiscation and loss of lands, demolition of houses, loss of national identities, and forced displacements, which threaten the safety and security of millions of families, women, young women and girls in the Middle East;

We affirm the need to take responsibility to exercise our collective power as 25 million women in 120 countries to actively support women's right to resist and end all military occupation and the right of return for all refugees for, and our commitment to advocate for the adherence of international human rights laws and the right of women, young women and girls to live in dignity, and freedom from violence and aggression.

### **The World YWCA and its Member Associations have a responsibility to:**

- Pressure our respective governments to continue to work for ending the Israeli Occupation of Palestine as well as all the wars and conflicts in the Middle East with the objective of realising a just peace that will guarantee the right of return for all refugees in the region, including the UN Resolution 194;
- Ensure that the governments around the world who are receiving refugees from the Middle East are complying with human rights standards and ensuring safety, security and dignity of these refugees, especially women and girls;
- Demand that governments and the UN make violators of human rights accountable and end impunity;
- Support Member Associations in the Middle East to support the development of women's leadership so women can be engaged in peace building and creating partnerships in this respect, as well as programmes that ensure dignified livelihoods for the women refugees and other most

affected women;

- Implement the formation of the Global Task Force on Peace and Justice as part of realising human rights in the 2016-2019 Strategic Framework;

#### **Expected outcomes and results of the motion**

If adopted, this action statement will encourage global partnerships around peace and justice and the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and will engage and support women in the Middle East Region in bringing about peace with justice. This action calls on the World YWCA to advocate for peace and justice, and for instituting the Global Peace and Justice Task Force to promote peace and justice globally.

#### **2015, World Council, Bangkok, Thailand**

##### *Resolution*

### **Peace: Equal Denial of Nuclear Energy / Weapons**

435 nuclear power plants exist in our world and how many are being built right now? 65. How many nuclear power accidents have happened? 2000. The result is death of humans, water, plants, air, everything, and it lasts for generations. It takes 2,000 years for the effects to pass.

Women have twice as high of sensitivity to radiation as men and children 20 times as high, as identified by Dr. Helen Caldicott in the 1970s. Because it affects women in greater proportions, (directly through radiation and indirectly through accidents where families are affected), nuclear energy equals violence against women and the health and safety of women. This resolution is supported by previous and current the World YWCA priorities, the World Council of Churches 10th Assembly, and the UN Security Council Resolution on Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325). This is why we have made this resolution. Switch off and shut down. We need your support, and let us do this together.

Whereas nuclear power/ weapons are violent in their nature, firstly because of their harm to human health, especially women and children, who are more vulnerable to radiation exposure. In Fukushima, the number of children with thyroid cancer has significantly risen since 2011; even during normal operations, nuclear plants cause radioactive pollution;

And whereas nuclear power/ weapons affect all creatures and nature as a whole, which is against environmental justice;

And whereas nuclear power/weapons stem from a male-centred system, which prioritises economy while victimizing the remote and vulnerable. Even after the severe accident in Fukushima, nuclear power plants are still strongly promoted especially in East Asia, which has 92 operating reactors. The area also suffers from threats of nuclear weapons being developed by North Korea.

And whereas given all above, there is an urgent need for global advocacy against nuclear power/ weapons, and for ensuring more women in decision-making positions:

“The World YWCA, recognising that nuclear energy (excluding medical purposes) and nuclear weapons are inextricably linked in their nature as forms of violence against women, undermining rights to safety, health, dignity and freedom from violence of women, young women and girls, and should be both denied, resolves to: Advocate against the usage of nuclear weapons or energy (excluding medical purposes), work to create alternative, nuclear-free communities with increased roles for

women, in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which calls for women's leadership on sustainable peace".

**2019, World Council, Johannesburg, South Africa**

*Resolution*

**Peace: On the Solidarity for the Establishment of Permanent Peace Treaty on the Korean Peninsula**

Supporting the signing of the peace treaty on the Korean Peninsula and cooperate with relevant regional and global activities,

Working together to fundraise for the projects to promote the health of the mothers, infants, and children in North Korea and strengthen health care.

**1910, World's Conference, Berlin, Germany**

*Recommendation*

**Refugees and Migrants**

We would recommend to the national committee of those countries where the immigration problem is an important one, that they seek to develop a spirit of responsibility on the part of the native women of the land for their foreign sisters, and plan definite activities to meet their special needs.

**1912, World's Committee, Swanwick, England**

*Recommendation*

**Refugee / Migrants: Emigration Education**

The World's YWCA should:

Arrange systematically to bring before local associations the need of definite teaching on emigration, either through lectures or by letters in local newspapers, and of instruction for intending emigrants in the economic and social conditions of the countries to which they propose to go-

In view of the increasing number of girls who are yearly migrating to other countries, either to gain a livelihood or an education, the World's Executive Committee recommends:

- that the care of foreign girls in any country be considered a legitimate part of the work of the Young Women's Christian Association of the country to which they go, and that special efforts be made through the Young Women's Christian Association to reach them.

**1914, World's Conference, Stockholm, Sweden**

*Recommendation*

**Refugee / Migrants: Emigration / Immigration**

The Conference recommends that the World's Committee request national committees to apply the resolution accepted at the World's Committee in Swanwick in July 1912, and that in addition the World's Committee request each national association to appoint a special representative to study

the problems connected with Emigration and Immigration and to keep in touch with the Amies de la Jeune Fille and other societies doing the same kind of work.

**1920, World's Committee, Champery, Switzerland**

*Recommendation*

**Refugee / Migrant: Work Development**

Since the women and girls among the foreign residents of each country are an important field, in view of their special need for friendship and help of various kinds, and the opportunity which the Association has of bringing them into touch with the best life of the country to which they have come, the national committees should be urged to develop Association work among them.

We are agreed that it is the duty of the Association to regard emigration as offering a definite opportunity for Christian service, and therefore to see that all emigrants are given help and as much practical instruction as possible for the changed conditions to which they are going.

We therefore recommend:

- that since the urgent need for the development of a plan for international service among emigrants has been emphasised, the World's Committee should appoint a Standing Committee with a special secretary to take the initiative in this matter;
- that, since the information available has revealed the fact that almost every country is affected by the problem of immigration in some form, and we are of the opinion that every national committee should undertake a definite responsibility in connection with it, the World's Committee should represent to them the necessity for appointing a special committee and secretary to study it and take action;
- that the national associations should consider that their responsibility extends beyond their own members and should look upon it as their duty to see that all women and girl travellers in their country are safeguarded and helped as far as possible
- that when emergency conditions develop, such as congestion of ports or railway centres, the National Committee of the country directly concerned, after local enquiry and consultation, should report the facts immediately to the World's Committee with a view to help being secured from the other countries involved to meet the situation.

**1924, World's Committee, Washington, USA**

*Approve*

**Refugee / Migrant: Structure**

Approved: The constituting of the Migration work as an independent organisation (I.M.S.) and the appointment of a Provisional Committee to take the place of the Migration Standing Committee.

**1947, World's Council, Hangchow, China**

*Recommendation*

**Refugee / Migrant: Future Policy**

The magnitude and complexity of the problems presented by these unhappy people are slowly being realised, as is also the significance of the fact that what was at first thought of as a post-war emergency, to be met by a temporary relief service, has developed into a long term problem.

The World's YWCA and those national associations sharing in the joint YMCA-YWCA projects with Displaced Persons in Germany and Austria had not envisaged carrying on these projects for an indefinite period. While deeply appreciating the value of the service rendered during the past two years we have had to consider the practicability of continuing our share of the work beyond December 1947. In this connection, it has been pointed out to us:

- that this work is already in existence and that the particular contribution made by the YWCA to the recreative, educational and spiritual needs of the women has been of immense value;
- that in undertaking this work, the Association has been brought into contact with women of many nationalities who may later take part in YWCA work in the countries where they finally settle.

Apart from these practical considerations we feel that as an international women's movement, we have a moral obligation to try to continue this work for a further period.

We therefore recommend to the Executive Committee and to the national associations which are now supporting workers for service with the YMCA-YWCA teams in Austria and Germany that the project be continued for a further period of a year as from January 1948, when the situation should be reviewed by the Executive Committee. We hope that agreements similar to those formerly made with UNRRA may be negotiated with the new International Refugee Organisations and that some financial help may be available from this source.

In countries able to receive immigrants, we suggest that national associations use every possible means to urge that their governments open their doors to Displaced Persons, recognising the grave need for follow-up work with Displaced Persons who go to new countries.

We would ask the Executive Committee to consider what can be done for Displaced Persons who go to countries where there is no YWCA work.

We further suggest that national and local associations offer their services to governments and other appropriate bodies on behalf of girls and women admitted as immigrants.

### **1951, World's Council, Beirut, Lebanon**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Refugee / Migrant: The Role in War Situations**

The World's YWCA recognises that its continuing task in the international field is to work constructively for peace and better understanding among the nations. But its task includes also readiness to meet special situations of need arising in any part of the world from international conflicts and their consequences, primarily when these situations affect women, girls and children. This work may involve service to prisoners of war internees, refugees or any other group in need through the above causes.

The World's YWCA associates itself with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and with the humanitarian principles which they aim to maintain, recognising, however, that its work may be needed for groups of people not protected by these or other international conventions.

The World's YWCA must maintain its independent and impartial character, meeting needs without respect of nationality, race, creed or political convictions.

While accepting the principles of reciprocity, in the sense of readiness to offer help to all parties in a conflict, the World's YWCA cannot allow the refusal of help from any party to a conflict to limit its activities in regard to others involved.

In this task, the World's YWCA seeks to cooperate with other agencies, primarily with the World's Al-

liance of YMCAs and with other Christian bodies of all confessions. It is ready to work with humanitarian organisations and with governmental and intergovernmental bodies, subject to the safeguarding of its principles and scope as a world Christian movement.

## Responsibilities of the World's YWCA in Situations of Emergency Need and with Regard to Refugees, Migration and Resettlement Problems

In the unsettled state of the present-day world, work with victims of international conflicts can no longer be considered to be a field of work assumed merely as a temporary task, outside of the regular programme and budget provisions of an international Christian women's organisation. The response to such situations must be seen as an integral part of our work and programme.

It is recommended that priorities for assuming specific responsibilities be judged according to the following considerations:

- Whether there is a situation calling for action by the World's YWCA as an international Christian women's movement. This means, primarily, a situation in which political, economic and other circumstances make action by a national movement impossible or inadvisable.

N.B. Situations in which national movements are faced, within their own communities, with tasks of such magnitude or complexity that they exceed their capacity to cope with them, do not fall within this category. Where help must and can be given in such situations, this will be done within the Mutual Service programme.

- Whether there is a situation offering opportunities for the type of service in which the World's YWCA has a Christian concern or special experience.
- Whether there is a situation in which the World's YWCA can strengthen the work of a national association by direct support, by bringing a world perspective to bear on the emergency, by opening up international relationships.

N.B. Careful attention should be given to the need to integrate YMCA-YWCA groups of Displaced Persons and Refugees with national associations in the countries of their permanent settlement. When such integration is completed, the direct responsibility of the World's Association for these groups would cease. It is recognised that the process of integration raises many difficult problems because, both in their composition and programme, the YMCA-YWCA groups are basically different from the established movements in the countries where they have grown up. Because of the difficulty and variety of these problems, the lines of procedure will have to be worked out in each situation according to need.

