WORLD YWCA GLOBAL AGENDA FOR ACTION 2016-2019

OUR BOLD AND TRANSFORMATIVE GOAL: By 2035, 100 million young women and girls transform power structures to create justice, gender equality and a world without violence and war; leading a sustainable YWCA movement, inclusive of all women.

1. YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS’ TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP

Investing in young women’s leadership has always been a core priority of the YWCA movement. Today 25% of the World YWCA Governing Board is comprised of young women, and the YWCA is also providing space and support for girls and adolescents for life-long impacts.

Over the next four years, the World YWCA will ensure the full implementation of a human rights-based approach to young women and girls’ leadership in the context of shared, transformative and intergenerational leadership. The YWCA movement will implement a YWCA International Leadership Academy for, and led by, young women and girls, with the support of both the World YWCA and the movement.

This ambitious project will focus on training, mobilising and empowering young women and girls to improve their lives and those of their communities, while influencing global and regional policy, such as the post-2015 development agenda.

Many women, young women and girls are still deprived of equal basic human rights. They experience violence and discrimination; they lack access to education and health services; they cannot negotiate condom use or make marital decisions. In addition, they are not equally represented in decision making, so their ideas and opinions go largely unheard.

By 2019, YWCA Movement will:
• Launch a YWCA International Leadership Academy;
• Train young women and girls to claim and enjoy their human rights both internally and outside the YWCA movement;
• Increase the number of YWCA women who practice transformative, shared and intergenerational leadership in claiming, upholding and enjoying women’s rights at all levels; and
• Ensure all YWCAs uphold the constitutional commitment of having young women holding at least 25% of leadership positions.

World YWCA

By 2016:
• Launch the first accredited pilot of the YWCA International Leadership Academy;
• Train and impact 50,000 young women and girls using intergenerational shared and transformative leadership training.

By 2017:
• Pilot virtual and face-to-face curricula that aims to strengthen both individual and collective practices of shared, intergenerational and transformative leadership for young women and girls; and
• Develop and implement strategic regional and inter-regional leadership training networks with universities, and other women’s, youth and faith training institutes in preparation for opening an accredited YWCA International Leadership Academy.

By 2018:
• In collaboration with strategic partners, develop and pilot fellowships, scholarships, internship and mentorship models for leadership for Young Women Champions and Women’s mentors.

Methodology
• Improving and strengthening the transformative, shared and intergenerational leadership models;
• Increasing targeted use of information and communication technologies;
• Developing a communication strategy to share information with the movement on the development of the academy;
• Investing in more significant programmes related to education, economic empowerment, and technology for young women and girls;
• Focusing on recruitment and retention of young women and girls into YWCA Member associations and building the membership base; and
• Fully implementing a human rights-based approach in young women and girls’ transformative leadership training.

By 2019:
• Launch the first accredited pilot of the YWCA International Leadership Academy;
• Build and support the capacity of all Member Associations to implement intergenerational and transformative shared leadership using a human-rights based approach.

Movement-wide activities
• Empower girls through education, which will enable them to maximise their potential;
• By 2019, reach, recruit and impact two million young women and girls as volunteers, members or benefactors of YWCA programmes and services in 60% of YWCA Member Associations;
• Monitor and evaluate the meaningful engagement of young women and girls in local and national YWCAs;
• In 25% of national YWCAs, develop inter-partnerships across regions focused on training, internships and mentorships; and
• All YWCAs uphold the constitutional commitment that young women are meaningfully engaged and hold at least 25% of leadership positions at all levels.

WORLD YWCA AND MOVEMENT-WIDE OUTREACH

Every YWCA around the world is committed to ensuring that we reach 25 million young women and girls including a minimum of 25% young women in decision-making positions. We are also committed to supporting young women to claim their human rights and reach their full potential through various programmes and services, including:

Programmes

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<td>Young women’s leadership training</td>
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Methodology

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- Increasing targeted use of information and communication technologies;
- Developing a communication strategy to share information with the movement on the development of the academy;
- Investing in more significant programmes related to education, economic empowerment, and technology for young women and girls.

Present in over 120 countries, in 22,000 communities and with an outreach of 25 million women and girls, the World YWCA movement supports young women by enabling them to claim their human rights and reach their full potential through various rights-based programmes and services around the world.

GLOBAL FACTS

- The current world population is 7 billion, including 1.8 billion youth. By 2035, the World Bank estimates that the world’s population will be three times this size, with young people as the majority group globally.
- Pregnancy is the biggest killer of teenage girls worldwide. Every year one million teenage girls die or suffer serious injury, infection or disease due to pregnancy or childbirth. Girls under 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their 20s. (Save the Children UK, 2012)
- An estimated 15 million girls are married every year as child brides before they reach 18. One in three girls in the developing world is estimated to be married before the age of 18. (UNICEF, 2014)
- Young women account for 60.7% of the 122 million illiterate youth worldwide. (UNESCO, 2014)
- More than 125 million girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and Middle East where Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is concentrated. (UNICEF, 2013)
- Every minute a young woman is newly infected by HIV, and globally young women aged 15-24 account for 22% of all new infections. (UNAIDS, 2011)
- Out of 197 Heads of State around the world, only 22 are women. That means that 88% of the countries in the world are led by men. (IWI Rut pers, 2011)