World YWCA Young Women Leadership Cohort 2019

General Information & Programme Objectives

The World YWCA Young Women Leadership Cohort 2019 provides an opportunity for 2 or more young women from the YWCA movement to experience the international community-building, work and reach of the World YWCA.

The cohort programme will take place from **October 15th to November 30th, 2019** starting and ending remotely in the young women home countries with travel to Geneva, Switzerland and to Johannesburg, South Africa.

After introductory remote briefings and online working in their home country, the selected young women leaders will be invited to come to Geneva in late October for trainings, meetings with each other and World YWCA office as well as to attend global engagement and event opportunities with international civil society organisations, the UN and other global stakeholders. As such, the cohort programme is designed to allow the selected leaders to develop their skills and knowledge on leadership, advocacy on global level, movement-building and activism. It is also meant to enable them to develop expertise on global issues particularly in the World YWCA priority areas of young women’s leadership, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and peace with justice. In addition, the cohort programme is designed in relation to the 2019 World Council theme “Young Women Transforming Power Structures for Gender Equality”. Therefore, the selected young women leaders will learn about the overarching aims and implications of the theme as it relates to Goal 2035 and will be invited to co-lead preparatory work and travel from Geneva to Johannesburg to attend the World Council and contribute with their leadership to turning the theme into action.

As part of the cohort programme, dedicated mentoring, coordination and guidance will be provided using a shared and collaborative leadership, grounded in the human-rights based approach of the World YWCA.

Criteria for Selection

- Successful candidates must be actively involved in their YWCA, either as a volunteer or staff member and demonstrate strong interest and enthusiasm in the World YWCA movement.
- Generally applicants should have a **minimum of two years active involvement** with their YWCA.
- Successful candidates must commit to sharing the experience gained with their YWCA and region following the cohort programme.
- A strong commitment to women’s rights and leadership.
- Previous experience in advocacy and/or activism on women’s rights is an asset.
- A good working knowledge of English, both oral and written, is essential. Spanish and/or French command is a bonus.
- Applicants must be between **18 and 30 years of age** at the time of application
- Independent and self-reliant, willing to take initiative, creative, hard-working, and flexible.
- Each candidate’s participation must be endorsed by her national YWCA and the association must commit to integrating the leadership/experience of a successful Fellow upon the return home.
• Participants must be available from 15th of October to 30th of November, 2019 included for travel to Geneva and to Johannesburg.
• We highly encourage young women from the Caribbean and Latin America to apply.

How to Apply

To apply, candidates shall provide by email to worldoffice@worldywca.org:
- Their CV/Resume in English, French or Spanish
- Their passport copy
- A signed motivation letter in English demonstrating their interest, commitment and vision for their participation to the cohort programme
- A signed and completed application form in English (see enclosed document)
- A signed endorsement letter in English, French or Spanish from their national YWCA supporting their application to the cohort programme and their commitment to honouring their role in supporting the candidate’s leadership journey including upon their return home.

The deadline to apply to the World YWCA Young Women Leadership Cohort 2019 is September 10th, 2019, 11:59 PM (Geneva time).

Applicants and their national associations will be informed within a week after this deadline. Due to the high amount of applications received, only candidates shortlisted will be contacted.

Costs and Provisions

Travel
Participants must possess a valid passport. The World YWCA will assist with letters of invitation and advice to facilitate the visa process for Switzerland and South Africa; however it is the responsibility of the participant and her national association to obtain a visa for the countries concerned.

The World YWCA will cover the most economical and direct route airfare for all travels within the programme (from home to Geneva, Geneva to Johannesburg, Johannesburg to home). Visa costs will be reimbursed to the participants.

Accommodation and Care
The World YWCA is responsible for the accommodation, basic food and ad-hoc expenses allowance, local transport and health insurance in Geneva and in Johannesburg.

The World YWCA Young Women Leadership Cohort 2019 is supported by the World Service Council, as a long-standing YWCA partner for young women’s leadership. Any additional contributions by the national association to the travel and accommodation costs would be appreciated as funding for this programme must be continuously sought.

Geneva, August 2019