- That every possibility be explored of making the experience gained in this field of work fruitful, both for the preparation of the refugees for a new life in the lands to which they go and in the preparation of the population of these countries for the absorption of new citizens. The YWCA has a unique opportunity of being a bridge of continuity between the old and the new worlds of the migrant, and should seek to make it possible for refugees to bring into their new surroundings the richest contribution of their national culture, thus helping to prevent the emergence of a minority mentality.

**1955, World Council, London, England**

*Recommendation*

### **Refugee / Migrant: Emergency Services**

We recommend that the World YWCA call on all national associations for a basic acceptance of responsibility in regard to emergency service. Recognising the challenge of this work as a Christian witness in situations of urgent need, we suggest that the World YWCA consult with national associations to ensure the recruitment and release of qualified personnel, as required, and seek, the active cooperation of national associations in raising the necessary funds.

### **Work with Refugees**

Recognising the YWCA responsibility for work with refugees and migrants must be a cooperative effort on the part of national associations and the World movement, we urge national associations to continue their efforts to assist in the permanent resettlement of refugees and the integration of migrants in their countries.

Being convinced of the continuing need for YWCA services among refugees, and recognising in particular the value of community services and of efforts for the welfare of women and young people, we urge the World YWCA to be alert to refugee needs and to keep in close touch with national associations where refugee problems exist, being ready to give help as required.

Because questions concerning refugees and migrants have continued international implications, the World YWCA is urged to maintain its cooperation with inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations working in this field. In particular, cooperation with the YMCA in the service to refugees and in emergency programmes should be maintained and, where possible, increased.

Work with Refugees and Migrants, including people moving inside their own country into newly industrialised areas.

The YWCA should continue to urge that provision be made for moving the family unit with the breadwinner and for housing facilities for the migrant family. It must help newcomers to become part of the community and feel that they belong to the new country!

**1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

*Statement / Urge*

### **Refugee / Migrant: Concern for**

The World Young Women's Christian Association Council, meeting in Cuernavaca, 1959, deeply aware of its growing and permanent responsibility towards the plight and the problem of refugees throughout the world,

- thankful for the steadily extending work done in many areas by the World YWCA and for the unselfish service of its field-workers,
- wants once more to alert its membership to the urgency of this problem as it has done through resolutions at the Council meeting in Hangchow (1947), Beirut (1951), London (1955).

Therefore, the World YWCA:

Reaffirms the need for the YWCA to be constantly aware of the refugee situation as a dynamic problem which remains fluid in relation to time, place and extent;

Welcomes the institution of World Refugee Year as a means of arresting the attention of the general public and as a challenge to the Association to give stronger Christian witness and to seek new opportunities for practical assistance to refugees;

Acknowledges the efforts of the World YWCA Executive Committee and national associations in support of the World Refugee Year and their cooperation with the United Nations, with governments, with the churches and other voluntary agencies;

Urges the World YWCA and its national associations:

- to continue to support the World Refugee Year in every way;
- to be concerned that, without any distinction, all refugees be included in national and international efforts for the solution of the refugee problem;
- to recognise that this problem is long-range and can only be solved by steady, consistent effort for many years to come;
- to understand that such dedicated efforts are an important aspect of the Christian task of the YWCA throughout the world. The accomplishment of this task will require real commitment in terms of staff, finance and field service as well as determined efforts to influence public opinion and governments.

**1963, World Council, Nyborg Stand, Denmark**

*Statement*

### **Refugee / Migrant: Criteria for**

The World YWCA should maintain its principle of readiness to render disinterested service wherever needs exist which the organisation, because of its character and experience, is able to meet.

The World YWCA, recognising its limited resources, should study carefully each situation before undertaking any new work and should give priority to services in a country where a YWCA is already in operation, where relief of basic needs can lead to the establishment of something of enduring value, where our specific contribution can be given without undue restriction, maintaining the impartial and independent character of the YWCA, and where others, equally well or better fitted for the work, are not already in the field.

*Emergencies caused by natural disasters*

Recognising that the World YWCA is not a relief organisation and that both financial and material assistance, needed to bring relief in such emergencies, are generally secured through action of specialised relief organisations, it was agreed that when a national association, the country of which has been struck by a calamity, asks for assistance in order to be able to render service, the World YWCA should be empowered to let this need be known among its member associations. The policy should not prevent any one national association from sending direct help to a sister association as a token of sympathy.

While recognising that the World YWCA must always be ready to bring help in emergencies arising from international conflicts and their consequences, especially when women, girls and children are

affected, the World YWCA and its national associations should as part of their constructive work for peace and better understanding among the nations, strive increasingly for the elimination of causes from which such conflicts spring.

**1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

*Statement / Urge*

### **Refugee/Migrant: The Middle East**

The World YWCA, having been actively involved in humanitarian services to the Palestinian refugees throughout the years,

Expresses its deep concern about the renewed and increased suffering among these refugees and about the displacement of large groups of new refugees as a result of the recent hostilities in the Middle East;

Urges that all persons who have been displaced in recent months in these areas be allowed a speedy return to their former places of residence;

Considers the continuing and expanding services of UNRWA on behalf of the Palestinian refugees as essential;

Urges national associations to influence their government to grant the fullest possible support to UNRWA for its increased budget;

Urges national associations to realise that the aggravation of the refugee problem in the Middle East will call for new services to be carried out jointly by the World YWCA and the national associations concerned and to give these services their generous support.

### **Migration**

YWCA's all around the world have a responsibility to be aware of migration questions, the emigration and immigration policies of their country and the problems related to migration questions in all parts of the world. National associations with a special concern, because their country either sends or receives a number of migrants, should set up a Committee to study the present and future consequences of migration. The task of such a Committee would be to look at the emigration and immigration policies of the country, conditions for integration, the situation of migrants who return to their home country, the attitude of the labour unions, the legal rights of women whose husbands have migrated, conditions of marriage, family reunion and so on.

The World YWCA along with national associations in a given region might give consideration to the carrying out of a survey concerning the implications of the movement of people due to the changes of economic structures in that region, having special regard for the problems which affect women and girls.

Recognising that education is fundamental to the process of integration, the YWCA should always have foremost in its mind the help it can give to migrant women and children in this sphere.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement*

**Refugee / Migrants: South Africa and Rhodesia**

The white immigrant in South Africa and Rhodesia inherits through the unjust and discriminatory laws of the land a privileged position which is denied the majority of the people. While the white immigrant is not instrumental in formulating these laws, he inevitably derives an enhanced opportunity and material well-being through them at the expense of the black Africans.

The selective white immigration policies in South Africa and Rhodesia perpetuate the black African's economic, social and political deprivation. In essence, at the present time, every white immigrant deprives a black African worker of the opportunity to fill or be trained for a skilled job. It is only when every vacant skilled job cannot be filled by a white immigrant that the government faces pressure to open up the corresponding category of employment to African workers.

The World YWCA Council strongly urges the World YWCA to:

- bring to the attention of national associations the oppressive implications of the policies on white immigration to South Africa and Rhodesia,
- urge national associations to investigate and expose these recruitment practices in their own country in order to alert governments and potential emigrants to these implications,
- request the Executive Committee to give serious attention to these and other situations in the world where immigration is used as a political tool for the exploitation of human beings, and to seek ways in which our world movement can effectively help to end this form of migration.

**1983, World Council, Singapore**

*Resolution*

**Refugees / Migrants: Root Causes**

The refugee situation has reached world-wide proportions and requires a dynamic response from the world community. The YWCA cannot ignore its responsibility in this area. Therefore,

Be it *resolved* that:

- the World YWCA and national associations work towards strengthening a global research and information network in order to awaken its members to the underlying causes of the conditions that create refugees and migrants;
- within the framework of its commitment to justice and peace, and with deepened awareness, the YWCA must develop programmes which will make a positive contribution to the elimination of the oppressive conditions which cause people to become refugees and migrants.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Resolution*

**Refugees/Migrants: Root Causes**

Whereas the plight of refugees and migrants continues to deteriorate;

Whereas every YWCA is affected in some way by issues related to refugees and migrants;

Whereas the YWCA is one of the few international women's organisations with a priority directed to refugee and migrant women;

Whereas women of the refugee and migrant population are an invisible majority and yet their needs are neglected;

Whereas we need to continue to have hope, a vision for the future, and become responsible if our sisters in countries torn apart by strife and those who have been uprooted are to survive;

Whereas there is a need to understand that refugees and migrants are the results of the injustices which we need to address:

- structurally rooted economic inequalities;
- denial of the right of self-determination;
- expansionism and military occupation of countries;
- political domination;
- religious persecution;
- ethnic conflicts;
- poor environment.

Therefore we are impelled to take strong action.

Be it resolved that the World YWCA and each national association, independently and in collaboration with other organisations, advocate for:

- Corrective measures and actions against the root causes and situations which create refugees and migrants;
- Government policies which ensure fair and just treatment of people seeking protection and refuge;
- Government policies which recognise and protect the rights of migrants and displaced people.

Be it further resolved that the World YWCA and each national association:

- Adopt an anti-racist policy and monitoring system to oppose discriminatory policy and practices;
- Work towards the empowerment of refugee and migrant women which ensures their self-actualisation;
- Ensure that programmes for refugees and migrants do not inadvertently perpetuate the status quo;
- Encourage and promote research in collaboration with others on issues relating to refugee and migrant women;
- Provide information and develop programmes to promote political awareness about refugees and migrants;

That the World YWCA continue its support and solidarity in working with uprooted populations in areas of strife and conflict such as the Middle East and Southern Africa.

**1999, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Recommendation*

### **Refugees / Migrants: North Korea**

Noting that respect for human rights and the famine of North Korea are worsening every day, and

Expressing concern that refugees scattered in nearby countries are facing the threat of arrest and forced repatriation to North Korea, and

Recognising the urgent need to alleviate human suffering and to eradicate the causes of this crisis,

The World YWCA Council *recommends* that:

1. The World YWCA and national associations call for the United Nations and related international organisations to grant refugee status under international law to North Korean refugees and set up refugee camps to shelter and protect them;
2. The World YWCA and national associations urge neighbouring nations, especially China, to establish appropriate means to protect North Korean women and protect them from violence;

National associations call for a worldwide campaign that may include circulation of petitions to relevant government and United Nations officials, fundraising, collaboration between YWCA and related organisations and United Nations agencies.

**2007, World Council. Nairobi, Kenya**  
*Resolution*

### Refugee / Migrant: Female Workers in Asia

The current globalisation and neo-liberalism trend has led Asian society into poverty, unsustainable development and neglected, vulnerable people.

The acceleration of poverty, discrimination and economic hardships have brought a tremendous increase in numbers of migrant female among Asian countries as well as out of Asian countries.

In a traditionally patriarchal culture with discrimination against women and girls, Asian women have suffered from poverty, violence and economic exploitation in the work place. The more recent development of unbalanced international marriage and trafficking in women are further damaging to Asian countries.”

Therefore be it resolved that:

the World YWCA and its member associations

- Raise awareness throughout the world of the increasing threat to Asian and migrant women’s rights brought about by the globalisation process, specifically the recent increase in the number of migrant female workers and trafficking in women experienced in Asia; and
- Where relevant develop outreach programs to deal with the issues of poverty, violence and discrimination increasingly faced by Asian women, and particularly the migrant female workers.”

**1947, World’s Council, Hangchow, China**  
*Statement*

### Social Action: Christian

Since the YWCA is concerned with fullness of life for every individual, we must work for everything that makes this possible in our contemporary society.

Almost every problem relating to the daily life and welfare of the community is a matter of political decision. Hence it follows that it is a part of the vocation of the Christian to accept responsibility in political life.

The Association needs to have its leadership and membership accurately informed on current political issues. All political systems must be studied in the light of Christian principles. Those principles must be the basis of our decisions and actions both as Christian individuals and as a Christian movement.

In view of the growing interest of young people in political and social action, we ask the World's YWCA Executive to give:

- Guidance as to possible projects for social action for younger girls.
- Help in interpreting conflicting ideologies in the light of our Christian faith.

### **1951, World's Council, Beirut, Lebanon**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Social Action: International Affairs**

The World's YWCA, by reason of the privilege of its fellowship and its acceptance of a Christian basis, has an inescapable responsibility to help in developing throughout its membership an understanding of the root causes of world problems, and to work towards their eradication at local, national and international levels. It is recommended:

- that attention be given to the actual life situations of people in various countries, because successful programmes are best developed when they are related to the basic needs and interests of members;
- that issues that touch the lives of women be the primary concern of the World's YWCA. Amongst those most urgently requiring consideration in the coming period are questions concerning human rights, the status and education of women, race relationships, migration, the control of narcotics, and the factors that determine the quality of family life;
- that the World's YWCA take every opportunity of helping its members, through personal contacts and publications, to understand how facts and issues appear to people in countries other than their own. This experience of mutual understanding gives perspective on our own nations and enables the Association to work creatively; it also draw members together in a world fellowship which, through obedience to Christ, may become a force for justice and peace in a divided world.

### **1926, World's Committee, Oxford, England**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Socio Economic Conditions: Labour**

It is *recommended* that:

- A memorandum be sent to the Committee of the International Missionary Council which should shortly meet in Sweden to draw up the agenda for a projected World Missionary Conference (the Jerusalem Conference), expressing the hope that in this agenda a large place will be found for consideration of economic problems and industrial conditions in their relation to mission work.
- The Young Women's Christian Association in all countries use its influence to have made effective throughout the world the Labour Standards recommended by the International Labour Office

That social and economic education and training for citizenship shall form part of the programme of all Association centre.

**1928, World's Conference, Budapest, Hungary**

*Recommendation*

**Socio Economic Conditions: Social Order**

In the Champéry Findings of 1920, we affirmed our conviction that the responsibility for a world social order based on Christian principles rests with individual Christians, Christian Churches, and Christian Movements, such as the World's YWCA. Here at Budapest in 1928, after eight years of additional observation and experience, we reaffirm that conviction.

The fact of the world interdependence, daily brought home to us in the common course of national and international existence, bears witness to the spiritual solidarity of the whole human race. But this solidarity, with the fellowship which should be the natural consequence, is continually violated by the unjust and unequal conditions which we allow to prevail in our social, economic, and industrial relationships. We feel ourselves called to carry our Christian message into the area of these relationships, boldly asserting the claim of our Master to rule every part of the field of human life.

The call is the most urgent and compelling because we have been forcibly brought to recognise the grave peril to peace which underlies economic conflict and industrial unrest. Not until we have established peace at home in industry and peace abroad in commerce will the greater peace between all nations be permanently assured.

In the light of our conviction we recommend:

- that national associations emphasise the necessity for their leaders and members to study social, economic, and industrial questions in their national and international aspects;
- that the Executive Committee be authorised to approach the following international Christian organisations: the Stockholm Continuation Committee, the International Missionary Council, the World's YMCA, the World's Student Christian Federation, in regard to possible cooperation and industrial research.
- that the World's YWCA, through national associations, develop more fully its work as a source of information on industrial and social questions. Because of its diversified membership and world-wide scope it would be able to furnish valuable information to international organisations, such as the International Labour Office.

**1934, World's Council, Grande Boissiere, Geneva, Switzerland**

*Statement*

**Socio Economic Conditions: International Questions**

Realising that only through expression in the corporate life of today can our Christian purpose be made effective, we would record our great appreciation of the work of the social and industrial section as being of the greatest importance to our whole Association.

We are sensible of the unique opportunity which our Association has for the education of youth and would urge the necessity of more visitation, such as will lead to study and action in public questions in our several countries.

In the world distraught by economic problems and dominated by tremendous forces reshaping national life and international relations, the World's YWCA must face its task with a deepening conviction of its special responsibility and with a spirit of courage to explore new lines of development.

We are also called to vindicate our title to be a truly international Christian movement of women by ensuring that each member and each association become consciously part of our world-wide fellowship. We would further emphasise the necessity of understanding more clearly the place of women and the service the Association can give in the building of a new social order.

### **1955, World Council, London, England**

#### *Preliminary Work*

Preliminary work was done on Statements on "Technical Assistance and Aid to Economic and Social Development" and "Technology and the Human Factor." These were revised and adopted in their final form at the 1959 Council Meeting. The 1955 texts are not therefore included here.

### **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

#### *Statement*

## **Socio Economic Conditions: Urbanisation**

We are living in a world undergoing far-reaching economic and technical developments which are drastically affecting social patterns, attitudes and concepts of human values.

It is necessary to ensure that science and technology are used as a God-given means of improving the welfare of mankind. Standards of living must meet not only physical, but also mental and spiritual needs. The YWCA should support efforts towards achieving standards of living that would provide what is necessary for fullness of life and health, and opportunities for physical, mental and spiritual development for all.

The YWCA must study ways of counteracting the disruptive and harmful effects of a too rapid social and economic change, and work for the safeguarding of personal dignity and social values in economic development.

Special attention must be given to youth welfare in newly industrialised areas or new urban or semi-urban areas, and to the provision of adequate housing and school facilities, vocational and spiritual guidance and training, development of skilled and semiskilled work and the use of leisure.

Many new industrial projects, in absorbing men and women from vast rural areas or other towns, disrupt family ties and community life. Even in places where whole families have moved, the "mass character of life" has not been avoided. The YWCA must cooperate with Churches and other agencies in order to find remedies for impersonal living on a large scale. Efforts must be made to help uprooted people to become integrated in their new environment.

There is also an urgent need for the YWCA to be aware of the effect of shift work on the individual and on family life, and to take this into account in its programme.

**1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

*Statement*

### **Socio Economic Conditions: Technical Assistance**

We believe the nature of the Christian ethic to be rooted in the commandments “to love God” as revealed in Jesus Christ, and “to love our neighbours as ourselves.”

Man is called to exercise responsible love, and this love has also to be manifested in the sphere of the material.

Great differences in wealth and in standards of living between nations produce tensions.

The call of love places on us an inescapable responsibility for trying to assure a more equitable sharing of all resources. For some nations this may require giving up increasing comfort and for others a willing acceptance of aid or technical advice.

The YWCA having had, through its Mutual Service Programme, rich opportunities for working closely with people in all parts of the world, should, as a World Christian movement, be acutely sensitive to the inequalities between nations. It has a special responsibility to work for the promotion and wise carrying out of governmental and nongovernmental programmes which will help to ensure a better distribution of resources and a more adequate standard of living for all.

National YWCAs may help by working in the following ways:

- to overcome apathy, especially among Christians, and help people to see that aid for economic development is not merely a monetary matter but primarily a means of giving reality to man's yearning for a better life;
- to build a climate of mutual trust for giving and receiving;
- to provide adequate programmes of information and education which will help to create and sustain among youth and adults the public understanding and support necessary for sound programmes of technical assistance and aid for economic and social development;
- to ensure that their governments in their national economic policies take adequately into account the needs of other nations;
- to persuade their governments to strengthen programmes of technical assistance and aid to economic and social development, especially through the United Nations and non-profit making voluntary agencies;
- to ensure that these programmes of technical assistance and aid to economic and social development are directed towards meeting basic needs, and that the people concerned help determine priorities;
- to see that in such programmes the social welfare of the individual, the family and the community are safeguarded and made an integral part of economic development;
- to ensure that these programmes give adequate attention to the educational and other needs of women, including help in making the care of the home easier and simpler;
- to use the YWCA experience in group work to show ways of obtaining active participation of people, especially women, in the planning and carrying out of self-help projects for community development and fundamental education;
- to remove the conditions which cause the forcible separation of families, and to secure the reunion of those who are separated;
- to help governments to find and train experts who can work with people in other countries in a spirit of sympathy, humility and true partnership;
- to encourage well-trained Christian young men and women to give a period of service in technical assistance by participating in schemes run by Governments, inter-governmental Organisations or Voluntary Organisations.

**1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

*Statement*

**Socio Economic Conditions: World Hunger**

The World Young Women's Christian Association Council, meeting in Cuernavaca, 1959

Expresses its deep concern for the serious and acute problem of world hunger;

Urges cooperation between nations through the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies to combat this problem;

Urges the Executive Committee of the World YWCA to give attention to the question of chronic world hunger, sporadic famine, and malnutrition, and to take appropriate action.

**1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**

*Resolution*

**Socio Economic Conditions: Justice**

*Believing that*

- all human beings are equal in worth and dignity and all have the same right to social and economic justice, all human beings must learn to live and work together as partners, sharing human gifts and skills along with cultural and material resources for the common good;

*Recognising that*

- the awakening sense of world community which, as a vital force for survival, cutting across ideological barriers, political groups and national borders, must lead to a radical change in the institutions of society and in power structures;
- full independence is only possible where there is freedom from economic dependency;
- both individuals and nations will face struggle, tension and risk in order to create conditions where social and economic justice will prevail;
- distributive justice demands that wealth, technological knowledge, economic power and cultural resources be equally available to all;

The World Council *calls* upon all national associations to

- work deliberately to make YWCA members and the community aware of the inequities which exist in each society,
- work for the removal of those conditions which deny to some nations and peoples equal access to the world's resources,
- urge governments to ensure that policies, both domestic and foreign, are directed towards the achievement of economic and social justice;

*Urges the World YWCA to:*

- draw the attention of member associations to the need for study leading to strong and imaginative action,
- provide information and facilitate exchange of experience in this field within the movement,
- support efforts, both national and international, to eradicate injustice of all kinds wherever it exists

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Recommendation*

**Socio Economic: Population Policies**

In examining the 1967 Statement adopted by the World Council in Melbourne, Australia, the World Council meeting in Vancouver, Canada, found it lacking the following points:

- It is too general--it is not enough to just study demographic trends and the social aspects of the measures aimed at changing policies. Demographic facts must be looked at in relation to the situation of housing, urban sanitation, water supply, medical facilities, school and class-room space, old-age care, teaching staff, law enforcement, unemployment rate, etc. A survey must be made of what is being done to meet the problems which come from this relationship and what efforts are being made to prepare for the future needs which can be anticipated from present trends.
- The recommendation that we support measures which ensure "availability of family planning services for all" is no longer clear in the light of changing concepts of family life styles and differing attitudes towards parenthood and parental responsibilities.
- The recommendation that YWCAs strengthen their programmes of out-of-school education is oversimplified. Women must be helped to become aware that the population problem--whatever shape it takes in their country--is inseparable from the economic, social, cultural and legal conditions which affect the full and equal participation of women in their society.

*It therefore recommends:*

- that the Executive Committee be asked to draft a new expression of World YWCA policy on population questions as one of its priorities.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Recommend / Urge*

**Socio / Economic: Use of Resources**

Inasmuch as we acknowledge the need for a New International Economic Order, the World Council urges all national YWCAs to accept the responsibility for working in national settings, not only to promote awareness among women but also to motivate action to transform oppressive power structures which abuse human and economic resources vital to our survival, neglect the development of human resources and hinder the attainment of human dignity in the world.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**

*Resolution*

**Socio Economic Conditions: Debt Relief**

Recognising that the heavy debt burden on many countries prevents indebted nations from self-governed and sustainable development, and

Considering the inhumane nature of the Structural Adjustment Programme of the International Monetary Fund, and

Acknowledging that cancellation of debt assists in the eradication of poverty,

The World YWCA *resolves*

1. To support the international campaign for debt relief, Jubilee 2000;
2. To urge the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the G8 and other donor countries to cancel the multilateral and bilateral debt of the HIPC-countries (Highly Indebted Poor Countries) and of other majority world countries, as the debt impacts negatively on development.
3. To ask the IMF to replace the concept of Structural Adjustment with a system that respects the United Nations Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the right to self-determination. This includes involving civil societies and governments in affected countries as equal partners, and to ensure that services like education and health care are maintained.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**  
*Recommendation*

### Socio Economic Conditions: Debt Relief

Noting that Jubilee 2000 is an international campaign for debt relief already working in more than 50 countries,

Recognising that problems of the unpayable debt have having a devastating effect on the lives and prospects of women, children and men in most of the majority world,

Approving of the inclusive approach to debt by Jubilee 2000 which involves churches, unions, grass-roots organisations, and ecumenical bodies from the South and the North,

Recognising that some national YWCAs already play an active role in national Jubilee 2000 coalitions,

The World YWCA Council *recommends* that:

1. National associations take an active part in their national Jubilee 2000 coalitions;
2. The World YWCA make this issue a priority in the years to come, to raise awareness within the movement and to promote the views in all relevant international forums.

**1898, World's Conference, Paris, France**  
*Statement*

### Women- Duty towards State

The Conference pledges itself to consider with more thoughtfulness the subject (Women's Duty toward the State) so forcibly put before them and invites delegates to introduce the matter to their national committees so as to impart information and elicit advice.

**1902, World's Conference, Geneva, Switzerland**  
*Recommendation*

### Women - Employment

We recommend that national associations cooperate with other societies or in case of need form under their own control Employment Agencies, which offer opportunities for providing with honourable occupation young women seeking employment, or where such agencies already exist that national committees secure lists which can be placed conspicuously in Association rooms.

**1906, World's Conference, Paris, France**

*Recommendation*

**Women**

In view of the development of the industrial life of women living in large cities, and the changes thereby entailed in the social conditions, and in the life of the race, the World's Committee recommends that each national committee make a special study of such conditions in order to adapt the work of the YWCA to present day needs.

**1910, World's Conference, Berlin, Germany**

*Recommendation*

**Women – Christian Education**

Acknowledging the fact that the teachings of Jesus Christ are the basis of the right social life of women, we recommend that a thorough and systematic study of the social significance of its teaching be undertaken by the leaders of the Young Women's Christian Association.

In consideration of the fact that social and industrial conditions militate against the highest development of Christian womanhood, and in view of the service which the Young Women's Christian Association should render, it is recommended:

- That the Association urge upon its leaders and members as a definite duty the study of the social and industrial problems of the day;
- by investigation of the physical and economic requirements of working women;
- by study of the means of amelioration which legislation and private endeavour offer for conditions under which women live and work;
- by a careful examination of organisations among working women.

**1914, World's Conference, Stockholm, Sweden**

*Statement*

**Women: Good Citizenship**

In view of the great need of a Christian standard of national righteousness in all parts of the world, and the increasing influence and power exerted by women in the State, this Conference urges national and local associations to place before their members the duty of good citizenship, to endeavour to fit them more adequately for loyal and efficient service to the State, and to urge both leaders and members, as a matter of Christian conviction, to avail themselves of opportunities of civic and national service.

**1920, World's Conference, Champéry, Switzerland**

*Recommendation*

**Women – Regulation of Vice**

Whereas the system of State Regulation of vice is immoral in principle and has proved to be ineffective in practice, we recommend that the YWCA should work actively for the abolishing of regulation in those countries where it exists.

Whereas the girl of the present day, when ignorant in matters of sex relationship, stands in grave moral danger, we recommend that the Young Women's Christian Association in every country encourage or initiate education in the true relations between men and women from the spiritual, ethical and physical standpoint.

Whereas it is of vital importance to every nation that a high moral standard be maintained, and whereas it is impossible to have a pure womanhood where there is not also a pure manhood, we recommend that in every country the Young Women's Christian Association work for an equal moral standard.

Whereas in the present imperfect social order it is necessary in the interests of justice that groups of industrial workers should have the opportunity of combining to improve their status and voice their needs, we recommend that the Young Women's Christian Association encourage organisation among women workers, and give opportunity to its members, through lectures, discussion circles, and other methods, to become acquainted with the principles underlying such organisation.

We recommend

- that the Young Women's Christian Association, as a body of Christian women exercising an ever-widening influence in many lands, recognise their share of responsibility for the maladjustments in the social order of today and make it their concern to inform themselves fully as to existing social conditions, and to apply the principles of justice, mercy and the equal value of every human life to national and international as well as to personal relations;
- that the national associations should combine with other societies to secure that women who approach this problem from the standpoint of disinterested service are invited to help the Governments to carry out the existing laws, and to frame additional legislation where it is needed; and that the national associations do all in their power to bring this work before Christian women as a definite form of Christian service.

Whereas the International Labour Conference, established in connection with the League of Nations under Part 13 of the Peace Treaty, adopted at its meeting in Washington, in November 1919, certain Draft Conventions and Recommendations,

We recommend that the World's Young Women's Christian Association urge the national associations to express their approval of the above, and to support Bills concerning these proposals introduced into their various legislatures.

In view of the above recommendations and in order that they may be efficiently carried out:

We recommend:

- that the World's Committee appoint an industrial committee and secretary with expert knowledge, who will make available through the World's Young Women's Christian Association office information regarding industrial and social conditions in the different countries;
- that each national association --Appoint an industrial secretary;
- Provide definite teaching on industrial laws and conditions in their training centres for secretaries;
- Give opportunities for study and research to all association leaders, workers and members.

We recommend that each national association in its capacity as an employer be urged to make operative the principles in the foregoing resolutions.

**1924, World's Committee, Washington, USA**

*Statement*

**Women: Industrialisation**

The Legislation Committee shall study international conventions and legislation with any international bearing affecting the welfare of women in order to advise the Executive Committee when it is asked, or wishes, to express an opinion thereon.

The growing feeling of responsibility of the Association to help in the solution of the industrial problem is expressed in the addition to the Aim of the World's Association: to promote Christian principles of social and international conduct by encouraging the development of a right public conscience, such as shall strengthen all those forces which are working for the promotion of peace and better understanding between classes, nations and races.

Since the whole membership of the Association has begun to realise that the industrial problem is inextricably bound up with all the confusing problems of today, and affects us all, we suggest, as a practical programme, that we strengthen our work along three lines:

1. That we seek to place upon our whole membership in its local, national and world groupings an increased feeling of responsibility for the carrying out of this Aim.
2. That each member of the Association, in those relationships of her own life which touch the industrial problem in even a small way, try to find for herself Jesus' way of life.
3. That in our study of the problem and our search for solutions, we work with other groups of men and women who are deeply concerned with the problem.

**1938, World's Council, Muskoka, Canada**

*Statement*

**Women: roles of**

We urge the World's Council and the national associations to make a study of women in the home, with special reference to:

- The enduring values of home life and their realisation, amid the varying economic conditions, particularly as applied to personal relationships within the home.
- Preparation for home life, e.g. sex education, preparation for marriage and motherhood, household management and household employees.
- The effect on the home of commercialised recreation.
- The harmonising of home life and careers.
- The home in relation to social responsibilities.

As a Christian Women's Movement we are concerned that there are still so many misconceptions among both men and women about the role that women are called upon to play in society. In some countries there has been definite retrogression and women are no longer free to enter the economic market. In others there is still discrimination against the employment of married women in professions, industry and business. A more recent development has been the discrimination against women over thirty-five years of age in many fields of employment. We must realise our responsibilities as an Association in such situations.

We are confident of the value of our world-wide movement which can, in addition to providing leadership, training and opportunity for women, stress in its corporate life and work the contribution of women to our common concern.

We wish to place on record our sense of the value of close cooperation with other women's movements.

We believe the nature of the Christian ethic to be rooted in the commandments "to love God" as revealed in Jesus Christ, and "to love our neighbours as ourselves." This does not mean merely "to help the needy" but rather to act towards people of all races, classes and nations as of equal value. These recommendations involve us in the inescapable responsibility for helping create such social and economic conditions as will permit all men to live as brothers.

We recognise the interdependence of all people. Although God has provided abundantly, great inequality of distribution exists. We should therefore work for a just sharing of all resources, facing the consequences and realising that sacrifice is involved.

The programme of social responsibility of the World's Council and the national associations should go beyond the amelioration of present conditions to study and action on underlying causes. Such programme involves:

- The education of all groups of the membership.
- The preparation of material and promotion of study on such subjects as economic and labour problems, especially anti-Semitism, and the effect of the radio, cinema, and press on public opinion.

Subjects should be selected and dealt with so that they may be related to actual life situations of members. The World's Executive Committee should be empowered to select the major emphases in the field of social responsibility.

### Women in Public Life

We urge the Executive Committee to lay on national associations the responsibility for educating their members to take the opportunities open to them in public and civic life and to help them to prepare themselves for such service.

#### 1947, World's Council, Hangchow, China

##### *Statement*

### Women's Place in Society

In view of the breakdown of moral standards in our life today, we feel that the Association should give a special place in its programme to the consideration of personal relationships and their social significance.

The disproportionate numbers of women to men in many countries today creates special problems. We believe that the fellowship of the YWCA can give a sense of "belonging" and also enable them to realise the value of their contribution to the community to which they belong.

We would re-affirm the special responsibility of the Association for working for such social and economic conditions as shall improve the status of women's work both within and without the home and preserve and enhance the values of family life.

The inevitably increased regulation of labour in a number of countries presents special problems for

women. Elsewhere, the progressive reduction in working hours with the increased leisure that this brings, presents a different set of problems. In both these situations, the YWCA has a direct responsibility, politically, socially and personally.

### **1955, World Council, London, England**

#### *Preliminary Work*

## **Women: Role and Status**

Preliminary work was done on a Statement on The Concerns of Women and Girls. This was revised and adopted in its final form at the 1959 Council Meeting. The 1955 text is not therefore included here.

### **1959, World Council, Cuernavaca, Mexico**

#### *Statement*

## **Women: Concerns of**

### **Introduction**

The modern world is moving towards full participation of women in areas of life which, in older social patterns, were the sphere of action of men only. This development has far-reaching effects in the lives of unmarried women and great consequences for the role of both husband and wife in the family, both in regard to their own relationship and to the rearing of children. The shifting of social patterns may cause serious tensions in individuals, families and society. The YWCA has a special task to help both single and married women to understand the relevancy of the Christian faith as they face the choices and difficulties which are inevitable in a period of rapid social change.

In the Christian view, men and women as persons have the same civic, economic and social rights and responsibilities.

As Christians we believe that marriage is the enduring unity of one man and one woman, which implies a full partnership based on the free decision of both partners. The integrity of their own relationship and the well-being of the family as a unit are the natural limitation of the freedom of husband and wife. Since many women are working outside their home, it will be necessary for them to arrive at the best possible balance between a good and integrated family life and the demands of the job.

The following statement on women's place in society should be considered in the light of this introduction. It is intended to be a guide for the World YWCA and national associations when they are called to take a stand or action by intergovernmental, governmental and nongovernmental agencies, and as they plan their own programmes and ways of work.

## **Family Relations**

Every effort must be made to encourage respect for Christian marriage and family life as a partnership in which a man and a woman, each bringing a different but equally full contribution, gives the best of his or her own self. Greater emphasis on the dignity of the individual, mutual respect, and the same moral standards for men and women are needed. This can be achieved only through the combined effort of Christian men and women.

The YWCA stands for the principle of freedom of choice in marriage for men and women as recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The YWCA should work towards the removal of those customs and practices, often based on deeply rooted prejudices, which are inconsistent with this principle and affect the dignity of women. It should also stand for a minimum, legal age for marriage of 16 years, since too early marriage constitutes a threat to the personal dignity of the individual and prevents the development of the sense of responsibility. The YWCA should stand for the compulsory legal registration of marriage as a pre-requisite to the stability of the family.

For harmonious and satisfying family relationships, more flexibility in the traditional patterns of family concerning the respective role of husband and wife and sharing in family duties should be accepted by society; the role of the husband and father is as important as that of the wife and mother. Mutual respect between parents and children should be stressed. The parents should have equal rights and joint responsibilities concerning all matters relating to the education of the children. Boys and girls should be educated on a footing of equality in mutual respect for each other as persons and sharing common tasks, so that they may be prepared to take their places in family and community life.

An adequate standard of living is one of the main factors contributing towards the dignity of marriage, and the efforts made to raise the general level of living in many countries demand the economic cooperation of all members of the community. In the assessment of national wealth both governments and society should give recognition to the economic and social value of the work of women in their respective roles of housewives and homemakers and of food producers in agricultural communities, as is done in the case of workers in industry, business or professions.

The YWCA should help to create the economic and social conditions which make it possible for mothers with small children to stay at home if they choose to do so.

The YWCA should urge, in cases where it is necessary for workers to migrate or be transferred, that provision be made for the whole family to move as a unit and that adequate housing facilities be provided.

The YWCA should give particular attention to the problems of the unmarried mother and of widows and wives deserted or divorced, whether or not they have children, and should work for the fuller participation of these women in the social and economic life of their community.

The YWCA has a responsibility for educating its members and public opinion to recognise:

- The full contribution of the single woman to society through her work and her share in family life and community responsibility;
- The worth of the single woman in the home and the family;
- The right of the single woman to create a home. The YWCA should promote housing facilities for the implementation of this right.

### Women's Work

The World YWCA supports the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value, including an adequate minimum wage. National associations are urged to press their governments to take the necessary measures to put into force this principle in public service and private enterprise, and to ratify the International Convention of 1951 on Equal Remuneration, if they have not already done so.

The right of “equal pay for equal work” implies conditions for which the YWCA must work:

- Adequate training and study facilities and encouragement of girls (and their parents) to use facilities for learning skills, trades and professions;
- Efforts to change traditional attitudes and ideas within industry and the professions and in public opinion concerning women's work and aptitudes;
- Improvement of promotion prospects for women workers;
- Development among YWCA membership of a strong conviction that the “right to work” has a counterpart in a moral obligation towards the community.

In striving for equal remuneration for work of equal value the YWCA should stand for reasonably liberal allowances for dependents to be made to both women and men as family supporters.

The YWCA should work for the extension of measures for protection, safety, welfare and social security to all workers, men and women, according to their needs, including those in household employment, agriculture and home industry.

The YWCA has steadily supported efforts to secure protective legislation for women as well as for young workers through international conventions and national provisions.

Since conditions of work in industry in some industrial countries have much improved, special measures of protective legislation for working women should be carefully studied to see whether they provide obstacles to employment opportunities for women, or whether they are indispensable to the welfare of society in protecting women as potential mothers.

Since, in other countries, industrialisation has developed without adequate provision being made for the protection of workers, and without administrative or budgetary measures for social security schemes being put into force, the YWCA should continue to promote and support adequate measures for protection, safety and welfare for all workers with special reference to young workers, as well as to women, if necessary.

There should be no legal obstacle to the employment of married women. The YWCA should support necessary measures to secure the legal right of a married woman to undertake independent work, and to dispose of her earnings without the necessity of securing her husband's authorisation.

Recognising that women with family responsibilities may have to work outside the home and have therefore an increased burden of responsibilities to carry, the YWCA should help to promote better facilities in the home, adequate shopping hours, day care services for children, nursery schools, and the staggering of working hours. The YWCA should also work for increased opportunities for part-time work in a variety of fields and at various levels of employment. In some parts of the world this need may have to be met by the development of cottage industries.

Considering also that many married women re-enter employment or professional work when their children are older, the YWCA should help to provide opportunities for a re-orientation to work and working life. This may involve counselling services or vocational training.

Considering that there is general discrimination in relation to the placement and employment of older women, YWCAs should strive to influence public opinion and employers and help to eliminate discriminatory practices. In view of longer life expectancy, there should be acceptance of an increased period of work for the older women and the YWCA should promote adequate vocational guidance and training services, including re-adaptation courses for older women workers. The problems of promotion possibilities, re-assignment, age limits and pensions should be given careful consideration.

## Educational Opportunities for Women and Girls

The aim of education should be to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes and to help individuals to understand the implications of being persons--human beings in their own right as well as members of the family and community--and to help them grow towards the full development of their personalities.

Education should help individuals to acquire a right sense of values in life and to exercise proper judgment in making the right choices and decisions in the face of conflicting claims. It should help individuals to meet wisely the changing conditions of life, which offer new opportunities as well as new responsibilities, and thus help them to share in the fulfilment of God's purpose on earth, in all social, political and cultural spheres of life.

As an organisation with concerns for and experience in education, the YWCA has a special responsibility for education in general, and in particular for certain fields within its own programme of activities.

There should be free compulsory education, at least on the primary level, for all children. The YWCA should give attention to the question of equal access to education at all levels for boys and girls. There should be increasing facilities for secondary education, vocational training, and higher education for girls. There should be increasing opportunities for youth and adults in out-of-school education, so that they may keep abreast of advancing knowledge and its implications. The YWCA should support measures to encourage young women and girls to take advantage of these facilities and to prevent early school leaving. It should urge the development of educational institutions and organisations, and see that the education of teachers receives a high priority.

The YWCA should stand for the guarantee of the legal right to religious education according to Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Because of its concern for the growth of the whole personality, the YWCA should ensure that the demands of the Christian faith in all areas of life are considered in the development of its own programme and in relation to education in general.

In view of the fundamental importance of the family, the YWCA should encourage the training of young men and women for Christian family life.

It should strive to improve vocational guidance and training for girls, to develop ethical standards in work and towards society, and to develop creative skills for leisure time.

The YWCA should contribute to the development of methods and programmes of citizenship education to help women assume their share of public responsibility to promote education for international understanding and responsibility.

Special attention should be given to the educational needs of women and girls moving from rural to urban or industrialised areas, and to those women and girls in community development areas.

### **1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

#### *Recommendation*

## Women: Population Policies

The World YWCA Council meeting in Melbourne, 1967,

Considering the prospects of further growth in the world population and the urgency of the related

economic, social and educational problems,

Reaffirming our conviction that economic and social development on all levels should aim at creating possibilities for a full human life for all,

Considering that women are the first to be affected by policies concerning the increase or decrease of birth rates,

Realising that the availability of modern devices for controlling conception engender attitudes which may present difficult moral decisions for young men and women,

Therefore recommends that national associations:

- study demographic trends in their own countries and their causes, as well as their effects on the well-being of the population, especially on the life of women and young people,
- study the social and ethical aspects of measures aimed at establishing or changing national and international demographic policies,
  - support measures which, whilst safeguarding individual freedom and responsibility in the sphere of family life, ensure the development of planned parenthood and appropriate health, maternal and child welfare services within the reach of all,
  - initiate where advisable counselling services for both women and men, if possible in cooperation with other organisations having the same concerns, in areas or places where no other agencies are providing them,
  - urge that expert advice be made available by the state or specialized institutions for the training of personnel for personal counselling and medical and follow-up services,
  - expand and strengthen their programmes of out-of-school education and encourage women to acquire skills and knowledge which will enhance their personal dignity and their contribution to society.

#### Advancement of Women

Women should have enough knowledge and power to influence the structures of society, so that the social and economic foundations be built on the needs and welfare of women and men. The Council recommends that the World YWCA Executive Committee draft a plan centred on the responsibility of women in national development and planning, taking especially into account the following aspects:

- The contribution of women to economic development, women in the world of work, including employment and unemployment, the conditions of work, economic and labour structures and migrant women workers,

The training of women for taking initiative in political and economic life.

- Out of school programmes aimed at the understanding of economic questions and planning, the relation between educational and economic planning, the influence of science and technology on economic development.
  - Work for the elimination of discrimination against women in law and practice in regard to:
    - the status of women in private law and family law,
    - equal pay for equal work and equal access to positions and occupations of responsibility,
    - protective legislations,
    - taxation, social security and pensions rights.

The World YWCA should take into account the priorities indicated in the UN long-term programme for the Advancement of Women and its work with the United Nations Commission on the Status of

Women, the ILO, UNESCO, and FAO, and find ways in which interest and action on these issues can be taken at the international level.

### **1967, World Council, Melbourne, Australia**

#### *Recommendation*

### **Women: Public Life**

It is both a necessity and an opportunity of our time that women be conscious of their responsibilities in public life and have a realistic insight into the political, social and economic situation in which they live. They should be prepared to take part constructively and critically in efforts to influence local, national and international conditions.

Those conditions may differ, the role of political parties varies widely and the degrees of freedom are diverse. Varying also are the complex structures of modern states, the international pressures influencing national policy and the position of women within a given society.

Important factors affecting public life require growing attention. The planning of short-term and long-term social and economic development programmes and policies is increasingly determined by groups of experts--science and technology bring profound alterations in man's environment and in his ways of living, which often require the intervention of the Government. These developments lead to a gradual change in the structure and the functions of political institutions, and in the role and participation of the citizen and of voluntary agencies. Therefore there is an ever greater need for well-informed and objective public opinion.

In accepting responsibility in local, national and international communities, women should be guided by a basic belief in the dignity and equal value of every human person, and as Christians by the demands of the ministry of reconciliation rather than by those of limited groups and national loyalties.

In searching for truth in political matters, Christians must guard against rigid patterns of thinking in terms of right or wrong which not only isolate truth itself, but deepen the gulf which separates nations, groups and persons from each other. Courage and willingness to take the consequences of critical and constructive involvement in revolutionary and gradual change in society are needed, as well as an honest awareness of motivation for participation in public life.

Ends do not justify means. For the Christian, to act in accordance with this belief may mean isolation and in some instances, even the impossibility of participating and acting effectively in public life. But such a conviction lays upon the conscience of the individual the obligation to examine and to decide in which way he can and should take part in the struggle against social and economic injustice, poverty and prejudice, and for the acceptance and implementation of basic human rights and the establishment of the rule of law amongst nations.

Therefore,

As a world Christian movement we are convinced that women and girls should bring their full contribution to the well-being of society. To be able to do this, women should have full political rights, including the right to vote, to be elected, and to hold public office on equal terms with men, in accordance with the UN Convention on the political rights of women.

Women should be encouraged to take an active part in political life and to accede to positions of

responsibility in the government and administration.

Individual YWCA members should be prepared to act as responsible citizens by participating at the various levels of public life, and by playing their part in voluntary bodies, in community development in rural and urban areas, in local and national administration and planning.

Members should be conscious of their responsibility toward the world community, and in this perspective be aware as citizens, of the obligations of their governments toward other nations and the United Nations; and as part of a world movement, of the importance and opportunities of international relations, and especially, of the consultative status of the World YWCA with the United Nations.

In order to ensure an intelligent participation of women and girls in public life, the YWCA should:

- Help all women and girls to obtain a basic education and help to provide opportunities toward improving their general education at whatever level, ensuring equal opportunities for all so that they may take their place more effectively in the changing world.
- Provide members with information about the economic, social, political and religious institutions and forces in the nations and in the world.
- Provide programmes to stimulate understanding and interest in political issues and to develop critical and constructive attitudes.
- Make members aware of the changes affecting political institutions and of the new areas where the influence of the citizen should be exerted, such as the drafting of national development plans and their implementation.

Develop their capacity to recognise basic ethical issues at stake in social, economic and political issues.

**1971, World Council, Accra, Ghana**  
*Recommendation*

**Women: United Nations**

Believing that the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should become a Convention with implementation machinery on the lines of the Convention on Racial Discrimination, the Council recommends that:

- every national association should urge its own government to press for the Declaration to become a Convention;
- the World YWCA should use its influence in this direction.

*It is further recommended that:*

- YWCAs should urge those governments which have not yet done so to ratify the UN Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**  
*Recommendation*

**Women: Illiteracy**

The World YWCA Council meeting *recommends* that:

in view of the high rate of female illiteracy and in view of the influence of the home in the upbringing of the new generations, the YWCA should aim to make its maximum impact on the problem of illiteracy by fostering the motivation necessary for women to respond to literacy programmes, and by helping to prepare better teachers and teaching materials, drawing attention also to the need for material and services as follow-up.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement / Urge*

### Women: Education

The World YWCA Council urges national associations to encourage and motivate women and girls to acquire the necessary competence, especially in scientific and economic fields, in order to influence the search for alternative and safe sources of energy which will ensure human survival.

**1975, World Council, Vancouver, Canada**

*Statement*

### Women: Status

Recognising that discrimination against women will not be eliminated until the law of all countries provides for them parity with men in the exercise of civil, social and political rights, such as those pertaining to marriage, succession, citizenship and commerce, and until women exercise as a matter of course the rights thus granted to them, calls on national associations

- to work towards the enactment of legislation providing this parity to women of their respective countries,
- to take steps to inform women of their existing rights,
- to encourage women to exercise those rights to the full.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Resolution*

### Women: Indigenous

Whereas, some of the corollary results of industrialisation, colonisation and imperialism have been the genocide, usurpation of land and the deculturation of indigenous people (whether in the minority or majority within their own countries);

Whereas, the impact of land loss, forced removal and the dissolution of family life has had destructive effects upon indigenous women, children and men;

Whereas, the inhabitants of each region of the globe bear responsibilities for the current plight of indigenous people; Whereas oppressed indigenous people are struggling to reclaim/preserve their lands and culture;

Whereas, Christendom has at times been used as a tool of colonization which is a root cause of people becoming a minority within their own countries;

Therefore be it *resolved* that:

The World YWCA as an organisation with a Christian purpose, has a responsibility to work with indigenous women in redressing the unjust situation in which they find themselves.

**1987, World Council, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

*Resolution*

**Women: Violence**

Be it resolved that the 1987 World Council meeting in Phoenix, Arizona

- Condemns all forms of violence on women and children;
- Recognises and establishes the rights of women and children who are victims of any kind of sexual or physical abuse to protection from stigmatisation and social punishment;
- Calls on member associations to confront society's attitudes towards women who are seen as property to be considered as objects for use and discarded at will;
- Calls on member associations to build awareness and networking against the exploitation of children and young women in areas where military bases are located.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**

*Statement*

**Women: World Agenda**

**Preamble**

We, the 1,000 women at the International Women's Summit held in Seoul, July 1995, coming from 79 countries and representing a diversity of experiences, cultures, socio-economic and political systems, state that in different societies women are actors and agents of change.

As women, the majority of us are still struggling for the basic necessities of survival, freedom and equality for ourselves and our families.

In our recent history, since 1975, the beginning of the UN Women's Decade, we women all over the world have articulated the realities of our experiences. We are determined to reverse the injustice, marginalisation, lack of decision-making power, economic, sexual, cultural and racial exploitation that have characterised our lives.

The continuous feminisation of poverty is perpetuated by lack of basic education and lack of access to health, literacy, technical skills, and employment and by the financial insecurity due in part to inequalities in the international system. Furthermore, the world's masses of refugees are primarily women and children. Violence against women is used as an instrument of war.

This makes urgent our struggle for equality, sustainable human development, justice and peace, guided by the principles of respect for all persons, nonviolence and international solidarity.

We continue our struggle in the knowledge that the experiences of the women's movement and individual women indicate that women's unique insights can contribute to the systems and structures that make sustainable development possible.

We are convinced that these goals are achievable. We exercise our power and our rights, and move forward with a vision for the future, which will transform global decision-making, global economy and global justice.

**Global Decision Making**

Statement of Concern

We recognise that inequities and inequalities are limiting the full participation of women and marginalised peoples in the civil society and global affairs. Internationally, nationally, and locally, these individuals and groups are often barred from the political, social and economic institutions that shape our world. Thus is lost the unique contributions, perceptions and insights of the majority of our world's population.

Women bring to the decision-making process the values of respect for diversity; nonviolence; and open, honest communication for the enhancement of the lives of women and girls, and underprivileged, dispossessed, and marginalised peoples throughout the world. At this stage, the women's movement will benefit from expanding its vision and efforts to be advocates for all people. We are the last, best hope for global peace, dignity and freedom.

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. Values**

Current global decision-making processes are influenced by market forces, pragmatism and political interests to the detriment of life enhancing values. We call upon the international community of women's organisations to embrace life enhancing values to guide our own interactions and ensure that all women consider each other with respect and work in solidarity. Specifically, international women's organisations are urged:

To articulate these visions and make them visible to the broader world community;

To advocate that decision-making processes at all levels of society reflect these values and visions.

#### **2. Decision-Making**

Women and marginalised peoples are vastly underrepresented in all levels of decision-making. Decision-making processes must include these individuals and groups, recognising their unique contributions and insights. We call upon the following organisations to take action:

International non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should encourage and support full and representative participation at all levels of decision-making through a variety of methods, including education and training in political, social and economic decision-making mechanisms and procedures. Young women are to be included in these activities. Women's NGOs should also create a programme of awareness building and voter support for women candidates and aligned groups. Efforts should be monitored to ensure accountability.

International women's NGOs should endorse the concept of a Women's World Assembly of women's NGOs to focus on women's priorities around the world, have an input into the UN's processes and monitor its recommendations.

The role of NGOs should be strengthened through the creation of a parallel assembly of the UN to represent civil society.

International NGOs and governments should work to ensure that gains made for women and children through the United Nations Treaties and Conventions, such as the UNCED, UNDP, UN Rights of the Child, Vienna Declaration of Human Rights, World Summit on Social Development, are protected.

International NGOs, particularly women's NGOs, should:

- urge all non-participating governments to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of

Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); work for the removal of reservations (by which governments exempt themselves from implementation) within CEDAW; ensure the implementation of CEDAW at all levels by governments;

- urge the United Nations to establish an affirmative action programme to ensure an equal representation of women and marginalised peoples within all levels of the United Nations;
- -entreat all governments to reform the UN, including the Security Council, to reflect equity and to eliminate the domination by a few nations; strengthen and revitalise the General Assembly to gain legitimacy of all member states; replace the least effective agencies, such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the UN Industrial Organisation, with an Economic Security Council covering economic and social affairs of all member nations.

### 3. Media

The increasing global concentration of media ownership in the hands of governments, a few individuals and corporations is rendering women, underprivileged and marginalised people's invisible, depriving them of their right to seek and influence information and ideas through the media. They are experiencing a lack of access to and sufficient representation in the media. We urge international NGOs, particularly women's NGOs, to:

- Create an effective international women's network to ensure clear communication around issues that affect women and underprivileged, dispossessed and marginalised peoples;
- Use computer networks, to communicate, advocate and share information;
- Bring public visibility to the situation of women and other groups ignored by the mainstream media by establishing an International Media Watch to monitor media for biased and inaccurate information, sexism, racism and violence;
- Encourage women as consumers to boycott products and services that exploit and denigrate women, children and marginalised groups;
- Seek anti-monopoly legislation and media accountability;
- Ensure open, public access and availability of the media to women and other non-dominant groups;
- Train women and members of marginalised groups in communications skills, including computer technology, and in the media use.

### Global Economy

#### Statement of Concern

We are concerned and outraged, because:

The current economic paradigm value the maximisation of profit as paramount, without regard to the achievement of human rights, environmental sustainability and equal access to resources.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund are undemocratic, unrepresentative, and unaccountable to their member nations, the United Nations, and the world community.

The Structural Adjustment Programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, has a detrimental, disproportionate impact on women, especially in the South: loss and lack of employment, increased levels of poverty and starvation and little or no access to health care and education.

#### Recommendations

3. We call on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to fundamentally change their undemocratic structure to be evenly represented by the member states. We urge that the directors

of the World Bank be elected representatives of their countries, and that their President be elected from among its Directors; and that the Managing Director of the IMF be similarly elected. The two institutions must be made accountable to the United Nations.

4. We call on the World Bank to cancel the debt of those countries which have repaid their original debt but remain in severe crisis due to structural adjustment programmes imposed on, or accepted by their governments.

5. Recognising the adverse impact of World Bank and IMF policies on developing countries, we recommend not Structural Adjustment but Structural Transformation in property rights and wealth distribution. This transformation should be human-centred. Strategies for Structural Transformation should be based on respect for land, and necessarily include land reforms and women's empowerment.

6. We urge that transnational corporations be subject to the ILO code of conduct for ethical practice which must be ratified; that with equal representation of all nations a body be constituted with international judicial powers to monitor and supervise the enactment of this code. We will lobby for the ratification of the ILO Conventions to protect the rights of working women, including agricultural workers, migrant women workers, and women in the informal sector. Unremunerated or inadequately remunerated work by women must be calculated in the Gross Domestic Product of all countries.

7. We urge that the World Trade Organisation be governed by principles of trade based on the goal of mutual prosperity and fair prices for commodities; the UN should have control over the WTO.

8. We recommend that the United Nations create a commission to review and monitor the impact of new technologies and set up an international code of ethics for responsible use of technology, including genetic engineering. Recognising that economic independence is a prerequisite for gender equality, we urge that any displacement of women because of modernisation be accompanied by alternatives for productive employment.

## Global Justice

### Statement of Concern

We are gravely concerned about the global increase of conflict, violence, and strife. Many world communities are affected in ways where a culture of violence, or oppression, threatens not only daily life, but the future of generations to come. Women and children are especially victimised.

### Recommendations

9. We urge women to concentrate on advocacy, lobbying and developing strategic campaigns to reach all levels of governments, governmental and inter-governmental organisations and other institutions of authority to promote human rights for women, including the girl child. Human rights for women and children must not and cannot be divided from universal human rights.

10. To counter the global expansion of a culture of violence, we recommend that women strongly express, articulate and promote their social, cultural and political understanding, but especially their religious faith and values--including respect and tolerance--in their daily life, at home, at work, and as they fill their public roles. Women must be instrumental to assure the kind of education within families, communities--and wherever they have an opportunity to do so outside the home--that promotes religious awareness, religious respect, and understanding of as well as respect for other religions and convictions.

11. We urge women to actively commit themselves and mobilise both women and men to work towards reconciliation where strife and conflict at local, regional and global levels affect and have an impact on the lives of communities. Women are called on to form coalitions to address the promotion of peace through education, through economic and political activism and through negotiation.

Conflict management must be made a regular subject in schools and educational institutions. It should be promoted within governments and other decision-making bodies.

12. We urge NGOs and women's movements to commit themselves to cooperate more closely to lobby governments more powerfully, to implement existing United Nations and other conventions and resolutions, that safeguard the rights of women, including the rights of the girl child. Acts of violence against women and the girl child, especially killing in the home, must be treated as criminal acts, and not as domestic and private affairs.

13. We call on governments and women's organisations to make more resources available and to give priority to the promotion of structures that safeguard the protection of women and the girl child, especially in the area of female genital mutilation, child prostitution, pornography, sexual and all other abuse, child labour, and to prevent female foeticide (female foeticide involves the selective termination of pregnancy, where boy children are preferred over girl children) and female infanticide.

14. Recognising that indigenous peoples are still oppressed, we call on the international political powers, NGOs and other world bodies, to acknowledge their unique status. We demand that the injustices against indigenous peoples be redressed, especially where their culture, their land, their language and their political and economic situations are concerned. We support the calls by indigenous peoples for sovereignty and self-determination.

15. Recognising the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, we call on the international community to increase pressure on states which do not respect either the right to self-determination or the sovereignty of other nations, to withdraw from all occupied territories. We define self-determination as the ability of people to freely determine their political status on their own land, and to freely maintain and pursue economic, social, and cultural development.

16. In view of the endemic and global increase of sexual violations of refugee women, we commit ourselves as women to ensure that governments abide by the existing protection laws that grant all refugees their human rights prior to flight, during flight, in the country of asylum, during repatriation operations and during the reintegration phase. Women who are victims of violence because of their religion or their social orientation in their own countries should be granted refugee status.

17. We call upon the United Nations and national governments to recognise that the rape of women as an instrument of war is a crime and that perpetrators of sexual violations of women in war must be tried according to international human rights law.

18. We strongly advocate the creation of an NGO-powered mechanism--with the agreement of receiving countries governments--that provides access to refugee camps, also to holding areas for asylum seekers, for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of safety measures protecting women refugees.

19. Addressing governments, we call for the full application and enforcement of UNHCR guidelines, that women must be empowered to take part in all processes of the planning and implementation and every aspect that affects their and their children's lives, and that they are informed about their rights at all stages.

20. We strongly urge NGOs and women's movements to look for alternatives to development and for solutions to environmental problems from a women's perspective and to become involved in the decision-making process on these issues.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea  
Resolution**

## **Women: Violence**

### **Legislation on Domestic Violence**

Recognising the increase in the incidence of violence in the home, which demeans the dignity of women and threatens their lives,

be it resolved that the World YWCA urge national associations of countries that do not have legislation on domestic violence, to lobby actively with their governments, to enact a Domestic Violence Act.

Be it further resolved that these national associations work closely with other NGOs to achieve this goal.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Resolution*

## Women: Violence

### The Enactment of Legislation Against Violence Towards Women

Whereas violence against women is recognised to be the “concealed crime” of highest incidence in the world.

Whereas YWCAs worldwide are committed to the struggle against the violation of human rights.

Whereas the YWCA has joined many other women’s organisations, NGOs and government institutions in promoting laws against violence towards women.

Be it resolved that all national associations become actively involved with other women’s movements in order to insure the enactment of effective legislation to prevent violence towards women and to penalise those who are perpetrators of such crimes.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Resolution*

## Women: Violence Comfort Women

### Comfort Women

In spite of the lapse of 50 years since the end of the World War II, the issue of the “comfort women” has not been settled.

Be it resolved that the World YWCA pressurise the Japanese Government to acknowledge and apologise for their wrong doings committed against these women, and to take concrete steps toward reparation without further delay.

**1995, World Council, Seoul, Korea**  
*Recommendation*

## Women: Violence

### Week Without Violence

Whereas, violence is a reality today in many countries; and

Whereas, violence is caused by different factors in all levels of society, and

Whereas, the YWCA of the USA presented a model programme on “A Week without Violence” that positively impressed all participants at the International Women’s Summit; and  
Whereas, the “A Week without Violence” is a programme that needs the involvement of the YWCA at national and local levels involving governments, enterprises, and many other existing groups; and  
Whereas, national associations all over the world and their local branches could work together for better results as a world movement.

The World YWCA Council 1995 recommends the inclusion on the World YWCA Calendar of a “Week Without Violence”.

It is further *recommended* that the World YWCA encourage national associations to initiate a programme to eradicate violence all over the world with YWCAs and other organisations being asked to provide assistance as necessary.

**1999, World Council, Cairo, Egypt**  
*Recommendation*

**Women: Trafficking**

Recalling the commitment from the Beijing Platform for Action for awareness-building, alliances and lobbying for the elimination of violence against women, and

Recognising that trafficking of women was identified as a major policy and action priority at the Asia-Pacific Regional YWCA Conference in Taiwan 1997, and

Affirming the outcomes of YWCA research on the trafficking of women in the Asia-Pacific region and the subsequent workshop held at World Council 1999, and

Noting that trafficked women are increasingly becoming commodities of sex tourism and prostitution,

The World YWCA recommends that:

1. National associations investigate the reality of domestic and international trafficking of women in their countries;
2. National associations actively support research, advocacy and education in the area;
3. National associations form alliances with other local, national, and international anti-trafficking agencies;
4. National associations support the cracking of internet crime and organised trafficking networks;
5. National associations lobby for increased legal and police protection for trafficked women.

**2007, World Council, Nairobi, Kenya**  
*Recommendation*

**Women: United Nations**

**An International Multilateral Women’s Agency of the United Nations**

UN reform without a separate, definitive track for women would be a travesty because mainstreaming gender through the existing categories of development, humanitarian assistance and environ-

ment has not led to enduring improvements in the human rights of women. UN Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa, Stephen Lewis, has stated ‘the staggering, disproportionate vulnerability of women to HIV and AIDS could have been diminished dramatically, if the multilateral system had an agency to take up the cudgels on behalf of women.’ The women’s movement, and all of its supporters, must confront every member of the international community, and lobby with indefatigable tenacity for a Women’s Agency of the UN. The World YWCA and its member associations should seek a regional champion in each of the major regions of the world to carry the banner of women’s rights within the UN system.

“Whereas the United Nations is embarking on reform and re-design of its systems including many areas which so significantly address the lives of women, it is therefore recommend that:

the World YWCA and its member associations initiate an international lobby to advocate for the UN to create and fund an international women’s agency of the UN, headed by an Under-Secretary General with financing and staff commensurate with that of UNICEF.”

**2015, World Council, Bangkok, Thailand**  
Call to Action

### **Women: Trafficking, Sex Work and Sexual Exploitation**

Clarifying the World YWCA position on prostitution, trafficking, sexual exploitation and “sex work”  
“That the World YWCA and its Member Associations adopt a policy aligned with our Vision, Purpose, and Guiding Values at World Council 2019 that clarifies the World YWCA position on prostitution, trafficking, sexual exploitation, and “sex work”;

That the World YWCA and its Member Associations base this policy on a deep understanding of YWCA advocacy, programmes and work; the participation of women and young women with lived experience as well as organisations that respect, protect and promote their rights.”

**2019, World Council, Johannesburg, South Africa**  
Statement

### **Women: Adoption of the Term “Femicide”**

“Adoption of the term “Femicide” by the World YWCA movement when referring to murders of women and girls, caused due to their gender, as opposed to the general term homicide. It is our conviction that the official use of the term will actively and directly contribute to the sensitization and pressure towards national governments and institutions so that this issue is addressed.”

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Week of Prayer - Adopted

#### 1898 Paris, World's Conference

Women: Duty toward State - Statement

#### 1902 Geneva, World's Conference

Mutual Service - Recommendation  
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Cooperation: WSCF - Recommendation  
Mutual Service - Statement  
Women - Recommendation

#### 1908 London, World's Conference

Bible Reading and Study/Impress - upon  
Cooperation - Statement  
Youth Work - Urge

#### 1910 Berlin, World's Conference

Leadership: Staff - Recommendation  
Methods of Work - Recommendation  
Mutual Service - Recommendation  
Refugees and Migrants - Recommendation  
Women: Social Development - Exhortation  
Women: Christian Education - Recommendation  
Youth Work. Teens - Urge

#### 1912 Swanwick, World's Committee

Cooperation: AJF - Statement  
Ref/Mig: Emigration Education - Recommendation

#### 1914 Stockholm, World's Committee

Christian Task - Recommendation  
Mutual Service : Extension - Urge  
Ref/Mig: Emigration/Immigration - Recommendation  
Women: Good Citizenship - Statement, Urge  
Women: Home Life - Urge  
World YWCA Basis - Adopted  
Structure: YWCA - Statement

### **1920 Champéry, World's Committee**

Cooperation: International Orgs. - Recommendation  
Ecumenism - Recommendation  
Membership: Working Women - Recommendation  
Peace: World - Statement  
Ref/Mig: Work Development - Recommendation  
Women: Foreigners - Statement  
Women: Regulation of Vice - Recommendation

### **1922 St. Wolfgang, World's Committee**

Christian Task: Beliefs - Belief  
Leadership: Staff - Statement  
Membership - Statement  
Women: All Nations - Statement  
World YWCA Aim - Approve  
Youth Work, Teens - Recommendation

### **1924 Washington, World's Committee**

Cooperation: WSCF - Recommendation  
Peace: Internationalism - Statement  
Ref/Mig: Structure - Approve  
Women: Industrialisation - Statement

### **1926 Oxford, World's Committee**

Soc/Econ Cond: Labour Standards  
& Economic Problems - Recommendation

### **1928 Budapest, World's Committee**

Cooperation: YMCA, WSCF - Statement  
Ecumenism - Urge  
Soc/Econ Cond: Social Order - Recommendation

### **1930 St. Cergue, World's Committee**

Cooperation: Pan Pacific Org. - Recommendation  
Ecumenism - Approve

### **1934 Geneva, World's Council**

Christian Task: Application - Statement  
Cooperation: International Orgs. - Statement  
Soc/Econ Cond: Intern'l Questions - Statement  
Women: Internationalism - Statement

### **1938 Muskoka, World's Council**

Christian Task - Recommendation  
Cooperation: SCM - Recommendation  
Leadership: Staff Training - Urge  
Peace: Education - Statement

Women: Roles of - Statement  
Youth: Inclusion of - Statement

### 1947 Hangchow, World's Council

Christian Task: Ecumenism - Statement  
Cooperations: Ecumenical Org. - Statement  
Leadership: Training - Statement  
Mutual Service: Cooperation - Statement  
Ref/Mig: Future Policy - Recommendation  
Social Action: Christian - Statement  
Women: Place in Society - Statement  
Women: Rural Work - Statement  
Youth Work - Recommendation  
Affiliation: Pioneer Associations - Statement

### 1951 Beirut, World's Council

Christian Task - Recommendation  
Cooperation: UN - Recommendation  
Leadership: in Associations - Statement  
Membership: Christian Values - Recommendation  
Mutual Service: Extension - Recommendation  
Ref/Mig: Role in War Situations - Recommendation  
Social Action: International Affairs - Recommendation  
Women: Rural Work - Recommendation

### 1955 London, World Council

World YWCA Basis - Adopted  
Affiliation: AJF - Recommendation  
Christian Task - Suggest  
Cooperation: Christian Orgs - Recommendation  
Leadership - Recommendation  
Membership: Definition - Statement  
Mutual Service - Recommendation  
Peace: Policy Statement - Statement  
Ref/Mig: Emergency Services - Recommendation  
Soc/Econ Cond: Technical Aid - Preliminary Work  
Women: Role and Status - Preliminary Work  
Youth: Students - Recommendation

### 1959 Cuernavaca, World Council

Affiliation: with men on Board - Recommendation  
Affiliation: AJF - Resolution  
Cooperation: Christian Orgs - Recommendation  
Education: Development of - Recommendation  
Leadership: Personnel Policies - Recommendation  
Membership: Participation - Statement  
Mutual Service - Recommendation  
Peace: Nuclear - Statement, Urge

Ref/Mig: YWCA concern for - Statement, Urge  
Soc/Econ Cond: Technical Assis. - Statement  
Soc/Econ Cond: Urbanisation - Statement  
Soc/Econ Cond: World Hunger - Statement  
Structure: Standing Committee - Statement  
Women: Cooperation YWCA - Recommendation  
Women: Concerns of - Statement  
Youth: Co-education - Recommendation

### **1963 Nyborg Strand, World Council**

Cooperation: Christian Orgs - Statement  
Education: YWCA responsibility - Statement  
Mutual Service - Statement  
Peace: UN - Statement, Urge  
Peace: Criteria for - Statement  
Peace: Nuclear - Statement  
Ref/Mig: Criteria for - Statement 136  
Youth: Students - Exhortation

### **1967 Melbourne, World Council**

Christian Task: Ecumenism - Statement  
Cooperation: Government, NGOs - Statement  
Development: Technical Cooperation - Statement  
Education: World Policy - Statement  
Human Rights: Discrimination - Statement  
Membership: Structure - Statement  
Mutual Service: Development Projects - Recommendation  
Peace: Reduction of Warfare - Recommendation  
Ref/Mig: Middle East - Statement, Urge  
Women: Public Life - Recommendation  
Women: Population Policies - Recommendation  
Youth: Participation - Recommendation

### **1971 Accra, World Council**

Affiliation: Groups - Recommendation  
Christian Task: Study of Movement - Recommendation  
Education: for Social Change - Recommendation  
Energy/Env: Study - Recommendation  
Human Rights: Racism - Resolution  
Peace: Human Suffering - Resolution  
Peace: Nuclear Tests - Resolution  
Peace: Disarmament - Recommendation  
Soc/Econ Cond: Justice - Resolution  
Women: UN - Recommendation  
Women: Training - Recommendation

### 1975 Vancouver, World Council

Affiliation: Criteria for Council - Resolution  
Energy/Env: Solar Energy - Statement, Urge  
Energy/Env: Nuclear Energy - Resolution  
Energy/Env: New Ways of Living - Resolution  
Human Rights: Discrimination - Statement, Urge  
Human Rights: Racism - Statement, Calls  
Human Rights: Racism - Statement, Calls  
Human Rights: Torture - Statement, Calls  
Human Rights: Privacy - Statement, Calls  
Human Rights: the Child - Statement, Calls  
Mutual Service: Cooperation for Development - Recommendation  
Peace: Armaments - Resolution  
Peace: Middle East - Statement  
Peace: Peace Zones - Statement, Calls  
Peace: Victims of Radioactive Fallout - Statement  
Ref/Mig: Migration in Southern  
Africa & Rhodesia - Statement  
Soc/Econ: Use of Resources - Recommnd., Urge  
Soc/Econ.: Population Policies - Recommendation  
Women: Education Status - Statement, Urge  
Women: Illiteracy - Recommendation  
Women: Status - Statement  
Youth: Representation - Urge

### 1979 Athens, World Council

Affiliation: Changing Society - Resolution  
1983 Singapore, World Council  
Energy/Env: New Technology - Resolution  
Human Rights: Social Justice - Resolution  
Human Rights: South Africa - Statement, Calls  
Leadership by Women - Resolution  
Mutual Service: Cooperation  
for Development - Resolution  
Ref/Mig: Root Causes - Resolution  
Ref/Mig: Root Causes - Resolution

### 1987 Phoenix, USA, World Council

Energy/Env: Use of Resources - Resolution  
Christian Basis - Recommendation  
Health : AIDS - Resolution  
Human Rights: Southern Africa - Resolution  
Leadership: by Women - Recommendation  
Peace: Areas of conflict - Resolution  
Peace: Education - Recommendation  
Peace: Central America - Resolution  
Peace: Middle East - Resolution  
Peace: Promotion of - Recommendation

Ref/Mig: Root Causes - Resolution  
Structure: Regional - Recommendation  
Women: Indigenous - Resolution  
Women: Violence - Resolution  
Youth: Participation - Recommendation

### **1991 Stavanger, Norway, World Council**

Development: Policy - Statement  
Energy/Env: Nuclear - Resolution  
Energy/Env: Waste Recycling - Resolution  
Health: HIV and AIDS - Resolution  
Human Rights: Child Prostitution - Resolution  
Peace: Lebanon - Resolution  
Peace: Palestine - Resolution  
Mutual Service: Eastern Europe - Resolution  
Youth: Young Women - Resolution

### **1995 Seoul, Korea, World Council**

Christian Basis - Recommendation  
Ordination of Women - Resolution  
Youth Young Women's Leadership - Recommendation  
Mutual Service: Eastern Europe - Recommendation  
Comm / Finance :Strategic Planning - Resolution  
Comm / Finance :French Language - Resolution  
Comm / Finance : Participation - Resolution  
Comm / Finance :Volunteers - Resolution  
Comm / Finance :New Technology - Recommendation  
Advocacy: Values and Priorities - Resolution  
Development : Cooperation - Resolution  
Women: World Agenda - Statement  
Energy/Env : Nuclear - Resolution  
Energy/Env : Women - Recommendation  
Energy/Env :Protection - Recommendation  
Human Rights: in YWCA work - Resolution  
Peace: Reunification of North Korea - Resolution  
Peace: East Timor - Resolution  
Human Rights: Indigenous People - Resolution  
Human Rights: Indigenous People - Resolution  
Human Rights: Child Labour - Resolution  
Women: Violence - Resolution  
Women: Comfort Women - Resolution  
Women :Week Without Violence - Recommendation  
Peace: Disarmament - Recommendation  
Peace : Middle East - Resolution  
Leadership :Training - Recommendation

### **1999 Cairo, Egypt, World Council**

Interfaith Dialogue - Resolution  
Youth :Young Women's Leadership - Resolution  
Youth :Regional Representation - Resolution

Youth :Young Women's Leadership - Recommendation  
Affiliation : Good Management (1) - Recommendation  
Affiliation : Good Management (2) - Recommendation  
Mutual Service: Development Cooperation - Recommendation  
Comm / Finance :Young Women - Resolution  
Advocacy: Priorities - Resolution  
Ref/Mig: North Korea - Recommendation  
Peace: East Timor - Recommendation  
Development: Indigenous People - Recommendation  
Women: Trafficking - Recommendation  
Peace: Middle East - Resolution  
Peace: Conflict in Iraq - . Recommendation  
Socio Economic Conditions: Debt Relief - Resolution  
Socio Economic Conditions: Debt Relief - Recommendation

### **2003 Brisbane, Australia, World Council**

Youth: Participation of Young Women - Resolution  
Membership: Indigenous Meetings - Recommendation  
Membership: Indigenous Food - Recommendation  
Membership: Round-the-World Breakfast - Recommendation  
Affiliation: Standards of Good Management - Resolution  
Structure: Extraordinary World Council 2007 - Resolution  
Human Rights: Education for Young Women - Resolution  
Human Rights : North Korean Women and Children - Resolution  
Advocacy: Indigenous Women - Resolution  
Human Rights: Discrimination - Resolution  
Peace: Middle East .- Resolution  
Health: Sexual Reproduction - Resolution

### **2007 Nairobi, Kenya, World Council**

Youth: Young Women's Leadership - Recommendation  
Affiliation : Standards of Good Management - Recommendation  
Affiliation : Good Governance - Recommendation  
Leadership: Succession Planning - Recommendation  
Advocacy: Education - Recommendation  
Women: United Nations - Recommendation  
Energy/Env: Women Leading role - . Recommendation  
Energy/Env : Depleted Uranium - Recommendation  
Health: Women's Leadership - Call to Action  
Human Rights: CEDAW - Resolution  
Reg/Mig: Female Workers in Asia - Resolution  
Peace: UN Resolution 1325 - Resolution  
Peace: Middle East - Resolution

### **2011 Zurich, Switzerland, World Council**

Human Rights: Climate Justice - Resolution  
Human Rights: North Korea Women and Children - Resolution

Human Rights: Participation  
and Freedom of Movement - Resolution  
Energy/Env: Nuclear Free World - Statement

### **2015 Bangkok, Thailand, World Council**

Advocacy: Training and Plan - Resolution  
Peace: Nuclear Energy/Weapons - . Resolution  
Human Rights: Non-Discrimination and Inclusion - Resolution  
Youth: Young Women's Leadership Policy - Call to Action  
Peace: HR Standards and UNSCR 1325 Middle East - Call to Action  
Women: Trafficking, sex work and sexual exploitation - Call to Action

### **2019 Johannesburg, South Africa, World Council**

Peace: On the Solidarity for the Establishment of Permanent  
Peace Treaty on the Korean Peninsula - Resolution  
Environment: On the Protection of Natural Resources - Statement  
Women: Adoption of the term "Femicide" - Statement





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